

(1) WJ Briefed...

projects are included in the budget document. Earlier 1st deputy speaker Haji Zahir Qadeer had warned the house would not endorse the next year's budget until new individuals replacing the unseated ministers were introduced. However, 2nd deputy speaker Naimatullah Ghafari, who chaired today's session, said: "So far no collective decision has been taken in this regard. The warning by the 1st deputy speaker is his personal decision and now new document has been presented to the house and we will decide on them later." (Pajhwok)

(2) Conflict Displaces ...

carried by aid agencies and the Afghan government. "I am concerned these record figures show not just an alarming number of new IDPs, but a longer term crisis where increasing numbers of families in Afghanistan are facing prolonged displacement," U.N. humanitarian coordinator Mark Bowden said in a statement, referring to internally displaced people. "We must collectively rethink the manner in which we provide assistance and ensure that vulnerable displaced families not just receive lifesaving, emergency humanitarian assistance, but support that delivers a real opportunity for IDPs to rebuild their lives for the long-term." The United Nations says it has received a little over half of the \$152 million in emergency funding it needs to address the immediate needs of internally displaced people in Afghanistan. (Reuters)

(3) Unemployment...

students, 2,500 university students and people at a large number of public places, like public toilets, in Nangarhar province, Hassan said. (Pajhwok)

(4) Ghani Orders...

returned to ensure the safety of Afghans wherever they are. "The Afghan National Army is ready to defend the country and ensure the safety of the citizens against any kind of threat from insurgents," he stated. (Tolnews)

(5) EU to Help ...

The Afghan government reiterated its commitment to improving the human rights situation in Afghanistan and to launch the necessary judicial reforms.

State report to UNCAT was finalized and sent to UN Office in Geneva. The government has established EAWA Prosecution Units in 34 provinces. The Afghan Journalist Safety Committee was established under the chair of 2nd Vice President Sarwar Danish. Furthermore the Government has sent an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders for 2017. The EU emphasized its commitment to help strengthen human rights and the rule of law in Afghanistan, and encouraged the Government of Afghanistan to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture as well as extending an official invitation to the ICC for cooperation and a visit to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(6) DABs Reports...

Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, declined the governor's bodyguards had beaten DABS workers. He said Nangarhar DABS director had violated the Cabinet decision not to cut off electricity to government departments. He said the council of ministers had ordered disconnecting power to residential buildings and non-government organs which were defaulters. (Pajhwok)

(7) All Afghan ...

recorded in 2013 and more than double from that in 2014. More of Afghanistan is also affected, with a record 198 out of 399 districts reporting conflict-induced displacement so far this year, and for the first time, all 34 provinces are now hosting IDPs. In addition to the high levels of internal displacement, the large surge of more than 600,000 Afghan registered refugees and undocumented returnees from Pakistan this year is also of concern. Many of these returnees are vulnerable, and highly prone to becoming IDPs if the area they intend to return to is not conducive for a long-term future. Many displaced families, often unable to return to their homes due to persistent insecurity, choose to move to Afghanistan's major urban centres, looking for jobs, health services, and schools. Host communities in Afghanistan have been generous to IDPs and returnees, but the large influxes are putting local resources under strain. Mark Bowden, the UN Deputy

Special Representative to the Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan, said that with an increasing number of IDPs unable to return home, the humanitarian community, government and development partners must work together to effectively address the growing issue of Afghan families living in long-term displacement.

"I am concerned these record figures show not just an alarming number of new IDPs, but a longer term crisis where increasing numbers of families in Afghanistan are facing prolonged displacement," said Bowden.

"We must collectively rethink the manner in which we provide assistance and ensure that vulnerable displaced families not just receive lifesaving, emergency humanitarian assistance, but support that delivers a real opportunity for IDPs to rebuild their lives for the long-term."

In the interim, the humanitarian community is responding to address the immediate and urgent needs of IDPs and returnees, including through the Flash Appeal. As of Wednesday, the US\$152 million request was 54 percent funded in pledges and contributions.

