

**(1) WJ Dismisses ...**

Patched together with U.S. backing after accusations of electoral fraud on both sides, the government was supposed to have overseen fresh parliamentary elections and a constitutional grand council to re-establish political legitimacy.

However, a two-year deadline has passed with none of the promised steps taken, leaving question marks over the future of the government at a time when political uncertainty is already being stoked by rising ethnic tensions. (Reuters)

**(2) Nearly 400...**

In 2015, about 20 million infants missed their measles shots and an estimated 134,000 children died from the disease. (Xinhua)

**(3) New Anti...**

three-judge panel at the Kabul court hearing.

The government has said it would pursue dozens of cases of corruption involving senior government officials, but has not provided any names.

"There are more cases under investigation at this center and as soon as the investigation of those cases is over the ACJC will announce its decision," said Jamshid Rasouli, spokesman for the attorney general's office, on the sidelines of the small courtroom packed with media, civil society organizations and diplomats.

Ghani is under pressure to step up the fight against endemic corruption as international donors demand more results in return for billions of dollars in foreign aid.

Michael Hartmann, chief of the rule of law unit at the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, welcomed the start of the court hearings, saying it showed that Kabul's anti-graft fight was a top priority.

Afghanistan is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, ranked 166th out of 168 nations by watchdog group Transparency International. U.S. officials say the problem undermines its fight against the Taliban.

U.S. senators in September warned that failure to address corruption could lead Washington to rethink its annual spending of around \$5 billion per year in Afghanistan. (Reuters)

**(4) EU Says Working...**

community's confidence in the Government's ability to further improve its budget execution. In this context, in accordance with the constitution, Parliament has an important role to play.

However, the Government should now be given sufficient time to take the agreed actions. This will need the support of all Afghan political actors cooperating in the interest of the Afghan people.

It is imperative that, at a time of grave political, economic and security challenges, all Afghans stand together and that the government can continue to deliver on Afghanistan's commitments made in both Brussels and Warsaw. (PR)

**(5) Taliban Demand...**

ransom for releasing the demining workers.

"We repeatedly sent delegations to Taliban to release the men, but they demanded payment of money before releasing them," he said.

Hamid said the Sterling Global Operations had paid \$10,000 to Taliban militants for releasing its workers, but the Taliban said they had not received the money. Efforts are underway to rescue the abductees without a deal, he said.

A member of the delegation negotiating with Taliban, who wished not to be named, said, "We have been in talks with Taliban over the several days, but the Taliban yesterday told us they would not release the workers until they receive some money." However, he did not provide more details about the issue.

But Taliban militants rejected the allegation. A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the Sterling Global Operations workers had not been kidnapped by Taliban.

"Some groups misuse the name of Taliban and are involved in such issues, if we find them we would also punish them," he said.

Mujahid said the Taliban had signed an agreement with Sterling Global Operations organi-

zation, allowing its workers to operate in Logar province.

It was the fifth time that Sterling Global Operations' workers have been kidnapped in Logar, but they were released after spending some time in captivity. (Pajhwok)

**(6) UN Suspends ...**

voluntary repatriation programme, Shahzad told Daily Times.

"We have repatriated as many as 304,881 registered refugees from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 36,139 from Punjab, 28,132 from Balochistan, 5,449 from Islamabad, 2,690 from Sindh, and 458 from Azad Kashmir as of November 2016," he said.

The repatriation was at its peak during the last three months. In November, he said, 43,932 were repatriated. October, The UN-HCR's mandate in Pakistan only covers registered Afghan refugees, with valid Proof of Registration (PoR) cards. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Officials Fired ...**

retained their original jobs based on their political and personal relations with influential figures, he said.

He said these security officials again did not do their jobs properly or were not qualified and that they were the main reason for parts of the city falling to the Taliban.

The council warned that if officials who do not carry out their duties as required are not punished, the city will fall to the Taliban for the third time.

"I think one of the reasons for the second crisis in Kunduz is the security officials who was fired and then returned to their jobs based on relations," Hashimi said.

Meanwhile, Kunduz provincial council criticized the reappointment of these officials and said they must be brought to justice.

"The fact-finding team had fired 21 people and I think they were reappointed and then the crisis happened once again," said Safiullah Amiri, a member of Kunduz provincial council.

The 808 Spinzar Zone police meanwhile said they have started investigations in to the allegations. (Tolonews)

**(8) Drug Control ...**

police officers in three levels of basic, intermediate and advanced are to be dispatched to Iran and this one is the second round, he added.

