

(1) Most Civilian ...

and common people were among the victims of these attacks, the gubernatorial spokesman said.

He believed the Taliban wanted to cut off people's cooperation with the government through their attacks and brutalities.

Provincial Council member Abdul Wali Wakeel said civilian casualties not only resulted from Taliban attacks but both the warring parties were complicit.

"I don't agree with the view that most of the civilian casualties are caused by Taliban attacks," the public representative said, calling civilian casualties as condemnable.

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid rejected the claims of Logar government officials and as untrue.

"We have never killed common people neither we take responsibility for mysterious killings. We kill government officials, about which the group has documents," said Mujahid.

One month back, UNAMA in its report said civilian casualties in Afghanistan increased during the current year. (Pajhwok)

(2) MPs Question ...

"We should get passed our personal interests and act upon our responsibilities and use our authorities, which have been defined by the law. If we had acted upon it, today Afghanistan would not have faced such a situation," said MP Saleh Mohammad Saleh.

"War is ongoing in every province and district of the country, but when they [security officials] are invited, they fail to provide us with a convincing response. The sons of this soil are martyred in the trenches daily, but they [security officials] talk about the issues which we cannot discuss right now," said Iqbal Safi, an MP from Kapisa.

"This time, we want clear answers to our questions so that we can improve the security situation in the country," the Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said.

In addition, the lawmakers threw strong criticism over the ongoing rift between the government leaders.

They asked the two leaders to resolve their disputes and avoid pushing the country into further crisis. (Tolonews)

(3) Turkmenistan ...

a large social and economic impact from the new route. Main construction and assembly work at the stations, engineering facilities, supporting infrastructure objects has been completed.

Turkmen and Afghan local builders together with the specialists of the Ukrainian company Altcom constructed two railway bridges on the highway over branches of wide Karakum River, at its very head. (Trend)

(4) Pakistan Has...

"How can we improve relations with Pakistan when it blocks our roads and arrest our citizens, including Sharbat Gula? Pakistan always takes steps that damage relations."

In a not-so-veiled assault on the Pakistani security establishment, he asked who created the Taliban. "We are not sheltering Maulana Fazlullah (the Pakistani Taliban chief).

"They (Pakistan) have pushed terrorists towards us. We have taken action against the militants, whose names were given to us after the Army Public School (APS) attack within..." The terrorists including Umar Naray, the main accused in the APS terrorist attack, were either handed over to Pakistan, the ambassador maintained.

On the other hand, the ex-finance minister said, Pakistan had come up with only empty statements in response to Afghanistan's request for action against the Haqqani network. Zakhilwal denied that India was using Afghan soil against Pakistan, saying such an observation was an insult to his nation that never indulged in activities against its neighbours. (Pajhwok)

(5) Ghani Warns ...

government will be with them. Meanwhile, the Attorney General Farid Hamidi said the persecutors continue to implement the law and the law will be implemented equally.

He added that access of women and children to justice is their top priority. (Tolonews)

(6) Abdullah Praises ...

issues. There is a lack of attention in coordination and assessing the problems of war management," Yarmand added.

This comes after the U.S Department of Defense announced last week that two senior al-Qaeda leaders including al Qahtani were targeted in airstrikes in eastern Kunar province on October 23. Al Qahtani had long served as one of al-Qaeda's top commanders in Afghanistan. Both of leaders reported to have been killed have been involved in al-Qaeda's efforts to strike the U.S and the West, according to the Pentagon.

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) also confirmed the death of the al-Qaeda leaders by sending a statement to media last week. (Tolonews)

(7) Watchdog Distressed

"The research indicates that issues such as security threats in different regions of the country are the main reasons for an increase in human smuggling, which shows government's failure. Government has failed to prevent the growth of mafia involved in human smuggling," the HRRAC chief Attaullah Khan said on Monday. Meanwhile, a number of Afghan civil society activists urged government to outline a working strategy that could help to curb the trend.

They said human smuggling is a big threat for Afghanistan compared with drug trafficking.

