

(1) 800 Pul-i-...

Charkhi jail.

"Some prisoners have been convicted in two criminal cases, their term in one case is over but not in the second case," he said.

Death row prisoners
Senator Nader Baloch said 440 death row prisoners being held at the Pul-I-Charkhi jail complained their fate remained unknown for years.

The prisoners had requested their sentences be changed into longer-term imprisonment because they had already spent several years in the prison, he said.

Lt. Gen. Abdul Halim Kohistani said currently around 650 death row inmates were kept in the country's jails.

His department had asked judiciary organs to change the death penalty to long-term jail of those inmates who had spent six to seven years in prison.

Prisoners with incurable diseases Meshrano Jirga member, Nader Baloch said 144 prisoners at Pul-I-Charkhi jail were infected with incurable diseases.

Some of such inmates who should have been released had died inside the jail, he said.

Mohammad Hanif Hanafi, head of complaints hearing commission of Meshrano Jirga, and head of the delegation, said that the government should look into prisoners' cases in accordance with the law.

Halim Kohistani said decision about the 144 inmates infected with incurable diseases lied with judicial organs. (Pajhwok)

(2) War in ...

Murtazavi said. "Now, the government has to include in the next year budget the funding to recover the losses. There are also homeless people and refugees who need financial support. This compensation is a heavy burden that the government and the people have to bear," he concluded. (Sputnik)

(3) 7 Graft-Tainted ...

he said, "he embezzled hundred thousands of dollars allocated for five schools. We have prepared his dossier which will be discussed with engineers and then the court will decide." The duties of all the accused had been suspended but they resumed duties after assurances, he said. Their cases would be decided after investigations into their crimes were ... (More on P4)... (3) completed.

About administration of his office, Hashemi said all activities in the court were well organized and people's problems addressed in a short period of time.

"I personally ask everyone who refer to us about our services, if any officer creates problems for a client, we decisively asses that," he said.

On the other hand, provincial education director, Allah Daad Ismailzai, rejected corruption claims against him and said the cases belonged to two other officers of his department.

The High Teachers Training Center head for Nangarhar could not be reached for comment about charges against him. (Pajhwok)

(4) Concerns Raised ...

another member of the joint team of Afghan civil societies.

"The culprits of war crimes must be sentenced, but this never happens. It is not about the past six months, but over the years that fight has been ongoing, such crimes have been committed and those who did the crimes were never sentenced over their wrong actions," said Rasuli, another member of the joint team of Afghan civil societies. (Tolonews)

(5) Taliban to ...

in Badghis province.

Gen. Waziri appeared in a press conference to update the media following a deadly clash in Kunduz on Thursday that left around 30 civilians dead.

Blaming the Taliban group for the civilian casualties, Gen. Waziri said the group continues to use the civilians as human shield and the group's leaders and fighters are even reckless regarding their own family members.

According to Waziri, several family members of the Taliban group leaders were among those killed as the Afghan forces called for air support amid fierce clash.

The operation on Thursday was launched as the Taliban group leaders had gathered for a meet-

ing to launch a fresh attack on Kunduz city. (KP)

(6) Australian ...

affecting Afghans more often than foreigners, with ransom often the motive.

However, there have been several abductions of foreign aid workers, including at least two Australians this year alone.

Kerry Jane Wilson, who was abducted from the office of a charity in the eastern city of Jalalabad in April, was freed in August. Another Australian, working as a teacher at the American University in Kabul, was kidnapped with an American colleague in August. (Reuters)

(7) Pakistan Backtracks ...

Khattak to not deport Gula.

KP's home department, following the decision, has also stopped implementation of the decision to deport her, the news article stated.

The decision was taken on humanitarian grounds and as a goodwill gesture towards Afghanistan, Dawn News reported. This comes after Amnesty International said on Friday the deportation of Gula from Pakistan was a grave injustice.

"Pakistan's decision to deport Sharbat Gula is a grave injustice. For decades, she was known as the world's most famous refugee and seen as a symbol of Pakistan's status as a generous host. Now, by sending her back to a country she hasn't seen in a generation and her children have never known, her plight has become emblematic of Pakistan's cruel treatment of Afghan refugees," said Amnesty International's South Asia Director Champa Patel.

