

(1) Afghanistan ...

of Presidential Palace regarding the issue.

The selection committee after starting work will assess the applications of those introduced for membership of the commission, and after ending evaluation process it will introduce 21 individuals to Independent Election Commission and 15 others to Electoral Complaints Commission to the president.

Among these, 7 of them will be selected as the commissioners of IEC and 5 others as commissioners of ICC.

One of the key points of agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah in forming the National Unity Government was to reform the country's election system.

The dismissal of old election commissioners and establishment of electoral reform commission and a selection committee to appoint new commissioners were among the key points of agreement between the two leaders. (ATN)

(2) CDC Implements ...

supporter of the ministry, the government has trusted over the development councils and these councils must stand with the government to observe the projects for transparency," MRRD minister said.

MRRD minister says he is committed to seriously observe development projects to avoid corruptions. "We have saved \$4.5 million only from three projects and we will use it in other projects," Durrani stated. Meanwhile, members of the CDC welcome the government new commitments but express their concerns about the completion of the projects claiming the government leaves projects 'unfinished'.

Earlier, The National Solidarity Program of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) implemented a number of development projects across the country, but now the government seeks the support of 35,000 CDC to take the responsibility of these projects and make sure the projects are implemented transparently in their areas. (ATN)

(3) US Spent...

was the Defense Department couldn't even explain why the compressed natural gas filling station was so expensive.

Although [the Task Force for Stability and Business Operations] achieved its immediate objective of building the CNG filling station, it apparently did so at an "exorbitant cost to U.S. taxpayers," Special Inspector General John Sopko writes in the report.

"In comparison, [the inspector general] found that a CNG station in Pakistan costs no more than \$500,000 to construct. Furthermore, there is no indication [task force] considered the feasibility of achieving the station's broader objectives or considered any of the potentially considerable obstacles to the project's success before beginning construction." In his blistering letter attached to the report to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Sopko adds "the Department of Defense claims that it is unable to provide an explanation for the high cost of the project or to answer any other questions concerning its planning, implementation, or outcome."

"It's an outrageous waste of money that raises suspicions that there is something more there than just stupidity," John Sopko, the special inspector general, tells NBC News. "There may be fraud. There may be corruption. But I cannot currently find out more about this because of the lack of cooperation."

NBC News explains that despite having abundant natural gas reserves, Afghanistan is still heavily reliant on importing petroleum products. The Downstream Gas Utilization project – overseen by the task force – was supposed to change that.

The aim was to build Afghanistan's first compressed natural gas filling station in the city of Sheberghan and help develop the commercial market for domestic natural gas, NBC News notes.

Special: One Trick Stops Erectile Dysfunction - Doctors Are Speechless

The inspector general's report found a feasibility study might have found Afghanistan lacks the distribution infrastructure to make such a market viable – and that converting cars from gasoline to CNG would be too expensive for most Afghans. Yet a contract for just under \$3 million was awarded to Central Asian Engineering in 2011, and according to the inspector general's report, an economic impact assessment found

the task force spent well beyond that –\$42,718,730 – between 2011 and 2014 to build the station and supervise its beginning operation.

Sopko told NBC News it appeared that "nobody was minding the store."

"This is one of the worst examples of poor planning and just sheer stupidity," Sopko tells NBC News. "It's outrageous."

"I'm suspicious when I see something that cost 140 times more than it did and I find people trying to withhold or not cooperate with me. It raises my suspicions."

Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Brian McKeon tells NBC News the Department of Defense isn't trying to hide anything.

"We're quite ready, willing and able to provide access to these records and we've made that plain to Mr. Sopko's office," he told NBC News. "We have a mandate under the law to provide access to documents and that's what we're doing."

But the inspector general's office report notes DOD responded to initial requests for information with a letter saying it no longer had the "personal expertise" to address Sopko's queries because the Task Force was closed down in March 2015.

"They're saying they can't find anybody who knows anybody about this billion-dollar program? I've never encountered anything like this," Sopko tells NBC News. "It's pixie dust. It's sort of like – poof! The program disappeared and with it all recollection and memory."

"This was a horribly run, horribly managed program and it reported to the secretary of Defense ... But just because its embarrassing doesn't mean you make the program disappear." (ABC NEWS)

(4) 700 Journalists...

United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/68/163 at its 68th session in 2013 which proclaimed 2 November as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists'. The Resolution urged Member States to implement definite measures countering the present culture of impunity. The date was chosen in commemoration of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November 2013.

The resolution condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers. It also urges Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability, bring to justice perpetrators of crimes against journalists and media workers, and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies. It further calls upon States to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference. (KP)

(5) Ulumi Retains ...

initiatives to make sure the citizens are safe.