This will help save lives over winter, including by providing food assistance, shelter, health care, water and sanitation, and for returnees, better services at the border, the UN agency said. (Pajhwok)

(8) Taliban Confirms ...

children and women and the willingness of the group to consider peace negotiation talks have dampened the generosity of their financial backers.

"Mullah Mohammad Omar was well-respected and he had reigned over Afghanistan, but funding tangibly declined with the coming of Mullah Akhtar Mansour and internal disputes within the group emerged; this also had an impact on the funding. Today one part of the Taliban is willing to negotiate for peace but another part is insisting on war; but all these disputes have led to financial cuts for the group by Pakistan and Gulf countries," said political commentator Amanullah Hotaki.

But, intelligence reports by the Afghan security institutions indicate that initially funding to the group started dropping following the death of the group's founding leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Intelligence reports also indicate that there was a further decrease in funding following the appointment of Mullah Akhtar Mansour as successor to Omar and after his death in a drone strike earlier this year, The Guardian reported.

Recently the leader of Taliban's military wing in Helmand ordered the opium income to be cut to the Taliban leadership in Pakistan, saying that the money should be provided to those actively working in the battlefields in Afghanistan.

"The Taliban leadership has been splintered into several factions and their internal disputes have increased. Within consideration of this, the Taliban are now trying to settle inside Afghanistan and the move will also decrease the funding and curb the influence of Pakistan in Afghanistan," said university lecturer Qasim Wahidi. (Tolnews)

(9) Worsening Security ...

an education system that is vital to the economic future of a country dependent on foreign aid.

About 3.5 million children are out of school, 75 percent of them girls, due not only to violence but also a lack of female teachers, early marriage and social restrictions in the conservative society.

"Our families decided not to let our daughters to study after sixth grade because they had to go to school far from their homes," said Sakhi Jaan, a resident of Chamkanai district in the eastern province of Paktia.

"There's not always someone at home to drive them and in the Pashtun community, as girls get older people don't like them going to school," he said, referring to Afghanistan's biggest ethnic group.

The Taliban, who banned girls from school during their 1996-2001 rule, now say they do not oppose girls' education. Their leader, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, has issued statements saying fighters have orders not to damage schools.

However, government officials say the militants are shutting schools in areas they control.

The education ministry has stopped sending salaries to teachers in some Taliban-controlled areas because of concern the funds would fall into wrong hands, Mehrdad said.

"Girls are not allowed to attend school especially after fifth and sixth grades," said Loqman Hakim Hakim, head of the education department in Paktia, where some 20 girls' schools have been forced to close this

year, referring to areas where the Taliban operate.

Just 5 percent of the province's 50,000 school-aged girls make it to sixth grade.

Karima, who like many Afghans goes by one name, secretly attended sixth grade in Paktia's capital, Gardez, but her family forced her to stop.

"When my brothers learned about it, they burned my books," she said. "Now me and my two sisters are at home, not allowed to go to school." (Reuters)

(10) ISIS Loses ...

stronghold in Raqqa, however, will be more difficult than the Mosul operation, Jones reported. There, the coalition lacks the support and logistical capability to launch a campaign as effective as the one against Mosul. According to Reuters, civilians are slowly beginning to return to their daily routines in areas liberated from ISIS's control. Under the Islamic State's authority, wages had been skimmed to fund the war effort, access to medicine was restricted, and strict social and religious laws were forced upon civilians.

ISIS has likewise lost ground in Libya and Afghanistan, where the group once hoped to carve out enclaves of influence.

Foreign Policy magazine noted on Monday, local militias in Libya have, for months, been surrounding the Islamic State's remaining forces in the coastal city of Sirte. Supported by their international allies, the Libyan militias have almost completely defeated Islamic State forces.

The situation in Libya is not all encouraging, however, since the various competing actors, from Field-Marshal Haftar's government in Eastern Libya, to the internationally recognized government in Tripoli, did not coordinate their efforts toward restoring a cohesive, national government.

