

(1) UN Concerns...

and will consider national interests," said Sayed Husain Alemi Balkhi, Minister of Refugees and Repatriation Affairs. Meanwhile, Mohammad Sakhi Azam, head of a touristic company, said: "Security threats, poor economy and more importantly unemployment are the reasons that push hundreds Afghan to leave the country on a daily basis." (Tolonews)

(2) Afghanistan ...

apparently, there will not be any substantial talks in the near future," Zamir Kabulov told RIA Novosti. The New York meeting of the 6+1 Group on Afghanistan included Russia, Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Pakistan and the United States. (Sputnik)

(3) Badakhshan Forces ...

district's police chief Mohammad Amin. Meanwhile, Badakhshan Provincial Council members said security forces are in an offensive mode and that it is a good opportunity to destroy militants in the province. "The ability and courage of the security forces is evident. They will soon eliminate the Taliban in Badakhshan therefore we call on the central government to give order to the military forces to attack the insurgents," said Jawid Mujaddidi, member of Badakhshan Provincial Council. TOLONews reporter Nematullah Ahmadi, who visited Jurm district, says Taliban carried out two large attacks in the district but were defeated by security forces.

He said that according to local officials, more than 1,000 insurgents took part in the attack in the district.

Sediqullah, a police officer in Jurm meanwhile said militants are still active in parts of the district.

"One side of the river is in our control, but the other side in under the control of the Taliban. They [Taliban] are targeting vehicle which pass through the area," he said. (Tolonews)

(4) FAO Joins...

objectives on livelihood related activities including livestock and fishery initiatives as well as nutritional projects in Iranian schools.

According to a press release published by the FAO Representation in Iran, the Organization is currently formulating a number of projects, one of which entitled "Capacity Building for Afghan Refugees on Fisheries and Aquaculture related skills through Practical Technical and Vocational Trainings" and which aims to provide opportunities for the refugees to earn their livelihoods in the growing Iranian fisheries and aquaculture industry.

"These trainings would, over time, enhance refugees' financial, human and social capital and will better prepare them to find a sustainable durable solution, either in their own country or elsewhere" said Mr. Nakouzi during his meeting with UNHCR Representative in Tehran. FAO has also invested considerable resources and technical assistance to integrate nutrition and health into schools to promote lifelong healthy eating and has been for decades promoting garden-based learning in schools for improved knowledge on nutrition and healthy life styles and agricultural skills not only among school children, but also among teachers and parents, and has been encouraging schools to create moderate-sized learning gardens for the production of a variety of fruits and vegetables -with a focus on producing micronutrient-rich vegetables and fruits- using simple techniques that are environmentally friendly. Considering the peaceful co-existence of Afghan refugees and Iranians in the host community, FAO is also working on another project called "School Gardens for Better Nutrition in Iran for Afghan Refugees" that sees schools as golden opportunities for children of both the host community and the

refugee community, to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for them to develop into healthy, self-reliant and productive members of society.

The Government of Islamic Republic of Iran is contributing significantly to support a large community of Afghan refugees hosted in the country offering them with various livelihoods opportunities, recognizing the need to empower them to earn a decent living and to positively contribute to the society during their stay in the country. FAO officially entered the SSAR partnership at the end of August, bringing the total number of partners to 29 including governmental organizations, UN agencies, National and International Non-Governmental Organizations. (IRNA)

(5) US Releases ...

"Linking U.S. assistance funding to achievable and important development results enables the Afghan government to implement its reform agenda, while increasing Afghan ownership and transitioning to a more Afghan-led development approach," said William Hammink, Assistant Administrator, USAID/Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs.

"NDP is an effective mechanism that aligns U.S. assistance with the Afghan government's reform agenda. As an on-budget funding modality, it has given the Afghan government the required fiscal space to implement its development priorities that will improve the lives of the Afghan people," said the Minister of Finance, Eklil Hakimi.

The U.S. Agency for International Development will continue to work with the Ministry of Finance to help advance the Afghan government's achievement of further milestones, each of which would trigger the release of additional funds. The New Development Partnership is anticipated to provide incentive funds of up to \$800 million through 2018. (PR)

(6) NAI Dubs...

access to information. Based on a NAI tally of registered cases, 33 percent of the cases happened during journalists seeking information, he said.