"UN statistics show that the income achieved from human smuggling is between \$8 and \$31 billion USD annually while the annual income of drug smugglers is not equal to this," said civil society activist Sher Khan Sahak.

"Crime investigation department of the Ministry of Interior so far has arrested dozens of smugglers who by exploiting travel companies and by making fake documents are involved in this trade and we have referred them to the legal and judicial institutions," said Jamaluddin, a member of the anti-trafficking committee of the interior ministry.

Statistics reveal that more than 300,000 Afghans left the country over the past two years with the majority of them using illegal routes run by human smugglers. (Tolonews)

(8) Iran Denies...

legitimate means to reach a regional agreement as part of the war against the American invasion," Zabihullah was quoted as saying. "The Imara (Taliban) holds ongoing networks with a large number of regional and neighboring states."

Qasemi, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson, dismissed the report, saying that Taliban claims are preplanned scenarios by the supporters of terrorism to spread Iranophobia.

"The Islamic republic has always been the forerunner in the fight against terrorist groups and has paid the due costs," Qasemi said. (Xinhua)

(9) Study Unveils ...

opportunities for families that have economic problems and we have done a lot in this respect in order to enable the people to get treatment of cardiac diseases inside the country," said Ashiq Khan Saadati, head of diagnostic services at the ministry. (Tolonews)

(10) Closure of 5 ...

without schools or with limited numbers of students. The classes have been introduced with the cooperation of welfare organisations.

The education department is trying to reopen closed schools. One school was reopened in Daman district this year. The department plans to reopen 30 more schools by the end of the current academic

year. Samimi said the absence of teachers and text books was a serious problem in reopening schools.

"The Kandahar education department is faced with an acute shortage of textbooks for the past four years. The Ministry of Education (MoE) provided only a million textbooks a few years ago," he said.

The spokesman added MoE was asked this year to provide two million textbooks to Kandahar schools, but only 270,000 had delivered so far as result of provincial council and education department efforts.

Philanthropist Hekmat Shadman contributed 550,000 afghanis to the cost of transporting the textbooks from Kabul to Kandahar, Samimi explained.

He said the books provided by MoE were transported to Pakistan-based schools for Afghan refugees, but they would be sent back to Kandahar.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees have since returned from Pakistan, but there is no need now for educational material being sent there.

Samimi said the shortage of schoolteachers was another major problem, as 1,500 more teachers were needed across the province.

However, 500 new teachers have been employed on a temporary basis to resolve the shortage. He added the absence of buildings for 80 percent of schools is another challenge to the department.

Of the 321 schools open, 190 have no buildings. Some schools without buildings even do not have tents.

The spokesman said the education department had requested MoE to construct buildings for schools. The ministry has promised constructing buildings only for 16 schools this year.

Residents of Kandahar called insecurity and negligence of the education department the causes of the poor education situation in the province.

They cited corruption in the education department as a major problem for the advancement of education.

Ghulam Sakhi Nooriwal, a resident of Kandahar City who has been watching the Kandahar education process for years, said it was regrettable that more schools were closed every year.

This situation proves that residents of rural areas are still not interested in educating their children. It is the responsibility of MoE to encourage the enrollment of more children and highlight the importance of knowledge through campaigns and awareness programs in districts, he suggested.

However, Nooriwal deplored MoE had paid little attention to the promotion of education in Kandahar over the past 16 years. A shortage of textbooks, absence of buildings for 190 schools and closure of 139 schools proved MoE's carelessness, he argued.

Abdul Wase Hasyal, another resident of Kandahar, also blamed the education department for paying no attention to promoting education. He said foreign forces based in Kandahar and some international organisations supported the cause of education in early years of the new government.

However, he alleged international assistance had not been utilized for promoting education in the province. The aid had instead ended up in pockets of powerful individuals, he said.

There are 460 schools across Kandahar, with 321 open. As many as 270,000 students are enrolled there. Registan and Shurabak districts do not have even a single school functioning.

