

(1) Ghani Promises...

acts - as reported in the latest release by Amnesty International - during armed conflicts are recognized on the basis of humanitarian laws as crimes against humanity.

"The government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is committed to legally prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes, and to that end assigns a civilian commission to assess the losses sustained as a result of the Taliban presence in Kunduz City and the crimes that they have committed in this period, determine the scale of the losses, identify those responsible and surrender them to Law," the statement read. (ToloneWS)

(2) Afghanistan...

mandate for the Afghanistan deployment by one year," the newspaper cited a NATO source as saying.

"Germany does not want to put what has already been achieved in Afghanistan on the line. The final withdrawal, which is planned for 2016, is premature given the Taliban attacks," the source added.

Taliban fighters on Monday battled their way into the centre of Kunduz, a city in northern Afghanistan, and seized the provincial governor's office in one of the militant group's biggest territorial gains in 14 years. A spokesman for the Defence Ministry said defence ministers would talk about Afghanistan at their meeting but it was not solely up to the defence minister to decide, adding that the foreign minister also has a role to play and it would also require negotiations in the German government.

He said talks in the German government on the issue had begun but no decision had been made and Berlin would continue to make decisions in consultation with its allies.

German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen said earlier this week that she was open to delaying the withdrawal of German soldiers beyond next year after the Taliban seized Kunduz.

Von der Leyen will suggest at the NATO defence ministers' meeting that all 28 NATO states say they are prepared to extend the mission, the newspaper cited NATO sources as saying. (Reuters)

(3) Emotions Run...

under fire after Dand-e-Ghori accord. "But there is no surety that Taliban will act on their promises."

But MPs opposed to the deal said that this move gave the Taliban an advantage.

"The Taliban may not launch attack from this area but it has become their organizing center where they can make their plans," MP Ahmad Behzad said.

Another MP Fawzia Kofi said: "This deal means giving advantage to the Taliban and has given them an opportunity to make their plans and also treat their wounded fighters."

Meanwhile, other lawmakers opposed the anti-accord statements by their colleagues.

"I am against such remarks and making these statements in current situation is not in favor of the country," lawmaker Naeem Lalai commented.

After this an argument broke out between lawmakers, bringing the day's session to a sudden stop without any decisions being taken. (Tolo News)

(4) 600 'Militants'...

will not only continue the strikes by our air force but also will increase their intensity."

He said Russia had managed to destroy IS command posts, warehouses storing ammunition and explosives, communication hubs, training camps as well as "mini-factories that made weapons for suicide bombers".

The United States and its allies have slammed Moscow's intervention, accusing the Kremlin of seeking to buttress Syria's embattled leader Bashar al-Assad and targeting moderate rebels.

Kartapolov said Russian officials had contacted their foreign

counterparts and recommended that they pull their personnel from the region.

Russia also recommended that Washington pull out "those valuable employees who were trained at the expense of American taxpayers," Kartapolov said with heavy irony.

US Senator John McCain had earlier claimed that Russian jets killed rebel soldiers trained and funded by the CIA.

"By the way, during these contacts Americans informed us that no one but terrorists are present in this region," the Russian official added.

He also said that a task force Russia is setting up with Iraq, Iran and Syria had begun its work in Baghdad but expressed regret that the West had not moved to share intelligence.

"We have to admit openly that as of today we are receiving such data only from our colleagues at the centre," Kartapolov said.

"We are still open for dialogue with all interested parties."

Washington has accused Russia of making little distinction between IS militants and other factions. (AFP)

(5) A Brutal Taliban...

the siege of Kunduz has proven otherwise.

This comes after officials condemned the Taliban's actions in the embattled northern city this week saying mass murders, gang rapes and house-to-house searches by Taliban death squads are just some of the harrowing civilian testimonies emerging from Kunduz city.

According to Amnesty International, women human rights defenders from Kunduz spoke of a "hit list" being used by the Taliban to track down activists and others, and described how fighters had raped and killed numerous civilians.

"The harrowing accounts we've received paint a picture of a reign of terror during the Taliban's brutal capture of Kunduz this week. The multiple credible reports of killings, rapes and other horrors meted out against the city's residents must prompt the Afghan authorities to do more now to protect civilians, in particular in areas where more fighting appears imminent," said Horia Moadiq, Afghanistan Researcher at Amnesty International.

