

(1) Lawmakers ...

at the government for its failure to ensure the security of mines and said that elements inside the government are supporting smugglers of mines.

"No doubt that elements inside the government are supporting these individuals," said Enami, adding that proving these allegations needs time.

"When the National Unity Government was established people hoped that the mine will be taken from the strongmen. Unfortunately, 60 percent of the revenue of the mine fills the Taliban's pockets," said Jawed Mujahid, a member of Badakhshan provincial council.

"If they don't have supporters inside the government, then what is the reason that they loot mines and the government is doing nothing to stop them," he added.

Currently, the Taliban and illegal armed groups are extracting mines in different provinces of Afghanistan.

"It is the duty of law enforcement organizations to ensure the security of mines and prevent their illegal extraction and our duty is to pave the ground for legal extraction and awarding contracts of the mines that in terms of security are safe to extract," said Mohiuddin Noori, spokesman for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum.

Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (MoI), said that the criminal investigation institutions of the ministry are working to prevent smuggling of precious stones and illegal extraction of mines.

Ebrahim Jafari, a member of the Natural Resources Monitoring Network said that the Taliban has access to most of the natural resources in Afghanistan.

The lawmakers, said that currently a number of residents in the district have stood against the illegal armed group and taken up positions in the mountains of the district and have asked the commander to remove the Taliban. (Tolonews)

(2) Campbell Backs...

point," he told congressmen, acknowledging the war-devastated nation was yet to achieve an enduring level of stability that justified a cut in support.

Asked if he would support pursuing terrorists into Pakistan, the general replied he could not talk about the rules of engagement in an open forum. A better option than sending troops into Pakistan would be to train Afghan forces to fight the rebels. (Pajhwok)

(3) 400 Traders...

captured Kunduz City on Sept. 28, 2015 for three days before being driven by Afghan security forces who recaptured the city step by step in about two weeks.

Two weeks after the debacle, ACCI officials had said the war caused more than \$100 million losses to Kunduz revenue and badly affected small entrepreneurs.

"First of all, traders don't like to come to Kunduz, but if they come where should they invest because there are Taliban five kilometres close to Kunduz City. The telecommunication towers do not operate during night and robbery incidents have increased," a trader, Zaiul Haq, said.

Likewise, another trader Haji Bismillah complained about bad security on the Kunduz-Baghlan highway, saying the government was doing nothing to resolve security problems.

"If there is fragile security, no one can work. You saw Tajikistan closing its consulates in Kunduz and Badakhshan provinces due to bad security," he said.

However, the commander of 808 Spin Ghar police zone, Sher Aziz Kamawal, said the Taliban were propagating to lower the morale of traders to leave Kunduz.

"Don't listen to Taliban, we are ready to keep security of traders," he said, adding they were providing all facilities for export and import activities of traders and were providing them security. (Pajhwok)

(4) Taliban Seek...

from Dand-i-Ghori," a tribal elder said on condition of anonymity. Immediately after the cutting of power supply, the security forces started an operation in Dand-i-Ghori and claimed inflicting heavy casualties on the militants.

In an email, the Taliban asked the government to officially declare its intention to reconstruct the pylon and stop clashes. Later, the fighters will cease fire to let the technical team restore power supply. The government has to promise

not to attack Taliban during the rebuilding of the pylon to avoid clashes that might ham technicians, the group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

The Taliban allege the pylon was destroyed by a shell fired by government forces. He militants would not impede the technical team's work in Dand-i-Shahabuddin. But local officials and people say the Taliban had planted mines around the tower. (Pajhwok)

(5) No End in...

companies.

"Production of oxygen is very important for hospitals and nitrogen is also important. However, the electricity outage has affected our activity," said Fahim, a worker at Maihandost oxygen manufacturing plant. (Tolonews)

(6) Public Rep ...

to say that no ANA soldier is either involved in the fuel theft or detained in this connection. There is no evidence in support of the allegation," he insisted.

