

Quote of the Day

The great use of a life is to spend for something that outlasts it.

William James

Russian Senator

Afghanistan Needs Russia's Military-Technical Assistance

MOSCOW - Afghanistan needs Russia's military-technical assistance to effectively counter terrorism on its territory, member of the Federation Council upper house committee on International Affairs Igor Morozov told TASS on Tuesday commenting on the results of today's meeting with members of the Afghan parliament.

According to the senator, the Afghan parliamentarians "fully supported Russia's actions in Syria." They also voiced concern over the intensification of terrorist activities in the Middle East. "Our Afghan counterparts



asked Russia to provide military and technical assistance," Morozov said. "Today they ask for help and support from Russia in military equipment, ammunition, helicopters stressing that terrorists would not have succeeded in Kunduz, if the Afghan military had helicopters," he added.

The senator recalled that "it was the Americans who stopped the joint [Russian-Afghan] program to train helicopter pilots, to equip the Afghan armed forces with Russian helicopters, spare parts and ammunition." ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

AACC Seeks Ways to Attract U.S Investors



KABUL - Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) officials on Tuesday said that they were struggling to attract U.S private sector investors to buy into five trade and industrial zones in Afghanistan.

At a meeting ahead of the 11th annual Afghanistan-American Matchmaking Conference scheduled for December in Washington D.C, officials said new invest-

ment opportunities including the TAPI gas pipeline project have been created in Afghanistan and that the AACC has tried to harness opportunities by establishing joint Afghan-American investment companies.

According to the AACC, the opportunities include the construction of more than 700 kms of gas pipeline as part of TAPI project, investments in ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Remains of Two People Found in Presidential Palace



KABUL - The remains of two people have been found in Presidential Palace, an official said on Tuesday.

Sayed Zafar Hashimi, a spokesman for the Presidential Palace told a press conference in Kabul that the remains have been sent for forensic examination to identify them.

He said the remains were found in a depth of 2.5 meters during construction work.

Hashimi further said that President Ghani has assigned a commission to conduct an investigation in this regard.

The commission include representatives from Ministry of Interior, Human Rights, Society of doctors, Independent Human Rights Commission and forensic.

Hashimi further said that once the forensic report comes, the remains would be handed over to their families or Presidential Palace would make arrangements for their burial. (KP)

NATO to Discuss Level of Presence in Afghanistan

KABUL - NATO defence ministers, scheduled to meet in Brussels on Thursday, will discuss the level of the alliance presence and the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters in the Belgian capital on Tuesday ministerial meeting would also confer on whether or not to reduce the number of military bases in the country.

"The duration of the whole mission, the level of forces, the number of forces and also the regional outreach of the



mission. So all this is now something we are going to assess," he said.

Asked about the Kunduz situation, he praised the Afghan security forces as capable of facing threats, standing their ground and taking responsibility for nationwide security after an end to NATO's combat mission. ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

No Humanitarian Agencies Left in Kunduz: UN

KABUL - The UN has warned Tuesday against the absence of humanitarian agencies in the Afghan city of Kunduz, which has been the scene of intense fighting since Taliban militants stormed it last Monday.

UN spokesman Jens Laerke, said in a press conference in Geneva that while fighting between armed groups and government forces had made access to the northern Afghan city virtually impossible, the recent U.S. airstrikes on a medical facility had left many in Kunduz without a hospital. "There are presently no



humanitarian agencies left inside Kunduz city," said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) spokesman. "There is now no functioning trauma-care hospital in the city as it was the only facility of its kind in the whole north-eastern region of the country, serving some 300,000 people in ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Turkey Urges EU Action on Syria to End Migrant Crisis

BRUSSELS - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged the EU consider a no-fly zone and safe haven area in Syria during talks to address Europe's spiralling migrant crisis.

Speaking after the discussions in Brussels, Erdogan said Turkey was bearing the brunt of the crisis and pressed the bloc to act against "state-sponsored terrorism" in its war-torn neighbour.

The European Union, meanwhile, said Turkey must do more to stop the flow of hundreds of thousands of refugees who have landed on its shores in the worst such crisis since World War II. "It is indisputable that Europe has to manage its borders better. We expect Turkey to do the same," EU President Donald Tusk told reporters.

Turkey has become a key smuggling route for thousands of migrants seeking a better life in the EU -- some 630,000 people have entered the bloc illegally this year -- many of them fleeing conflict in Syria and Afghanistan. Most are headed for the wealthier countries of northern Europe and Germany, which has welcomed the refugees, now predicts it could receive up to 1.5 million asylum seekers in 2015. Thousands took to the streets of the eastern city of Dresden late Monday, accusing Chancellor Angela Merkel of "crimes against the German people" and "treason".

"It won't stop with 1.5 or two million," said Lutz Bachmann, co-founder of the anti-Islam PEGIDA movement that organised the march.

"They will have their wives come, and one, two, three children. It is an impossible task to integrate these people," he told the protesters. (AFP)

Tribal Elders Form New Council in Bid to Unite Nation



KANDAHAR - A number of tribal elders from southern provinces on Tuesday announced the formation of a council that aims to bring all tribes and ethnic groups in the country together under one umbrella. At a gathering in southern Kandahar province, members of the new council -- the Loy Kandahar Council -- said a peace DEAL with the Taliban is critical for war-torn Afghanistan. In line with this, they called on the National Unity Government (NUG) to hand over the responsibility of peace talks to the council.

In addition, members of the council condemned the recent siege of Kunduz city, and said government must identify and name those responsible for its collapse.

They also warned that other provinces could face the same fate as Kunduz if proper measures are not taken to maintain security countrywide.

"We want peace and we want reconciliation between the government and the Taliban," said Abdul Salam Rocketi, a former senior leader of the Taliban and member of the new council.

"The Loy Kandahar Council aims to strengthen unity among elders and people from southern, central and other parts of the country," he added.

"We urge the government to hand over the responsibility of the peace talks to the Loy Kandahar Council. We will definitely ensure peace between the government and the Taliban," he said. ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

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Clashes Break out in Kunduz City Center



KUNDUZ CITY - Clashes broke out between security forces and insurgents in the center of Kunduz city on Tuesday morning, despite an ongoing operation to clear the city of the Taliban. TOLONews' journalist Karim Amiri reporting from the city said Kunduz has not yet been cleared of insurgents and clashes are still ongoing, particularly in Chawk-e-Kunduz -- the city center.

He said Taliban are still hiding in houses and opening fire on security forces from inside.

However, security officials have not yet commented on the situation.

At least 6,000 people have been left homeless after fleeing the city last week, deputy minister of refugees and repatriations Fazel Ahmad Azimi told lawmakers on Monday, adding that the majority of

those who left the city sought refuge in Badakhshan, Kabul, Takhar and Baghlan provinces.

"Unrest in recent months in Kunduz has left hundreds of residents homeless and more were added to the number after the fall of the city - can you explain what you have done for these families," Kunduz MP Kamal Safai asked the ministers.

"Lawmakers had numerous questions about relief and rescue efforts for the displaced families and it appears that the relief and rescue efforts are moving at quite a slow pace," speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said.

Discussing the aftermath of the fall of Kunduz, Azimi said that the collapse of the city has left at least 6,000 people homeless. He stressed that ...*(More on P4)...(6)*