

(1) Ghani Questions ...

the construction of war-hit country.

Ghani complained however that billions of dollars were lost due to lack of capacity to utilize the funds over the past 14 years. (Tolonews)

(2) EU Wants...

in the world, people on the earth will move a lot, Afghanistan will be affected but will not go under water."

Head of the Afghanistan environment department Shazada Mustafa Zahir said, "Environment is at risk specially Wahkhan corridor ice is melting in Badakhshan."

Political deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Hekmat Khalil said, "in order to overcome the climate challenges, we do need regular international cooperation and technical supports."

Special envoy of European Union in Afghanistan Micheal M. said, "we believe in that Afghanistan will resolve its joint water disputes with its neighboring countries."

70 % of Afghan life is directly depended to agriculture if the drought comes it will affect the life of those farmers. (ATN)

(3) Frozi Bribed ...

of Afghanistan.

"It's a distressing issue and the problem is that there is lack of knowledge of law," legal expert Nasrullah Stanekzai. "The article 113 of the Criminal Law doesn't allow such a thing happen." However after the cancellation of the contract, Ghani ordered a thorough investigation of the contract signed with Frozi - who was sentenced to 10 years in jail in a court verdict last November. He was found guilty in embezzlement of over 900\$ million in cash and assets of Kabul Bank - collapsed in 2010. (Tolonews)

(4) October...

community is doing a credible job in trying to help the Afghan national security forces ... and their certainly also large-scale training effort," EU Ambassador to Afghanistan Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin said.

But the civilian casualty toll saw a dramatic decline in October which recorded 88 civilian deaths - a decrease of 180 percent against September.

In addition, 2,248 people sustained injuries, including 1,865 insurgents. October saw 897 events of insecurity and insurgency which illustrates three percent increase against September, the report said. Also, the insurgents increased their attacks by seven percent in October, the report said, adding that the Afghan forces boosted their anti-insurgent operations by 10 percent.

Helmand with recording 93 insecurity incidents was the unsafe province followed by Nangarhar, Ghazni, Kunduz and Faryab - the first five insecure provinces. In addition, 542 insurgents were detained during the month. Also, 40 security force members and 36 civilians were captured by the militants. (Tolonews)

(5) Balkh Province...

can use that to make better plans for services for the population. When we plan better, we improve the delivery of health,

education, water, livelihood and employment services to our people. When services are improved, we improve the quality of life of the people. When people have improved quality of life, they contribute better to improving the overall development of Balkh province and Afghanistan in general", says Dr Wilfred Ochan, UNFPA Deputy Representative for Afghanistan. The findings of the survey will provide up-to-date and accurate information on the number of households in the province, age and sex, distribution of household members, and information about education, health, employment and other socio-economic facts.

Using new technologies for the first time ever, a short message service (SMS) system will be introduced for data collection in four districts of the province including the provincial capital. The system will help CSO monitoring the work of the surveyors while they are conducting their activities. The SMS system will provide CSO with data regarding the number of houses surveyors are visiting per day and the key data collected. The United Nations Population Fund provides technical support to CSO, for improving survey planning, data collection, processing, analysis and data dissemination. (PR)

(6) MSF Assures...

security forces that Taliban militants were being treated there.

However, Danishi said: "I told MSF hospital representatives that nefarious criminals were under treatment in the hospital, but we do not criticise it because it is the MSF policy. He added MSF officials had assured him they were trying to open their hospital again in Kunduz.

MSF office in Kabul did not comment about the issue. Kunduz people say the MSF hospital had been treating patients and wounded people for years and it is needed to be opened again. One of them, Ainuddin, said the hospital must be reactivated in such a sensitive situation of the war so that people were not obligated to take their patients to hospitals of other provinces.

The hospital was playing a vital role in treating people in Kunduz and from northeastern province, he said, adding that residents faced problems after the hospital was bombed.

"Earlier this year, I took my brother who was seriously injured in a traffic incident to the MSF hospital, he was treated free of cost, but if I had taken him to a private hospital, I am sure his treatment would have cost much more," Ainuddin said. (Pajhwok)

(7) NDS Thwart ...

al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban and cooperates with other terrorist organizations in the region. It is considered the most lethal insurgent group targeting the NATO-led coalition security forces and Afghan personnel in Afghanistan.

The US Department of State designated the HQN as a Foreign Terrorist Organization on September

2012, 7. (KP)

(8) Inzamam-ul-Haq...

played 120 Test matches and 388 One Day International (ODI) matches for Pakistan and was offered a similar position by the Pakistan Cricket Board in 2013.