Meanwhile, the Nangarhar police spokesman also denied the allegation. He said the provincial police chief had ordered an investigation.

"Police will thoroughly investigate the issue to get a real and clear picture of the case," Lt. Col. Hazrat Husain Mashriqiwal concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) Protesters Want...

immediate assistance provided to displaced families in the district.

He said Islamic State or Daesh militants were active in parts of Shinwari zone, but the government was taking no action against them.

He termed Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi as an inexperienced man and demanded his resignation. He said the governor was engaged in his private business and was unaware of the province situation.

However, the government has claimed crushing IS militants in Nangarhar in a series of airstrikes. Azizullah said around 60,000 families had been displaced by the conflict from the Shinwari zone.

But Kunduz's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani said the operation against Daesh was underway in parts of the province and would continue until the last terrorist was standing.

H said after President Ashraf Ghani's visit to Nangarhar, the provincial military council had decided to step up offensive against IS and conduct daily strikes. (Pajhwok)

(8) Ghani Receives ...

between Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Ambassador Lebba Thaha assured President Ghani of his country's continued assistance in various sectors. (KP)

(9) Govt. Leaders...

to these differences several posts in government institutions are either lying empty or run by acting directors.

The Ministry of Defense and the National Directorate of Security (NDS) which are key security institutions are also run by acting minister and director. (KP)

(10) Xinhua Helps ...

the five-time FIFA Ballon d'Or winning star could personally contact him.

"Mini-Messi" or Messi-e-Kochak, as he is known locally among villagers and playmates in the Jaghori district of the eastern Ghazni province in conflict-ridden Afghanistan, has reportedly received an invitation from Messi after Alizada's work paid off.

Messi, as well as giving the young lad a real jersey to replace his blue and white plastic bag, has promised to take Murtaza to the Camp Nou stadium, home of FC Barcelona in Spain, reports have said.

The soccer star also thanked Xinhua's Alizada for his efforts to locate one of his youngest fans, Murtaza, in the restive Ghazni province. The Spanish embassy in Afghanistan has reportedly been in contact with Murtaza's family. (Xinhua)

(11) 4 Dead, 18...

The Afghan security forces' casualties have risen recently as they have assumed the full security charges from NATO and U.S. forces since January, 2015.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since April when the militant group launched its annual rebel offensive in different places of the militancy-plagued country which had claimed hundreds of lives including militants, security personnel and civilians. (Xinhua)

(12) Giro Healthcare...

added the Taliban did not create problems for any health professional in Giro district. He accused the

government of seeking excuses to stop health services in their area.

He said they were informed health personnel of Giro district had been deployed to another district.

Ghazni public health director Zia Gul Asfandai confirmed the healthcare center in Giro had been closed due to security problems.

"We have discussed the issue with the Ministry of Public Health, but we do not know when they would activate it," she said.

She added the Ghazni public health sector did not receive any resources from the Ministry of Public Health for Giro district.

Asfandai rejected claims that health workers of Giro district had been appointed in another district.

A Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the rebels did not close any healthcare center in Giro or any other districts.

"Possibly some healthcare centers have been closed for some days due to clashes, but we assure health workers that they would not be hurt," he said.

Giro is 50 kilometers from Ghazni city and shares order with southern Paktika province. Most parts of the district are under Taliban control. (Pajhwok)

(13) Another Woman ...

not confirm if the woman had committed suicide or been killed.

Shinkai police chief Humayun Gulzar told Pajhwok Afghan News they had launched investigation into the incident, but so far no one had been arrested.

He said relatives of the woman had shifted her body from the scene and police had no evidence to arrest suspects. He said action would be taken after investigation. (Pajhwok)

(14) Drug Addiction, ...

in the province. More than 300 applicants including Hameedullah, submitted applications/resumes.

