

(1) Illegal Mining ...

they will try to prevent this practice.

"We have always stopped those who have tried to do illegal mining. We have arrested and imprisoned those who have committed smuggling of precious stones," said Nangarhar governor Attaullah Khogyani.

"The lapis lazuli mine in Kiran Manjan is out of government's control and unfortunately still ongoing (problem) same as in the past," said Abdullah Naji Nazari, member of Badakhshan provincial council.

Meanwhile, analysts said they believe that government does not have a serious will to prevent illegal mining and that it will put the future of the mining industry in danger.

"The mines minister has resigned a few months ago but still the National Unity Government has not been able to appoint a minister for this key ministry," said Mohammadullah Haidari, political commentator.

"Unfortunately, government has not taken illegal mining as a serious matter, therefore the efforts that they make to stop this illegal practice are not good enough and have not yielded any results," said Ibrahim Jafari, member of natural resources' monitoring network.

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum would not comment on the report.

The Ministry of Mines' spokesman previously said that preventing illegal mining is the duty of the Interior Ministry. However, the Ministry of Interior on Sunday said that it has ordered all police force members to stop illegal mining across the country. (Tolonews)

(2) USAID ...

Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing Program - worked with UN Women and with their Afghan government counterparts to support the participation of Afghan traders in "Made in Afghanistan."

The Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries and the Government of India provided their support by inviting Indian buyers to the event. (Pajhwok)

(3) Kabul Municipality ...

old systems, violations of citizenship rules, interference, mismanagement of handcarts and non-payment of tax main challenges to the municipality. (Pajhwok)

(4) Badakhshan...

few other provinces are also out of government's control.

"Security has not improved in Badakhshan. Lack of will in government and a defensive stance against militants has helped rebels to wander easily in parts of the province," said Badakhshan provincial council member Abdullah Naji Nazari.

"The current security situation has concerned Badakhshan residents. It would be difficult to enhance the security unless the ground troops are supported by the Air Force," said civil society activist Abdul Basir Wasiq.

According to reports, Yamgan district fell to the Taliban four days after the new governor Faisal Begzad took office. However, Begzad said he is not responsible for the collapse of the district. "Badakhshan's situation improved after I took office. No district has fallen to the enemy. The situation is better compared to previous years," he said.

He added: "Yamgan district fell to militants. I don't take responsibility for that." This comes after the Taliban started group attacks in Raghistan, Darayem, Khash and Yaftal districts last week. Clashes still continue in the areas. (Tolonews)

(5) 260 Militants...

northern region at large. Army spokesman Nasratullah Jamshidi also confirmed surrendering of countless militants in Samangan province on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

(6) 80 Badghis ...

the control of Pakistan; therefore, I decided to join government and peace." Meanwhile, Badghis governor Mohammad Anwar Ishaqzai said they welcome the move by the fighters and that they believe that it will help improve security in the province. He added that he expects con-

necting roads between Jawand and the provincial capital Qala-e-Nawtoreopen after 14 years - following the surrender of the insurgent groups.

"The joining of 80 Taliban fighters with the peace process is a good step and I am sure that security will improve in Jawand following this move," he added.

Ishaqzai said that roughly 1,500 insurgents are active in the province and are fighting against government but according to recent figures, over 2,000 insurgent-shave joined the peace process so far.

The High Peace Council office in Badghis meanwhile vowed to provide the fighters with required assistance and employment opportunities.

According to reports, most of the weapons that were handed over to government by the fighters are old and are not working. The militants that join the process reportedly keep their main weapons with them. (Tolonews)

(7) Critics Blast...

been criticized, but the defense and interior ministers continue to reject the view about the Afghan troops' stance against militants.

"Terrorists had very big plans. For instance, they wanted to destabilize Helmand, Kunduz, Uruzgan and even Nangarhar and also they wanted to establish big terrorist centers, but all their plans were foiled," said Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri.

Sources in Kunduz said on condition of anonymity that the Taliban has established strong bases in the province and that they are mostly operating on the outskirts of Kunduz city and in parts of Chahardara, Dasht-e-Archi and Qala-e-Zal districts. Government has control only over centers of the districts, the sources said.

Recently, government confirmed that nine districts are under the control of Taliban, but reports reveal that no steps have been taken to clear the areas. (Tolonews)

(8) 9 Schools Get...