He however blamed Pakistan for the growing insecurity in Afghanistan. According to Ulumi, Pakistan doesn't want Afghanistan's national sovereignty. He said still the plans for subversive activities in Afghanistan are being plotted in Pakistan. "Countries in our neighborhood never want the national sovereignty of Afghanistan," Ulumi told the lawmakers. "Pakistan wants to take us as a hostage."

Furthermore, he linked insecurity to withdrawal of international troops, unemployment and lack of equipment for Air Force.

He said the countries that supported Taliban are now supporting Daesh in Afghanistan.

According to Ulumi, al-Qaeda, Taliban and Daesh are one terrorist group only their names are different. The minister meanwhile retained his position after majority of lawmakers said Ulumi's reasons for insecurity were satisfactory.

However during his remarks to the MPs, Ulumi maintained that his ministry was not responsible alone for the insecurity. He deemed fall of Kunduz city to Taliban a failure of the government's leadership.

Ulumi noted the Afghan forces thwarted Taliban's plan to seize control of Faryab, Ghazni, Paktika, Baghlan and Badakhshan provinces. (Tolonews)

(6) Afghanistan to ..

this year, deputy presidential spokesman Zafar Hashemi said.

Afghans currently make up the second largest nationality, after Syrians, arriving in Europe. So far this year, an estimated 120,000 Afghans have left the country, legally and illegally, according to authorities. The International Organization of Migration

says more than 76,000 Afghans have migrated to Europe so far in 2015.

Germany, a longtime contributor to international forces in Afghanistan and with currently 944 soldiers in NATO's support and training mission there, has increasingly been feeling the pressure of the rising numbers of people coming in.

Last week, Germany's interior minister complained of an "unacceptable" influx of Afghans from relatively safe areas of their country, and warned that many of them would have to return home. The minister, Thomas de Maiziere, said Afghans arriving in Germany included "increasing numbers of members of the middle class - including many from Kabul."

It isn't clear how many Afghans Germany might try to send back. However, German officials have been keen to stress that only people genuinely fleeing war and persecution are entitled to asylum, and that economic migrants must leave the country. Fewer than half of the Afghans who apply for asylum in Germany are granted it.

As a signatory to the Geneva Convention, Afghanistan is obliged to accept its citizens whose asylum applications have been rejected, deputy presidential spokesman Zafar Hashemi said, adding that President Ashraf Ghani and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed the issue recently.

Afghan Minister for Refugees and Repatriation Hossain Alemi Balkhi has disapproved of Germany's decision to return the Afghans, saying in a recent interview with The Associated Press that Kabul is "against the forced exile of any people from any country back to where they came from."

"The problem that caused them to leave Afghanistan in the first place has not been solved - there is still war, conflict, insecurity," he said.

However, the minister's international adviser, Rohullah Hashimi, said Monday that Ghani's decision will be implemented and that a reintegration plan for voluntary refugees would be extended to deportees. (AP)

(7) First-Ever ...

consignment was priced at 419 US dollars based on Platts quotation dated October 26, IRENEX Managing Director Ali Hosseini said.

After quotation of the NIOC's consignment, it was traded for 10 billion rials (334,000 US dollars), he added quoted by Shana.

Further gasoil consignments bound to Pakistan and Turkey will be quoted on IRENEX on Tuesday.

Since its start in 2013, it was the first complete trading on the IRENEX to sell oil products to neighboring countries which is expected to be replicated by future international transactions.

It follows IRENEX's earlier sells of crude oil to domestic buyers carried out in the Iranian currency, in which the pricing is based on 30-day averages.

Petroleum Minister Bijan Zangeneh has said that the crude oil bourse trading encourages competitiveness, transaction diversity, and private sector's involvement.

Owning world's fourth largest oil reserves and largest natural gas reserves, Iran is the biggest holder of oil and gas reservoirs combined. (IRNA)

(8) Over 400,000 ...

Afghan government have launched investigations. MSF said it was "impossible to expect the parties involved in the conflict to carry out independent and impartial investigations of acts in which they themselves are implicated."

The International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC), a body created in 1991 and to date unused, has agreed to investigate the incident, but the consent of the parties being investigated is required to launch an inquiry.

MSF has repeatedly pointed out that both Washington and Kabul were fully aware of the health facility's precise GPS coordinates and non-combatant medical activities. (Sputnik)

(9) Taliban Splinter ...

announced Monday that Mullah Mohammad Rasool Akhund – who refused to pledge allegiance to Mansour – is their new leader, causing deep divisions in the insurgency. However there is no immediate response from the Afghan Taliban to either confirm or reject the announcement – which is believed to be the first public and official division of the group.

The division emerged when the death of Mullah Omar was revealed this year in July. The news came two years late the death of Mullah Omar

– which was hidden from many high-ranking Taliban members.

