

(1) 32 People...

and ethnic tolerance are values the Afghan people hold strong." "I urge the Afghan authorities to do everything possible to defend Afghans of all faiths," she added. U.S. Gen. John W. Nicholson, commander of the U.S.-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, condemned the bombing. "On behalf of the men and women of Resolute Support, we offer our condolences to the families of the innocent men, women and children killed and wounded in today's attack," Nicholson said. "We will continue to stand with our Afghan partners and do everything possible to secure a peaceful, stable Afghanistan." (AP)

(2) Economists...

taxes and kidnapping in the private sector are the main obstacles in the way of economic growth from an investment point of view.

"The government does not have a program in the short term to attract investment," said ACCI spokesman Seyam Pesarai.

"The investors do not have enough trust to invest amid the fragile security situation; the government needs to come up with clear policies to resolve the problem," said Abdul Karim Arefi, a member of the industrialist union.

According to the CSO, existing investments in the first nine months of the current year dropped by 59 percent compared to the same period last year. (Tolonews)

(3) Abdullah Expects...

will result in a political collapse if the National Unity Government's political agreement is not implemented and if structures are not defined. This probable political fall will lead the country towards a deeper crisis."

"The legitimacy of government is becoming questionable gradually. The formation of the National Unity Government is itself a big question and big political matter," said Ainuddin Badahaduri, a lawyer. (Tolonews)

(4) Govt. Leaders, ...

"he said.

Former president Hamid Karzai also denounced the attack on the Shiite worshippers and said: "Bad wishers of Afghanistan should know that all Afghans stand united against conspiracies of our enemies and for a united Afghanistan." (Pajhwok)

(5) Indian Envo...

of sanitation system.

Further improvements required are expected to be carried out in the near future. The Government of India remains committed to supporting the Habibia High School. (PR)

(6) Pugwash's ...

Mehdawi, Sadiq Patman, Safia Siddique, civil society activist Painda Hikmat and others would be participate.

Advisor to the Pakistani prime minister and former Pakistani ambassador Sadiq Khan, Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, former chief General Asad Durrani, Lt. Saeed, former Foreign Ministry official Aziz Ahmad Khan and a number of Pakistani lawmakers and civil society activists are to attend the seminar.

Haqyar said Pugwash head Paolo Cotta-Ramusino would also attend the event in Islamabad. Besides the stalled peace talks, the conference would also discuss relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"In the meeting, Pakistani policymakers and advisors will participate and we will present our stance clearly," said Haqyar, who said Taliban representatives had not been invited to the conference.

However, he said Taliban representatives might be invited to another Pugwash conference on Afghanistan peace.

Pugwash a few days ago issued a statement stressing good relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The organization said it was trying its level best to improve relations between the two countries because good ties between the two nations were essential for regional peace and stability. (Pajhwok)

(7) 42 Militants...

vehicle and nine motorcycles of insurgents in addition to dismantling several Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and landmines.

The Afghan security forces have stepped up security operations against militants recently as the Taliban and other militants have been attempting to take territory and consolidate their positions ahead of winter in the mountainous country.

Earlier on Monday, one intelligence agency man was injured in a Taliban bomb attack in northern Takhar province while two persons were wounded after a bomb struck a vehicle in the national capital of Kabul. The Taliban group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

(8) A Dream Come ...

reiterated that the company will strive to improve its services, customer relation and network quality. Since its inception in Afghanistan, Etisalat has been determined to introduce world class products and services via state of the art technology and yet at affordable prices that suit everyone's requirement and budget. The company has been the pioneer to introduce 3.75G and unprecedented voice and data pricing which in deed was the base for customer centered business culture in Afghanistan.

Be it appreciating customers' loyalty or enriching quality of people's life, Etisalat has been committed to give back to societies where it operates and stands steady to support Afghanistan in its path towards a better tomorrow. (PR)

(9) ACB Governor ...

method of trade they use is in cash and through traditional money exchangers.

Such methods can be improved through the banking system, he added.

"Extensive trade between Iran and Afghanistan should be further promoted through banking ties and we seek expansion of the brokerage ties between banks of the two sides so as to minimize the trade risk." He made clear that Iranian and Afghan officials are now discussing appropriate brokerage ties and volume of exchanges will be upgraded through the banking system and opening up Letters of Credit.

"Central Bank of Afghanistan follows highly advanced laws and has managed to have positive record in terms of inflation control and forex stabilization. This has easily made great deal of help to future planning and we can exchange experience with the bank."

According to statistics released by the Islamic Republic Customs Administration, Iran's exports to Afghanistan stood at \$1.16 billion in value in the first half (March 20-September 20) of the current Iranian year of 1395 (started on March 20), while importing \$10.66 billion worth goods. (IRNA)

(10) Tiles Factory in...

of Balkh province Ata Mohammad Noor.

