

### (1) Pak Role...

separate briefing Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said Pakistan is an important player in the Afghan puzzle.

"Everyone involved in this effort with Resolute Support working with the Afghan government is trying to take a comprehensive look at this picture and trying to involve Pakistan in that conversation has been important. And the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is important going forward," he said.

The United States will discuss concerns about the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal during a visit to Washington next week by Nawaz Sharif, the White House said on Thursday.

The News York Times reported on Thursday that the Obama administration was concerned that Pakistan might be on the verge of deploying a small tactical nuclear weapon that would be harder to protect from falling into hands of militants.

The paper said the administration was also seeking to prevent Pakistan deploying missiles that could reach beyond its main foe India, and was thus exploring a possible deal to limit the Pakistani arsenal that could involve relaxing restrictions on access to nuclear technology.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest played down the prospect of an agreement when asked if there was a serious effort to reach a deal with Pakistan on nuclear technology in the run-up to Sharif visit, which is expected to start on Tuesday.

"I would not be overly excited about the prospects of reaching the kind of agreement that is being speculated about publicly," he told a regular news briefing, adding that it was "not likely to come to fruition next week.

Meanwhile, the US Department of State said that Richard Olson, who is presently serving as US Ambassador to Pakistan, will become the American Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) from next month. (Agencies)

### (2) Gen. Dostum...

comes as Zamir Kabulov, President Putin's special representative for Afghanistan, said earlier Afghanistan and Russia will sign an agreement for the delivery of Mi35- gunship helicopters.

Kabulov further added that the agreement is expected to be signed by the two countries during the ongoing month.

He said the Russian President Vladimir Putin has instructed the relevant authorities to deliver the gunship helicopters to Afghanistan in a bid to boost the capabilities of the Afghan army.

"Russia is already providing certain assistance in strengthening the capabilities of the Afghan government forces," Kabulov said, adding that Russia will also provide military training for Afghan officers. (KP)

### (3) Abdullah, NATO...

and Campbell also discussed the recent move by the U.S government to keep troops in Afghanistan beyond 2016, calling it important in their quest to fight terrorism.

Today Afghanistan is a trusted ally of the international community and there is a need for the world to cooperate with Afghanistan in its struggle against terrorism, Abdullah said at the meeting with Campbell.

Referring to the country's war on terrorism, CEO Abdullah reiterated that as Afghan security and defensive forces continue to fight insurgency, the world must abide by its commitments and supply Afghan troops with the necessary weapons and equipment.

The meeting also focused on the ongoing military campaigns against terrorists in various parts of the country and the role of the foreign troops in counterinsurgency efforts. (Tolonews)

### (4) Ministry of ...

towards big economic projects. "We have made the draft of Public-Private Partnership strategy and it has been sent to the cabinet," Murad said. "Additionally, we have also started work on the draft law of the strategy."

In addition, the minister said after the implementation of the PPP strategy, the private sector will be able to make joint investments with government on building power dams, extraction of mines and building new towns. "At present, it is very important for us to include the private sector

in economic projects and this will result in private sector's leading role in the development of the country," he continued. This comes as investments have sharply decreased in Afghanistan. The economists however see the PPP plan as possibly being very effective in the revival of investments in the country. (Tolonews)

### (5) Russian PM...

specific leaders, we are defending our national interests, on the one hand," Medvedev said in an interview to air on state television. "And secondly, we have a request from the lawful authorities (of Syria). That is the basis we are working on," he said, quoted on the government website.

Medvedev said Russia in Syria is defending itself against the threat of Islamist extremists coming to its own country.

"The president said this: it's obvious that if we don't destroy these terrorists there, they will come to Russia."

Medvedev said that it did not matter to Russia who heads Syria in the future, as long as it is not the Islamic State jihadist group.

"We don't want IS to head Syria... It should be civilised, legitimate authorities," he said.

"Who will lead Syria should be decided by the Syrian people," Medvedev said.

Nevertheless he added that currently Russia is "working on the basis that Assad is the legitimate president."

Moscow this week expressed outrage that the United States declined to host a Russian delegation on Syria led by Medvedev. (AFP)

### (6) Karzai Criticizes...

security deal did not help overcome insecurity but instead it has intensified the war - with fighting now in numerous provinces that were previously secure.

He also said that the Taliban's effort to step up the war in villages and cities has provided the opportunity for further presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan.

Karzai however said that the Afghan people will accept the US military presence on condition that they consider some issues, including elimination of terrorism, an end to war, maintaining a lasting peace, supporting national unity and respecting the national sovereignty of Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (7) New Study...

to the findings, the Taliban had violated human's rights by attacking the civilians and sheltering in their homes.

