

(1) Nicholson...

Support Brigadier General Charlie Cleveland echoed.

Cleveland explained that many of the Afghan casualties have occurred at the thousands of Afghan checkpoints around the country, which are usually undermanned.

Checkpoints are "a huge source of casualties," Cleveland said, but he could not say whether that is the main source. (Pajhwok)

(2) China to ...

regarding the exact date of the delivery of the planes and the type of the aircraft China would deliver to the Afghan army.

Afghanistan received the first batch of military aid from China earlier in the month of July which followed as the country has been attempting to increase role in supporting in Afghanistan amid deteriorating security situation.

Earlier China's Chief of Army earlier pledged over \$70 million to help support and equip the Afghan security forces.

During his visit to Afghanistan earlier in March, Chief of China's People's Liberation Army Mr. Fang Fenghui, announced the fresh military aid, saying the latest aid will follow besides Beijing's ongoing cooperation in development and economic sector.

Gen. Fenghui also added that China will call a regional summit to implement the proposal by President Ghani during Shanghai conference for fight against terrorism.

Reiterating China's commitment to fight terrorism in the region, Gen. Fenghui said Afghanistan is located in a strategic location and acts as an important economic belt, which is continuously threatened by the terror groups. (KP)

(3) RSF Decries ...

Learn that Mohammad Yaqub Sharafat, a 23-year-old journalist who had worked for the Afghan national public radio and TV broadcaster for the past two years, was shot dead in his car as he was driving home in Qalat, the capital of the southern province of Zabul, on October 17.

His murder was widely condemned by journalists' associations and officials. Zabul police chief Mirvias Norzai told reporters that two suspects have been arrested.

The statement said the increase violence in several provinces had fuelled tension between journalists and local authorities.

Fifty cases of threats and physical violence against journalists by local officials, their bodyguards, police officers and the Taliban in several provinces including Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar, Herat, Ghazni and Kabul have been reported.

The police and judicial authorities, who are susceptible to being influenced by governors, often interrogate and even punish journalists. Recent victims include Ahmad Wali Sarhad, a freelancer working for the Zabultimes website, who was harassed for months by the police.

His problems began when Zabul prosecutor's office issued a warrant for his arrest after he wrote that a transport ministry official was probably collaborating with the Taliban. He blamed the harassment on the governor's influence, although the governor's office denied any role in the case.

Police and soldiers have also been involved in several recent cases of violence against journalists. During a visit by President Ashraf Ghani to Bamyan, 250 km northwest of Kabul, on August 29, ten journalists were beaten or mistreated by his bodyguards or by police officers from Kabul.

Some of these journalists were there as demonstrators but the others were there to cover the president's visit. The president's office issued a statement the next day apologising for the way the police behaved towards journalists and promising an investigation into the violence. The investigation's findings have yet to be published.

In Neili, the capital of the central province of Daikundi, a homemade bomb attack on Radio Nasim on the night of 11 October caused considerable damage but no injuries, station manager Mohammad Reza Vahedi reported. (Pajhwok)

(4) Aqina Port...

central Asian and European countries through the Lapis Lazuli route.

The Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Turkmenistan railway, a regional project which will take its root in Tajikistan, will connect the Central Asian nation to Iranian seaports through Turkmenistan and Afghanistan via two routes. The railway route will stretch to Iran, according to the Tajikistan Transport Ministry.

The 400-kilometer long TAT railway project, the implementation of which began in early June, 2013, enjoys significant importance in terms of the strategic, political and economic interests of all participating countries.

Balkh chamber of commerce and industries chief Arsh Younasi told a press conference here that Afghan-

istan's trade relations with central Asian countries would expand with the railway project.

He said the railway networks of Chabahar Port-Herat and Hairatan Port-China would play a crucial role in managing international trade ties.

He said the railroad from Aqina port to Turkmenistan via the Lapis Lazuli transit corridor would be inaugurated over the next one month.

He said the railroad's inauguration would strengthen Afghanistan's trade relations with European countries.

The trader representative also spoke about efforts at strengthening local industry in the north. In this regard, he mentioned next week's planned domestic industrial exhibition in Mazar-i-Sharif.

He said industrial and agriculture products produced across the country would be put on display at the show. (Pajhwok)

(5) Interior Ministry...