Ambassador Vohra also informed Noor regarding the progress of the asphalt work of the main road of Balkh international airport.

Noor in his turn thanked the Indian government and people for their support to Afghanistan and emphasized on continued mutual cooperation between the two nations. India has played a crucial role by participating in the rebuilding of Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.

Since 2002, the Government of India has committed USD 2 billion dollars to the socio-economic rebuilding of the Afghan state and society in accordance with the development priorities of the Government and the people of Afghanistan.

In its latest commitment to support the reconstruction of the country, India pledged an additional \$1 billion in aid.

India's foreign secretary S Jaishankar told reporters early in September that the \$1 billion aid will be for Afghanistan's capacity and institution building. (KP)

(11) UNHCR ...

said he and his family left Pakistan over mounting pressure from the Pakistani government.

"There was a lot of pressure on us in Pakistan, even water and electricity were cut off, then we had no option except to return to Afghanistan, although I spent 38 years in Pakistan and we had our own house, but we joined 600,000 people and returned to our own country," said Rahman. Meanwhile, Rahman's wife Bibi Hawa said that the return refugees have serious problems, particularly that of housing.

"We live in a rented house; life has become very hard for us; we had a comfortable life in Pakistan before the pressure; my sons were getting an education and my girls were going to Madrasa, but now we face a lot of problems here," said Bibi Hawa.

"It is impossible for a million refugees to return within the deadline set for them, the suspension of the

process by the UNHCR and Pakistan was surprising for us," said Hafiz Miakhail, a media advisor to the ministry.

Sources from the UNHCR have said that the decision to suspend the repatriation process for three months came during a trilateral meeting between Afghan, Pakistani and UNHCR officials.

The lack of budget and certain economic and social problems are apparently the main reasons behind the decision.

The number of refugees repatriated from Pakistan over the past ten months is estimated to be about 600,000. (Tolonews)

(12) UNAMA...

General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan. "UNAMA expresses its revulsion at this latest effort by extremists to stoke sectarian violence in Afghanistan," said Kardel, who is also the acting head of UNAMA. "Religious and ethnic tolerance are values the Afghan people hold strong, and I urge the Afghan authorities to do everything possible to defend Afghans of all faiths."

International humanitarian law prohibits deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian property, including places of worship. International humanitarian law further prohibits attacks directed against people and places of worship, which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples. (PR)

(13) US Embassy...

working toward a peaceful and prosperous future, it said.

Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement said that "Government of Pakistan strongly condemns the suicide attack at the Baqir-ul-Ulum Mosque. Pakistan conveys profound condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and prayers for early recovery of the injured."

The statement added that Pakistan reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations and reaffirms its commitment for continued efforts and cooperation for eliminating this menace.

The attack inside Baqir-ul-Ulum Mosque occurred when Shiite Muslim worshippers were holding a religious procession, witnesses said. (PR)

(14) Brazen Corruption...

transport department offices are situated around the port, which mainly deals with truck drivers, trade goods and services. Drivers and people allege corruption is at its peak in these departments. Driver complaints

Ahmad, a trucker who imports flour from Pakistan, is waiting at the Custom Office for tariff clearance. He complains of harassment on both sides of the border.

After crossing the Torkham gate, border police allegedly took bribes from him. Subsequently, customs security, transport and scale officials forced him into paying illegal taxes and duties.

Another truck driver, Gulab Shah, told Pajhwok Afghan News scale department staff had brought them to tears by seeking additional payments for what they call overloading. However, they do not bother about weighing the trucks.

His counterpart Sabz Ali, transporting cement to Afghanistan, paid up 2,000 rupees to different government officials from Torkham to Jalalabad.

He says scale officials stopped his truck at the port for violating traffic and scale rules. They did not allow him to proceed, asking him to travel at night. "When I started my journey at night, they released my truck after I gave them 3,000 rupees."

Public complaints Zabihullah Zmarai, the provincial council secretary, is ashamed of discussing the issue. "Under former governor Maulvi Attaullah Lodin's leadership, I was sent to the city for investigations. There was corruption and I presented my report but no action was taken."

There is need for a strong commitment and sustained will power to end the culture of graft, he believes. Half-hearted measures or selective accountability will never produce the desired results, the public representative maintains.

Israrullah Murad, another PC member, accuses some Kabul-based bureaucrats of aiding the corrupt in Torkham and thwarting counter-corruption efforts. He alleges border police squeeze 3,000 rupees from each trucker. Around 500 trucks cross the border daily.