The Taliban attack on Kunduz has left more than 100,000 residents displaced, it added.

The commission says that the Taliban and their affiliates are responsible for all the crimes in Kunduz except for the bombings on a hospital belonging to "Doctors without Borders."

At least 22 people were killed, including 12 staff members of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) hospital after it came under and airstrike.

However the commission appointed by President Ashraf Ghani to investigate the fall of Kunduz has intensified its works. Ghani said during his visit to Kunduz on Friday that the initial findings of the task team showed that the people of Kunduz do not need food, instead they need a good system. (Tolonews)

### (8) Security Forces...

soon after the attack begun additional forces backed by air support arrived in the area and pushed back the armed men.

Nine militants were killed and 13 others wounded by the air strikes and in the clashes, the statement states, adding that a dead body was left behind by militants in the area. Taliban have ramped up their attacks against security forces and try to capture large areas from government.

They have been able to occupy districts briefly but lost them back to security forces after suffering heavy casualties. (KP)

### (9) MoD Optimistic ...

Afghanistan to bring stability here, equip and train Afghan security forces," said Mohammad Rahman Afzal the deputy chief of public affairs, MoD.

A number of analysts meanwhile believe that Washington's decision to retain its troops in Afghanistan not only guarantees lasting stability in the country, but that it will also have a positive impact on the internal politics of the United States. "The Republicans are struggling to use the Democrats policy weakness

to their advantage. Considering this fact, the Democrats are trying to take control of the situation," said Hadi Miran, a political affairs analyst.

"This is a good opportunity for Republicans as they can benefit in the election. This can provide them with good opportunities during their election," said Iqbal Safi, an MP.

Obama last week announced that 9,800 American troops will remain in Afghanistan until the end of 2016. He said that this number will decrease to 5,500 after 2016.

Meanwhile, former president Hamid Karzai, who was opposed to the presence of US troops and their military operations in Afghanistan - in the last years of his presidency - has criticized this decision by the US government.

In a statement issued by his office on Saturday, he criticized the US for not uprooting terrorism in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (10) Clinton Backs ...

on in the real world."

The president had originally planned to keep only a small US military presence by the end of his presidency. But military leaders have said the Afghans need more support from the US to fight the Taliban and maintain gains made during the past 14 years.

Clinton, who served as Obama's secretary of state during his first term, said the US wants to bring its troops home and "we certainly don't want them engaged in on-the-ground combat. We want them to help support and train the Afghan army."

"So I can't predict where things will be in January of 2017. But I support the president's decision," she said. The White House's announcement thrusts the future of Afghanistan into the 2016 race, an issue that has received scant attention up to this point and was not addressed during the first Democratic presidential debate on Tuesday.

Clinton has not talked extensively during her campaign about how she would pursue a peaceful transition from the war in Afghanistan.

She said in a June 2014 interview at the Council on Foreign Relations that she would be open to extending the timeline for US withdrawal from Afghanistan but it would depend upon "conditions on the ground and what was being asked for."

Clinton negotiated with then-Afghan President Hamid Karzai on a bilateral security agreement toward the end of her tenure that would have set the legal parameters for the residual force to stay in Afghanistan. She has said she was surprised when Karzai refused to sign it.

Clinton has said that setting a timeline for withdrawal was an important step but the Afghanistan government would need to step up to make it work.

As secretary of state, Clinton supported Obama's troop surge in Afghanistan, writing in her book "Hard Choices" that she was "under no illusions about how difficult it would be to turn around this war. But all things considered I believed that the president had made the right choice and put us in the best position to succeed. (Agencies)

### (11) Germany Decides...

training for Afghan security forces, but recent clashes in the northern city of Kunduz may indicate that more work could be required.

Meanwhile, the NATO foreign ministers are scheduled to meet in Brussels in December and decide on future steps for the mission in Afghanistan. The German soldiers account for less than 7 percent of current NATO forces in Afghanistan, which total 13,000. US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said that he expected further NATO allies to follow the US' example and prolong their missions.

The United States President Barack Obama declared Thursday that a peace deal on the part of the Taliban with the Afghan government is the only way for a complete withdrawal of American troops from the country.

While announcing his new plan on delaying the current troop level draw down in Afghanistan, Obama said he would discuss the issue of peace with Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif next week. "By now it should be clear to Taliban and all who oppose Afghanistan's progress the only real way to achieve the full draw down of US and foreign troops from Afghanistan is through a lasting political settlement with

the Afghan government," Obama declared.

Meanwhile, the German Chancellor Angela Merkel strongly welcomes President Obama's plans to prolong the troops engagement in Afghanistan, her spokesman said.