The ministry has cited attracting people's support, resolving local disputes, implementing laws through consultations, narrowing the gap between people and police and strengthening cooperation with people as main objectives behind the community police creation.

On Monday, Interior Ministry and European Union police mission officials attended a seminar in Kabul and assessed activities of the police and discussed ways how to further improve the community police.

Deputy interior minister for administration Karamuddin Yawar told the seminar that a 15-member community police currently existed in each province.

He said the 15-member community police group was comprised of seven policemen and as many civilians who worked under the Ministry of Interior framework. Most of the members were legal experts, he added.

Yawar called community policing as effective and said: "The more you cement relations between police and public, the more you prevent terrorist and criminal activities."

Community police chief Humayun Aini said the community police's job was to create advisory councils involving representatives of retired military officials, religious scholars, elders, teachers, people's representatives, civilian society activists and women for reaching the desired goals.

Without going into details, he said the mentioned councils had been created in some province. The creation of mobile teams for propagation, establishment of information offices and providing information to people about public safety was duty of the community police, he said. (Pajhwok)

(6) Taliban Still ...

insurgents on October 3 briefly took control of some areas around Kunduz City, the provincial capital, before being driven by security forces after a week.

Mohammad Yousuf Ayoubi, the provincial council head, told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban still existed on the outskirts of Kunduz city, an issue that panicked local residents.

"The current situation in Kunduz is not satisfactory, a lot of issues are there, people are worried about the situation and Kunduz. Clashes between security forces and Taliban often occur at night."

Ayoubi asked the government to pay serious heed to the province, otherwise the security situation would be further worsen.

Amrudddin Wali, a PC member, confirmed Taliban still existed on the outskirts of the provincial capital, causing panic among people.

"The government's writ in Kunduz is very weak because there is no security belt around the city to ensure there is safety. The provincial agriculture department is located on the outskirts of Kunduz city where insurgents freely carry out their activities."

However, Col. Mohammad Masoom Hashimi, deputy provincial police chief, said security forces were currently engaged strengthening security and establishing new check posts in areas cleared of militants amid ongoing nighttime operations.

"Our operations are underway in Kunduz and heavy casualties have been caused to Taliban and we have a firm decision to completely drive the insurgents away." (Pajhwok)

(7) USAID Pledges ...

across Afghanistan," said Afghanistan's Minister of Finance Ekilil Hakim.

Mr. Hakimi went on to say, "These are some of the first practical steps we are taking to deliver on our commitments and the pledges that were made at the Brussels Conference to help Afghanistan achieve self-reliance."

USAID Director Herbert Smith said the documents just signed begin to implement the multi-year pledge that the United States made at the recent Afghanistan donor's conference in Brussels, where the U.S. underscored its enduring commitment to the people of Afghanistan and its National Unity

Government.

"This document reaffirms U.S. determination to support the government of Afghanistan in efforts to strengthen Afghanistan's institutions, maintain gains in education and health services achieved in recent years, and improve the welfare of the Afghan people," Herbert said.

The funds obligated under the agreements will support programs that achieve strategic development objectives, including a thriving economy led by the private sector, a democratic government with broad citizen participation, and a better educated and healthier Afghan population. (KP)

(8) 6 Drug Labs ...

located in Bakwa district were destroyed during a joint operation of Afghan air and ground forces.

According to the source, the drug processing centers were invested with around \$70 million.

The official added that 12,500 kilograms of morphine, 129kg heroine, 6,400kg liquid opium, 134kg solid opium, 15,170kg ammonium chloride, 8,490 liters of acid, 750kg soda, 12kg hashish, 390kg lime, 34,000 Paracetamol and Penadol tablets and 19kg ammonium nitrate also seized during the operation.

Five Kalashnikovs, six mobile phone sets, one satellite set, seven press machines, six power generators and some other equipments also seized from the militants.

He did not provide details about the exact time of the operation. (Pajhwok)

(9) Dostum Accuses ...

in government offices. This is not good and it creates reaction from other ethnic groups," he said.

Massoud stated that he is concerned about a possible increase in activity by Taliban and Daesh militants in the upcoming spring season.

He called on jihadi leaders to be prepared to defend the country alongside the Afghan security forces. (Tolonews)

(10) Hesa-i-Doyem ...

a health clinic in the district before the next solar year.

The governor's spokesman, Abdur Rahman Ahmadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News Hesa-i-Doyem Yakawlang had a population of 30,000 and shared borders with Sar-i-Pul and Chor provinces.

