

News

World News Briefs

U.S., France Pledge Solidarity

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pledging solidarity after the Paris attacks, President Barack Obama promised Tuesday to work with France and other allies to intensify the U.S.-led campaign against the Islamic State, saying America would not be cowed by the scourge of terrorism. To this point, Obama said, Russia is an “outlier” in the fight.

“We cannot succumb to fear,” Obama said, standing alongside French President Francois Hollande after they met at the White House to discuss the anti-ISIS mission. “Make no mistake, we will win, and groups like ISIL will lose.”

Hollande’s trip to Washington was part of a diplomatic push to get the U.S. and other nations to bolster efforts to destroy the militant group that has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks. Hollande emerged from his meeting with Obama saying that France and the United States had agreed to step up a “joint response,” including new efforts to target terrorists’ financial networks, take back IS-controlled territory, scale up efforts in Syria and Iraq and increase intelligence sharing.

The U.S. and France “share the determination to fight terrorism anywhere,” Hollande said, through a translator.

The French president had planned to urge Obama to work with Russia to build a new coalition to fight the extremists. But Hollande’s mission quickly became entangled with the



President Barack Obama and French President Francois Hollande walk off stage at the end of their news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015. Pledging solidarity after the Paris attacks, President Barack Obama promised Tuesday to work with France and other allies to intensify the U.S.-led campaign against the Islamic State, saying America will not be cowed by the scourge of terrorism.

fallout from a Russian military plane downed by Turkey — an incident with echoes of the Cold War. The shutdown underscored what some see as a need for better coordination among the sprawling cast of interests engaged on the battlefields and in the skies above Iraq and Syria. At the same time, conflicting accounts and rising tensions stood to make any closer contact between interests more difficult.

Obama Calls Russia ‘the Outlier’

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is offering

a harsh assessment of Russia’s role as he addresses the global effort to fight the Islamic State.

Obama says flatly that “Russia’s the outlier” in the fight against IS.

Obama says a coalition of 65 countries is pushing back against the Islamic State, from places as far-flung as Australia and Southeast Asia.

Turkey Downs Russian Jet

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey shot down a Russian fighter plane it said had crossed into its territory from Syria on Tuesday, killing at least one of the two pilots and marking the first time in half a century that a NATO member has downed a Russian plane.

The long-feared incident

highlighted the growing complexity of Syria’s civil war, as multiple groups with clashing alliances fight on the ground and the sky is crowded with aircraft bombing various targets. It immediately prompted fierce reaction from Moscow.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Turkey’s action a “stab in the back by the terrorists’ accomplices” and warned of “significant consequences,” while Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov cancelled a trip to Turkey which had been planned for Wednesday.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called on all parties to be prudent and to contribute to reducing tensions.

“As we have repeatedly made clear we stand in solidarity with Turkey and support the territorial integrity of our NATO ally, Turkey,” Stoltenberg told a news conference after an extraordinary meeting of the alliance’s decision-making North Atlantic Council, called at Turkey’s request.

Chicago Cop Charged With Murder

CHICAGO (AP) — A White Chicago police officer who shot a Black teenager 16 times was charged with murder Tuesday, just a day before the deadline a judge set for the city to release a squad-car video of the killing that officials fear will spark unrest.

The state’s attorney’s office said in a statement that Officer Jason Van Dyke was charged with first-degree murder in the Oct. 20, 2014, killing of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald. A judge denied him bond at a noon hearing.

City officials and community leaders have been bracing for the release of the video, fearing an outbreak of unrest and demonstrations similar to those that occurred in Baltimore, Ferguson, Missouri and other cities after young black men were slain by police or died in police custody.

The judge ordered the dashcam recording to be released by Wednesday after city officials had argued for months it couldn’t be made public until the conclusion of several investigations.

Some community leaders said there was no doubt that the Cook County state’s attorney only brought charges because of the order to release the video.

“This is a panicky reaction to an institutional crisis within the criminal justice system,” said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who said he hoped to see “massive” but peaceful demonstrations.

Explosion Hits Bus Carrying Guards

An explosion hit a bus carrying members of Tunisia’s presidential guard in the country’s capital Tuesday, killing at least 12 people and wounding more than a dozen others in what the Interior Ministry called a “terrorist act.”

The blast on a tree-lined avenue in the heart of Tunis is a new blow to a country that has struggled against Islamic extremist violence. Radical gunmen staged two attacks earlier this year that killed 60 people, devastated the tourism industry and rattled this young democracy.

Police fanned out throughout central Tunis after Tuesday’s explosion, and ambulances rushed to the scene, evacuating wounded and dead.

Prime Minister Habib Essid and Interior Minister Najem Gharsalli visited the scene of the attack after it was cordoned off by police.

Interior Ministry spokesman Walid Louguini told The Associated Press that at least 12 were killed and 16 wounded in what the government considers a “terrorist act.”

The president, Beji Caid Essebsi, was not in the bus at the time.

His presidential guard is an elite security force that protects only the president.

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