He noted that high-ranking officers will be dispatched for the third round.

He reiterated that Iran and Afghanistan have close relations in fighting narcotic drugs. (Reuters)

**(9) Kabul Not ...**

panel, asked what about steps had been taken to stop cellular signals spilling over from Afghanistan into Pakistan.

Another lawmaker, Kalsoom Parveen, referred to cases of misuse, citing extortion calls made from Afghan phone networks to Pakistani traders, industrialists and some important figures.

In response, Shah said that Afghan SIMs had been banned inside Pakistan. "The only SIMs Afghans are using in the country are the ones sold by local cellular mobile companies, processed through the biometric SIM verification system (BVS)." (Pajhwok)

**(10) Govt. Accused ...**

meanwhile said that these claims are made due to personal disagreements and said the claims are in contradiction of the survey paper collected from the observers.

The institutions overseeing election processes said that the selection committee has received more than 100 complaints from applicants who applied for the election commissions, but they did not respond to them.

Also the names of the 700 hundred applicants who applied for the election commissions have not yet been made public. (Tolonews)

**(11) 4 Killed ...**

of Kabul, has been serving as a main U.S. military base in Afghanistan over the past 15 years. Earlier on Saturday, a provincial government spokesman told Xinhua that the nature of the blast was a suicide bombing.

"The initial probes found that a man disguised as a daily worker made his way to pass the first checkpoint of the base and detonated his explosive jacket inflict-

ing casualties," spokesman Wahid Seddiqi told Xinhua.

As the identities of the casualties were not immediately known, unofficial sources said the victims were local workers who were waiting to pass through a gate.

The blast occurred at about 5:30 a.m. local time, according to RS. "Response teams at Bagram continue to treat the wounded and investigate the incident," the RS statement said.

Zabiullah Mujahid, a purported Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the attack. He tweeted that the attack was part of the insurgent's yearly rebel offensive.

On Thursday night, four Afghan security forces and three militants were killed and more than 130 residents wounded in a Taliban suicide truck bombing and ensuing gunfight against German Consulate office in northern Mazar-e-Sharif city. (Xinhua)

**(12) Iran Supports...**

has increased during the recent years.

The former Afghan intelligence chief said the Taliban group continues to receive support from Pakistan and the Red Brigade of the Taliban group continues to its insurgency with modern equipment in their custody.

Nabil said the group's Red Brigade is mainly fighting in western and southern parts of the country, including Helmand, Farah, and Uruzgan provinces.

The remarks by Nabil came as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for supporting the Afghan militant groups, specifically the Taliban and Haqqani terrorist network by providing them safe havens in its soil.

Iran has also been occasionally accused of providing equipment to the Afghan militant groups in the country. (KP)

**(13) Islamabad, ...**

the injured," the Foreign Office in Islamabad said in a statement. Pakistan also expressed its sympathies with the German government, reiterating its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry also condemned the Taliban attack on the German mission. A spokesman for the ministry, Bahram Qassemi, expressed condolences to the families of victims. He went on to remind the international community of its responsibility to combat terrorism and brutal activities by militant groups in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Parallel Anti...**

Supreme Audit Office (SAO) are the institutions that have been created to eliminate corruption. In addition to this, the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) is another department - under the command of the president - to fight corruption.

A number of these institutions also said that parallel institutions are a reason that some cases of corruption are not being investigated properly.

"In the past it was a serious problem. Often the authorities of the institutions were not specified. An institution processed a case for a period and then submitted it to another institution for further investigation. Since the case was not investigated and processed properly, then many challenges were in place," said Omid Sharifi, media officer of the MEC.

President Ashraf Ghani has however always insisted that he will remove parallel institutions in the country. However, this has not yet happened.

"The HOOC has a responsibility to gather the information and evidence about the corrupt people and corrupt cases. And that the execution responsibility belongs to ACJC to fight corruption," said Dawa Khan Menapal, deputy spokesman for the president.

Elimination of corruption is one of the main commitments of the national unity government (NUG) to make sure Afghanistan donors continue their support. (Tolonews)

**(15) Huge Irrigation...**

was part of the delegation, said that the area for project implementation had already been surveyed by foreign experts and specialists.

But he said the delegation want-

ed to hear irrigation problems of residents of the four districts and determine the cost and route of the project.

Zamir said that the president had pledged implementing major projects in the country at the Brussels Conference. The project's funding source would be known later on, he said.

At a meeting with livestock owners in Andkhoy, Zamir was informed about the absence of pastures and veterinary clinics in their areas. "We promised livestock owners in the districts that their problems would be resolved in the near future."