Similarly, the Islamic State's modest holdings in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, have been contained by resurgent Taliban forces. Analysis from the RAND Corporation argues ISIS has not been able to carry out a successful military campaign or secure the support of local residents in Afghanistan. (MWN)

(11) Pakistan in ...

projected GDP growth of 5.5 per cent in FY 2021.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) raised GDP forecast for Pakistan for 2017 from 4.8 per cent to 5.2 per cent, he said, adding the Harvard University study had projected 5.07 per cent annual GDP growth of the country till 2024.

World Bank projected 5 per cent GDP growth for Pakistan in FY 2017 and 5.4 per cent in FY 2018, he added.

He said it was the firm resolve of the government to achieve a higher and more sustainable growth.

The minister also said that the initiatives like CAREC and CPEC, and Pakistan's commitment to join in the Ashgabat Agreement and Lapis Lazuli Corridor would further support the CARs trade plans.

He said that the government was desirous of peace and stability in Afghanistan and was making serious efforts to help the Afghan government in that regard.

"Our region is very rich in economic, human and natural resources and the connectivity of this region will usher in new vistas of prosperity.

CPEC is a game changer and we would like other neighboring countries to take advantage of this project".

The minister assured the RCCI that the government would seriously consider their charter of demands presented by the RCCI president. (APP)

(12) Govt. Not...

businesswomen who attended the conference blamed local officials on negligence towards women's products and industry.

One of them, Masuma Mohammadi, said women were active in most business and industrial areas in Balkh. But she complained about lack of a specific place for businesswomen in the province. If the government helped women find market for their products, it would boost women's industrial activities, she said.

Provincial commerce director, Sher Ahmad Sepahzada, said finding market for products was relevant to free market. He said businesswomen had monetary demands which the government could not meet.

If women themselves advertised their products, it would resolve most of their problems, he added. (Pajhwok)

(13) Taliban Pledge...

hopeful signal given the country's desperate need for infrastructure development to boost a war-ravaged economy in which 39 percent of Af-

ghans live in poverty and 23 percent are unemployed.

"Those disastrous economic indicators have been exacerbated by insecurity created by both corruption and an intensifying Taliban insurgency that is widening its control in parts of the country," he wrote.

However, Kine went on to say that the Taliban's record in honoring its commitments to limiting the scope and targets of its attacks makes the likelihood of the group switching gears from destroying infrastructure to protecting it an open question.

"After all, despite the Taliban's vow that it will 'safeguard and protect the lives and properties of the civilian people,' the latest update from the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) found that the Taliban remain responsible for most civilian casualties in the country's long-running armed conflict," he wrote.

Although the Taliban claims that protecting civilians is one of their main aims, the armed group continues to pursue a strategy of suicide bombings against civilians and attacks on populated areas.

Government forces and groups who affiliate with Daesh also inflict rising numbers of civilian casualties.

Kine wrote that infrastructure development and protection is the responsibility of the Afghan government. "The Taliban should instead demonstrate its concern for 'the interest of the people' by abiding by the laws of war and immediately ceasing operations that target Afghan civilians."

Meanwhile, the UK's Guardian Wednesday reported that the Taliban is facing a cash crisis, with donors unwilling to bankroll an insurgency whose victims are increasingly civilians rather than foreign troops. The Guardian reported Mullah Rahmatullah Kakazada, a senior member of the Taliban, stated that the Taliban was in an increasingly precarious financial position.

"The war is becoming unpopular because of all the bad publicity on civilian casualties," he said.

"These people who give money don't want to spend it on mines that kill children."

According to the report, the Taliban has long collected donations from sympathizers around the region, including wealthy Afghan and Arab businessmen in the Gulf.

However, the article states that the group is so cash-strapped that private hospitals in Pakistan are turning away injured fighters because they. (Tolnews)

(14) NATU will ...

a green revolution in the country and improve livestock production as it happened in India decades earlier.

Kandahar had been chosen for the construction of the Agriculture University because the weather there was warm and water availability abundant, he said. In addition, the province produces vegetable and is suitable for livestock farming. He said 2,500 acres of irrigated and 1,500 acres of barren land was available near the Trang Farm area, where the university had been constructed. The area provides great opportunities for agricultural and livestock's experiments and research.