"This district contains fertile farmland and has warm weather that is suitable for growing fruits such as apple, apricot, cherry, walnut, berry and grape," he said. Bamyan previously had seven administrative units.

A resident of the area, Mohammad Karimi, said the new district centre was 50 kilometers far from the old Yakawlang and people suffered a lot going there in connection with different things.

He hoped the new district's creation would help them resolve their problems in a short time. (Pajhwok)

(11) Aid Agencies ...

returnees before they look for a home in a country many have not seen in years.

In September, the UN issued an appeal for millions of dollars of emergency funding to help returning refugees and other internally displaced people in Afghanistan, but so far the fundraising has yet to reach its goal, said Mark Bowden, the UN's humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan.

Islamabad has stepped up pressure to send people back and numbers have risen sharply in recent months as Afghan-Indian relations strengthened and those between India and Pakistan soured.

But Pakistani officials deny there has been systematic harassment of Afghans living in Pakistan and say their country has demonstrated great generosity to the refugee population, despite severe economic problems of its own.

While the challenges of helping the returning Afghan refugees requires immediate attention, the international community should work with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran to try to solve the broader problems driving the crisis, said Tadamichi Yamamoto, head of the UN assistance mission in Afghanistan.

"This could be a long-term issue, but I think the immediate attention now will define the magnitude of the problem that we have down the road," he said. "So we need to do it right at the start." (Tolonews)

(12) 35 Graduating...

from the Afghanistan Center for Training and Development (ACTD) in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

He said \$9,000 was spent over each midwife who would soon be appointed in districts to help reduce mother-child mortality rate.

A university professor, Nazdana Paktiawal, said there was still a shortage of midwives and called for training more such professionals.

She said there were only 15 lady doctors across the province who couldn't cope with female patients.

One of the newly graduated midwives, Atifa Afsoon, said: "We learnt many things from our teachers during the two years and we are ready to serve in remote areas of the province; but we want the authorities to provide us proper facilities."

Over the past seven years, many midwives have graduated, but some of them were able to perform jobs and several others remain at home due to improper conditions. (Pajhwok)

(13) 370 Militants...

admitted that 35 security personnel had lost their lives in the war against Taliban fighters during the operations. Taliban militants, according to the official were attempting to block Kandahar-Kabul highway which passing through Ghazni province had been foiled.

Meantime, General Sharif Yaftali, a senior army commander in south-eastern region of Afghanistan said at the press conference that government forces launched a 20-day major offensive dubbed "Sultan operation" across the relatively Ghazni province which concluded today and resultantly 370 militants had been killed and vast areas had been secured. (Xinhua)

(14) Afghani Deputy ...

General Baz Mohammad Ahmadi, deputy minister of Afghanistan's Ministry of Counter Narcotics, suggested the security situation is to blame for the drug problem coming close to spiraling out of control.

"The figures in the report indicate that progress in the fight against drug trafficking in Afghanistan cannot be called significant," the official admitted.

"The reasons for this are new security challenges, combined with old threats, which have been aggravated over the past year." "Hopefully, next year we will have more opportunities to more effectively confront the threat of drugs, and especially in matters of preventing the cultivation of narcotic plants," Ahmadi added. At the same time, the official suggested that it wouldn't be appropriate to completely write off Kabul's counter-narcotics efforts; there have been some achievements.

"There are results, especially in curbing the supply and movement of drugs," Ahmadi stressed. "This year, 1,063 operations have been carried out to curb drug supply chains. As a result, 1,408 tons of narcotic substances have been seized." "Furthermore, operations have been carried out to destroy large factories producing various drugs in the provinces of Badakhshan, Nangarhar and Farah," the official noted. © AP PHOTO/ FOLAD HAMDARD

Putin: Situation in Afghanistan Concerning, Decisive Actions Needed Afghanistan has been in a state of political and social turmoil for decades. After the US-UK and NATO invasion in 2001, the country quickly became the producer of over 90% of the world's heroin. In the past year, the Kabul government has been fighting an increasingly powerful Taliban insurgency, which has established control over swatches of territory across the country. Other terrorist groups are also believed to be operating in the country, including forces affiliated with Daesh (ISIL/ISIS). The security situation, and the drug trade, have affected Russia's security interests. Earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin told Sputnik and Indian media that the situation in Afghanistan is concerning, with 'decisive actions' necessary to counter existing threats. Putin stressed that Moscow and New Delhi in particular are interested in multilateral cooperation to support the country in dealing with issues of national security, building up its counter-narcotics capacity, and ensuring economic and social development. (Sputnik)

(15) Pachiragum ...

police and intelligence. He said the security forces had reached Pass Pachir Tangi area, attacking Islamic State positions. However, he said the security forces needed air support because the area was mountainous and impassable. The 201 Selab Military Corps in the east in a statement confirmed "Operation Tofan 20" had been launched against Daesh militants in Pachiragum district.

