

**(1) Twin Blasts ...**

of southeastern province Sanliurfa on July 20, which killed 34 pro-Kurdish activists and was blamed on the Islamic State (IS). Violence has since escalated sharply, with the PKK stepping up attacks on security forces. More than 100 members of Turkish security have been killed in clashes.

The PKK is designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the European Union and the United States. (Xinhua)

**(2) US, Russia ...**

take place as soon as this weekend."

US officials were furious after Russia only gave them a vague, verbal "heads-up" about an hour before Moscow launched its bombing campaign on September 30.

The two countries had "deconfliction" talks the next day via videoconference, aimed at ensuring Russian warplanes didn't cross paths with drones and US-led coalition jets.

Talks center around basic safety measures including which language air crews should communicate in and how much space planes should leave each other.

Russian planes have flown near a US drone, officials say, and the US military has had to reroute some flights to avoid any close calls. (AFP)

**(3) U.S Congress....**

challenges to the region. While the capability of the Afghan National security forces continues to improve, they still rely heavily on our training and expertise," read the letter.

"Our current force strength is the minimum capable of adequately staffing our bases. Any further reduction would result in base closures, minimizing our footprint and hindering our intelligence capabilities going forward. This would severely limit our ability to conduct counterterrorism operations," the congress members said.

They went on to say that President Ashraf Ghani was a willing partner and had publically expressed his desire for U.S troops to remain.

They said that partly due to U.S efforts, key economic indicators, such as commercial activity, infant mortality and access to clean water and health facilities have improved in the country.

The congress members said: "Withdrawing from a country does not mean the problem goes away. Instead, premature withdrawal in Iraq (for instance) allowed ISIS (Daesh) to take advantage of the nascent Iraqi security Forces. We cannot allow this to happen again in Afghanistan."

In conclusion, they said the U.S must ensure that Afghanistan does not once again become a place for extremists to devise and carry out plots against the U.S.

"Now is not the time to withdraw," they said adding that the current presence of 9,800 troops in Afghanistan should be maintained through 2016.

This week, United States defense secretary, Ashton Carter, added his voice to the pile and called on NATO allies on Thursday in Brussels to remain flexible when they review their plans of troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Carter said a number of NATO allies indicated a willingness to review their plans.

"I was very pleased to hear ministers of defense from our NATO partners reaffirm their commitment - discussing not whether but how to continue the mission in Afghanistan. It is of course the view of the United States," Carter said.

He said that they are continuing the mission in a 3-step action plan. The first step was when President Barack Obama decided in March this year to maintain 800 9 US troops in Afghanistan until the end of this year.

The original plan had suggested keeping only 500 5 troops by the end of 2015.

The second is to formulate options for 2016 and beyond and adjust the planned US presence in Afghanistan based on current circumstances according to the Department of Defense.

The third plan of action involves

the 2017 fiscal year's defense budget, in which Carter said he would include "critical financial support to the Afghan national defense and security forces to help it sustain its current force levels of 000 352 troops in 2017 and beyond".

NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, also said in the week that the alliance's doors were open for keeping more forces in Afghanistan beyond 2016.

"All allies agreed that we will continue to support Afghans, so what we are discussing is not whether we are going to leave or stay, because we are going to stay," he said.

He affirmed that NATO will continue to support Afghanistan through the Resolute Support (RS) mission which began after the formal end of their combat mission in 2014. (Tolonews)

**(4) Security...**

Kunduz city and investigate the crisis.

Early Saturday, TOLONews journalist Karim Amini who is reporting from Kunduz, said that house-to-house operations still continue in the city to clear insurgents hiding in civilian homes.

He said threats remain in some parts of the city but security forces have re-taken key areas of the city.

There are still no official details on casualties but hospital officials say at least 100 people, plus over 400 insurgents, have been killed in the -13day battle. About 6,000 Kunduz families have been reportedly displaced after the Taliban captured the city last Monday following a massive attack by hundreds of insurgents. (Tolonews)

**(5) Air Strikes...**

Mr. Danishhi has demanded the Human rights commission not stick into Doctors without borders issue to much there has been huge crimes committed by Taliban in Kunduz during their stay.