According to a survey conducted by the Kandahar University, only 18 percent of children and youth in the province have access to education. (Pajhwok)

(11) Sharbat Gula...

The team assured me of her situation, her living place and has paved her release as well and she will be bailed out to-

morrow, Insha'Allah." Sharbat Gula hails from Tora Bora area of Pachiragarm district of eastern Nangarhar province. She a few years ago repatriated to her home country, but the reason why she again started residing in Peshawar is yet to be known. Sharbat Bibi's photo has been likened with Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa. National Geographic also made a short documentary about her life and dubbed her the 'Mona Lisa of Afghan war'.

She remained anonymous for years after her first photo made her an icon around the world until she was discovered by National Geographic in 2002.

Sharbat Gula lost her parents during the Soviet invasion and migrated to Pakistan in 1984 along with her brother, three sisters and grandmother. (Tolonews)

(12) Senior Maiwand...

night clash between insurgents and security forces.

Without saying anything about Anwarul Haq, Zwak said at least eight Taliban insurgents were killed and several others wounded during the clash.

He also acknowledged the injuring of two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers in the clash.

There has been so far no word from insurgents. (Pajhwok)

(13) 9 Dead, 19 ...

to be in stable condition. But Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, spokesman for the hospital, was unaware about the incident.

He, however, said two people were killed and 15 others wounded in separate traffic accidents in Herat City, the provincial capital, and districts. (Pajhwok)

(14) 5 Parwan...

including those who had committed serious crimes such as murders were quickly addressed because they had money and approach. "We don't have money or any reference. We are left in a corner of the jail and there is no one to decide our fate," he said. (Pajhwok)

(15) Efforts on ...

snarls in Jalalabad city. The presence of around 9,000 rickshaws on Jalalabad roads was another major factor creating traffic problems in the city, he added.

In addition to creating traffic problems, rickshaws are also harmful for air, he said, adding they tried to somehow control or limit the number of rickshaws in the city. Sadat also complained about a shortage of staff at his department and said the issue needed to be decisively resolved.

If all relevant organs and residents of the city cooperated with the traffic department, it would help reduce traffic problems in Jalalabad, he said. About corruption, he said he would be responsible if any evidence was made available about corruption in his office. (Pajhwok)

(16) UNICEF Report ...

added that indoor pollution is commonly caused by use of fuels like coal and wood for cooking and heating, which mostly affects children in low-income and rural areas. UNICEF said in the report that measures should be taken by all countries to monitor and reduce air pollution, minimize children's exposure to air pollution and increase their access to healthcare. (Xinhua)

(17) Iraqi Forces...

had inched to the eastern fringes of Mosul, and were making progress on other routes around the city, preparing for a major battle to storm the city and drive out IS militants. On Oct. 17, Abadi announced the start of a major offensive to retake Mosul, the country's second largest city. (Xinhua)

(18) US Political...

director for making the announcement just 11 days before the U.S. election, saying he effectively favored one party over another. Democrats fear Republican candidate, Donald Trump, will gain fresh

momentum from the discovery as the Nov. 8 vote nears.

QUOTE WORTHY: "From the perspective of the financial markets, a win for Clinton is the preferred outcome as it is seen as 'business as usual' from a policy perspective and investors would see little reason to believe that the underlying trends in the economy or the direction of monetary and fiscal policy would materially change," said Neil MacKinnon, global macro strategist at VTB Capital. (AP)

(19) UN Seeks...

there will be opportunities for companies but also for countries to make progress and to drive prosperity."

He said the idea of sustainable transport systems that focus on the mobility of people and goods must come in a way that is environmentally, socially and economically viable.

When it comes to road transport, Lundstedt said it requires innovation on new technologies such as electric mobility, automation, energy efficiency solutions. (Xinhua)

(20) Australia's Justice...

enforcement relationship, and China is an important partner for us in the region," the minister's statement said.