Under no circumstance, he reiterated, the university's shifting would be allowed to. The officials pointed out some issues that hamper the completion of construction work on the university. He said the leadership issue was a setback to the project, as former governor Weesa had been assigned with overseeing the construction work. After his removal, the university's academic head Eng. Roshan Wolasmal was appointed as president, who is now the mayor of Kandahar City. Currently, the ministry has appointed Totakhel as acting head of the university until a new leader takes charge. He said 21 students had completed their master's in agronomy.

Another 20 students, who would travel to India for six-month studies, are pursuing their studies. The acting head of NATU said at the inaugural ceremony more branches of the varsity would be opened in Kabul, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Paktia and Helmand provinces but the main campus would remain in Kandahar. He said the Indian government had pledged \$120 million for the construction of a separate building for the university, but the promise was yet to be kept and the university was currently operating in another building. Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inaugurated the Agriculture University during his official visit to Afghanistan in 2011. (Pajhwok)

(15) ISIS Militants ...

Defense and Security Forces launched a joint clearance operation in the Pachirag district of eastern Nangarhar province. "The statement further added "As a result of this joint operation, 21 Daesh terrorists were killed and 11 other Daesh terrorists were wounded." The clearance operation still continues in insecure villages of Pachirag district, Mol said, adding that four Daesh terrorists were killed during an air raid in the Ghazi Khil village, Pachirag district of eastern Nangarhar province. The loyalists of the terror group have not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

The statement further added "As a result of this joint operation, 21 Daesh terrorists were killed and 11 other Daesh terrorists were wounded." The clearance operation still continues in insecure villages of Pachirag district, Mol said, adding that four Daesh terrorists were killed during an air raid in the Ghazi Khil village, Pachirag district of eastern Nangarhar province. The loyalists of the terror group have not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

(16) Dostum Rejects...

accused of assault. He was accused of beating Akbar Bay, the Turkmen Tribal Council head, and a few members of his family.

"In Afghanistan the laws are always violated when a politician is supposed to face justice," said Saleh Mohammad Saljoqi, an MP from Herat.

Jawzjan local officials and police have not yet commented on this. (Tolnews)

(17) Massoud Irked ...

said that Ghani has no interest in Ahmad Shah Massoud.

"I can say that Mr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai has not much interest in the personality of Shahee Massoud, the national hero. But this does not mean that he can spread dust on the space and create distrust among the people of Afghanistan," Massoud added.

He said that there is a need for a presidential order, a decision by the Loya Jirga and a legislation by parliament to officially award the title of national hero to Ahmad Shah Massoud. (Tolnews)

(18) 162 Arrested

were held over kidnapping charges, and 2 more individuals were arrested for attempted murder and threatening the capital residents to death.

According to Mol, 2 individuals were arrested over rape charges, 3 were held over looting, and 7 others were arrested over 5 different violent incidents involving the beating of individuals.

The ministry also added that 88 others were arrested over various other criminal activities including pick pocketing, smuggling and trade of alcoholic beverages, and forgery. (KP)

(19) ANDSF Clear...

report so far. The ISIS loyalists have been attempting to gain foothold in the strategic Pacher Agam district in a bid to expand their presence and operations in this province.

The deputy house speaker of the Afghan parliament Zahir Qadir earlier warned that the loyalists of the terror group are attempting to establish the Khurasan Caliphate in Afghanistan and are busy expanding their presence in some of the difficult terrains of the country. (KP)

(20) Fallen Commander...

Existed in the city," said Sayed Qurban Musavi, chief of the 20th Pamir Battalion staff.

Parliament members also said Muhayuddin was a good commander and insisted the person who replaces him has to be competent.

"A competent person should be appointed in his position on merit. Muhayuddin stopped many attacks by the enemies in the western parts of the country," said Nader Shah Bahar, an MP from Ghor province.

"We will assign parliament's internal security commission to investigate the reasons behind the helicopter crash," said Nematullah Ghafari, second deputy speaker of parliament.