"We tried our level best to save the Taliban movement from disintegration but after Mansoor's refusal to step down ... we finally parted ways with him and chose our own emir," NBC News quoted a senior member of the rival faction as saying.

"Akhund is our new emir. He will now lead the Mujahideen to continue their fight against the U.S.-led foreign forces and the Afghan security troops," the source told NBC News.

The Afghan government however denied commenting in this regard. The 50-year-old Akhund hails from the birthplace of the Afghan Taliban in Kandahar province, according to the source.

Another member of the faction told NBC News that their new leader was an "old and trusted friend" of the late Mullah Omar.

"He spent 10 years with Mullah Omar... and remained close to him even after the fall of Taliban regime," the source said.

Akhund repeatedly served as Taliban's shadow governor for Nimroz and Farah provinces after the group was ousted in 2001. (Tolonews)

(10) Japan Funds ...

the project will be implemented by FAO.

"FAO plays a leading role in coordinating efforts to manage locust issues at global level," said Viorel Gutu, FAO Representative in Tajikistan. "Benefiting from unique expertise and experience, it promotes prevention, provides technical assistance for strengthening national capacities on locust management, and facilitates regional and international cooperation."

FAO ensures that a comprehensive approach is applied to improve locust management in concerned countries, Gutu continued. The Organization is also in a position to create links and synergies between national locust control centers working on different species and in other geographic regions.

Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan are periodically plagued by swarming locust. The pests attack a wide range of cultivated crops. One of the reasons for low agricultural productivity is damage to crops by locust. What's more, losses due to locust have been rising in recent years.

"In Tajikistan, three out of the four provinces of the country are regularly affected by locust infestations as shown by figures over the past decade, said Ms. Jamila Saidova, Tajik Deputy Minister of Agriculture. "The southern province of Khatlon is the first and most infested, followed by Sughd and then by the districts subordinate to the center."

According to Saidova, it is important that the project will enable improvement and strengthening of the country's technical capacity for addressing locust. Of the total project value, it is expected that about \$2,270,471 will be allocated for Tajikistan.

Until now, the affected countries have had difficulty coping with locust due to inadequate resources for survey and control operations, shortage of modern equipment for monitoring, communication, positioning and control, and insufficient trained and experienced staff.

The Japan-financed project is designed to develop national capacities and encourage regional cooperation. Experts will have regular exchange of information and joint activities including cross-border surveys.

A regional training-of-trainers program on locust management will be instituted, along with development of practical guidelines on reducing risk to human health and the environment from locust control operations. Tajikistan will serve as a training and meeting center, with the project supplying prefabricated buildings for this purpose.

Two out of every three people in the working population of the concerned countries are employed in the agricultural sector, according to the press release. Yet agriculture accounts for only about 25 percent of gross domestic product, indicating room for improvement in terms of productivity, living standards and poverty alleviation. (Asia-Plus)

(11) NAI Concerns...

crimes against journalists' on November, 2 (today). Afghans expressed concern over journalist's situation in the country.

Increasing intimidation and violence from both state and non-state figures combined with a lack of government protection and waning international support are jeopardizing media freedom in Afghanistan. Lacking interesting from the Afghan government in following up on cases of violence and murders also con-

tributes to the escalation of violence. Meanwhile, the interior ministry says that a safe environment have not been provided for media outlets and journalists with 14 years passed. Spokesman of interior ministry introduced the armed Taliban the main enemy for journalists in Afghanistan.

According to statistics, more than 700 journalists have been killed in the last decade – one every five days – simply for bringing news and information to the public.

Many perish in the conflicts they cover so fearlessly. But all too many have been deliberately silenced for trying to report the truth. Only 7 percent of such cases are resolved, and less than 1 crime out of 10 is even fully investigated.

The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to highlight the urgent need to protect journalists. (ATN)

(12) Illegal Armed ...

their demands are not met.

Mohammad Zaman Mamozai, police chief of Parwan confirms the protest and says that they are making efforts to bring the situation under control.

Around 200 vehicles are reportedly waiting in lines in Chahardi Bazaar area to continue driving to their respective destinations.

The highway connects Bamyan and several other areas including Parwan to capital Kabul. (KP)

(13) Gas Price...

sumers to plan accordingly.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry spokesman Musafir Qoqandi said, "having no exact numbers of consumers have stopped us to launch suitable plans to control the gas prices in the markets, saying we are committed and efforts are underway to provide good facilities for the residents."

Hiking of Gas price in the country hasn't been the fresh issue where residents have been suffering from, the resident once again accused the Government for not having plans to facilitate the life of inhabitants in Afghanistan. (ATN)

(14) New School ...

said Tahereh Pazhuhesh, a member of the association.