The Ministry of Labour, Social, Martyr and Disabled Affairs estimates the number of of jobless Afghans at more than 4 million, an ever-growing segment of the population.

Declining foreign assistance and the withdrawal of international troops from the country are some of the main causes of joblessness in Afghanistan.

Immigration Since March, 2015, more than 10,000 passports have been issued to residents of Sar-i-Pul. Most of recipients were youth, says the passport department head in the province, Syed Noor Ahmad Sadat.

They have been issuing an average of 40 passports daily and most of the recipients intend leaving the country for Iran, Saudi Arabia and European countries in search of better living conditions, he confirms.

Samsuddin (23), a university student from Sanjcharak district, dropped out and left for Germany due to economic problems. But he was captured by Turkish police and deported to Afghanistan.

"I have sold all my property, as I planned to settle in Europe. But lady luck didn't smile on me. Having no job, I don't know how to repay my loans. I faced many problems on the way to Europe..." he says.

Habibullah, in charge of youth affairs at the Department of Information and Culture, deplors the government is doing nothing to address the joblessness issue.

Lack of job opportunities, high dowry rates, poverty and insecurity are forcing many of youth to leave the country or resort to drug addiction. On the basis of recent media reports, nearly 160,000 desperate Afghans have sought asylum in the past one year in different European countries.

Drug addiction Director of Counter-Narcotics Hamidullah Hamid says no survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of drug addicts, but joblessness, insecurity and poppy cultivation are pushing many into addiction.

In 2015, nearly 1,000 hectares of land had been cultivated with poppies in the province, but this but the area under poppy cultivation has doubled this year.

Recently a 20-bed rehabilitation centre for drug addicts was built in the province and the Public Health Department will recruit staff for the facility in the near future, adds Hamid, who believes the initiative is insufficient.

In order to control drug addiction, he wants the government to provide work opportunities for youths. The number of addicts is increasing with each passing day.

Gulam Ali (33), from Chilangam village of Sar-i-Pul City, complains he has lapsed into drug addiction due to joblessness and poverty.

"My father did take me to the reha-

ilitation centre. Following release from the facility, I found no work and relapsed into using drugs. Now my family members and friends hate me," he notes.

According to the Counter-Narcotics Ministry, there are 3.5 million drug addicts in the country, known as the world's biggest producer of opium. (Pajhwok)

Crime The acting police chief, Col. Anayatullah Habibi, says 243 people, including 213 men, 20 women and 18 children, have been arrested in connection with 180 incidents of crime since March 2015 in the province.

Twenty murders, 26 robberies, 48 injuries, six sodomy offences, five adultery instances and 75 different crimes are included in the 180 cases. Police investigations show 80 percent of the cases occurred due to poverty and joblessness, he admits. If jobs are provided for the people, the crime graph will decline, he hopes.

Work opportunities A civil society activist, Naseer Kishawar, suggests extraction from copper and coal mines in Siyad and the Balkhab districts be launched to create work opportunities for thousands of people in the province.

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum reckons the copper mine in Balkhab district, discovered in 1993, holds 66.1 percent of pure copper in 400 metres wide and 5,000 metres long area.

In addition to the mine, a fuel extraction contract was awarded to a Chinese firm and an Afghan company called Watan Group in 2012, but the exaction worked was stopped after nearly eight months.

Sar-i-Pul Governor Mohammad Zahir Wahdat confirms extraction work has stopped for unknown reasons, but the authorities are doing all they can to ensure its resumption at the earliest possible.

According to Wahdat, joblessness is a common issue across the country, where most of development initiatives depend on the security. They would try their best to provide work for the people, praises the recently-appointed governor. (Pajhwok)

(15) Taliban Plunge ...

Reza Reza, spokesman for the 209th Shahin Military Corps, said the security situation had improved in the area and the power supply would be restored by Monday evening. He said four insurgents had been killed and six others wounded during a clash in Almar district. (Pajhwok)

(16) Injured Suicide ...