About scale officials, he says they let most of vehicles pass without weighing them. In some cases, to

the detriment of the exchequer, they under-invoice the amounts paid by drivers.

He blames the municipality for involvement in corruption of the least dignified variety and ripping off shopkeepers, stall owners and other individuals carrying public belongings from one side of the border to another.

Appellant Court probe Nangarhar Appellant Court head Ahmad Wali Hashimi says investigations into corruption at port have been underway and the findings will be made public. Most of government institutions are involved in graft, he admits.

Without giving details of investigations, he says his office staffers have twice visited the port city and held three individuals at the scale department for fleecing drivers. An amount of 6,000 rupees was recovered from scale staff.

"We recovered 180,000 rupees these individuals had extorted from truckers. Some individuals managed to escape," explains the judge, who is determined to investigate each department.

Provincial officials Scale Department head Fazal Rabi, in a chat with Pajhwok Afghan News, acknowledged corruption was widespread in his department in the past. He says his appointment is aimed to banish graft.

His predecessor was dismissed due to corruption, Rabi noted, promising no demand for bribery would happen in the department in future. Likewise, former mayor of the port city was dismissed on corruption charges and was introduced to the attorney officer. The new mayor pledged eradicating graft from the municipality.

Soon after his appointment, Haji Abdul Matin claims a million afghanis have been added to the municipality account, public complaints regarding lack of cleanliness addressed and efforts for beautifying the city undertaken.

Approached for comments, Transport Director Haji Shoiab does not rule out corruption in his department. But he is closely monitoring the situation on a regular basis and claims streamlining affairs of the department to a large extent.

Customs Director Mohammad Hamid Babakarkhel and border police head Mohammad Qasim Azam Shinwari could not be reached for comments despite hectic efforts by this scribe.

Provincial govt view

The governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani says following directive from the governor, investigations have been initiated and steps will be taken to eliminate the scourge once the outcomes are known.

He admits the issue of corruption in Torkham government department has lingered over the years and eradicating the menace will take time. (Pajhwok)

(15) Ghani Meets ...

clutches of his kidnappers. The six years old child had been kidnapped in Farah City in the middle of a Taliban attacks on the provincial capital.

Naveed was playing with other children when unknown armed men suddenly took him to a car. However, the child was rescued and three men involved in his abduction were arrested by National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces. (Pajhwok)

(16) Force Pakistan...

would concentrate on eradicating terror sanctuaries. Trump would deal with Pakistan with an iron hand to stop it sponsoring the scourge on its soil, he thought.

In response to a query, Karzai said, "We hope that he (Trump) will work with Muslims as well as all sections of society to keep harmony and peace."

India's surgical strike in the Pakistan-administered zone of Kashmir was step that his country had been demanding for a long time, said Karzai, who visited Mumbai to attend a ceremony for the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for social justice.

He claimed both Afghanistan and India were victims of terrorism. India's surgical strikes would help eliminate terror sanctuaries, he argued. (Pajhwok)

(17) Improved Wheat...

seeds and fertilisers, Governor Ghulam Nasir Khazae said farmers in Ghor could boost their produce and become independent by cultivating the seeds.

The governor urged the growers to use the opportunity to improve wheat cultivation. The farmers ex-

pressed happiness over the distribution of seeds by the ministry. Abdul Haq, a grower, expressed concerns over the weak management of water resources, shortage of refrigerators and lack of access to markets. While urging the government to take measures to overcome the weaknesses, Haq said the problems had impeded the growth of agriculture in the province. (Pajhwok)

(18) Lashkargah: ...

National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed and two others wounded during the clash.

Three militants were also killed and a number of others wounded, the source added.

Governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, confirmed the clash but said nothing about casualties.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, claimed 14 ANA soldiers were killed and two security posts captured by Taliban in Bolan.

Currently six districts of Helmand are under Taliban control. Except centers, Taliban militants hold sway in other areas of all districts. (Pajhwok)

(19) NATO Vows...

tensions are running high, it is even more important to keep channels of communication open.

With increasing military activities close to NATO borders, "we must do everything we can to prevent military incidents or accidents," the NATO chief added.

Another topic dominating the three-day NATO session was counterterrorism, with member states vowing to increase cooperation.

The parliamentarians have called for broader intelligence sharing and tighter border controls to stem the flow of militants from Europe to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State.

Addressing the NATO session on Monday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan once again called on the United States and other nations to reconsider Ankara's proposal about the creation of a no-fly zone in northern Syria. (Xinhua)

(20) British PM ...

will be issues that need to be looked at ... that people don't want a cliff edge, they want to know with some certainty how things are going to go forward, that will be part of the work that we do in terms of the negotiation." (Reuters)

(21) Melania Trump ...

are in place."