Based on the information Mr. Danishhi had out of 180 militants 30 of them escaped unhurt to Baghlan back.

Ministry of Interior Affairs Spokesman Sediq Sediqee during a press conference said, "major parts of the Kunduz city is being controlled by Afghan security forces and clearance door-door operations continue to clean the whole city out of Taliban and terrorists presence. (ATN)

**(6) Abdullah Urges ...**

Cross (ICRC) must be allowed the chance to get the bodies out of the city and take them to their families.

ANDMA chairman Wais Ahmad Barmak briefed the CEO about the aid and said that no aid had so far reached 2,000 Kunduz Families who sought refuge in neighboring Takhar province.

"We need to have an accurate assessment and use all government resources and seek help from our international partners to focus on the issue," Abdullah said.

In addition, ANDMA chief Barmak stressed the need for better coordination between various organs to make sure aid is provided to victims in a positive way.

"It was decided that in the first step there should be better cooperation and coordination in order to aid 12,000 displaced families," Barmak said.

According to reports, widespread fighting still continues in various parts of Kunduz and several bodies are still lying on the streets.

"Fighting is still going on and bodies are still lying inside the city; it was decided that with the help of the ICRC, efforts would be made to evacuate the dead bodies," he said.

Kunduz war has left almost 12,000 families displaced with 2,000 of them having sought refuge in neighboring Takhar.

The Taliban managed to seize control of Kunduz city in northern Afghanistan last Monday after the group's fighters stormed the city from three directions. (Tolonews)

**(7) US Asks...**

doors were open for keeping more forces in Afghanistan beyond 2016.

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so what we are discussing is not whether we are going to leave or stay, because we are going to stay," he said.

He affirmed that NATO will continue to support Afghanistan through the Resolute Support (RS) mission which began after the formal end of their combat mission in 2014.

However in recent weeks the US is considering new draw down options which include keeping thousands of soldiers in Afghanistan beyond the end of 2016.

Most Afghans welcomed the decision by the US to consider keeping forces in Afghanistan beyond 2016. (Tolonews)

**(8) EU Calls ...**

Melbin asked for a transparent and accurate investigation of the attack on MSF hospital.

"It was a profound tragedy. It is always a tragedy when civilians are hit as so often happens when there is conflict. It is especially tragic when it hits a sanctuary under international norms and humanitarian law, hospitals enjoys special privilege and protection, all war parties should respect that and we deplore that."

"People were killed and wounded in the hospital due to fighting and we believe that it is very important that a full and transparent investigation is made. We heard assurances both from US side and from the Afghan government that investigations indeed will be forthcoming," he said.

At least 30 injured comprising staff and patients of the hospital have been transferred to Kabul.

"I think this is a wake up call for all of us for the Afghan leadership, for the international community and we will have to show that we are able to mobilize at a time of crisis and work together to move Afghanistan forward," he said.

"I remain optimistic that this can be done. We have had very good discussions with the government over the last week, but it is also very important that the government comes out with strong narrative toward the Afghan population and the people to explain what it intends to do and how it intends to make sure that this doesn't repeat itself again. So as latest today I once again had the opportunity to talk to the Afghan government and underlined - please move forward with the reform programs," he added.

This comes at a time that already the Afghan Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and U.S Pentagon are trying to investigate the bombing of Kunduz hospital, however, the MSF has already rejected the investigation and called for a transparent international body to probe the incident. (Tolonews)

**(9) MoF Signs...**

Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), United States Department of Treasury, and Head of danida Denmark, amongst others.

The Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World bank Group each year bring together ministers of finance, central bankers, and development, private sector executives, and academics to discuss issues of global concern, including the world economic outlook, poverty eradication, economic development, and aid effectiveness. Also featured are seminars, regional briefings, press conferences, and many other events focused on the global economy, international development, and the world's financial system. (KP)

**(10) ANSF Retake...**

casualties but hospital officials say at least 100 people, plus over 400 insurgents have been killed in the -13day battle.

Police say army commanders are also on the battle field and are monitoring and leading clearance operations.