The percentage was 7% in 2010, 18% in 2011, 34% in 2012, 38% in 2013, 32% in 2014, 26% in 2015 and 72 % in 2016, a big difference, he added.

Tawhidi expressed concern over the increase in violent cases and said despite endorsement of the right to access information law and the formation of the Oversight Commission on Access to Information (OCAI) by the government, the year 2016 was the worst year with regard to access to information.

As an example of violence against journalists in accessing information, he said "boycotting today's Wolesi Jirga session by some journalists was a result of inappropriate behavior by the house's secretariat employees towards reporters."

"I request the government to seriously pay attention to this behavior; those who subject reporters to violence under any reason should be punished and tried under the Constitution so the violence rate against journalists could be decreased."

He said President Ghani had stressed giving journalist access to information during a conference arranged by the Afghanistan Federation of Journalists and issued a quick verdict in this regard but still reporters were denied access to information. (Pajhwok)

He said all ministers, governors and heads of government organizations should know that they weren't owners of information. (Pajhwok)

(7) US Awards...

forces combat mission since last year.

Earlier the NATO-led Resolute Support announced earlier this year that the Afghan national security forces will receive over one hundred M1151 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) as part of efforts by the NATO-led Reso-

lute Support mission to equip the Afghan forces for 2016 fighting season.

The M1151 Enhanced Armament Carrier is an improved version of the standard Humvee (HMMWV) having a heavier chassis and improved engine to handle add-on armor.

The international and regional allies of Afghanistan have stepped up efforts to equip the Afghan forces amid deteriorating security situation in the country.

The Afghan armed forces will also receive 55 Mobile Strike Force vehicles under a contract by the US Department of Defense (DoD). (KP)

(8) Search Mounted ...

"ICE Homeland Security Investigations is aware of the situation, and is actively working to locate these individuals in coordination with the State Department and the Department of Defense," Sarah Rodriguez said. (Pajhwok)

(9) Most Jailed ...

serving their jail terms for drugs and drug smuggling related cases. According to information of the Counternarcotics Ministry, 19,000 drug smugglers were detained between 2003 and 2015 across the country.

Most prisoners are poor or have low income

According to the survey, the jail terms for drug related prisoners range from 10 years to 20 years. The survey cited poverty and illiteracy as main reasons behind drug addiction or smuggling. It also showed 84 percent of the drug prisoners were married and most of them were breadwinners of their families.

The UNODC survey shows six out of 10 of these prisoners belonged to families who lived under the poverty line and their monthly income was less than 5,000 Afghanis.

In line with Asia Foundation's assessment, individuals with less than 1,253 income and nine-member families earning 12,250 Afghanis per month are considered living under the poverty line in Afghanistan.

Tor Jan, 43, who has served three years of his 18-year jail term, told Pajhwok Afghan News his economic situation forced him into drug trafficking.

Held at the Pul-i-Charkhi prison, he has a wife, three daughters and two sons. He was the only breadwinner for his family. Tor Jan also said he would spend all his earning on family and he was not a high ranked smuggler to a lot of money.

Jan said his 13-year-old son was kidnapped one year ago by drug smugglers with whom he worked in the past.

He said his responsibility had been to transfer the drugs to border provinces, but security officials arrested him with the drugs that belonged to the individuals who had kidnapped his son.

Jan said most of the prisoners had little role in the production and smuggling of drugs and the real culprits roam freely. The drug phenomenon would continue until those in charge were arrested.

Haji Gul Sulaimankhel, a retired general at the Interior Ministry, said some high ranking government officials have direct or indirect links with big drug smugglers and thus they could not be arrested and put behind bars.

He did not name any high ranking government official involved in drug trafficking, but said the issue could not be resolved until key smugglers were arrested.

Ahmad Khalid Moahid, spokesman for the special attorney at the Justice Task Force (JTF) defended the large number of individuals that had been detained in connection with drug smuggling and said the government had made some progress in countering narcotics. He said international smugglers of third and fifth rank had been detained by security forces with large quantity of drugs and were jailed. (Pajhwok)

(10) Int'l Day...