Earlier Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal stated on his facebook page: "With utmost delight, I announce that Sharbat Gula is now free from the legal troubles she endured over the past couple of weeks. She soon will also be free from an uncertain life of a refugee as she will be on her way back to her own country as soon as next Monday where she still is a beloved image and a national icon." Pakistani authorities claim the arrest was due to her having had a fake ID.

A court in Peshawar on Wednesday rejected her bail application and she was sentenced to 15 days in prison, a fine and deportation. Gula was 12 when photographer Steve McCurry captured his iconic image of her living in a refugee camp for Afghan nationals in Peshawar, Pakistan. Her image was first used on the cover of National Geographic.

The decision was taken on humanitarian grounds and as a goodwill gesture towards Afghanistan.

During a bail hearing before a special court earlier this week, Gula's lawyer said she is the sole bread winner of her family and is currently suffering from Hepatitis C.

Earlier in the week, a special anti-corruption and immigration court in Peshawar ordered the deportation of Gula after she serves a 15-day jail sentence and pays a fine of Rs110,000. (Tolonews)

(8) Taliban Order ...

in the school taught by 18 teachers, he said, adding efforts are underway to reopen the school. Haji Gulab, a resident of Dadukhel village in Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, said the school was located between an ALP post and Taliban militants.

"Police and Taliban often clash in the area, parents are also not interested in sending their children to the school in such a situation and now Taliban have warned against the school's opening," he said

But a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the fighters had not created any problems for schools in any part of the country.

"The school is possibly closed by Taliban in order to prevent civilian casualties, but I will investigate about it," Muhajid said. In the past one month, unidentified gunmen twice planted bombs in the gate of the school, but they were defused before exploding.

As many as 308 educational centers exist in Logar, where 40,000 students including 50,000 girls are studying. (Pajhwok)

(9) ANA Helicopters...

and the rest taken by Taliban insurgents, Khushal said.

However, 205th Atal Military Corps Commander in Uruzgan, Gen. Ghulam Hazrat Kakar, rejected the district chief's claim and said all ammunition had been directly dropped to Afghan forces.

There was no word from Taliban about the incident. (Pajhwok)

(10) Peshawar-Torkham as saying the attack left one security personnel dead and three others wounded.

On Sunday morning, security forces closed the Peshawar-Torkham road against traffic for several hours.

Eyewitnesses said security forces conducted a house to house search operation after the attack. The road closure left hundreds of vehicles of passengers and Afghan refugees stranded.

Raees Ahmad, who wanted to travel to Peshawar from Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had to return to Jalalabad from Torkham after being told of the road closure.

But the Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, said the Peshawar-Torkham road had been reopened.

Afghan border police official Azam Shinwari also said the road had been reopened. (Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban Notorious...

in Abdullahke area of Achin district.

Provincial police spokesman, Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraqiwal identified the detainee as Jinad and Jan Mohammad and said both had Pakistani identity cards and belonged to Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

On the other hand, a statement from Nangarhar police headquarter said five roadside bombs planted by militants in Sargardan Chawk area of Bati Kot district.

Another statement from governor's house of Nangarhar said that three machines, two pistols and a gun were seized discovered in the outskirts of the sixth police district of Jalalabad city, the provincial capital.

Taliban did not comment on the incidents yet. (Pajhwok)

(12) Badakhshan ...

and rainfall in winter.

Ahmad Khan, a gardener in Darayam district, said: "Last year I earned 200,000 afghanis by selling pistachio, but this year I collected only 14kg of the fruit." Haji Abdul Rahim, another orchard owner in Yaftal district, expressed concern over the low production of pistachio. "Our livelihood depends on pistachio production but this year the harvest was meager. Pistachio forests badly need snow and water, but unfortunately drought in winter damaged the trees."

According to agriculture department officials, pistachio forests are located in Kasham, Tagab, Darayam, Argo, Yaftal Payan, Shahr-i-Bozurg, Yawan, Nasi, Mayami, Shaki, Kof-i-Aab and Khwahan-i-Badakhshan districts.

Nearly 150,000 hectares of land are under pistachio farms, including 151 hectares artificially cultivated in 1386 solar year. (Pajhwok)

(13) Iraq Forces ...

southeastern neighbourhood of Intisar, an AFP correspondent reported, as forces attempted to increase their footprint in eastern Mosul.

