Russia to Keep Sending Free Weapons to ANSF: Matvienko

MOSCOW – Russia's upper house speaker Valentina Matvienko on Tuesday said that Moscow will continue supplying free weapons to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to help fight the Islamic State (ISIL). In early October, First Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum asked Russia for military aid amid a fight against militants operating in the country. "We will continue the work on the organization of gratuitous supply of arms and ammunition to Afghanistan. We welcome the commitment of the Afghan government to modernize the country's air force," Matvienko said at the meeting with Jalal Hashmati, the speaker of the upper house of the Afghan Parliament.

According to the Russian lawmaker, Afghanistan is currently considering a commercial Russian proposal for the purchase of these military helicopters. Also Matvienko stated that Russia is concerned over growing ISIL influence in Afghanistan. "We are concerned by the increased ISIL influence in Afghanistan and its intentions to infiltrate the parts of the Taliban," Matvienko said at (More on P6).

ARG Opposes Formation of Militia

KABUL – The Presidential Palace (ARG) on Tuesday opposed the creation of military force, calling on former commanders and those behind the plan to halt the process. "Focusing on the outcome of creating such forces, the Afghan Local Police (ALP) force has proved to be effective only within the framework of the Ministry of Interior (MoI), which is currently being implemented with the set mechanism. This scenario by ARG was released amid concerns regarding the creation of military forces, with some politicians, lawmakers and other political figures calling for an immediate halt to it. A number of tribal elders, and Afghan Local Police commanders have also opposed this move." (More on P6)

German Army Extends Afghan Mission with NATO Partners

KABUL – Germany is to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of its national forces and in cooperation with its NATO partners. "We are in close contact with our German defense minister, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, and we are discussing the contribution in the security architecture in Afghanistan," the German defense minister, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, said in a press statement. "We are working with our partners to ensure that the Afghan forces are able to take over their responsibilities in a sustainable manner." (More on P6)

EU, EUPOL Urge Govt. to Eliminate Violence Against Women

KABUL – European Union and European Union Police Mission (EUPOL) in Afghanistan on Tuesday issued a joint statement on Tuesday on the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women urging Afghan government to eliminate violence against women. "Elimination of violence and discrimination against women and girls remains one of the most pressing issues of the European Union’s Human Rights Policy," the statement said.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the EU in Afghanistan expressed its (More on P6)

UN Violence Against Women Not Acceptable

KABUL – According to the United Nations, violence against women and girls remains one of the most pressing issues of the European Union’s Human Rights Policy.

"Elimination of violence and discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan is a national priority and we are committed to supporting the Afghan government in its efforts to eliminate violence against women," the statement said. (More on P6)

EU Calls for Probe to Qadir’s Accusations

GENEVA – A report published by the UN’s Children Fund (UNICEF) on Tuesday found that some 530 million children live in areas with extremely high flood occurrence, while 160 million live in high drought severity zones.

Relieved ahead of the 21st United Nations climate change conference (COP21) in Paris, the report showed that 300 million of the 530 million children

690 Mln Children to Face Effects of Climate Change: UNICEF

do face flood-prone areas live in countries where over 50 per cent of the population live in poverty witnessing on less than 1 dollar per day. The report said that out of the 160 million children living in drought-prone areas, over 100 million live in countries where over half of the population lives in poverty. “The data is stark,” UNICEF’s Helen Miles said. (More on P6)

Mogherini Calls for Cessation of Violence in South Sudan

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, called for the immediate cessation of violence in South Sudan on Tuesday. "The security situation in South Sudan continues to be extremely worrying with violent incidents reported in a number of locations," Mogherini said in a statement. (More on P6)

Senators Consider NUG Main Cause of Crisis

KABUL – Senators of the National Unity Government (NUG) are mainly the cause of the country’s crisis. Senators said that the delay in election drugs the country further into crisis, but unfortunately the NUG leaders have no intention to hold the elections. They urged NUG to specify the date of parliamentary election, otherwise people’s bodies go beyond government become more.

The National Unity Government leaders functions are dangerous than Taliban, they themselves are creating crisis," Senator Nazar Bakhshi said. (More on P6)

KABUL – Members of Marshal’s jirga (Upper House of the Parliament) on Tuesday accused the National Unity Government (NUG) of failing to hold elections, citing the leaders of NUG even cannot hold the parliamentary elections. Members of Marshal’s jirga said that they consider leaders of National Unity Government are mainly the cause of the crisis in the country. Senators said that the delay is election drugs the country further into crisis, but unfortunately the NUG leaders have no intention to hold the elections. They urged NUG to specifiy the date of parliamentary election, otherwise people’s bodies go beyond government become more.

The National Unity Government leaders functions are dangerous than Taliban, they themselves are creating crisis," Senator Nazar Bakhshi said. (More on P6)

Unlawful Killings and Enforced Disappearances of Journalists

The Afghan Journalists’ Union (AJU) on Tuesday issued a statement condemning the unlawful killings and enforced disappearances of journalists in the country. "These killings and enforced disappearances were committed by security forces and other armed groups," the AJU said. (More on P6)

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