Ghani, but reports indicate that

it has not been fully implemented so far.

"If the NUG leaders had helped us, we would have improved further. We want them to help us," said Sayed Ikrām Afzali, head of the oversight commission of access to information. At same event, the European Union ambassador to Afghanistan, Franz-Michael Mellbin said the right of having access to information is a pillar of democracy.

"Access to information fosters democracy. Allowing access to key information makes a public democratic possible. Because access to information is one of the key factor in combating corruption. Because it makes society more transparent," Mellbin said.

"Nearly 58 violence cases violence against journalists was reported this year of which 72 percent occurred on the way of access to information," said Sediqullah Tawhidi, CEO of Nai, an organization supporting open media in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(11) Journalists ...

were not allowed to enter the gallery, the reporters are behaved like prisoners."

He also said they would not cover parliament proceedings until their problems were resolved.

Ramazan Bashardost, a lawmaker representing Kabul people, said "journalists have complained several times about bad behavior, such attitude should be used against terrorists not journalists who constantly working for freedom and the nation."

He said he had shared the issue with his colleagues. He hoped the administrative board of Wolesi Jirga would resolve the problem as soon as possible. Bashardost said journalists played the role of a bridge between the people and the government and they should be treated with good behavior.

Jumma Din Gayanwal, a Meshrano Jirga member, said the right to the freedom of speech and access to information had been added to the Constitution. He said no one had the right to negatively behave with journalists and prevent them from accessing information.

The Wolesi Jirga summoned ministers of refugees and repatriation and foreign affairs today to brief lawmakers about the situation of Afghan refugees living abroad. (Pajhwok)

(12) UNHCR ...

commitment and ownership of Afghanistan to facilitate the repatriation of Afghans and the steps taken to enable their sustainable reintegration.

Welcoming the returnees to Afghanistan, Omar Zakhilwal encouraged Afghan refugees to return to their homeland "despite the challenges and to join the nation-building process."

He also said the repatriation remained voluntary and the fact that Afghan refugees were returning of their free will demonstrated confidence in the efforts of the national unity government.

The delegation visited Chamkani in Peshawar and the newly operational Azakhel centres and met with elders of the Afghan Refugee Shura, talking to people about their time spent in Pakistan and their return to Afghanistan.

The repatriation centres in Azakhel and Chamkani are supported by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO).

UNHCR has acquired additional land for the increased numbers of vehicles onsite and has also established dedicated spaces for children in both locations. Since 2002, UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme has helped nearly 3.9 million Afghans return home from Pakistan.

Around 167,228 registered Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan so far in 2016.

Since July 2016, there has been an increase in the number of Afghans voluntarily repatriating

to Afghanistan.

The spike in returns coincides with the introduction of tighter border management controls at the Torkham border between Pakistan and Afghanistan on June 1. Afghans now need valid passports and visas in order to enter Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

(13) NUG Accused...

System create jobs and improve the country's economy.

On the inauguration of the NUG, Ghani said: "After every 100 days, we will evaluate the activities for one month. We will assess our activities and then we will opt for drafting the next 100 days plan."

Also, at the same event in 2014, Abdullah said: "Supporting the human rights values, attention to women's rights, starting the electoral reform process, providing the ground for amendment of the Constitution are among other commitments I and President Ghani made to the people," Abdullah said.

Meanwhile, Sediq Patman, former deputy minister of education, said: "They [NUG leaders] have not fulfilled any of their promises. I hope that the NUG evaluates its two years of failure and in consultation with the people and political figures, prepare a logical plan for the future." (Tolonews)

(14) Taliban Recruiting...

fight for the group.

The group is also accused of forcing the young women and girls to marriage in a bid to match the atrocities committed by the main group in Syria and Iraq. (KP)

(15) Five Army...

killed and 47 others were injured as the Afghan security forces waged offensives across the country over the same period.

The joint Afghan security forces also found and seized weapons and defused several roadside bombs and landmines during the security operations, the statement noted. (Xinhua)

(16) US Strike...

had recently returned from the Hajj pilgrimage.