Andkhoy district chief, Sultan Sangjar, welcomed the irrigation project and said around 500,000 people lived in Andkhoy, Khan Charbagh, Qorghon and Qaramqol.

He said implementation of the project would generate job opportunities for a large number of people. "The project would also prevent our youths from travelling to neighbouring countries in search of work or joining militants," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Police Urged ...**

that time," said

"Government is responsible to ensure our safety. We witness a crime incident almost every day. We are tired of the surge in crime in this area," said Ali, another resident of Khairkhana.

Meanwhile, Fraidoon Obaidi, head of the crime investigation department of the Kabul police, said the crime has not increased as much as claimed by the residents.

"I think a number of Khairkhana residents have said this based on their emotions. According to our information, only one crime incident has occurred over the past week," he added. (Tolonews)

**(17) Daesh Loses...**

bomb in the morning. He blamed the militants for planting the landmine.

But the rebels have not yet commented on any of the incidents. Meanwhile, area resident Israrullah told Pajhwok that six civilians were wounded in the explosion. One of the injured was in critical condition, he said. (Pajhwok)

**(18) Waziristan...**

we are only the mercy of God." Some other refugees expressed similar views. However, the provincial refugees and repatriation department head, Mohammad Saleem Qazikhel, claimed the Waziristani immigrants were assisted every month through an organized plan.

"We every month provide them food and non-food items. The refugees' number is large and sometimes the aid takes time to reach them." Qazikhel said they had also prepared cash assistance, which would be distributed to the refugees soon.

He also feared if the Pakistani migrants were not aided before winter, a humanitarian disaster could loom large.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) director, Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, said a number of the migrated families had been affected by natural disasters. "We have assisted every family by providing food and non-food items worth \$300."

Abdul Hadi said they were ready to provide emergency relief to 800 families in case of a natural disaster. Over the past three months, 1,400 families were provided with non-food items and another 600 families distributed food stuff, he added.

He said the emergency relief included tents, kitchen accessories, warm clothes, flour, black and green tea, ghee and some other stuff.

The Pakistani Army's recent operations in South and North Waziristan forced many people into leaving the area and taking refuge in Urgan, Khairkot, Sarobi and other districts of the province. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Joint Pashtun...**

deprived of their rights.

"Now the time has come to find basic solution to the problem and take practical steps. It is unfortunate that we always discuss problems but never do practical work to resolve them," he said.

Advisor to the president on social affairs, Malalai Shinwari, said the Pashtuns on both sides of the Durand Line were not only a tribe but had blood relations.

The tribe should embrace each other and promote brotherhood, she said.

"Let's come and sit, talk and find solution and convince each other. If the Pashtuns fail to find solution to the ongoing problems, they will plunge deeper in the deadly ravine."

Representing Pashtuns in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial city, Dr. Feroza Khan, said: "Pashtuns in Afghanistan face the same problems the Pashtuns face in Pakistan. The commonality in their problems is an opportunity for them to get united and jointly address all big and small problems."

But after some time, the participants verbally attacked each other. Journalist Hassan Khan from Pakistan's Sindh province said insulting Pashtuns living there. "You should keep care of us when talking about Pakistan," he said.

He said they should not discuss what happened in the past and instead should think what they had done for the future of their coming generations. "Look where the world has reached and our youth carry the burden of emotions."

In response to his remarks, Kabul University teacher Ismail Yun said the Pashtuns on both sides of the Durand Line should think about the conspiracies aimed at their destruction and should find effective solution.

"We have a history, and heroes. Forgetting history creates a big headache. Pakistan has made many missiles, but it lacked heroes and named its missiles after Afghans."

"About Hassan Khan's assertions, I would like to recall a historic statement of Taliban leader Mullah Omar. When the United States was preparing to attack Afghanistan, then Pakistani interior minister told Mullah Omar to hand over Osama Bin Laden to the US. Omar responded by saying many governments had changed in Afghanistan. I will protect the history and you protect your government in Pakistan."

The university teacher called the Durand Line an unreal border and said no one had signed or endorsed it.

But former chief of staff at the former president Hamid Karzai's office, Karim Khurram, said the Pashtuns should look for solution to problems among them and should work on a mechanism that could rescue them from being destroyed and put them on the path to development.

"China which has a different culture and civilization is emerging a super power in the region. The country should prepare a strategy that guarantees the survival of Pashtuns. If we clash over Pakistan is Pakistan and Afghanistan is Afghanistan, I don't think we will witness any happiness."