To date, cooperation with China on law enforcement has achieved some significant outcomes including stopping illegal narcotics and precursors from reaching our streets. As part of my visit, I will meet with our key counterparts to pursue opportunities for further collaboration, the justice minister said. (Xinhua)

(21) Rajoy Sworn...

this month, renounced his seat as a deputy in order to avoid having to abstain and to launch a campaign to return as party leader. (Xinhua)

(22) Turkey Detains ...

state of emergency imposed following a failed military coup in July to clamp down not only on the alleged coup plotters but on all government critics.

A statement from the Istanbul chief prosecutor's office said those detained were suspected of "committing crimes" on behalf of the movement led by U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen - accused by the government of masterminding the coup attempt - as well as the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK.

While they are not accused of membership in the Gulen movement or the PKK, there are "claims" and "proof" that shortly before the July 15 coup attempt, the suspects published content that attempted to legitimize the coup, the statement said. Gulen, who lives in the United States, has denied any involvement in the coup attempt. (AP)

(23) Spain, Canada...

and most members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The treaty was signed in March 1992 and took effect at the beginning of 2002. (Xinhua)

(24) Pakistani Police...

Khan had warned Sunday that the government would extend protocol to Khattak if he arrived in the capital formally but that he would be dealt with strictly if he led the protesters. On Monday, a Pakistani court barred Khan's followers from demonstrating on Islamabad streets, restricting the rally to within the limits of a city park, said government prosecutor Saddique Awan. As of last week, the government has already enforced a two-month ban on street rallies in the capital. (AP)

(25) Turkmenistan's ...

actively involved on the Turkmen market in sectors such as auto and industrial machinery, telecommunications, and in the oil and gas business. Around 190 companies working with Russian capital operate in Turkmenistan. In 2009, Russia's ATERL, previously operating under the ITERA brand, signed a production sharing agreement with Turkmenistan over an offshore sector of the Caspian Sea. (Monitoring Desk)

HK, Japan Customs Implement Mutual Recognition Arrangement

HONG KONG - The Hong Kong-Japan Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programs will become operational with effect from Monday, the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department said in a press release on the government website.

The move signifies a milestone in the co-operation between Hong Kong and Japan Customs in promoting international supply chain security as well as facilitating secure and efficient global trade, the department said.

The department signed the MRA with the Customs Administration of Japan in Hong Kong in August 2016. Under the MRA, both administrations recognize the compatibility of the supply chain security measures implemented by companies certified under the Hong Kong and Japan AEO Programs, and provide clearance facilitation to the AEOs of the other side, such as reduced examination or prioritized clearance.

This is the fourth MRA that the department has put into full implementation following those with the South Korea, Chinese Mainland and Singapore Customs.

The facilitation measures under the Hong Kong-Japan AEO MRA not only help local companies strengthen their trade competitiveness and marketability in overseas markets but also bring more business opportunities to the import/export and logistics industries, thereby sustaining Hong Kong's long-term economic development. (Xinhua)

EU, Canada Sign Landmark Free Trade Deal after Belgian Drama

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) and Canada signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, or CETA, on Sunday in the wake of a weeks-long Belgian drama.

European Council President Donald Tusk, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker together with Robert Fico, Prime Minister of Slovakia which is holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, signed the long-delayed free trade deal with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a ceremony held in Brussels.

Hailing CETA as "the most comprehensive, ambitious and progressive trade agreement ever negotiated" by both Canada and the EU, a joint declaration released after the ceremony said the deal would open a new dimension to EU-Canada economic ties. The two sides committed to the swift provisional implementation of CETA while ensuring all stakeholders, including employers, trade unions, consumer and environmental groups, participate in the ongoing implementation.

"We remain fully committed to the principle that trade agreements should fully preserve the ability of governments to regulate in the public interest, especially with regard to public services as well as environmental and labour protections," the declaration said.

The deal comes with a binding joint interpretative instrument, which has legal status and will serve as an authentic interpretation of CETA, to explain what the provisions mean in practice. (Xinhua)