"I saw dead and wounded bodies everywhere," Raghon Shinwari said, lying on a hospital bed in Jalalabad city.

Mohammed Ali, the Achin district police chief corroborated that account.

"They were in a house to visit someone who had just come from the Hajj pilgrimage," he said. "A drone targeted the house and killed most of them." Provincial police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said several Islamic State leaders had been killed, but he denied there were any noncombatants among the victims.

A spokesman for the U.S. military command in Kabul confirmed that U.S. forces conducted a "counter-terrorism" air strike in Achin, but would not discuss the details of the target.

"U.S. Forces - Afghanistan takes all allegations of civilian casualties very seriously," said Brigadier General Charles Cleveland. "We are aware of some claims of Afghan casualties, and are currently reviewing all materials related to this strike. We are continuing to look into these allegations."

Determining which victims were civilians and which were militants would not be possible until an investigation was complete, said Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

Islamic State has attracted hundreds, perhaps thousands, of fighters in Afghanistan and Pakistan to join its ranks, and it holds some territory in Nangarhar, and Achin was a stronghold for the group.

Thousands of U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan, with many recent air strikes and special operations missions aimed at Islamic State in Nangarhar, but they have also been helping Afghan forces fight Taliban elsewhere in the country.

Between January and August this year, American aircraft released more than 800 weapons and flew more than 3,500 close air support missions in Afghan-

istan, according to U.S. military reports. (Reuters)

(17) Raziq Deploys...

Uruzgan residents meanwhile expressed their concerns over the continued fighting's in the province.

"The recent war has raised our concerns and we are not able to do our works," a resident of Trinkot, the capital city of the province, Shyesta Gul said.

But Gen. Raziq says more reinforcements have arrived from Kabul and Kandahar and are trying to boost security in the province. (Tolonews)

(18) 2 Children ...

grazing animals when the device went off.

Dadokhel, about 20 kilometers from the provincial capital, is a Taliban stronghold.

According to another report, six Taliban militants were killed and four others wounded during clashes in Helmand.

Lt. Col. Mohammad Rassoul Zazai, spokesman for the 215th Maiwand Military Corps, said the clash occurred in Lashkargah, the provincial capital, and Garmser district. (Pajhwok)

(19) Syrian Military...

attacks comes amid a large-scale military showdown in Aleppo, after the Syrian army, backed by Russian air force, captured the al-Farafira district in Aleppo's old quarter on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

(20) Russia Prefers...

year. In April, the world's major oil producers failed to secure a production freeze deal in Doha, Qatar. (Xinhua)

(21) Military Operation...

launched a cross-border Euphrates Shield Operation on Aug. 24, along with the U.S.-led coalition in Syria's northern border-town of Jarablus to clear the area of the Islamic State (IS). (Xinhua)

(22) Turkey Arrested...

Some two-and-a-half months after the coup attempt aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan led to a crackdown unprecedented in Turkey's modern history. (The New Arab)

(23) IS Militants

wells in and around Qayyara. The fires were set by extremist militants before they fled Qayyara when security forces advanced on the town.

The ministry said several other oil wells were still on fire but they are outside the control of the security forces and will be extinguished as soon as the troops regain control. (Xinhua)

(24) Humanitarian Situation...

cope with lack of medicine and equipment.

"Malnutrition cases are on the rise, often leading to death, but a small number of patients sometimes recover," he said. (Xinhua)

(25) Missile that ...

Foreign Ministry said it was "disappointed" by the findings and the investigation was biased and politically motivated.

The investigation team said they based their findings on information collected from radar images, thousands of pieces of wreckage, photos, videos, tapped phone calls and testimonials from people who have seen the Buk missile being driven.

"Intercepted telephone conversations show that during the days prior to July 17, the pro-Russian fighters mentioned they needed better air defense systems to defend themselves against these air strikes. In this respect, a BUK was discussed explicitly.

The fact is that a BUK has a higher range than the air defense systems in use by the separatists at that moment, such as the Strela and Igla," said the JII report. (Xinhua)

(26) China, Pak...

Pak-China relations that are based on mutual respect, trust, peaceful co-existence and brotherly neighborhood form the "bedrock" of Pakistan's foreign policy. (Xinhua)