

(1) We Were...

"Russia has announced its concern over the situation in Afghanistan and they told us that they will help Afghanistan's army. At the moment they will provide us with attack helicopters... And they should help the gunners with weapons and long-range mortars. The Russian senior officials said that they would not be careless over the security of this country," he said.

Before the fall of Kunduz, Dostum said that if the president orders him to launch a clearing operation in northern Kunduz province he will do so gladly. (Tolonews)

(2) Germany ...

momentum in northern Afghanistan, NATO has also reaffirmed its longstanding support to the Afghan security forces to help them in tackling threats from the insurgent groups.

"First of all it's fun, and it's really fun to work together with 22 nations because it's simply a huge experience I never had before in the size especially directly under my command." He said.

German soldiers contribute a large percentage of Resolute Support mission troops based in northern Afghanistan. In a new development, German commander has pledged the alliance's long term cooperation to Afghan forces.

"Afghanistan is a country to where we have the longest lasting relationship that started even in the First World War. It was continued through the Second World War even and it stayed after the war," Hanne-man added.

Currently, 850 German soldiers serve in Afghanistan with the majority of them deployed in northern provinces particularly in Balkh.

Following the fall of Kunduz city to the Taliban two weeks ago, the German foreign minister said that in light of the ongoing insurgency, his country will focus on a calendar based troop drawdown, stressing that Germany will keep its troops beyond 2016.

It appears that the fall of Kunduz has led to serious concerns among Afghanistan's western partners and NATO's decision to keep troops in the country after 2016 is testimony to this concern, say analysts. (Tolonews)

(3) EU must...

Guterres praised Greek authorities for the assistance offered to refugees, but acknowledged that no country could deal with such a challenge with its own limited resources.

Approximately 400,000 undocumented refugees and migrants have reached Greek shores -- mainly through Turkey -- from the start of 2005.

"It is a very difficult situation, but we do whatever possible," Tsipras said.

"I am Portuguese so I understand. It is the same in my country," said Guterres, adding the Greek people's solidarity towards refugees was "most impressive."

The problems can be solved, but not through a technocratic approach and not without international cooperation, Guterres said.

"Without humanity, nothing can be done," he underlined, repeating that the current refugee crisis is a "European and an international issue."

Guterres warned that the crisis would continue for a long time as long as the Syrian conflict continues and urged EU member states to look into the relocation of refugees evenly across the continent. (Xinhua)

(4) All Taliban...

Sarvar Hosseini told FNA. He reiterated that the Taliban had hidden in houses in Kunduz.

Hosseini said that the Afghan forces are preparing for a big operation to take control of the Taliban positions in Chahardarreh and Archi plains in Kunduz province.

Kunduz is a city in northern Afghanistan, which serves as the capital of Kunduz Province. Clashes first broke out when

the Taliban attacked the provincial capital in Northern Afghanistan and captured it to the world surprise. After capturing Kunduz provincial capital, the Kunduz city, on Sept 29, Taliban militants blocked Baghlan-Kunduz road in Jar-e Khushk area and didn't allow Afghan reinforcement caravans to reach Kunduz city.

Then the Afghan forces took back the city after several days of operations. They laid a siege on the city that lasted six days until Afghan security forces managed to wrest the city back from insurgents.

Then again clashes broke out between the Afghan security forces and the Taliban insurgents in the center of Kunduz city last Tuesday, despite an ongoing operation to clear the city of the Taliban.

At least 6,000 people have been left homeless after fleeing the city last week.

Reacting to the fall of Kunduz, rights groups on Sunday accused insurgents of committing major crimes during the siege and called for the perpetrators behind the attack to be brought to justice. (IRNA)

(5) Abdullah Asks...

the government to hold talks with Pakistan and to put pressure on the neighboring country through the UN security Council to stop them from funding and collaborating with the Taliban.

"Pakistan must be dealt with seriously. The international community and the UN must mount pressure on Pakistan," military analyst Jawed Kohistani said.

Many in Afghanistan are skeptical about Pakistan's honest cooperation on the war against insurgency, urging that Afghan officials have always asked Pakistan to cooperate, but all efforts remained unproductive.