"May God save my two other sons. Jalal was not just my son he was a friend to me and from childhood he was going with me to parties and he was like a prince," said Abdul Jalil Yousofzai Charkhi, Jalal's father.

"Jalal recently graduated from 12th class and he wanted to become an engineer. He was always saying that I am the future of Afghanistan and I will serve Afghanistan," said Jalal's brother.

"We were calling him Janan from lots of love and he was a good classmate to me and we graduated together. And we were playing cricket together and he was a best friend for me," said Zahid, Jalal's friend.

Jalal's cricket friends said that they have lost one of their best players. "We call on the government to prevent such miseries," said Jalal's cousin Massoud.

Nine people were killed and 12 others were wounded in the February 1 suicide attack in Kabul city.

According to the MoI the incident occurred when a suicide bomber detonated his explosive vest near the Public Order and Border Forces base in Deh Mazang area of Kabul city.

Most of the victims were civilians, the MoI said. (Tolonews)

(17) Three Wounded ..

the battle of Kunduz. He is from Bamiyan province and was serving in 111 ANA unit. He accuses government of not paying his salary on time and says it has done nothing about his medical treatment.

"All wounded soldiers share similar issues at the ministry of defense which I have, but those who have relationships with military generals and lawmakers, they are provided the opportunity to pursue their medical treatment and their problems are settled. But no one is there to help those who do not have relationships, we are annoyed with the government," he said.

Nasir Ahmad is another soldier who lost his legs during the war and is now in an army hospital.

"Our problem is that government does not pay our salaries on time, we are still having medical treat-

ment, no officials visit us and ask about our problems," Nasir Ahmad said.

The third wounded comrade is Ahmad who lost his two legs during a Taliban battle in Helmand province, in southern Afghanistan. He also blasted government for not helping with his treatment.

"I lost my legs in Helmand in December, but no one is taking care of us now," he said.

Meanwhile, the ministry of defense has said that the government is making sure that the privileges and salaries of wounded soldiers are paid on the due date.

"I do not accept that salaries of the wounded veterans are not paid, if someone claims so, he must contact us to inquire why their privileges are not paid," Dawlat Waziri, spokesman to defense ministry said. The wounded veterans also complained about the locally made prosthetic legs that they get.

Statistics show that currently up to 30 officers and soldiers who have lost their legs in the war are in a Kabul military hospital. (Tolonews)

(18) My Children...

would carry goods from one place to another in a cart and would sometimes work as daily wage, she recalled. He was killed in a suicide attack which targeted a US forces' convoy in the city. The blast killed 20 civilians including her husband.

"My husband was there when the attack took place. When I reached hospital and saw his dead body, I fell down unconscious."

The widow is living in eastern part of Khost City in a two-room house with her old father and mother in laws. She said after the death of her husband she had to deal with all affairs of home and she looked after her five children and in-laws.

After his husband's death, she said she had been suffering from different issues, including economic, social and supervision of her five small kids.

With her voice overwhelmed by her grief, she said: "Sometimes my children ask me about their father, they question where their father has gone? I show them my father-in-law, but they don't accept and say he is not our father."

At home, she works on handicrafts earning her 50 afghanis a day, which is nothing to meet her needs. Shakila said: "Sometimes we the elders don't eat to ensure the children are not hungry."

She said the government paid her 100,000 afghanis after the death of her husband but had never asked about their problems afterwards.

She said she had asked frequently the government and the Red Crescent Society for help, but failed to get any assistance.

She said problems and difficulties in her life were increasing and asked aid-giving organizations for help.

Her father-in-law, Habib, said he could not afford looking at his grandchildren given their miserable life.

He swore the family sometimes remained without food for days and provided the children with rice. He asked the government and aid organizations to provide them with assistance. (Pajhwok)

(19) Taliban Execute...

remote area of Ghor province by the orders of a local Shura (council).