Officials say there are still however insurgents hiding in civilian houses but they add that insurgents are fleeing the city as security forces push forward.

Amini reports that house-to-house searches are being conducted. However, the bodies of insurgents are still seen on streets in the city.

But it is the civilians who are

paying the price for the fighting which has entered its 13th day.

TOLONews correspondent Sharif Amiry on Friday visited several families that either lost their loved ones or have faced massive financial losses.

Atiqullah, who is injured himself, said the Taliban killed his brother and injured two of his family members.

According to him, insurgents looted their house and showed no mercy to them.

He said his second brother was also wounded and is currently in one of the hospitals in Balkh province. (Tolonews)

**(11) Insurgents Use ...**

out and troops are conducting night raids in their quest to eliminate the Taliban from the city. (Tolonews)

**(12) UAE Permanent ...**

will support this plan.

For his part, Ambassador Al Zaabi stressed that the United Arab Emirates stands for the friendly people of Afghanistan and has always supported them and their country with humanitarian work, development aid and infrastructure construction. (WAM)

**(13) I16 Militants...**

responsibility from NATO-led troops since Jan. 1. The Taliban have responded it with bombing and armed attacks. Earlier on Saturday, three civilians were wounded in a car bomb explosion in eastern Khost province, provincial police chief FaizullahGhairt told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

**(14) Daesh...**

NajibullahKamawal said. He also said that Daesh insurgents have closed ten HEALTH CARE centers in these districts.

"In districts where there is control of Daesh, health centers are also closed down and people there face a lot of issues," he said.

Meanwhile, a number of civil society activists and Ulema members in Nangarhar said that "this is oppression by Daesh on children".

"This act demonstrated by the insurgents is an act of oppression against the children. We call on warring factions to cooperate with medical teams," religious scholar Maulavi Abbas said.

The Ulema members and civil society activists called on Daesh to not stop health workers from treating people. (Tolonews)

**(15) ISIS Claims ...**

mandment Syed Gul AqaRohani told reporters that three magnetic bombs were planted near Chendawol religious hall which went off earlier this afternoon.

This comes as a group of two militants launched an attack on a restaurant in the 3rd police district of Kabul city on Thursday evening.

The two heavily armed militants were shot dead by the security forces as soon as they started firing on the guests which left at least two people dead and three others wounded. (KP)

**(16) UNSC ...**

that they believe the crisis should be dealt with by addressing the root causes such as armed conflict, economic crisis and poverty, and this needs concerted efforts from the international community to assist Libya. (Xinhua)

**(17) US Pauses...**

the number of U.S.-trained Syrian rebels currently fighting the IS in Syria to nine.

Senior officials of the Obama administration had said earlier the initial U.S. strategy to recruit, train and arm moderate Syrian rebels failed partly because most of Syrian rebels were more focused on fighting the Syrian government. (Xinhua)

**(18) Europe...**

receiving refugees is not infinite and this path is certainly not the solution to crises. "It is a complete illusion to think that wherever there is a crisis across the world all refugees could come to Europe," he stressed, highlighting the danger that the current wave of solidarity may recede to xenophobia and nationalism in the future. (Xinhua)

## Sudan's President Vows Permanent Ceasefire if Rebels Join National Dialogue Conference

KHARTOUM - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Saturday vowed to declare a permanent ceasefire with the rebels if the rebel leaders joined the national dialogue conference.

Al-Bashir opened the sessions of the national dialogue conference in Khartoum with the participation of a number of Sudanese political parties and representatives of regional organizations.

"We have issued a decree on ceasefire for two months at all areas of conflicts in Sudan and we promise that the ceasefire will be permanent if the others resort to peace and become partners in the national dialogue," said al-Bashir when addressing the opening session.

He renewed his call for the parties rejecting the dialogue to join it, adding that "our doors will remain open and our hands extended for those who want to join the dialogue."

Al-Bashir further vowed to provide guarantees for the leaders of the armed movements to enable them participate in the conference.

Around 92 political parties and three Darfur armed movements are participating in the conference.

The conference is scheduled to discuss six major issues including peace, identity, rights and freedoms, economy, external relations and rule and management.