Afghan government and Taliban held their first official talks in the Pakistani city of Muree in July. But the talks were deadlocked amid the reported death of Taliban leader Mullah Omar and Taliban launched fresh offensives and acts of violence on Afghan cities. (Tolonews)

(6) Task Team ...

ured the nation that they will conduct a transparent and fair investigation that will be shared with the people.

"We will examine the tragic incident of Kunduz from the root," Wardak told the journalists.

They called on government however, to ensure that once their investigation is complete and perpetrators have been identified that those guilty are brought to justice.

"We have asked the government to praise those who put efforts to retake Kunduz and simultaneously bring to justice those who were involved in the fall of Kunduz," another team member Emaq said.

"We promise to investigate the incident faithfully and impartially and share the findings with the nation," said Mohammad.

Meanwhile parliament has also assigned two separate commissions to investigate the siege of the city by the Taliban two weeks ago.

"Two commissions have been assigned to present ground realities to the parliament," Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) speaker Abdul Raouf Ibrahim said.

Ghani's fact-finding team is also expected to travel to Takhar and Baghlan in addition to Kunduz for a clearer investigation. (Tolonews)

(7) World must ...

with some of its allies, has been conducting air raids against what are said to be positions of Daesh terrorists inside Syria without any authorization from Damascus or a UN mandate.

The air assaults in Syria are an extension of the US-led aerial campaign against purported Daesh positions in Iraq, which started in August 2014.

The UN envoy, for his part, said reinforcing national unity in Iraq is the key to the settlement of the ongoing problems in the country. (PressTV)

(8) On World...

Sustainable Development Goals include key targets for gender equality as well as women and girls empowerment, Ban called for implementation of the goals by 2030 to realize "the vision of a life of dignity for all."

In 2011, United Nations General Assembly declared Oct. 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

The Day focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment as well as the fulfillment of their rights. This year's theme is the Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030. (Xinhua)

(9) Kunduz ...

of staff Gen. Murad Ali Murad said they had planned other operations in the province as well. "Our air operations have started in Chahardara, Kanama and other areas which are under our plan. We are busy strengthening the security belt in the city. We are happy with the performance of our forces," he added. (Tolonews)

(10) Militants who...

kistan border. The operation however evoked widespread criticism from Afghanistan after hundreds of militants reportedly fled to Afghanistan.

Stanekzai told a media briefing Monday that foreign militants, including those who fled Waziristan were behind the Kunduz attack, which led to the northern city's collapse to the Taliban two weeks ago.

Pakistan should have launched the operation years ago, when foreign troops were still in Afghanistan, said Stanekzai. Furthermore, Stanekzai linked the increasing insecurity in the country to the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan -- a plan which is being revised by the United States.

Expressing his sympathy to the people of Kunduz, most of whom were left homeless, Stanekzai said it was the support of the people that helped drive insurgents out of the city.

However the battle is still ongoing in parts of the city. He noted a large-scale operation was being conducted in Kunduz and that insurgents have been pushed back and the situation is slowly improving.

In addition, he urged the nation to stand by the security forces and Jihadi leaders -- who have recently held meetings over the country's security situation. This comes after some Afghan officials accused Pakistan's military of discrimination in their Waziristan operation. According to the officials, Pakistan military did not target Haqqani bases -- which is accused of being behind many complex attacks in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(11) Security Forces...

passengers now want compensation. The head of one of the bus companies told TOLONews on condition of anonymity that a number of buses and other vehicles from the company had turned back to Kabul at 2 am local time on Monday. He said that a number of passengers had been taken to a Ghazni hospital -- but he did not give reasons as to why they needed medical treatment.

Another driver who covers the Kabul-Kandahar Highway route told TOLONews that they were stopped on the road by the Taliban and barred from continuing. "They [the Taliban] told us not to go forward as there was the danger of bombs and grenades. They [the Taliban] have not done anything to anyone so far," he added.

One passenger, Ihsan, who was on his way to Helmand to attend his brother's funeral, said he was able to leave as the road was closed.