Muhayuddin was born in 1949 in Ghor province and after completion of his Bachelor degree at Kabul military university, he went abroad and attended a military university where he got his Master's Degree in Military. (Tolnews)

(21) Public Rep, ...

crash. Maulvi Abdul Basit and the provincial head of the National Directorate of Security were wounded, he said. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi claimed the group's fighters had shot down the copter, killing 11 people including Zafar Military Corps Commander Mohiuddin Ghori.

President Ashraf Ghani, meanwhile, expressed profound grief over the killing of Ghori. He hailed the commander as a brave officer and extended his condolences to his family, friends and the entire country. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah also expressed his shock over the loss of Ghori, calling him an intelligent, experienced and professional soldier who spent his entire life in the service of people. Abdullah said Ghori's killing was a huge loss for the country. Several more commanders like Ghori were still in Afghan army ranks to fill the vacuum, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(22) 16 Infiltrating...

Taliban remained on the battleground. The Taliban have not yet commented

about the incident, but their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted the fighters had attacked security checkpoints in Dah-Yak district.

Taliban militants hold sway in several areas of Ghazni province, one of the most unstable. (Pajhwok)

(23) 4 Dead as...

Dr. Najibullah Farhang, head of the Aqcha Hospital, said four people were killed in the incident and their bodies could not be identified. He added the two injured were being treated and their condition was out danger. (Pajhwok)

(24) Merkel Does...

circumstances, the opening of further negotiating chapters is not conceivable."

Neither Ankara nor the EU expect Turkey to be in a position to join the EU for many years to come. Only one of 35 "chapters", or policy areas where Turkey must adopt EU rules, has so far been concluded. Discussions have begun on 15 more chapters while the rest have not yet been taken up.

The European Parliament passed a non-binding motion last week urging the Commission and national governments to call a temporary halt to membership talks with Turkey due to Ankara's "disproportionate" response to July's failed coup. (Reuters)

(25) Trump Picks ...

president that they could keep. Choices are fewer."

He joined Trump at his campaign speech on health care reform earlier this month, and issued a statement praising Trump's commitment to "fully repealing this failed law." (Xinhua)

(26) Trump Nominates...

deputy secretary of transportation under former President George Bush from 1989 to 1991 and secretary of labor under former President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2009, is the first Asian-American woman to be appointed to cabinet roles. (Xinhua)

(27) MEPs Approve...

management, administration, labor markets, education and training, social security systems, migration and agriculture.

Supporting actions, such as seminars, working visits, training actions, collecting data and statistics, studies, and research would be taken on request of the EU member states. (Xinhua)

(28) Russian Forces...

air defense forces in Crimea have therefore been placed on a higher state of alert," the source told TASS.

"This refers not only to ground-based units, but also to ship borne air defense forces as the ships of the Black Sea Fleet can independently repel such threats," the source said. (Reuters)

(29) Around 20,000...

of a safe place. "The majority of those who flee are families, including many with infants and young children, and the situation in their precarious shelters is made worse for all as winter takes hold and temperatures drop," ICRC stressed. (Xinhua)

(30) China Says...

Yang Yujun said it went without saying there were tensions in the military relationship and China hoped the United States would respect its core interests and concerns.

"China is willing to work hard together with the defense department of the next U.S. government to promote the healthy and stable development of military-to-military relations," Yang told a monthly news briefing. Trump will take over as president in January. (Reuters)

(31) Iran will...

passed the general outlines of a single-urgency motion in October 2015 that gives the go-ahead to the administration to voluntarily implement the JCPOA on a conditional basis. (Presstv)

(32) Pakistan's First...

resources but aren't sure of how to utilise them," said the actress, adding that they were trying to create a medium of interaction not only for people in the industry but aspiring filmmakers and entertainers.

"This is a first of its kind event and gives industry professionals the opportunity to network and exchange views with likeminded individuals, decision-makers and the real stakeholders," she added. (Monitoring Desk)

(33) Uzbekistan, Russia...

interests of their own and regional security. For his part, Berdiyev stressed that Russia had been the main strategic partner for Uzbekistan. (AKIpress)