A spokeswoman for the president-elect did not return a request seeking comment.

Jason Miller, communications director for the Trump Transition Team, told reporters that while the team had no formal statement on the matter, "there's obviously a sensitivity" around the issue of pulling Barron out of school in the middle of the academic year.

Asked about the Post's report outside his golf club in Bedminster, N.J., Trump said both Melania and Barron would be joining him in the White House "very soon - after he's finished with school."

But Trump himself may not spend all of his time in the White House, either. (AP)

(22) Ukraine Says ...

then-president Viktor Yanukovich -- a leader who had earlier rejected a landmark European Union alliance in favour of closer Russian ties.

Yanukovich was impeached by parliament and fled to Russia in a secret operation organised by the Kremlin. (AFP)

(23) Turkey Detains ...

Most of the suspects were detained for Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) related activities. The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union and Turkey. (Xinhua)

(24) Hungarian ...

year economic plan he and national economy minister Mihaly Varga were in the process of designing. He acknowledged that businesses were balking at the wage hike because of high payroll taxes and social security contributions, and said that the new plan would include reductions in the payroll tax.

If negotiations with employers are fruitful, Orban said, pensions for retirees could be increased by 1.6 percent in 2017 as opposed to the 0.9 percent currently envisaged.

In all, Orban said, his government was hoping to be able to raise real wages by 40 percent in coming years, depending on improvements in economic performance that would keep government income high despite reduced tax rates.

He noted that the number of taxpay-

ers in Hungary had increased from 1.8 million in 2010 to 4.3 million in 2016, and that 2010 lack of jobs has shifted to a labor shortage in 2016. "We are very close to achieving full employment," Orban said. (Xinhua)

(25) Obama 'not...

it was very hard to see a way in which even a trained and committed moderate opposition could hold its ground for long periods of time," he said.

On the ground in Syria, government forces launched a ferocious assault last Tuesday to recapture eastern Aleppo, killing 115 civilians so far.

In fresh fighting on Sunday, at least eight children were killed when rebel rocket fire hit a school in the government-controlled west Aleppo. (Al Jazeera)

(26) Britain's Royal ...

the committee, Member of Parliament (MP) Julian Lewis said: "We are putting the MoD on notice that it must not let this happen."

The report examines the MoD's plans to modernize the Royal Navy's escort fleet, including the introduction of two new classes of frigate, and calls for a National Shipbuilding Strategy outlining how and when the Royal Navy's new frigates will be delivered.

"Without that information, the strategy can be little more than a collection of aspirations. The building of new ships requires a skilled workforce," says the report.

The committee of MPs have demanded a detailed timeline for the delivery of new warships and an assessment of the potential to build a new complex warship every two years.

Lewis said: "For decades, the numbers of Royal Navy escort vessels have been severely in decline. The fleet is now way below the critical mass required for the many tasks which could confront it, if the international scene continues to deteriorate."

"The National Shipbuilding Strategy offers the potential not just to manage this work efficiently and effectively, but also to reverse the trend of ever-decreasing numbers," the report read, adding the MoD must deliver this program of modernization on time.

"If it fails to do so, the government will break its categorical pledge to maintain at least 19 frigates and destroyers," the report read. (Xinhua)

(27) Merkel's Center...

or more in polls, and their hopes appear to depend on a left-wing alliance with the Greens and the Left Party that would have to overcome significant policy divisions.

Gabriel is tactically skilled, but is far less personally popular than Merkel and has struggled to lift the party's poor poll ratings. Schulz has raised the European Parliament's profile and helped secure one of the party's best results in recent years in 2014 European elections, but is less well-known at home.

The election is expected in mid-to late September.

Germany's top labor union official, Reiner Hoffmann, called for "clarity" from the Social Democrats in comments to the daily Tagesspiegel. (AP)

(28) Parliamentary...

additions to the basic law, approves the state budget, addresses issues of holding a national referendum, appoints the president election, the parliamentary election, as well as members of representative bodies.

The Turkmen parliament also ratifies and denounces international treaties, decides on changing of the state border and the administrative-territorial division of the country. (Trend)

(29) Pakistan Army ...

against our country."

The Pakistani forces reached major achievements under the lead of Raheel, including the major offensive against the Pakistani Taliban and foreign militants in North Waziristan tribal region.

Raheel told the troops that they should be fully prepared to respond to any challenge and no one could dare cast an evil eye on Pakistan. Talking about the major operation against armed groups, the general said the offensive has resulted in a more secure and stable Pakistan with a sense of greater hope and direction.

He urged the troops to follow the norms of their rich military tradition with even greater vigor and continue serving their people with utmost dedication, resilience and greater sense of sacrifice. (Xinhua)