"She strongly welcomes yesterday's announcement from President Obama on the future U.S. engagement in Afghanistan," spokesman Steffen Seibert told a news conference on Friday.

"This announcement is an important signal to the international community, it is an important signal to the alliance partners of the United States but above all an important signal to the Afghan people."

Obama also urged that all the Taliban and terrorists' sanctuaries must be eliminated in Afghanistan.

"Next week I will HOST Prime Minister Sharif of Pakistan and I will continue to urge all parties in the region to press the Taliban to return to peace talks and to do their part in pursue to the peace that Afghans deserve," Obama continued.

After days of speculation about the Obama administration's review of downsizing troops, the US president reversed his policy on Afghanistan and announced the current posture of troops - 9,800 - will stay in the country through the end of 2016.

Also he announced that a total of 5,500 soldiers will stay in Afghanistan after 2016, when he leaves office.

The Afghan Presidential Palace in a statement has also welcomed the U.S plan and said that "the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, on behalf of the people of the country, welcomes President Obama's decision on continuation of cooperation of that country with the people of Afghanistan, especially in the area of security, which is based on the terms of the security and strategic partnership agreements between the two countries."

The statement said that the decision to maintain the current level of the United States' forces in Afghanistan once again shows renewal of the partnership and strengthening of relations of the United States with Afghanistan on the basis of common interests and risks.

"The focal point of these interests is stability and development of Afghanistan as well as fighting the regional and global terrorists. This decision has been taken following several months of continued talks between the two Presidents and as a result of joint work and thorough assessments by the authorities of the two sides," according to the statement.

The US plan has also welcomed by the most the allies country. (Tolonews)

### (12) Kabul Hosts ...

of smart phones has improved but there are a number of problems for traders including insecurity and lack of electricity in parts of the country.

Access to smart phones and telecommunication services has dramatically increased over the past 14 years and it is said that more than 10 million Afghans are using telecommunication services. (Tolonews)

### (13) Female ...

a number of serious patients despite having no medical equipment.

"I have treated several serious patients, including several genetic patients which is a serious disease, but I treat my patients well," she said.

Most women in Balkh know Parwin. They pay tribute to Parwin because of her ethics and experience.

"I always consult Parwin, by the grace of Allah (God) I have six children and all of them were born under the supervision of Parwin," a Balkh resident Khadija said. (Tolonews)

### (14) Ghazni ...

city the insurgents blocked the Kabul-Kandahar highway for four days. Clashes lasted four days but eventually security forces were able to stabilize the area and reopen the highway.

The special police forces in Ghazni province said that about 200 Afghan and Pakistani Taliban have been killed so far in their clearance operations. "In Shahbaz, Noghi, and Lewan villages we have conducted operations and our friends from those villages have contacted us and told us that about 200 Afghan and Pakistan Taliban have been killed in those villages and their dead bodies are in the areas," said

Mohammad Ismail Quraishi Ghazni police special forces commander said.

One concerned Ghazni resident urged the government to take serious action against the Taliban and added that they have suffered a lot during the past few days.

"On both sides war is going on and it is almost four days that we have been stuck [on the highway]," Shah Agha one of the resident said during the blockade.

"What kind of situation is this? We don't have any way to get out. We are stuck here, we don't have any alternative," said Mohammad one of the drivers.

The Kabul-Kandahar highway has had an impact on Shahbaz Khan, Nani and other parts of Ghazni province mostly as bridges have been destroyed.

Kabul-Kandahar highway is one of the country's main routes that connects the south with the west.

According to Ghazni security forces, Mullah Abdul Rahman, Mullah Abos and Taliban commander Mukhles are insurgent leaders who were also killed in the operations. Mullah Shir and Mullah Atif are two Taliban commanders that were wounded in the province.

The security forces in Ghazni said that all of the Taliban there are servants of Pakistan and take orders from ISI. (Tolonews)

### (15) Militants ...

be able to secure Afghanistan but people can.

During his speech at the gathering organized to launch the tribal shura of Kunar province, Kunduzi said that the enemies of Afghanistan want to present a negative image of Islam to the world.

He said they are trying to introduce Islam as a religion of barbarity in order to have people hate it, adding that they would not succeed in their evil thoughts.

He added that local government in Nangarhar needs consultation with people but would not allow private militias.

This is not in the interest of the country, he said. (KP)

### (16) Global Petition...

offered its services to the United States and Afghanistan.

Established under the Geneva Conventions in 1991, the IHFFC cannot carry out an investigation without consent of countries involved.

