

Quote of the Day

We cannot change anything unless we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses.
Carl Jung

Afghanistan Unable to Handle ISIL Alone: Russian Envoy

MOSCOW - According to Russia's permanent envoy to NATO, Afghanistan cannot deal with thousands of Islamic State militants without any outside cooperation. Afghanistan's security forces are incapable of handling the situation inside the country without outside help since 4,000 Islamic State (ISIL) militants have entered the country, Russia's permanent envoy to NATO said Tuesday. "[The bombing of the hospital in] Kunduz was a cold shower for those here in the NATO headquarters, and they don't hide this. The city was taken by a small number of forces and



national security forces ended up in a difficult situation. It's obvious they cannot handle the challenges without any outside cooperation," Alexander Grushko said on his Twitter account. He said that thousands of Islamic State militants have slipped into Afghanistan. "We see not only a strengthening in the Taliban movement, but what is particularly alarming is that ISIL is slipping into Afghanistan. According to preliminary figures, approximately 4,000 ISIL militants are already in Afghanistan and their ranks are growing," Grushko added. (Sputnik)

Officials

Kunduz City Cleared of Insurgents, Forces Moving Forward



KABUL - Quasim Jangal Bagh, the northern Kunduz Police Chief, said on Tuesday that all parts of Kunduz city have been cleared of insurgents and the security forces continue to push forward. Jangal Bagh said that clearing operations still continue on the Takhar - Kunduz highway and in the Dasht-e-Archi district of Kunduz. In addition, five insurgents were killed in operations on Tuesday night in the Sher Khan Bander area in Kunduz city. The local officials said that clearing operations continue in Dasht-e-Archi - a district in Kunduz province which is currently under the control of the Taliban. Officials said that military operations also continue in Khaja Ghar district of Takhar. A policeman was ... (More on P4)...(1)

Refugees in Pakistan Hit by Aid cuts as Europe Crisis Drains Funds

PESHAWAR - Aid programs for some of the 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan are being slashed amid the worst funding shortfall for a generation, as the European and Syrian migrant crisis uses up cash and dominates headlines, United Nations officials said. Pakistan hosts the world's largest long-term refugee population, according to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), mostly Afghans who fled more than three decades of war. The exodus of people from countries like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan is forcing U.N. officials to cut programs like infant feeding, education, and sanitation for refugees in Pakistan. The UNHCR in Pakistan has received only \$33.6 million for 2015 out of its \$136.7 million annual budget, officials said. That means schools like the one run by principal Mohammad Zamir, 55, at the sprawling Kababiyah refugee camp outside the northwestern city of Peshawar, are telling students to go home. "This year, during the summer holidays, we were suddenly told that the funds aren't there, and so we are withdrawing 7th and 8th grade ... (More on P4)...(3)

Sartaj Aziz Winter Could Revive Afghan Peace Talks

ISLAMABAD - A Pakistani official said Monday that the onset of winter in the next four to six weeks could slow the Taliban insurgency, providing an opportunity to revive Afghan peace talks. Sartaj Aziz, Pakistan's national security adviser, said Monday that his country was offering maximum border cooperation and was sharing information with Afghanistan to try to prevent the Taliban from using Pakistan's side of the porous frontier. But he told reporters that the "ultimate solution" to curbing the insurgency lay in the resumption of peace negotia-



tions between the Afghan government and Taliban, provided both sides were ready. The adviser noted that since Pakistan hosted an opening round of negotiations between the Afghan government and Taliban officials in early July, insurgency activity has spiked in Afghanistan. In certain cases, he said, militants have overrun territories there. The Pakistan-mediated peace dialogue was canceled after it was revealed ... (More on P4)...(2)

Afghanistan Hails Pakistan's Help in Restarting Peace Process

ISLAMABAD - Afghanistan has hailed the remarks made by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that he would exert efforts in bringing back the Afghan Taliban to the negotiating table. Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah suggested that Sharif should accompany his remarks with trust-building measures. "It is good news that Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has announced his readiness to encourage and bring the Taliban back to the negotiating table or facilitating the peace process," Abdullah told a meeting of the Council of Ministers in Kabul on Monday. Abdullah also wanted Islamabad's help in ending the "capability" of the Taliban in launching major attacks against the Afghan government and people. The Pakistan-brokered talks between the representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban were postponed in late July after the Afghan spy agency revealed the death of the Taliban supreme leader Mullah Muhammad Omar. The Taliban had requested the postponement of the announcement since they were still in the midst of a transition after Omar's death. Sharif's offer to work for the resumption of the Afghan peace process shows that Islamabad is aware that the continued instability in Afghanistan will have a direct impact on Pakistan. The series of violent attacks in Afghanistan by the Taliban have also affected Afghanistan's bilateral relations with ... (More on P4)...(5)

Senators Criticize Kunduz Task Team Appointments

KABUL - A number of members of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) on Tuesday strongly criticized the government for appointing what they said were two chiefs to head up the government's fact-finding commission tasked to probe the fall of Kunduz city. The senators have warned that such a situation could be detrimental to the process and to the country's future. Senator Haris was one who criticized government and called on government to stop



appointing commissions with two heads. "One commission and two heads; which one of them will conduct a correct investigation ... I think Amrullah Saleh will report to CEO Abdullah Abdullah and Farooq Wardak will report to President ... (More on P4)...(4)

US-Led Coalition Drops Ammo to Anti-Daesh Syrian Rebels

WASHINGTON - US-led coalition forces have parachuted ammunition to rebels fighting Daesh jihadists in northern Syria, a US military spokesman said Monday. The move follows the Pentagon's announcement last week that it would halt its much-criticized program to train moderate rebels, and instead focus efforts on equipping pre-screened rebel leaders from groups actively fighting Daesh. Colonel Steve Warren, the Baghdad-based spokesman for the US-led effort to strike Daesh in Iraq and Syria, said the ammunition had gone to a group called the Syrian Arab Coalition (SAC) that has for months been fighting Daesh across an arc of territory north of the Daesh stronghold of Raqqa. The coalition, comprising several smaller Arab groups, includes between 4,000 and 5,000 fighters and US forces have carefully vetted the group's leader, Warren said. The United States and its allies could eventually strike Daesh targets identified by SAC fighters on the ground, he added. "Coalition forces conducted an airdrop Sunday in northern Syria to resupply local counter-Daesh ground forces as they conduct operations against Daesh," US Central Command spokesman Colonel Patrick Ryder said in a statement, using an alternative acronym for Daesh. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a US official told AFP the drop included 50 tons of ammunition ... (More on P4)...(6)

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Any Attack on Media a War Crime: Afghan Media



KABUL - The Afghan media collectively on Tuesday said they will not bow to the threats of the Taliban following the group's statement and video issued on Monday against TOLO TV and 1TV, which included death threats against all staff. In addition to the death threats, the Taliban threatened to destroy all facilities belonging to the two TV channels. Addressing a press conference in Kabul, Fahim Dashti CEO of Afghanistan's journalist union said the Taliban "has categorized TOLO TV and 1TV as their enemy and military targets and issued death threats against all staff and threatened the two institutions and their facilities". "Afghan media, media activists, unions, media watchdog organizations and other media support institutions consider the threat not limited to the two named TV channels, but a threat to all of Afghanistan's media family and to the country's press freedom - which is one of the key achievements of the past 14 years," he said. "We believe the Afghan people expect the Afghan media not to bow to such threats and to continue on their mission of informing people based on journalism ethics." He went on to say media organizations are not one of the warring sides, but are instead civilian organizations. "Whenever the Taliban or any ... (More on P4)...(7)