They first entered the streets of Mosul on Friday and were met with what one officer described as stiffer than expected resistance from IS jihadists. (AFP)

(14) Donald Trump..

further details, saying an investigation was ongoing.

A man in a blue hoodie was tackled before being escorted out by law enforcement and being held in a bathroom inside the venue. The man was reportedly released later and no charge was filed against him.

Trump returned to the stage unharmed about five minutes later and continued to finish his speech. (Xinhua)

(15) Germany's Social...

told the newspaper. Migrants who earn enough to support a family would be allowed to bring spouses and children. But migrants accepted under the new scheme would be excluded from receiving welfare and other social benefits for the first five years

after entering Germany, unless they had paid in enough contributions.

The proposal comes as Germany reassesses its immigration policies after the influx of nearly 900,000 migrants last year, most fleeing war and violence in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, and struggles to fill jobs given its aging workforce. (Reuters)

(16) Turkey's ...

outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union and Turkey. (Xinhua)

(17) Plan to Ban...

in 2056 - it's just ridiculous," Shorten told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Sunday.

"We see no signs that the government has got any resettlement plans to conclude. I thought maybe this might be part of an architecture of a bigger, but they've rushed out and denied that." (Xinhua)

(18) 39 People

leaving ten people killed and ten others wounded, the source said. The blast set fire to several nearby cars and caused damages to many others at the scene, the source added.

Early in the day, gunmen believed to be affiliated to Islamic State (IS) militant group, broke into the house a tribal leader in Tulul al-Baj area, some 5 km north of Tikrit, and opened fire in the house and killed 16 people, the source said.

The killed people were the tribal leader himself and ten of his family members, along with five people who happened to be at his house as guests, the source added. (Xinhua)

(19) Donald Trump

saying an investigation was ongoing.

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Trump returned to the stage unharmed about five minutes later and continued to finish his speech. (Xinhua)

(20) Bilawal Urges...

Minister Sardar Mohammad Bux Mahar and Ali Nawaz Mahar - and discussed with them the local political situation and problems of the district. (Monitoring Desk)

Kurdish-Led Forces Declare Battle to Liberate Al-Raqqa from IS

DAMASCUS - The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced Sunday the beginning of a military campaign against Syria's northern city of al-Raqqa, the de facto capital of the Islamic State (IS) group.

"We in the general command of the Syrian Democratic Forces are breaking the good news to you about the beginning of our major military campaign to liberate the city of al-Raqqa and its countryside from the clutches of the forces of darkness represented by Daesh (IS)," an SDF statement read.

The military campaign, dubbed "The Euphrates Rage," started on Saturday evening in cooperation and coordination with the U.S.-led anti-terror coalition, it added.

It said that a joint operations room has been formed to lead and coordinate the campaign for al-Raqqa.

The SDF, meanwhile, urged the regional and international powers that have been affected by the IS to take part in the "honor to eliminate the core of the international terrorism" represented by the IS by providing all kinds of support to the SDF.

The SDF move toward al-Raqqa will surely raise the ire of Turkey, which has recently asked the U.S. to put the offensive on al-Raqqa on hold till the liberation of the battle against IS in its second stronghold in Mosul Iraq. (Xinhua)

Turkish President Praises Frequent High-Level Contacts with China

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday lauded frequent high-level exchanges with China, saying they are important in promoting bilateral ties as well as communication and coordination between the two countries.

In his meeting with visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang in Istanbul, Erdogan spoke of his last talks with President Xi Jinping in early September on the sidelines of the G20 summit in eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, in which the Turkish leader said an important understanding was reached with Xi and a strategic planning was mapped out for the development of Turkey-China relations. The Turkish leader also referred to Wang's meeting with Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek in Ankara a day earlier, when the two co-chaired the first meeting of a governmental cooperation committee mechanism of deputy prime ministerial level between their countries.

Noting that Turkey and China had agreed to deepen cooperation on security and counterterrorism, Erdogan pledged more efforts to address properly Beijing's concerns in this regard. He voiced hope for boosted cooperation on tourism, investment and mega projects to promote bilateral trade in a balanced way, as Turkey and China boast huge potential for economic and trade cooperation. He also pledged support for the Belt and Road Initiative, expressing readiness to join hands with China to revive the ancient Silk Road. (Xinhua)

Yemen Group Says Conduct in Taiz Amounts to War Crimes

SANAA, Yemen - A human rights group in Yemen says the fighting in the southern city of Taiz amounts to war crimes.