They were allegedly responsible for the killing two civilians. Among them, one was son of the director of the education department of Ghor province. (KP)

(20) Obama Asking ...

must prepare to quickly address local transmission with the continental U.S. Obama added, however, that "there shouldn't be a panic on this."

Two health care experts will answer reporters' questions Monday at the regular White House press briefing: Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Dr. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The administration's request to Congress is separate from the budget for the next fiscal year that Obama will submit to Congress on Tuesday. The administration seeks the Zika money much more quickly than the regular budget process would allow. (AP)

(21) Russia Starts ...

Shoigu also ordered troops from the Central Military District, which includes Eastern Siberia and the Urals, to participate in some stages of the exercises.

The practice of unexpected massive checks of combat readiness of Russian troops was introduced by Putin

in 2013. Since then Russia held regular snap drills in various parts of the country. (Xinhua)

(22) Abbas Urges ...

in case the release conditions are violated.

Over 170 Palestinians and around 30 Israelis were killed in the latest upsurge of violence since last October.

The latest round of violence comes in light of a freeze in peace talks between Palestinians and Israel since 2014, after 9 months of U.S. mediated talks. (Xinhua)

(23) Russia Arrests ...

is underway to establish their criminal contacts.

Russia has strengthened security and anti-terror measures in major cities and several regions, as the IS threatened retaliation for Russia's airstrike mission in Syria, which began last September. (Xinhua)

(24) Massive Shake...

full control being given to 'reform prison' governors. The aim of the shake-up will be to empower prison staff, drive up standards and cut reoffending by criminals once they are released back into the community.

Cameron has vowed to unleash his reforms across the prisons system, saying he will introduce a new Prisons Bill in the next session of parliament.

The Prime Minister said: "It can be easy for us all - when prisons are closed off by high walls and barbed wire - to adopt an 'out of sight, out of mind' attitude. When I say we will tackle our deepest social problems and extend life chances, I want there to be no no-go areas. And that includes the 121 prisons in our country, where our social problems are most acute and people's life chances are most absent."

Cameron insisted prisons are needed for rapists, murderers, child abusers, gang leaders, adding that for him punishment in the form of deprivation of liberty is not a dirty word. (Xinhua)

(25) Al-Qaida ...

Baliedy, the leader who was killed along with three others in a drone strike on Thursday.

The late Baliedy headed al-Qaida in Abyan province, of which Zinjibar is the capital, and was known for brutality, including the beheading of 16 soldiers in August 2014. He was believed to be ideologically closer to the Islamic State group, which is locked in a bitter rivalry with al-Qaida and has a branch in Yemen.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the group's Yemen branch is known, has attempted several attacks on the U.S. homeland and has long been seen by U.S. officials as the group's most lethal affiliate. (AP)

(26) Japan to Adopt...

of the long range rocket was also a clear threat to Japan's national security."

Abe said that Japan was liaising effectively with the United States on the issue, while his top government spokesperson, Yoshihide Suga, said that investigations into what the DPRK has possibly put into orbit were ongoing, and welcomed moves agreed between the U.S. and South Korea to begin talks on deploying an antimissile defense system.

"I believe it will take some time to analyze whether North Korea has put a certain kind of object into orbit. It will also take some time to study the details of it," Suga said, adding that the deployment of a missile defense system on the inter-Korean border could enhance peace and security in the region.

Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, meanwhile, told a press briefing Monday that swift actions were necessary from the UN Security Council and that Japan would continue to cooperate with its allies over the issue. (Xinhua)

(27) Hungary's Orban..

control, filtering or security screening."

Szydlo also called for the strengthening of the southern borders of Europe's passport-free Schengen zone, saying that "the migration issue has to be solved basically outside the EU borders."

Opponents are accusing British Prime Minister David Cameron of using scare tactics after he said that thousands of asylum-seekers could come to Britain overnight if the country votes to leave the European Union. (AP)