Kunduz city fell to the Taliban on Monday and despite concerted military action to regain control of the city fighting continues. (ToloneWS)

(6) Military ...

has said that the Taliban are making gains in some other parts of the province after taking control of Wardoj.

In a new development, Taliban managed to take control of Baharak district on Friday.

"If the collapse of Wardoj and Baharak districts to Taliban not handled, this will bring Faizabad, center of the province under threat," MP Fawzia Kofi said.

Wardoj district saw some of the fiercest battles between Taliban and Afghan forces over the past two years. Unrest in the district has left several casualties among Afghan troops. A few months ago, 16 troops were killed in a Taliban ambush.

Wardoj collapsed just days after the Taliban this week got control of the strategic city of Kunduz in northern Afghanistan - the first such incident since a U.S.-led western coalition toppled the regime from power back in 2001. (ToloneWS)

(7) Erdogan Urges...

regarding this matter and what they have done."

Erdogan complained that as a state with a 911 kilometre (566 mile) border with Syria and hosting almost two million Syrian refugees, it was Turkey who would bear the brunt of Moscow's actions.

"It's us who suffer in the face of the region's problems. Russia doesn't have a border with Syria. I'm troubled by what is happening now."

"We are hosting two million people now. They haven't gone to Russia."

Erdogan added: "I want to understand why Russia is so inter-

ested in Syria."

Erdogan said Turkey had "received information" that 65 people had been killed in Russia's air strikes on Syria, without specifying further on how the toll was calculated.

Erdogan said that Moscow had informed Ankara through a letter to its embassy that there would be an anti-IS Russian operation in Syria.

But echoing concerns from Ankara's Western allies, he accused Moscow of carrying out air strikes not against IS but against moderate Syrian forces opposed to the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

"They are turning a blind eye to the fact that civilians have been killed," said Erdogan.

Russia and Turkey have long been at loggerheads over the crisis in Syria, with Moscow emerging as Assad's key international backer and Ankara urging his ousting as the only solution to the conflict.

Russia says it has launched a campaign against "terrorist" groups in Syria including IS but also its jihadist rival, Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate Al-Nusra Front, and other groups. (AFP)

(8) Int'l Charity's ...

said they conducted an airstrike on Kunduz at 2:15 a.m. The spokesman, U.S. Army Col. Brian Tribus, said the strike "may have resulted in collateral damage to a nearby medical facility" and that the incident was under investigation. Tribus said it was the 12th U.S. airstrike "in the Kunduz vicinity" since Tuesday.

Doctors Without Borders said its trauma center "was hit several times during sustained bombing and was very badly damaged." At the time of the bombing, the hospital had 105 patients and their caretakers, and more than 80 international and Afghan staff, it said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said 10 to 15 "terrorists" had been hiding in the hospital at the time of the strike. "All of the terrorists were killed but we also lost doctors," he told a press conference. He said 80 staff at the hospital, including 15 foreigners, had been taken to safety.

Doctors Without Borders said all of its international staffers were alive and accounted for. It said it regularly updated its GPS coordinates with all parties to the conflict.

Adil Akbar, a doctor at the trauma center who was on duty at the time, told The Associated Press that the operating theater, emergency room and other parts of the hospital complex had been hit in the bombing.

"I managed to escape after the attack but I know that most of the staff and even some of the patients are missing," he said.

Zabihullah Pashtoonyar, a former local radio reporter who was working as a security guard at the compound, was one of those killed in the incident, said his relative Gul Rahim.

The number of dead and missing was provided by the charity.

Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman for the Public Health Ministry, tweeted that 37 people were wounded, among them 24 medical and non-medical staff.

Bart Janssens, the charity's director of operations, said "we do not yet have the final casualty figures," adding that the group's medical team was treating wounded patients and staffers.

Nicholas Haysom, the U.N. special representative in Afghanistan, condemned the "tragic and devastating airstrike" on the hospital. "I reiterate my call on all parties to the conflict to respect and protect medical and humanitarian personnel and facilities," he said in a statement. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which also has facilities in Kunduz, said it was "deeply shocked."

Doctors Without Borders said it had treated 394 people wounded in fighting since the Taliban attacked the city. Afghan forces went in on Thursday, and the fighting has been underway since then.