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights says in a report Sunday that violations by the warring parties there have killed or wounded hundreds of civilians. The fighting over Taiz, Yemen's third largest city, is part of an ongoing civil war pitting the Saudi-backed government against Shiite Houthi rebels and security forces loyal to a former president. A Saudi-led coalition has been bombing the Houthis and their allies since March 2015.

The Houthis have besieged Taiz since March. Taiz residents say more than 1,600 civilians have been killed.

The rights group's head, Radhya al-Mutawakel, said the violations in Taiz "amount to war crimes." (AP)

Assad Says West Growing Weaker in Syria

LONDON - President Bashar al-Assad claimed Western powers are "becoming much weaker" in Syria, in a confident interview published in The Sunday Times.

"In the past if I said anything, people would say the Syrian president is disconnected from reality. Now it's different. The West is becoming much weaker," told the British weekly.

"They don't have a leg to stand on explaining to people what's going on.

"Isis (the Islamic State group) was smuggling oil and using Iraqi oilfields under American satellites and drones to make money, and the West was not saying anything. "Whereas here the Russians interfered and Isis started to shrink in every sense of the word."

Assad acknowledged the key role played by Russian airstrikes, saying: "What made the difference, of course, was firepower. They have firepower we don't have."

He added: "At the end we were fighting an unlimited reserve of terrorists coming to Syria and we struggled, so Russian firepower and Iranian support has compensated."

However, he said of the Russians: "They never try to interfere because they don't want anything from us. They don't ask us to be a puppet president."

Assad also confirmed his determination to crush rebel forces in Aleppo, the one-time economic powerhouse that has been under a three-month government siege.

"Aleppo is an issue where terrorists have occupied part of the city, and we need to get rid of them," he said. (AFP)

US-Backed Syrian Rebels Declare Attack on Islamic State in Raqqa

AIN ISSA, Syria - U.S.-backed rebels said on Sunday they were launching an operation to retake the Syrian city of Raqqa, the de facto capital of Islamic State.

The attack ratchets up pressure on the militant group at a critical moment, with its fighters already battling an offensive by Iraqi security forces on their remaining Iraqi stronghold in the northern city of Mosul.

The U.S.-backed Syria Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of Kurdish and Arab armed groups, first announced on Sunday that a campaign to retake Raqqa would begin within hours, with U.S. forces providing air cover. Soon afterwards, it said that the operation, called Euphrates Anger, had begun.

"The general command of the Syria Democratic Forces announces the blessed start of its major military campaign to liberate the city of Raqqa," Jehan Sheikh Amad, an SDF spokeswoman, told a news conference in the Syrian town of Ain Issa.

The SDF called on Raqqa's civilians to avoid areas where Islamic State militants are present and to go to "liberated territory".

An attack on Raqqa has been long expected, with U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter saying on Oct. 25 that the battle to retake it would "overlap" with the assault on Mosul.

The top U.S. military commander in Iraq, Army Lieutenant General Stephen Townsend, said last month that the U.S.-led coalition fighting Islamic State wanted to move urgently to isolate Raqqa because of concerns about the group using the city as a base to plan and launch attacks against targets abroad. (Reuters)

Clinton Asks Supporters to 'Imagine' America if Trump Wins

DETROIT - Hillary Clinton asked a couple of thousand supporters on Friday afternoon. "And imagine that my opponent is taking the oath of office in front of the Capitol."

Her fans bood.

"Imagine having a president who demeans women and mocks the disabled, who insults African-Americans and Latinos and Muslims, who personally engages in busting unions and preventing people from having the right to bargain collectively," she continued as her supporters bood more.

As Clinton's lead has shrunk just a few days before Election Day, she has started describing a potential Donald Trump presidency in more vivid detail to voters in battleground states. At event after event, Clinton is leading her supporters through visualization exercises - walking them through Trump's winning on Tuesday, their feelings of disappointment the next day, his inauguration, and eventually Trump's settling into the Oval Office. "What would your life be like if he were in the White House?" Clinton asked earlier this week in Las Vegas before arguing that a wide swath of America would see a worse quality of life under a President Trump. (Reuters)