A teacher of Pengram Secondary School, Sayed baiqra was happy about the facility and said absence of the walls left them under security threat beside the students were using the gap to flee. (Pajhwok)

(9) Hundreds ...

opened gunfire into the areon Monday. He claimed the rebels warned through loudspeakers residents against travelling the road.

"Now no one can travel the road. People are stranded on both sides," he said, adding passengers were worried about fresh fighting in the area, the man said, recalling they had encountered a similar situation last year.

The governor's spokesman, Naqibullah Atal, confirmed the road blockade but said security forces have arrived to reopen it as soon as possible. The highway blockade also closed roads to Dand-i-Patan, Chamkani, Janikhel, Zazai Aryub, Ahmadkhel, Laja Mangal and Mirzaki districts.

Last year also, the insurgents had blocked the highway for traffic for several days. The militants have not yet commented on the closure this time. (Pajhwok)

(10) Ghazni-Based...

Bismillah, another resident of the province, also said that private varsities were turned into business corporations. "I also got admission to a private university, but the quality of education there was really dismal. Now I have decided to appear exams for a night shift at a government university." Private universities prepared a few chapters and sold them for 300 afghanis to each student, he said, adding the universities were using many other ways of fleeing pupils.

Rahmatullah, another dweller of Ghazni, grumbled the degrees issued by private universities were not credible because such institutes were not registered with the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE).

He asked the government to take action to reform the private varsities to ensure high standards of education.

But Arif Noori, who recently received his bachelor from a private university, claimed the quality of education at private institutes was higher.

"Government universities are full of discrimination; we saw students fight over Pashto and

Dari languages in Herat University. Teachers there also do not reach classes in time," he said. But a student of Pashto literature at the Ghazni University, Asadullah, said government universities were offering education based on a plan and strategy. "We have problems in private universities, where lecturers don't come to classrooms in time and the quality of education is low."

Asadullah acknowledged most of lecturers at Ghazni University had received master's degrees and some of them had also doctorates to their credit.

However, Muslim Private University Chancellor Khairuddin Nisar rejected the complaints, "We realize a specific amount of money from students so as to pay salaries of lecturers and rent of university the building."

He said if anyone had evidence in support of their claim, they could share it with him for legal action. Currently, two government and three private universities are operating in the province.

Around 4,000 students including 500 girls are enrolled in government-run universities, with an equal number studying at private institutes. Students in other provinces also complain of low quality of education offered by private universities. (Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban Shadow...

cache of weapons was destroyed in air raids in Gerishk district. Among the dead was Mullah Mir Hamza, the Taliban local council's commission head.

But the Taliban claimed to have captured the Sangin district and killed security officials. (Pajhwok)

(12) Afghan Migrant...

The assailant found his way to Germany as a minor and had lived in Wuerzburg at a refugee camp in the town of Ochsenfurt. Recently he started living with a foster family, according to the website EuroChaos.

Police chased the youth and killed him when he fled the train at an emergency stop. The overnight attack happened on a train that runs between Treuchlingen and Wurzburg. (Pajhwok)

(13) Afghanistan ...

MAIL. Amaniyar linked the increase in honey production to professionalization of beekeepers.

According to Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Afghanistan imports 40% of its honey needs. Presently, Afghanistan imports honey from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, some European countries and the USA. Meanwhile ACCI voiced concerns at the substandard packaging and processing of honey in the country and considered it a deterrent to exports. (Agencies)

(14) 17 Dead...

was hit by floods in Khalbasat Bazaar area.

Hilal said a house collapsed due to floods in Zazai Maidan district, but the incident caused no casualties. The floods also caused casualties and financial losses in other areas of the province, he indicated. (Pajhwok)

(15) 2 Would-Be ...

Ali village of Bagram, confirmed receiving five wounded women. Three of them were discharged after being administered first medical aid, with the two others evacuated to a Kabul hospital. (Pajhwok)

(16) Border Police...

he was wounded but returned to his job after sometime. Nimroz security officials have opened an investigation into the incident, but no arrests have been made so far in connection with the double murder. (Pajhwok)

(17) Family and...

exchange when her father eloped with her step-mother, Taza Gul, and married off at 11 to one of Gul's close relatives to settle the matter. Her in-laws apparently felt Zahar had been too "urbanised" by the time she married into their family.

"No one paid attention to Zahra, even when she was stabbed, beaten and harassed. We lost her," Zahra's step-mother Gul, who herself was a victim of domestic violence before eloping with Azam, said.

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has urged the government to look into the incident and take action against the guilty.

