

(1) Impeached...

survived a no-confidence vote.

On November 9, the lower house decided to summon 17 ministers who spent less than 70 percent of their development budgets during the current solar year.

On Saturday, lawmakers sacked Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Nasrin Oryakhel and Public Works Minister Mahmood Baligh.

Minister of Education Asadullah Hanif Balkhi and Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Mohammadullah Batash were voted out on Sunday. But Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi survived the vote of no-confidence.

Also on Sunday, the Presidential Palace requested the Wolesi Jirga to suspend the ministers' summoning process, but the house spurned the request.

The house asked Higher Education Minister Farida Momand, Justice Minister Abdul Basir Anwar and Urban Development Minister Saadat Mansoor Naderi to appear before MPs today, but none attended the session.

President Ghani said most of the ministers started their work in the middle of current solar year at a time when the government was struggling with security, economic and political problems. He said the government had been successful in managing the three transitions — security, economic and political.

"Afghanistan is going through a special phase and we have commitment with the international community that we will have effective gains and will present clear and transparent outcomes in return for the promised international aid, something that can be achieved in the presence of all Cabinet members."

Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah affirmed the president's remarks and said the parliamentary decision coincided with the country's security, political and economic transition. The CEO said they hoped the Supreme Court would evaluate the matter in line with the country's current situation and in accordance with the Constitution.

Second vice-president Mohammad Sarwar Danish said the impeachment was a legal issue and that there was no clarification in the constitution about sacking a minister in absentia.

He said the problem in spending budget could not be blamed on an individual and they had to look first into problems in budgetary system, projects, type of work and procurement process in departments. (Pajhwok)

(2) Chabahar ...

Nimruz Province as a developing trade exchange dock.

Abdullah Abdullah highlighted many common views Iran and Afghanistan maintain in different fields and emphasized that they should work toward achieving the desired goals. (IRNA)

(3) WJ Dismisses...

introduce new face for the post," deputy speaker of the house, Abdul Zahir Qadir said in the session broadcast live by Tolo television channel.

However, he added that the ministers for Counter-Narcotics, Water & Power and minister of Agriculture and Livestock have survived the move.

The Afghan government has 25 ministries and more ministers will be summoned in coming days to the Lower House of parliament over failure in spending development budget and a few more ministers might be disqualified in coming days.

Afghan reports say the majority of the government's budgeting sectors including ministries have failed to spend even half of the allocated development budgets in past 10 months. (Xinhua)

(4) 33 Provincial ...

second time and Ahmad Javid Javid as secretary. Baghlan: Asadullah Shahbaz was chosen as head, Mahbubullah Ghafari as deputy head for a second time, Mohammad Hanif Kahgadai as secretary of the provincial council.

Parwan: The provincial council of Parwan elected Ghulam Bahauddin Jilani as head, Haji Aminullah Shakori as deputy head and Shamsul Haq Shaikhani retained on his position as secretary of the council.

Paktika: Bakhtyar Gul Zadran was elected as head, Aziz Aziz as deputy head and Dina Sahibzai as secretary of the council. Panjsher: Panjsher provincial council elected Abdul Karim Abbasi as head, Mulavi Shiekh Yahya Anabi as deputy head and Abdul Sammad Sultani as secretary.

Takhar: Mohammad Yaqob Nazari was chosen as head, Suhaila Joya as deputy head and Mohammad Azam Afzali as secretary of Takhar provincial council. Jawzjan: Mulavi Abdul Hai Ayar was elected as head, Abdul Qadir as deputy head and Najibullah as secretary for the provincial council of Jawzjan province. Khost: The provincial council of Khost province elected Mujib Rahman Salimzoy as head, Janmir Zazai as deputy head and Noor Shah Noorani as secretary of the council.

Daikundi: The Provincial council of

Daikundi province elected Ghairat Jawaheri as head, Subhan Naibi as deputy head and Shima Mahmudi as secretary of the council.

Zabul: Haji Atta Jan Haqbayan was elected as head, Haji Asadullah Kakar as deputy head and Mohammad Omar Khan Omari as secretary of Zabul provincial council.

Sar-i-Pul: The provincial council of Sar-i-Pul province elected Mohammad Noor Rahmani as head, Masuma Ramazani as deputy head and Mulavi Mohammad Hanif as secretary of the council.

Samangan: Haji Sifatullah Samangani has been elected as the provincial council head, Haji Raz Mohammad Khan as deputy and Mohammad Ewazbeg Awghali as secretary.

Ghor: The 15-member provincial council of Ghor province elected Fazal-ul-Haq Ehsan as head, Abdul Baseer Qaderi as deputy and Anisa Ghoyor selected as secretary.

Faryab: Mohammad Sami Khairkhwa has been elected as head, Abdullah Albik as deputy and Aq Mohammad Noori as secretary of the council.

Farah: Jamila Amini has been elected for the first time to head the 9-member provincial council of Farah province. Khair Mohammad Noori was reelected as deputy head and Dadullah Qani as secretary.

Jamila Amini, 41, vowed to serve the people as a team and would make efforts at keeping their promises with the people."

Kabul: Sayed Abdul Rahman Hashimi has been reelected as head of the Kabul's provincial council, Sayed Najib Fareed as deputy and Lutfullah Nomani as secretary.

Kuduz: Similarly, Amruddin was elected as head, Torkak Kakar as deputy and Zargul Alami as secretary.