He said Afghanistan and Pakistan were two separate states and had their laws, but the Pashtuns were a family and sensitive matters should be considered in talks.

Deputy Information and Culture Minister Zardasht Shams also said the tribes in Afghanistan and Pakistan should talk to each other about their problems and how to address them jointly (Pajhwok)

**(20) Fuel, Gold, ...**

said rate of a kilogram of the commodity decreased to 68afis from 70afis. Gas sellers said the decrease in the price was because of its increased imports.

In food items, only the flour rate was down and sugar's edged up. Food Traders Union Head, Fazal Rahman said the price of 49 kilograms of Kazakhstani flour decreased from 1,250 afghanis to 1,240 afghanis. He also linked the increase in price to decrease in its imports.

However, he said 16 liters of Shahista ghee price went up to 1,100afis from 1,070 because of a cut in its imports.

Other food stuff prices remained steady. A 49kg of Pakistani rice was sold for 1,550afis and 49kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 2,400, the same prices as of last week's, he added.

A tea wholesaler in Mandavi market of Kabul said a kilogram of Madina green tea cost 240afis and the same quantity of African black tea 260afis--no change in prices.

But wholesale prices varied from retail rates in some parts of the city. Safiullah, a retailer in Taimani neighborhood, sold a 49kg Kazakhstani flour sack for 1,380afis, 16kg Shaista ghee for 1,150afis, a 24-kg Pakistani sack of rice for 1,900afis, 49kg sugar Pakistani

sugar sack for 2,600, a kilo of black African tea for 300afis and the same quantity of Madina green tea for 260afis.

Gold prices down. Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold dropped from 2,350afis to 2,300afis and the same quantity of the Russian variety from 1,900afis to 1,800afis. He said the gold rate was down at international markets.

Moneychanger Ahmad Shah said one US dollar was sold for 66.22 afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 622 afis against last week's 66.16afis and 624afis respectively. (Pajhwok)

**(21) Explosion in ...**

claimed responsibility behind the incident.

This comes as at least three people were wounded in a similar attack in the vicinity of 3rd police district in Karte Char area earlier on Monday evening.

The use of improvised explosive device and magnetic bombs in the attacks in Kabul and other cities of the country are on the rise during the recent months despite there have been a considerable reduction in coordinated large scale attacks. (Khaama)

**(22) Russia Says...**

unilateral moratorium on Russian air strikes on rebel targets inside Aleppo, which remains in place for now. (Reuters)

**(23) British Scholars ...**

Street spokesman said Trump had said he was confident that the special relationship would "go from strength to strength." (Xinhua)

**(24) Iraqi Forces ...**

since the offensive to retake the city began more than three weeks ago.

The offensive has slowed recently as the security forces, including the CTS commandos, have pushed into more densely populated areas of eastern Mosul, where they cannot rely as much on heavy shelling and airstrikes because of the risk to civilians who have been told to stay in their homes. (Xinhua)

**(25) Brexit Gives...**

relocate to Amsterdam, which means more demand in office space in the Dutch capital and in turn lifting investment in real estate.

"We have seen an increase in companies seeking information about setting up an office in the Amsterdam metropolitan area," said Charlene Verweij, International Press Officer at Amsterdam inbusiness, the city's agency assisting foreign companies with their operations in the Dutch capital and surrounding municipalities.

"Our efforts are not focused on aggressive promotion, but on offering information about our investment climate and connecting those interested to the business network in the area," Verweij said. (Xinhua)

**(26) UN Chief...**

advance peace and security, sustainable development and human rights throughout the world," the spokesman said.

"They agreed to stay in continued contact," he added. (Xinhua)

**(27) Ex-U.S....**

post, he described why he thought he had been sanctioned. "(I) was told that I am the Kremlin's sanctions list because of my close affiliation with Obama. I will take that as a compliment! The U.S. sanctioned Russians close to (President Vladimir) Putin."

"To the best of my knowledge, George Kennan was the last U.S. ambassador to USSR/Russia to be banned from traveling there." Moscow declared Kennan persona non grata in 1952. The Russian Foreign Ministry did not publicly confirm the ban, but ministry sources told Russian news agencies McFaul had been added to a sanctions list in 2014. (Reuters)

**(28) UN Rights...**

shot to death in the Bab al-Jideed neighbourhood of central Mosul following a so-called "court's decision", while his crime was just using a mobile phone in Mosul. Six other civilians were also reportedly hanged on Oct. 20 in Mosul for keeping hidden SIM cards, in violation of ISIL's order to surrender all SIM cards. (Xinhua)