Currently, three investigations were underway by the United States, NATO and the Afghan government, and White House officials had said earlier that the investigative effort underway would be "transparent, thorough and objective."

"But none of these (investigations) is independent and impartial," Marjorie Cohn, professor of law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, told Xinhua.

"If the U.S. government really believes it did nothing wrong, it should not resist an independent, impartial investigation sponsored by the United Nations," said Professor Cohn.

A U.S. AC130- gunship on Oct. 3 devastated a MSF hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, killing 12 medical staff and 10 patients and wounding more than three dozen patients.

According to the MSF, precise GPS coordinates of the hospital were provided to U.S. and Afghan authorities days prior to the bombing.

As both the United States and NATO continued to put off the release of the preliminary reports, a Pentagon spokesman said on Thursday he was also puzzled why there was still no release.

"I've asked some of these same questions myself," said Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook at a Pentagon briefing. "My understanding is it will take a few more days...when we could have some initial, preliminary findings."

Even if the U.S. report came out next week, it would be focused specifically on the issue of civilian casualties, said Cook.

"The 6-15 investigation, as General Campbell (commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan) has spelled out, will take more time," said Cook.

During an Army Regulation 6-15 investigation, an officer appointed by a commander would conduct an investigation into misconduct, or loss of property or a workplace accident, etc.

Shortly after the incident, the MSF issued a blistering statement, calling the U.S. airstrike "a war crime."

"There is probable cause to believe that U.S. forces committed a war crime by striking the hospital," said

Professor Cohn. "Under the Geneva Conventions, there is a duty to distinguish between civilians and combatants, and civilians and their facilities cannot be targeted."

According to Professor Cohn, even if the hospital were being used for military purpose, a claim dismissed by the MSF, any military strikes against it must be "proportionate to the military advantage sought" and the U.S. forces had a duty to warn the people inside the hospital before any strikes were materialized.

"The U.S. forces never warned those in the hospital before striking it," said Professor Cohn, calling the airstrike "a precise hit" on the hospital. (Xinhua)

### (17) Syrian...

captured the village of Huwajja, on the way to Kweires. The Observatory said it the army was advancing in Huwajja, one of several villages where heavy fighting was continuing. (Reuters)

### (18) UN Fears...

Security Forces) personnel -- and more than 1,118 Palestinians were reportedly injured since Oct. 1, according to Zerihoun.

"Tensions at the holy sites in Jerusalem were the main instigator," Zerihoun said. "Reckless statements made by Palestinian and Israeli extremist elements, reinforced by some mainstream voices as well, have instigated that Israel is aiming to change the status quo at the holy sites."

"This fear has reverberated widely across the Muslim world," he said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "repeated assurances that Israel has no intention of changing the historic status quo at the holy sites have been welcome. But perceptions will only change when concrete actions, based on the agreements between Israel and Jordan, follow these words. (Xinhua)

### (19) Polio...

has also drawn attention to the plight of children in the developing country of some seven million, whose population is mostly young people and is set to surpass 10 million by the end of the decade.

One particularly passionate advocate of children in Laos and beyond is United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Country Representative for Laos, China's Ms Hongwei Gao.

Speaking to Xinhua's Vientiane Bureau, Ms. Gao said the death was a reminder that every child must be immunized to prevent polio and other potentially fatal or debilitating illnesses.

"The polio virus can cause lifelong paralysis. There is no cure but it can be prevented by vaccine. We are now close to a polio-free world, but there is only one way to reach it: take action and immunize all children," she said.

Meanwhile, the launch of a national polio vaccination campaign by the country's Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong Thursday was a demonstration of high level commitment to the cause. (Xinhua)

### (20) Croatia...

frontier with Slovenia, effectively suspending Europe's Schengen system of passport-free travel. Both Slovenia and Hungary are part of the Schengen Area while Croatia is not. (Reuters)

### (21) UN Stresses ....

are around 4,000-3,500 people on the north coast of the island. In a visit to Greece earlier this week, UNHCR chief Antonio Guterres said it was essential that the country receive support from the European Union for reception, registration and screening processes.

Guterres has also urged governments to put in place more systems so that people can come to Europe legally and not resort to smugglers and other irregular routes. (Xinhua)

### (22) Russia ...

the country's borders. Tajikistan and Russia are members of the CSTO bloc and are bound by collective security obligations. Earlier this year Russia announced it would supply about 1.2\$ billion worth of weapons and military equipment to help Tajikistan fend off the Islamist threat.

Last week Vladimir Putin had talks with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon at which he said the Russian authorities were very much concerned by the situation in Tajikistan in particular and in the Central Asian region as a whole. (AKIpress)