A resident of the area and commander of the local uprising, Malak Izzat Khan, said the security forces were in the lead and the uprising forces provided them backup support. He said the security forces were currently in the state of offensive, but if they were not provided with air support, the operation might not succeed. The governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, said the operation in Pachiragum had been launched and militants had suffered some casualties, but exact figures were unknown. (Pajhwok)

(16) IDPs Get Aid, ...

their homes. "We don't want to be deceived with false promises. Kunduz must be purged of Taliban to enable our children to resume their studies." Makay, a displaced woman, told Pajhwok News Agency, they currently lived with their relatives in Sh-

berghan. She also stressed the need for maintaining security in Kunduz.

Unhappy with the items given to the displaced, she said: "They have given us tooth brushes, pins and plastic dishes. We need food. It would have been much better if we had been given warm clothes." (Pajhwok)

(17) Kandahar's ...

transported to Pakistan daily. However, he said the export levels were lower this year's compared to the past. Pakistan blocked the Spind Boldak-Chaman highway at a time while farmers in Kandahar were collecting grapes. Pakistan blocked the transit route on August 18 after Afghan protesters torched its flag near the border crossing. However, the route was reopened as result of government efforts after 14 days of closure.

Zahir said most of gardeners had dried grapes for raisin due to limited exports. Growers and traders would suffer heavy financial losses if the government did not provide them alternative export sources, he warned. Pakistan had always created problems for Afghan exports and it did not want Afghans to stand on their own feet, the trade leader alleged.

The governor's house and the ministries concerned were repeatedly requested to airlift fruit exports, he said, urging the authorities to help traders obtain visas so they could travel to different countries and find market for their products. (Pajhwok)

(18) 9 ISIS Militants...

to ISIS terrorist group are actively operating.

Both the Afghan forces and the US forces in Afghanistan are conducting regular raids against the Taliban insurgents and ISIS loyalist in the districts where they are conducting insurgency activities.

The US forces increased airstrikes against the Taliban insurgents and ISIS loyalists earlier this year after the Obama administration granted a broader role to the American forces. (KP)

(19) 34 Militants ...

wounded as a result of the operations. He said 600 personnel from the 201 Selab Military Corps had reached Lashkargah and had launched operations against the insurgents.

He also said six civilians were freed from a Taliban jail as part of the new operations in Greshk district.

One of the freed persons, Dilawar, told Pajhwok: "Taliban imprisoned me a month back because I owed money to someone, but commando forces rescued me."

He said the inmates were treated well but they had to pay 200 Pakistani rupees each morning to the insurgents.

At the press conference in Lashkargah, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Hakim Angar, the 505 Bost zone police commander, also spoke and said the operations had been launched to strengthen security in Lashkargah. He said new security posts were being constructed in a number of areas.

A resident of Makhtar area of Lashkargah, Mohammadullah, confirmed security forces had launched operations in their area. (Pajhwok)

(20) Hundreds of...

and a magazine.

Nimroz has sandy hills which can be used for tourists, but according to locals, the areas are serving as good routes for drug and human smugglers. Nimroz police said they are chasing smugglers in the hills, but their success depends on the signs the suspects leave after they enter or pass through the areas.

"You see the hills and plains. We are stopping them [smugglers] and their cars if they pass through this route," Nimroz police chief Jailani Abubakr said.

According to reports, Nimroz is recognized as one of the biggest routes for drug smuggling in Afghanistan. It shares 236 kilometers of border with Iran and 185 kilometers of border with Pakistan.

Khashrod and Diaram districts are among insecure parts of the province which often witness drug smuggling and other illegal activities. Khashrod is located 115 kilometers of distance from Zaranj city, the provincial capital, and shares a border with Farah's volatile districts - Gulistan and Bakwa.