Sediqqi said Afghan forces were still sweeping the city for

militants, conducting "meter to meter, house to house operations" that would continue until "all those bad elements" had been eliminated.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid issued a statement saying there were no Taliban fighters in the hospital at the time of the bombing. It accused Afghanistan's intelligence service of misdirecting the airstrike to purposefully hit the hospital.

The clinic in Kunduz is a sprawling facility with numerous buildings situated in the east of the city, in a residential area close to the local office of the NDS intelligence service.

Another Kunduz resident, Dawood Khan, said a cousin who works at the clinic as a doctor was lightly wounded in the bombing.

"I heard the sound of the bomb and rushed to the hospital to get news. The operating theater was on fire, people were terrified, running everywhere," he said.

Electricity and water have been cut off since the Taliban's Monday assault and seizure of the city, officials and residents said. Food and medical supplies cannot get through because the Afghan military is still working to clear mines planted by the Taliban. Sporadic gunfights are continuing in various pockets of the city as troops advance. Most of the Taliban appear to have fled the city after the troops moved in on Thursday, taking looted vehicles, weapons and ammunition with them.

Officials have reported that they have moved east, into Takhar and Badakhshan provinces, where a number of districts fell to the Taliban on Friday. The Defense Ministry said troops had retaken the Baharak district after retreating under fire Friday.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul issued an emergency notice to Americans in Badakhshan, saying they should "consider departing the area immediately." (AP)

(9) Gen. Raheel ...

Islamabad who want to show their allegiance to Daesh. So it's a very dangerous phenomenon," Sharif said.

Sharif said dealing with the extremist group was set to become an ever greater challenge than the al-Qaeda network behind 9/11 attacks in the United States.

"I feel the future challenge is Daesh. It's a bigger name. Al-Qaeda was a name but Daesh is now a bigger name," Sharif said.

The General, popular for taking on militants from northwestern Pakistani tribal areas bordering Afghanistan to criminal gangs in Karachi, emphasised the reconciliation between Afghan Taliban and the Afghan government. He expressed his fear the Taliban could seek an alliance with Daesh unless they were brought back to the negotiating table.

"This reconciliation in Afghanistan is very important. If we do not do it in the proper manner and the Afghan Taliban splinter, they would go for a bigger name and that is Daesh," Sharif said.

Pakistan, which supported the Taliban during the 1990s, has blown hot and cold over the insurgency while contending it was working to bring about Afghan reconciliation.

Islamabad organized the first set of direct peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government in July. But another round scheduled around later that month was stalled following the announcement of the death of Taliban founder Mullah Omar.

General Sharif launched operation "Zarb-e-Azb" in June 2014 in a bid to wipe out militant bases in the North Waziristan tribal area and so bring an end to the bloody decade-long Islamist insurgency that has cost Pakistan thousands of lives.

The army intensified its offensive after last year's Peshawar school attack which killed 151 since when there has been a lull in violence.

The last major attack in the city came in February when three

heavily armed Taliban militants stormed a Shiite mosque, killing 21 people.

Overall levels of violence have dropped dramatically this year, with 2015 on course for the fewest deaths among civilian and security forces since 2007 -- the year the Pakistani Taliban umbrella group was formed. (AFP)

(10) Syria to ...

Russian armed forces. "I speak to the Russian people and ask them: have you forgotten the Afghan quagmire?" he said. "The people of Sham (Syria, Ed.) will rise up against you." The cleric enjoys a great deal of support in the neighboring region of Idlib. Russia launched its first airstrikes in Syria on September 30, after the Russian Senate unanimously voted to authorize military intervention by the country's armed forces. President Vladimir Putin pledged that the country would not take part in ground operations. Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad had asked for the intervention, Russia said, calling itself the "only country" to intervene against the Islamic State (ISIS) in compliance with international law since - underscored the Kremlin spokesman - military operations abroad are possible only on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution or on the request of the legitimate authorities of the country concerned. The Russian intervention has led to much criticism from the US, which claims that Moscow is using the "fight against terrorism" to hit Western-backed rebels that are fighting against Assad in the Homs and Hama province. (Monitoring Desk)

(11) NGO Condemn...

And was probably done behind Stockholm's back.

Afghan security forces take their positions during a gun battle in Kunduz city, northern Afghanistan September 29, 2015 Swedish doctors stressed that NATO airstrikes in Afghanistan had increased the suffering of civilians in the country. Afghanistan has seen a large outflow of people in recent years.