Earlier reports emerged from Pakistan quoting Inzamam as saying that reports regarding the extension of his contract with Afghanistan were baseless. (PR)

(9) For Afghan ...

home in her white 1997 Toyota Corolla, she was followed by a group of four or five men driving an SUV. Up until the 1990s Afghan women were commonly found behind the wheel but, in 1992, when the communist regime in Kabul collapsed and civil war broke out, women drivers were slowly discouraged. Her anxiety growing, she kept driving until they blocked her in a semi-deserted street in downtown Kabul, forcing her to pull over.

But as the men began to clamber out of their vehicle, she saw her chance to escape -- reversing quickly then hitting the accelerator. "It was very horrible experience for me," she says.

It was not always like this. Up until the 1990s Afghan women were commonly found behind the wheel -- even driving buses, in the big cities at least.

But in 1992, when the communist regime in Kabul collapsed and civil war broke out, women drivers were slowly discouraged. And as the extremist Taliban group swept to power in 1996, women were banned not only from driving, but from even leaving their homes without a burqa or the company of a male chaperone.

Change did not come again until the US invasion toppled the Taliban from power in late 2001 and a government backed by Washington took over.

Gender equality was enshrined in the Afghan constitution, and millions of women came out from the shadows to attend schools and universities and work in offices again.

Fourteen years on, however, the idea of a woman driver is still seen as controversial, provocative and even immoral.

Islam does not prohibit women from driving, but laws and cultural norms vary throughout the Islamic world, from Saudi Arabia -- where women are banned from driving entirely -- to Iran and Pakistan, where women drivers are more common.

In Afghanistan, woman drivers are seen as a Western imposition and a rejection of Muslim values, Babrak, an Afghan man in his fifties, tells AFP.

Afghan women look at spare car parts during a lesson at the Haidari Driving School in Kabul

"Women, especially young girls, driving can increase immorality and even lead to prostitution in Islamic societies," he says.

"These women driving encourage our devout Muslim sisters towards immorality. It is becoming intolerable."

His view is not uncommon in Afghanistan where ultra-conservative men fear such

freedoms increase women's independence and the lack of a male chaperone will result in increasingly liberal behaviour.

But in big cities like Kabul women are attempting to shift change into high gear. The increase in the number of women drivers has been growing at a steady rate: Kabul's traffic department estimates show that up to 1,000 women each year now apply to join driving schools in the Afghan capital alone. In the early years after the end of Taliban rule that figure hovered around 50, Kabul's traffic police chief General Asadullah told AFP.

"The women have the right to learn, they have the right to drive, and we encourage them for that," he says.

"I have felt better, more confident since I learned how to drive," she says.

"When I see other women drive their vehicles, I feel like our country is moving forward towards a better future, a more civilised one."

The progress is promising, but it may not be enough.

A Taliban resurgence in recent months has UN officials and rights activists fearing that the fragile gains women have made could be further eroded when international forces eventually leave.

Testimony from women's rights activists who fled the Taliban's recent brief capture of the northern city of Kunduz revealed harrowing stories of death squads methodically targeting women -- an ominous blueprint of what could happen should the insurgents ever return to power.

Azamee -- who, bareheaded and with the radio blaring, took AFP on a ride through the streets of the capital -- is frustrated but determined she will not back down.

"I am proud, because when I started driving, I think I set an example for other women," she says. (AFP)

(10) Palestine Slams ...

the beginning of October in response to tension in al-Aqsa mosque compound where Palestinians accuse Israel of imposing more restrictions on Palestinian worshippers access to the holy site.

Abu Rdeineh stressed that Jerusalem and the holy sites are a red line and settlements are illegal, adding that Palestinians reject any interim solutions that don't include the establishment of the Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital, on the foundation of the Arab Peace Initiative and the international legitimacy. (Xinhua)

(11) Israel's ...

ening the security of the State of Israel... while maintaining Israel's comparative advantage in the face of a changing Middle East and a cycle that changes less."

Among the central issues will be the renewal of the -10year Memorandum of Understanding that will expire in 2017, by which Israel received 3.1\$ billion a year, The Jerusalem Post said, adding that Israel expects to renew the deal, but wants to expand it to 50\$ billion over 10 years. (Xinhua)

(12) UK 'Letting...

don't think we should play the decisive military role because it runs the risk of adding fuel to the radicalisation of IS as an abhorrent cult."