Dialaram district is 235 kilometers from Zaranj city and shares a border with Washir and Nad Ali districts of Helmand.

The findings indicate that despite the province sharing a long border with Iran, smugglers prefer the Pakistan route to send drugs out of the country. Findings reveal that 42 percent of Afghanistan's drugs are smuggled through Pakistan, 30 percent through Iran, 24 percent through the Central Asia and four percent via the country's airports.

Some of the drugs that are seized by security forces are destroyed by relevant organizations.

TOLONews' Tamim Hamid, who traveled to Nimroz, says nearly 20 tons of drugs was meant to be destroyed. The deputy of interior ministry's coun-

ter-narcotics department went to the province to witness the torching of the seized drugs, but later they were informed that the man responsible for keeping the drugs had vanished with the keys.

According to Tamim, local officials did not comment on the issue and the event was delayed for a day.

The income from Afghanistan's drugs is between \$65 to \$70 billion USD. Taliban gains \$155 to \$400 million USD from the country's drugs, up to \$500 to \$550 million USD of the income goes into farmers' pockets, local smugglers get up to \$1.5 billion from the drug trade and finally it pours nearly \$2 billion USD to Pakistani Taliban.

The highest income from drug trade is received by world mafia which is up to \$63 billion USD. (Tolonews)

(21) At Odds...

membership, there are fears that Brexit could undermine a 1998 peace deal and reinstate a hard border with the Republic of Ireland.

Experts have warned of the risk of a constitutional crisis if May does not take into account the position of each of the UK's four nations when conducting negotiations on the terms of Brexit. (Reuters)

(22) Pentagon Chief...

self-declared "caliphate" -- the only major city still under IS control.

Carter said the idea of simultaneous operations against Mosul and Raqqa "has been part of our planning for quite a while".

He also said that destroying IS's external operations capabilities was "our highest priority".

"We are getting better and better and better at that. (AP)

(23) Saudi Arabia...

the beginning of 2016 from over 100 U.S. dollars per barrel in 2014.

However, the prices have recently gone up to 50 dollars per barrel. (Xinhua)

(24) S. Korean ...

position as she previously opposed any discussion on the amendment, which she called a possible "black hole" of all national agendas, to focus more on economic and security issues. (Xinhua)

(25) Russia Rules ...

Ryabkov also said that he did not see the "conditions" for ministerial-level negotiations on Syria before the US elections on November 8, after a Lausanne meeting on October 15 that ended with no breakthrough.

"It's almost no time until the US elections. To be honest, I don't see the conditions for a ministerial meeting," he said, insisting that Damascus and Moscow were fulfilling international agreements. (AFP)

(26) Iraq Says No...

Daesh (IS)," Yildirim said. "They asked for help from our soldiers at the Bashiqa base, so we are helping the tanks with our artillery and howitzers there."

On Saturday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said there had been no agreement with Turkey about its troops' participation in the battle to free Mosul from IS. (Xinhua)

(27) Iraq Says Kills

35 km northeast of Kirkuk, when at least two suicide bombers entered the station, sparking heavy clash with the guards.

The attackers took control of part of the facility and executed 16 workers, including four Iranians. (Xinhua)

(28) American Hacker...

activities to which The Jester objected. As summarized by CNNMoney, Jester's message was, "Comrades! We interrupt regular scheduled Russian Foreign Affairs Website programming to bring you the following important message ... Knock it off. You may be able to push around nations around you, but this is America. Nobody is impressed."

Jester's complaints about Russian hacking included alleged Russian interfering with American politics. Recently 17 U.S. intelligence agencies accused Russian agencies of being behind hacks into the Democratic National Committee (DNC) emails, leaking information to influence the election toward Donald Trump and away from Hillary Clinton. Russia is also accused of supplying hacked and stolen emails to WikiLeaks. (AP)

(29) Russia May...

Response to the increasingly tougher sanctions imposed by Washington for Moscow's role in the nearly three-year-long conflicts in eastern Ukraine and Crimea's incorporation into Russia. (Xinhua)

(30) China Holds ...

case of necessity," Tajikistan Defense Minister Sherali Mirzo said at the October 24 closing ceremony of the exercise. Last month, Tajikistan announced that China would build 11 border guard posts along the border with Afghanistan, as well as a border guard training center. (Eurasia net)