Almost 6,000 Afghan refugees have asked for asylum in Sweden since the start of 2015, data provided by the rights group shows. The number is almost double that of the same statistic in 2014.

Earlier this year, Swedish Doctors for Human Rights condemned a rising death toll among civilians mistakenly targeted by NATO airstrikes in Afghanistan. It cited multiple US media reports of US and European hostages killed during drone missions. (Sputnik)

(12) Gen. Raziq...

suicide attack nearly three years ago, while Taliban militants launched coordinated attack on his family home in Spin Boldak district back in July last year. (KP)

(13) Obama Offers...

Eastern Afghanistan. The six servicemen were the plane's crew, and the five passengers were civilian contractors.

The airmen were assigned to the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, part of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing.

Including the recent deaths, there have been 14 U.S. troops killed since the president declared the combat mission in Afghanistan over, according to icasualties.org. Four of those have been killed in combat.

The crash comes after the Taliban overran the northern city of Kunduz last weekend. Since then, Afghan security forces, advised by U.S. Special Forces, have been trying to retake the city. (Agencies)

(14) Kandahar ...

ducer of opium, surpassed only by Helmand. The agency says opium poppies were grown on 337 square kilometers of land in Kandahar in 2014, an increase of 19 per cent from 2013. (Wadsam)

(15) UNAMA...

were clearly informed of the precise location (GPS Coordinates) of the MSF facilities - hospital, guesthouse, office and an outreach stabilization unit in

Chardara."

"As MSF does in all conflict contexts, these precise locations were communicated to all parties on multiple occasions over the past months, including most recently on 29 September," the organization said.

By their accounts, the bombing continued for more than 30 minutes after American and Afghan military officials in Kabul and Washington were first informed. "MSF urgently seeks clarity on exactly what took place and how this terrible event could have happened," they said.

"We are deeply shocked by the attack, the killing of our staff and patients and the heavy toll it has inflicted on healthcare in Kunduz," says Bart Janssens, MSF Director of Operations.

"We do not yet have the final casualty figures, but our medical team are providing first aid and treating the injured patients and MSF personnel and accounting for the deceased. We urge all parties to respect the safety of health facilities and staff."

Since fighting broke out on Monday, MSF has treated 394 wounded. "When the aerial attack occurred this morning we had 105 patients and their caretakers in the hospital and over 80 MSF international and national staff present."

MSF's hospital is the only facility of its kind in the whole north-eastern region of Afghanistan, providing free life- and limb-saving trauma care. MSF doctors treat all people according to their medical needs and do not make distinctions based on a patient's ethnicity, religious beliefs or political affiliation, read the statement.

MSF started working in Afghanistan in 1980. In Kunduz, just like in the rest of Afghanistan, both national and international staff work together to ensure the best quality of treatment. MSF supports the Ministry of Public Health in Ahmad Shah Baba hospital in eastern Kabul, Dasht-e-Barchi maternity in western Kabul and Boost hospital in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province. In Khost, in the east of the country, MSF operates a maternity hospital. MSF relies only on private funding for its work in Afghanistan and does not accept money from any government, the statement concluded. (ToloneWS)

(16) Hollande...

both leaders without confirming if they came out with a common stance.

Paris meeting came a few days after Russia struck areas of Homs province, its first military operation in the shaky Middle East region in decades.

Russia said the activity in Syria was directed against the Islamist fighters. However, the United States and its allies fear that such moves would support al-Assad and help Russia to build strong force in the region. (Xinhua)

(17) Egypt on...

the final endorsement of the EBRD board of governors to turn Egypt into a country of operation at the soonest time.

The approval of the bank board of governors is a "protocol decision" that will be reached anyway especially with the unanimous decision of the board of directors, Fakhry al-Fiqqy, former assistant for the IMF executive manager, said. (Xinhua)

(18) Russia ...

comprehensive plan to bring a political transition to Syria as the best way to end a lengthy civil war and bring peace to the region. His comments echoed those made by President Barack Obama and other leaders in recent days. (AP)

(19) Australian PM ...

authorities radar of those suspected to be inclined toward terrorism, The Guardian Australia reported.

"We are exploring every avenue with regard to why he did what he did," Scipione said.

New South Wales Premier Mike Baird told reporters that the shooting would

"echo around the world, as people try and understand how someone so young could commit such a hideous crime."

(Xinhua)