However, according to Zahra's father, her in-laws are influential people. "The court works in their favour. The police headquarters and the provincial council office also are in their favour. Whatever they say, will be done by the judicial organs," Azam said.

The incident comes more than four years after 15-year-old Sahar Gul was rescued from her in-law's house after she refused to engage in prostitution. The incident had drawn attention from President Hamid Karzai after getting international coverage. (Agencies)

(18) Brexit Vote...

states was expected to hamper investment decisions either by delaying them or by taking them off the table, at least until the uncertainty diminishes.

While the bloc is struggling to fight the almost double-digit unemployment rate, unfortunately, the Brexit vote is predicted to slow the ongoing labor market recovery as increased risk aversion and subdued domestic demand would have a negative impact on firms' hiring decisions. (Xinhua)

(19) UN Criticizes...

In December 2015, nearly 200 countries adopted the Paris Agreement, the first global pact to jointly fight climate change, pledging to collectively cut greenhouse gas emissions, most of which come from the burning of oil, coal and gas for energy. (Xinhua)

(20) UN Chief's...

saying that Iran's ballistic missile launches "are not consistent with the constructive spirit" of the JCPOA. (Presstv)

(21) Obama Administration since 2010 and have children who are either American citizens or lawful permanent residents.

Despite the Justice Department's filing, the case is not expected to be reviewed by the Supreme Court until after U.S. President Barack Obama leaves office early next year at end of his eight-year term. (Xinhua)

(22) New Anti-HIV...

to a modified version of the RV144 regimen, the only HIV vaccine regimen to show efficacy to date. The original RV144 vaccine reduced the HIV infection rate among study participants in Thailand by 31 percent over 3.5 years.

"HVTN 100 used the same vaccines that RV144 tested, but made them specific to the Clade C subtype of HIV, which is widespread in Southern Africa. We also changed the adjuvant used with one of the vaccines, with the goal of eliciting a more powerful immune response, and added a booster injection to prolong the period of protection," said HVTN 100 Protocol Chair Linda-Gail Bekker, who is also Deputy Director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre in Cape Town and International AIDS Society President-Elect. (Xinhua)

(23) S.Korea Denounces...

ballistic missiles from the western region of Hwangju in North Hwanghae province between 5:45 a.m. and 6:40 a.m. local time, according to the JCS.

Those missiles are estimated to be a short-range Scud-type, but there is a possibility for medium-range Rodong ballistic missiles to be fired from a high angle to reduce a flight distance.

Two of the three projectiles traveled about 500 to 600 kilometers, which are a flight enough to reach the entire South Korean territory. The remaining one is still under analysis due to an unclear trajectory, the JCS official said. (Xinhua)

U.S.-Led Airstrikes Kill 56 Civilians in IS-Held Syrian Town

DAMASCUS - U.S.-led airstrikes are accused to have killed over 56 civilians in a besieged Syrian town near Turkey on Tuesday morning, according to a monitor group.

The "massacre" targeted Manbej, a town controlled by the Islamic State (IS) group in the northern countryside of Aleppo province.

The U.S.-led anti-terror coalition has been backing the rebels' Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to capture the town since last May, succeeding so far to lay a siege on the IS fighters and some 100,000 civilians in the town.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 11 children were among those killed when the airstrikes targeted the northern countryside of Manbej at dawn Tuesday.

The UK-based watchdog group had already raised the death toll of civilians by the U.S. coalition in Manbej to over 104, who it said were killed between May and July 18.

Manbej has a strategic importance to the U.S.-backed rebels due to its location near Turkey. Capturing Manbej would deprive IS from a key stronghold near Turkey. (Xinhua)

S.Korean Shares Fall 1st in 7 Sessions as Investors Take Breather

SEOUL - South Korean shares fell Tuesday, the first decline in seven sessions, as investors took a breather from recent gains, caused mainly by institutional investors selling more shares than buying.

The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) shed 4.22 points, or 0.21 percent, to settle at 2,016.89. Trading volume stood at 377 million shares worth 3.69 trillion won (3.24 billion U.S. dollars).

The main index got off a strong start, but turned downward as institutional investors dumped stocks to take a breather.

Market watchers said institutional selling came amid the KOSPI staying above the psychological level of 2,000 points recently, which triggered demand to lock in recent profits on views that stocks are overvalued.

Investors seemed to seek a wait-and-see mode ahead of major events from global central banks, including the European Central Bank (ECB) scheduled to hold a regular monetary policy meeting on Thursday. Rate-setting meetings by the U.S. Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan (BOK) are slated for next week.