"We were just informed that my brother has passed away. I came here but there are no tickets for sale and the way is closed," he said. Meanwhile, PD5 officials from Kabul, where the bus companies are based, tried to pre-

vent passengers and drivers from commenting on the situation along the highway. If they wanted to speak to TOLONews, they had to get permission from the officials.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) meanwhile spoke out about the heavy clashes against the Taliban in the province and said the insurgents will be defeated in Ghazni. (Tolonews)

(12) Russian Airstrikes...

over the past two months. "The recent Russian military attacks that go beyond Daesh (ISIS) and other U.N.-designated terrorist groups, as well as on the moderate opposition, are of deep concern, and must cease immediately. So too must the Russian violations of the sovereign airspace of neighboring countries," the council -- the heads of government of the 28 European Union countries -- said in a statement.

"This military escalation risks prolonging the conflict, undermining a political process, aggravating the humanitarian situation and increasing radicalization." (CNN)

(13) Some 7,000 ...

explosions in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015. The NGO said that after the petition to the US Commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Campbell, gathered 10,000 signatures it would be brought to the Pentagon liaison office in the House of Representatives.

CODEPINK is a grassroots NGO that seeks peace and social justice, works to end US-funded wars and occupations, and to challenge militarism globally. (Sputnik)

(14) Turning Gun...

office, news team and reporter of these TV channels holds any immunity. "The statement adds.

"Hereafter all the reporters and associates of these channels will be deemed enemy personnel, all of their centers, offices and dispatched teams will be considered military objectives which will be directly eliminated." The statement threatens.

"Our demand from those associating with these channels is that they stay away from their offices and reporters and to end all contacts with them. People should stop visiting the main offices and branches of these channels, cease participating in its programs and bar all its reporters from entering their homes. Intellectuals should stop partaking in its news reports and the Muslim nation should generally quit watching and strongly boycott them." The statement warns. (Khaama)

(15) Normalcy....

already consumed all they had during the Taliban's capture of the city. He told Pajhwok Afghan News 7 kilograms of flour sold for 350 afghanis, up from 220 afghanis before the crisis in Kunduz erupted.

The price of one bread jumped from 10 to 50 afghanis due to the capture of the city and blockade of supply routes. Electricity was restored last night, while people still suffer from a shortage of water, he adds.

Hashmatullah, another resident of Kunduz City, recalls: "We have gone through horrible times over the past two weeks when war was underway in the city. Our families had to be content with eating only bread. "We were under threat of food and water shortages," he says, confirming the rates of basic items shot up during the siege of Kunduz City. The man urges the authorities to address people's urgent issues.

Police spokesman Syed Sarwar Hussaini verifies clash with rebels are still underway on the outskirts of the city. The Taliban, without fighting, have left some areas and security forces are advancing toward more sensitive locations, he asserts. He insists the entire provincial capital has been purged of rebels and check-posts have been installed on all entry and exits routes.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullahtold a Cabi-

net meeting on Monday a lot of progress had been made in recent days in Kunduz City as security forces had cleared most parts of the town. (Agencies)

(16) UNAMA...

men opened fire on her while she was walking on the street in Shar Bazar area of Kandahar city.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. (Tolonews)

(17) Turkish ...

more than 30 people. There are also reports that investigators believe there are similarities between the device used in that attack and those used on Saturday.

Turkey announced after the Suruc bombing that it would allow its southern Incerlik airbase to be used by the US-led coalition targeting IS in Syria. Turkey, a Nato member, shares a long land border with its unstable southern neighbour.

The Ankara bombings are the deadliest in Turkey's history.

"These attacks will not turn Turkey into a Syria," Prime Minister Davutoglu said on Monday.

Speaking on Turkish television, Mr Davutoglu said the bombings were an attempt to influence elections due on 1 November, after a vote in June left no party able to form a government.

Many of the victims were activists of the pro-Kurdish HDP party, which says it is now considering cancelling all election rallies. It believes its delegation at the march was specifically targeted.

The HDP gained parliamentary seats for the first time in June's vote, depriving President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party of its majority.

The AK Party condemned the attack and announced it was suspending all of its rallies until Friday.