It is more than one month since the school year began (September 23) but still a large number of Afghan children are out of school due to several reasons, she said.

Firstly, many of the children do not have birth certificates and thus there is ambiguity about their age. In the letters of recommendation issued by the Ministry of Interior, their age is not mentioned correctly and therefore many schools refuse to register the children on the pretext of not having complete information, she said.

Secondly, a fee of \$60 is charged for enrollment and as school uniforms and books are costly, many poor Afghan parents refuse to send their children to school. (IRNA)

(15) Mol Investigates...

phoned me from the police station that they quarreled with a passerby and then police beat them up," Sادات claimed. "The people know that I came to the police station only with a driver and I had no bodyguards at that time."

He alleged that one of the policemen was punched by an unknown person in the crowd outside the police station.

However the shopkeepers near the site said that the policemen were beaten up by a number of people in the scene.

"A number of people came out of two black vehicles and beat all the policemen up in the scene," an eyewitness told TOLONews.

Mol spokesman Sediqqi said the ministry has started investigating the case.

"Such cases are unacceptable to us," Sediqqi said. "We are carrying out a serious investigation."

This comes only few days after two security guards from the Presidential Palace severely beat up a policeman in Kabul.

President Ashraf Ghani however fired the guards from their positions and meanwhile appreciated the victim with awarding three-month salary as a reward. (Tolonews)

(16) ISIL Recruiting...

Two other children between 13 and 14 years of age are shown in the video report with Kalashnikovs in their hands who say they are trained by foreigners. They have said that they do not fear giving up their lives and ready to become suicide bombers. Although, militants in the report are not so many in numbers but IS-Kho-

rasan has told Al Jazeera that many, including Europeans and Arabs, are in hiding as they wished not to talk. (KP)

(17) Five Soldiers...

and landmines since early Sunday, the statement added.

Afghan security forces have pressed on clearing the militants in restive provinces as Taliban militants have been attempting to take territory and consolidate their positions ahead of winter in the mountainous Central Asian country. (Xinhua)

(18) Chinese ...

Thursday by adopting proposals on the 13th five-year plan for national economic and social development from 2016 to 2020.

The implementation of the 13th five-year plan will ensure China's economy will develop at a higher level, and will provide more opportunities for China-U.S. cooperation, he said.

Xi fully recognized the significance of the China-U.S. Track Two High-Level Dialogue and appreciated the positive role played by the U.S. delegates in deepening mutual understanding between the two countries. (Xinhua)

(19) S. Korea, ...

with U.S. surveillance assets, like military satellites and high-altitude unmanned aerial vehicles, to strike the targets in the DPRK in case of emergency with precision-striking weapons of both Seoul and Washington.

The two defense ministers also sent a warning to the DPRK, saying that the two allies will not allow any type of invasions or military provocations from the DPRK, according to the joint statement. (Xinhua)

(20) Modi, Facing...

soon after the assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards in November 1984.

"Should the Congress be giving lessons in tolerance?" he said to thunderous applause from supporters wearing saffron headbands. "Sikh families in Delhi are still grieving. Have you tried to wipe their tears?"

Modi himself has faced allegations that he looked the other way or was complicit in attacks on Muslims in Gujarat state, which he governed, after a mob set a train carrying Hindu pilgrims on fire. He has denied the charges and a Supreme Court ordered-investigation absolved him of any wrongdoing. (Reuters)

(21) October's Migrant...

flow of refugees into Europe, however, is still dwarfed by the numbers in Syria's neighbors. Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan have Syrian refugee numbers exceeding 2 million, 1 million and 600,000 respectively.

UNHCR said in October that it was planning for up to 700,000 refugees in Europe this year and a similar or greater number in 2016. But that plan has already been eclipsed, with 744,000 arriving so far. Some 3,440 are estimated to have died or gone missing in the attempt to escape to Europe.

Migration experts had expected the number of people making the hazardous journey by sea to dwindle as winter approached, but the boats have continued to arrive. (Reuters)

(22) Russian Air...

Committee Director Viktor Sorochenko said it was too early to determine the cause of the tragedy. Sorochenko leads an international committee made up of experts from Russia, Egypt, France and Ireland to probe the crash. Investigation began early Sunday, started with an analysis of the plane's two black box data recorders which were recovered late Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Forensic Medicine Authority (FMA) has started to deliver the bodies of the victims of the mishap to the Russian Embassy in Cairo As many as 187 dead bodies were found so far in the scene of the crash, Egypt's state-run MENA news agency reported.. (Xinhua)

(23) AU Condemns ...

to the government of Somalia and its troops, to stop these acts of terror perpetuated on the Somali people by Al-Shabaab," it said. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud also condemned the attack, vowing to wipe out Al-Shabaab militants and improving security in the country. (Xinhua)