Financial institutions dumped a net 415 billion won worth of stocks, but foreigners remained net buyers for a ninth straight session with stock purchases worth 306 billion won. Individual investors raised stock holdings by 117 billion won. (Xinhua)

10 Indian Paramilitary Commandos, 3 Naxals Killed in Bihar Attack

NEW DELHI - At least 10 paramilitary commandos of India's Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed and five others wounded after Naxals attacked them in eastern Indian state of Bihar, officials said Tuesday.

The Naxals ambushed the CRPF men Monday night triggering a series of blasts at Sondaha forest area bordering Gaya and Aurangabad districts, about 172 km south of Patna city, the capital of Bihar. Officials said three Naxals were killed in gunfight with the CRPF personnel in the area.

"Eight personnel were killed on the spot and two others died while being evacuated from the spot," an official said. "Five others wounded in the attack were hospitalised."

Reports said the paramilitary troopers belonged to the elite COBRA battalion of CRPF and were lured into the forest area. However, officials said the commandos were assisting another team that was searching part of the forest area following specific information about presence of Naxals there.

Authorities have rushed reinforcements to the forest area to take on Naxals and carry out searches.

Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Tuesday morning and assured him of federal government's support. Singh has also asked the CRPF chief to visit the spot and assess the situation. (Xinhua)

S.Korea's Producer Prices Rise for 3 Months on Higher Oil Price

SEOUL - Prices in South Korea among producers supplying goods and services rose for a third straight month last month due to higher crude oil prices, central bank data showed on Tuesday.

The producer price index (PPI), which is reflected in consumer prices with a certain time gap, stood at 99.01 in June, up 0.2 percent from the previous month, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It was the third consecutive month of gain after rising 0.3 percent in April and 0.1 percent in May each.

The upward momentum followed higher crude oil prices. Dubai crude, South Korea's benchmark, averaged 46.3 U.S. dollars per barrel in June, up from 35.2 dollars in March.

Industrial goods prices gained 0.5 percent in June from a month earlier. Prices for coal and oil products advanced 4.3 percent, with primary metal product prices climbing 1.9 percent. Prices for chemical products and electronics fell 0.4 percent and 0.1 percent each. (Xinhua)

Major GOP Party Leaders Sit out Trump's Coronation

CLEVELAND, the United States - Republican National Convention for the 2016 U.S. election kicked off on Monday with absence of high-profile party leaders as Donald Trump was scrambling to showcase his ability to unify the party.

Relations between Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, and party leaders were constantly strained during the chaotic primary season where the bombastic and bellicose candidate hurled insults at party establishment and alienated a wide swath of constituencies with controversial remarks.

Long before the GOP convention, lasting from July 18 to 21, four previous GOP presidential nominees, namely George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, John McCain and Mitt Romney had already announced that they would not attend the GOP national convention where Trump would be formally nominated as the party's standard-bearer.

While the two Bushes, the 41st and 43rd former U.S. president, did not attend the 2012 GOP convention in person, they appeared that year in recorded messages in which they showered praise on that year's GOP nominee Romney.

According to an earlier statement by Bush senior who endorsed every Republican presidential nominee for the past five election cycles, for the first time since his own presidency, the 41st U.S. president "is retired from politics," and had no plan to endorse Trump this year. (Xinhua)

UN Reports Calm, but Tense Situation in South Sudanese Capital

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) reported that the situation in Juba remains calm but tense, and the mission also reported instances of sporadic firing in Leer over the weekend, including near UNMISS' temporary operating base, a UN spokesman told reporters here Monday.

"Further to previous search operations for weapons at the UN Tamping compound, the mission reports that a similar exercise was conducted in the Protection of Civilians site 1 adjacent to UN House on 16 July," Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing here.

"The operation resulted in a number of items confiscated, including small arms and ammunition rounds, machetes and military uniforms."

Meanwhile, a total of 140 non-critical UNMISS staff have been temporarily relocated from Juba, Haq said. "The mission continues to carry out all its critical operations."

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also reported new arrivals into several of the sites for internally displaced people in Juba, including both UN sites (UN House and Tamping), he said.

The number of people displaced following the recent fighting is now estimated to be nearly 15,000, including more than 10,830 at the UNMISS sites and more than 4,100 outside, he said. "Humanitarian organisations continue to respond in several of the affected locations." (Xinhua)