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond later denied that the government had given up on a parliamentary vote. "We are in exactly the same place that we've been for months," he told the BBC.

"When we think its right to do so, when we think we have a consensus, we will go to the House of Commons."

Hammond said the government was still in an "exploration" period with the opposition Labour party, which recently elected leftist Jeremy Corbyn as its leader, and was yet to establish if it had the cross-party support required to win a vote to extend the air strikes. (AFP)

(13) Russian Soldiers ...

Sunday's report by Conflict Intelligence Team (CIT), a group of Russian investigative bloggers, said that social media had been used to geolocate three Russian serving or former soldiers in Syria.

"Although we still don't have indisputable evidence of Russian servicemen taking a direct part in the fighting on the ground in Syria, we believe the situation observed contradicts the claims of Russian officials that Russian troops are not taking part and are not planning to take part in ground operations," CIT said. (Reuters)

(14) EU Turns...

the Western Balkans, has become the principal route, but the EU wants to keep a focus on Africa.

Eritreans make up the bulk of nearly 140,000 migrants who arrived in Italy from Africa by sea in 2015, along with 18,000 Nigerians and 8,000 Sudanese, according to International Organization for Migration figures. (AFP)

(15) Election Result...

three levels of the parliament in the election. Of the total, 1,733 candidates ran for seats of the House of Representatives (Lower House), 886 for the House of Nationalities (Upper House), 3,419 for Region or State Parliament. (Xinhua)

Cameroon's far North Faces Twin Nightmares of Boko Haram, Poverty

MAROUA - In the poverty-stricken far north of Cameroon, the priority is the fight against the Nigerian militants of Boko Haram, but experts say a growing humanitarian crisis also needs urgent attention.

Chased from their strongholds in northeast Nigeria by a multi-national army offensive, the insurgents of Boko Haram have increased the tempo of suicide attacks and bloody raids on neighbouring Cameroon despite the deployment of a huge military contingent along the border.

"Since early 2015, there's been an intensification of attacks by Boko Haram that have had catastrophic consequences for the whole region," said Najat Rochdi, UN aid coordinator for Cameroon.

In the town of Maroua, capi-

tal of the Far North region, a huge military presence has been deployed in a bid to stem the jihadists' attacks.

Enjoying the last of the greenery as the dry season takes hold, locals try to lead normal lives in a town where motorbikes and mopeds fill the dusty roads and a few 4X4s pick their way through the potholes.

But a humanitarian crisis is building.

"Make no mistake -- Maroua is slowing down," said a local NGO worker. "The whole local economy is a disaster."

The far north combines one of the biggest populations in Cameroon with some of its most inhospitable conditions -- a semi-arid, Sahel desert climate with little infrastructure and few jobs or schools. (AFP)

10 Dead in Syria Regime Raids on IS Held Town

BEIRUT - At least 10 people were killed on Sunday in Syrian government air strikes on a town held by the Islamic State group in northern Aleppo province, a monitor said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a woman and child were among the dead in the strikes on Al-Bab, which has been held by IS since early 2014.

Elsewhere in the province, the monitor said at least three people, including a child, had been killed in rebel fire on the government-held area of Aleppo city. Syria's state news agency SANA put the toll at four dead. Aleppo city was once Syria's economic hub, but it has been ravaged by war and divided between government control in the west and rebel control in the east since shortly after fighting there began in mid-2012.

Government planes regularly bombard the eastern part of the city and rebels fire rockets into the west. South of the city, meanwhile, government troops backed by Russian air strikes seized several villages from rebel forces, SANA said.

The state news agency said the army had taken three villages south of Aleppo, with the Observatory confirming the advance. (AFP)

Cambodia Detains, Releases China's Hong Kong Tourist Flying Drone over Royal Palace

PHNOM PENH - Cambodia had freed a tourist from China's Hong Kong who was arrested Saturday morning for flying a remote-controlled miniature aircraft over the Royal Palace, a senior police officer confirmed Sunday.

The man was identified in a police report as Wong Tiga China, 40. "We decided to release him on Saturday evening after we found that he had no any bad purposes in flying the drone over the Royal Palace," Sieng Sen, director of the Interior Ministry's Internal Security Department, told Xinhua.

"We educated him about the ban on drones in Phnom Penh and had him sign a contract to promise not to do it again," he said. The Phnom Penh Municipality has banned flying drones without a permit since Feb. 16 after a German male tourist flew his camera-toting drone into the Royal Palace and was spotted by Queen Mother Norodom Monineath as she performed her daily exercise routine. (Xinhua)