In a statement released on Monday, the HDP's leaders said the AK Party was using "escalation of violence" as a strategy to push the leftist, pro-Kurdish party back under Turkey's high electoral threshold for entering parliament.

They link the Ankara bombings to the Suruc attack and the fatal bombing of an HDP electoral rally in June, labelling them a "chain of massacres", and call on the international community to take "a firmer stance" with Turkey's government.

The situation in Turkey was tense even before the Ankara bombings. The ceasefire with the PKK had broken down and there had been clashes between the militants and security forces, killing at least 150 since July. On Saturday the PKK unilaterally declared a new ceasefire. However, this was rejected by the Turkish government, which carried out cross-border air strikes on PKK positions in southern Turkey and Iraq on Sunday.

The BBC's Mark Lowen in Ankara says critics of the Turkish government believe it is using IS as a scapegoat -- and that murky elements of a so-called "deep state" are to blame for the bombings. (BBC)

(18) Australian PM ...

Minister Jill Hennessy applauded the hospital's move as it put the patient's health first.

"If the staff of the Royal Children's Hospital come to the clinical view that it is not in the interests of those children to go back into detention, then we will support them," Hennessy said.

The latest immigration figures show there is 104 children in detention centers on the mainland of Australia, a figure that has slowly decreased in the last 12 months, on top of a further 94 in Nauru. (Xinhua)

(19) Britain Vows...

Council. At Cammell Laird, a spokesman described the decision as "absolutely fantastic," adding: "It's the biggest single contract for a very long time. We'll be building it from scratch."

In April 2014, the government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills endorsed the

business case for a new British polar research vessel.

The new vessel, to be operated for NERC by the British Antarctic Survey, will be an ice-capable, multi-role polar research and logistics ship, designed to undertake leading edge multidisciplinary science in both polar regions and to resupply Britain's Antarctic stations. The ship will also be able to carry helicopters. (Xinhua)

(20) Iraqi ...

The regional parliament speaker, Yousif Mohammed Sadiq, and three regional ministers from the Gorran party were asked earlier by the KDP to leave the city of Arbil, according to the reports.

Sulaimaniyah, in the eastern part of the region, is controlled by opposition parties, mainly the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which Iraqi President FudMasoum is one of its leading figures, and the Gorran movement. (Xinhua)

(21) China, Russia...

provide a more open policy for bilateral cooperation.

Wang and Rogozin also attended the opening ceremony of the second China-Russia Exposition on Sunday in Harbin, vowing to make the event an important platform for pragmatic cooperation.

The first China-Russia Exposition ended in July 2014 in Harbin with contracts worth 3.15 billion U.S. dollars signed. The third expo will be held in Russia. (Xinhua)

Chinese FM Meets Syrian Presidential Advisor

BEIJING - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Syria's Presidential Political and Media Advisor Bouthaina Shaaban on Monday.

Wang stressed China's stance on the Syrian crisis, which includes joint international efforts against terrorism, a political solution and alleviation of the humanitarian crisis.

China supports anti-terrorism campaign in compliance with international laws and with the agreement of countries involved, Wang said.

China backs the UN-led political solution on the Syrian crisis and advocates a third Geneva conference on the issue at a proper time, he said.

The foreign minister said China will continue to offer assistance within its capacity to relieve the humanitarian crisis as refugees in the Middle East severe impact on regional stability.

China supports the sovereign independence and territorial integrity of Syria and its exploration of a development path that suits its own national conditions, Wang said.

"The destiny of Syria should ultimately be decided by its people," Wang added.

Shaaban said her country supports all efforts conducive to a political solution on the Syrian crisis.

Syria appreciates China's stance on the issue and welcomes China's positive and important role, Shaaban said. Syria has been in the throes of conflict since 2011, when opposition actions against the government of President Bashar al-Assad evolved into a running war that also saw the emergence of al-Qaida-linked groups such as the Nursra Front and extremist groups like the Islamic State (IS).

According to UN estimates, an estimated 220,000 people have been killed in the conflict and half of the Syrian population displaced, fueling an exodus of refugees to neighboring states, Europe and other countries. (Xinhua)