Major political parties and armed movements have rejected to participate in the conference, including the Revolutionary Front Alliance, which brings together the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)/northern sector and the major Darfur armed movements.

In January 2014, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir declared an initiative calling on the opposition parties and the armed groups to join a national dialogue to end the country's crises. (Xinhua)

## Egypt, France Sign Warships Deal as PM Starts Arab Tour

CAIRO - Egypt signed a deal with France Saturday to buy two Mistral warships originally ordered by Russia as French Prime Minister Manuel Valls began an Arab tour.

Valls arrived in Cairo at the start of visits to three Arab nations aimed at boosting economic ties and holding talks on regional conflicts.

On September 23, French President Francois Hollande announced he had agreed the sale of the warships with his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

After Valls and Sisi met in Cairo Saturday, a member of the French premier's delegation told AFP the deal had now been signed.

France originally built the Mistral for Russia before scrapping their sale over the Ukraine crisis.

The vessels, which can each carry 16 helicopters, four landing craft and 13 tanks, were ordered by Russia in 2011 in a 1.2-billion-euro (\$1.4 billion) deal.

However, France found itself in an awkward situation in 2014 as ties between Russia and the West deteriorated over Moscow's annexation of Crimea and support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Paris decided to cancel the delivery in an expensive decision, as it had to foot a bill of more than one billion euros for the ships' upkeep and the cost of training 400 Russian sailors to crew them.

After months of intense talks, Paris and Moscow agreed on the reimbursement of the original deal in August, with Paris returning 949.7 million euros that Russia had already paid.

According to French government sources, Egypt is to pay 950 million euros for the warships, with "significant" financing from Saudi Arabia.

In February, Egypt became the first foreign buyer of France's Rafale fighters, in a 5.2-billion-euro deal for 24 of the multi-role combat jets and a frigate. (AFP)

## Indian President Leaves for Tour of Jordan, Israel, Palestine

NEW DELHI - Indian President Pranab Mukherjee embarked on a six-day tour of Jordan, Israel and Palestine Saturday.

His first stop is Jordan, where he will meet King Abdullah and hold talks on bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern, sources said. President Mukherjee will go to Palestine on Oct. 12 from Jordan, where he will hold meetings with Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and other leaders.

On the last leg of his tour, the Indian president will go to Israel on Oct. 13 for a three-day state visit.

In Israel, he will hold talks with his Israeli counterpart Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on issues, such as terrorism and bilateral ties, the sources said.

President Mukherjee will also address the Israeli parliament or the Knesset, a rare honor for any visiting leader, and meet Speaker of the Knesset Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, the sources added. (Xinhua)

## Myanmar's Negotiator Expresses Belief in China's Willingness to Help in Peace

YANGON - A peace negotiator of Myanmar on Saturday expressed the belief that China would be willing to help Myanmar realize peace.

Dr. Min Zaw Oo, director of Ceasefire Negotiation and Implementation with the Myanmar Peace Center, made the remarks in an interview with Xinhua.

The official denied that he has accused China of interfering in the country's peace process.

He rejected the allegation that his prior interview with Reuters included remarks charging the Chinese government with exerting pressure on some ethnic armed groups of Myanmar to stay away from taking part in signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Accord (NCA) planned for Oct. 15 in Nay Pyi Taw.

"It was a misreport of the media," he told Xinhua.

Praising two Chinese special envoys for as professional diplomats, he agreed that they attended series of peace talks between the government and the armed groups as pure observers with no pressure put on any side.

He pointed out that Myanmar's peace issue belongs to its own domestic one and other countries hold no responsibility for the long failure to get resolved.

He highlighted that Myanmar-China relations have been good since ancient time and during the period of successive Myanmar governments, believing that no matter which government takes office, the two countries will have friendly ties.

Moreover, for the sake of stability and development of the two countries' border areas, he stressed the need for the two countries to continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination.

According to the peace negotiator, the Myanmar government and eight ethnic armed groups would take part in signing the NCA in Nay Pyi Taw, while door will remain open to those armed groups who fail to join the signing this time. (Xinhua)