Kandahar: Haji Sayed Jan Khakrizwal has been elected as head of the 19-member provincial council of Kandahar province, Haji Abdul Qayoom as his deputy and Ms. Khalida Ahmadi as secretary.

Kunar: Mohammad Sapai has been elected as the provincial council head of Kunar, Abdul Latif Fazli as deputy and Malak Shir Zamin as secretary.

Laghman: The 9-member provincial council elected Mohammad Rafi Mamozai as head, Abdul Aziz as deputy and Gulzar Sangarwal as secretary.

Logar: Mohammad Nasir Ghairat has been elected as head of the provincial council, Homa Ahmadi as his deputy and Adalat Abdul Rahimzai as secretary.

Nangarhar: The 18-member provincial council picked Ahmad Ali Hazrat as head, Lal Mohammad Durani as deputy and Zabihullah Zmarai as secretary.

Nimroz: The Nimroz provincial council reelected Baz Mohammad Nasir as head; Mohammad Sidiq Chakhansori as deputy and Abdul Ahmad as secretary.

Herat: Kamran Alizai took charge as head of the Herat's provincial council, Torkyalai Tahiri as deputy and Ms. Sakina Hussaini as secretary.

Helmand: Mohammad Karim for a second time has been appointed as head, Abdul Majid Akhundzada as deputy and Ibadullah Alizai as secretary. (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghan Traders ...

of the biggest trade shows in Asia and therefore, very important for the Afghan business community.

"Afghanistan's participation is more than just about doing business. It sends a message to the global business community that Afghanistan is a reliable partner and its traders are ready to meet foreign demand for high quality products," he explained.

India's Ambassador to Afghanistan Manpreet Vohra said Afghanistan's participation "accentuates the positive trajectory in Indian-Afghanistan relations."

"India's market will continue to be open to Afghan products, and we look forward to increase Afghan exports to feed our country's growing consumer demand. IITF will also provide a platform to the Afghan companies to showcase their products to a large number of international buyers," he said.

The Afghan traders represent key business sectors and the main regions of Afghanistan; they are supported by the USAID Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project, two USAID regional development programs, and the USAID Commercial Horticulture and Agriculture Program.

"What is perhaps most significant about this year's IITF for Afghanistan is that the traders transported their products not only by land, but also via air cargo from the Afghan capital's Hamid Karzai International Airport," USAID Mission Director Herbert Smith said.

"This is a positive development for the landlocked country and demonstrates the government's commitment to facilitating business in new ways." (Pajhwok)

(6) MTNA Provides...

such one year Diploma program in

various subjects i.e. Diploma in Information Technology (DIT), Diploma in English Language (DEL) and Diploma in Business Administration (DBA). This education program will be carried out in one of the topes instituted of the Kabul city name Shaheen Institute that duly licensed by Ministry of Education and AIAS holding brand and rich experiences and qualified lecturer located at 8th District of Kabul Afghanistan. Chief Executive Officer of MTN Afghanistan Hassan Jabbar and Zahid the General Manager Corporate Affairs in the inauguration ceremony delivered keynote and said: "MTN Afghanistan management recognized the value and the importance of the knowledge and the development of the Afghan youth in such sensitive circumstances that is why we chose and prefer the free education project, he added: educating one person or providing education opportunity for one person is in fact the empowering one entire family or even the entire community and MTN is fully committed to use its best and tireless efforts with best of their ability to provide free education to Afghan youth. The representative of Ministry of Education said, I am truly happy to appear and take part in a program in which solely concentrated on the education and development of Afghan youth, as you know better the key factor for the strength and empowerment of the youth is education and investment in youth is not only help with these individual who will profiting this program or their family only but it is in fact the help with the economic and educational development of the whole country, I really appreciate such program initiated by MTN and urging other private sectors to follow MTN and take active step in the developing of our young generation, he added. (PR)

(7) Carter Says ...

fighters are only present in Nangarhar province, but there are a number of other unhappy groups that commit crimes and want to show that they can announce their allegiance to Daesh at some point.

"This is an extremely concerning issue, because Afghanistan is a war-hit country. On one side, al-Qaeda is resurging while on the other, Daesh is recruiting in some parts," said Sayed Nadir Shah, a member of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament).

Some members of Nangarhar provincial council, meanwhile said they believe that the presence and activity of Daesh is nothing more than propaganda.

"Some people say Daesh is in Ghor and other provinces. This is not true. Such propaganda should be prevented, because it benefits the fighters," said Zabihullah Zmarai, member of Nangarhar provincial council. (Tolnews)

(8) EU Concerned...

anti-corruption judicial center is sacrificing the figures that have no political support. The center should assess big corruption cases," said Sayed Ekram Afzali, head of the organization.

Meanwhile, a number of MPs and political analysts criticized the anti-corruption judicial center's current focus on small corruption cases.

"The center assessed small corruption cases, which was against the people's expectations. These cases did not need to be tried by the center. This center should investigate big corruption cases in order to gain public trust," said Ghulam Husain Fakhri, head of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption. "The center should assess big corruption cases as soon as possible," said Assadullah Saadati, member of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament). (Tolnews)

(9) Hundreds of ...

munition with their own money to fight Taliban insurgents, and that "the remedy to eliminate Taliban rebels is mobilizing people against the hardliner group and backing government forces."

Taliban militants fighting the government to regain power, according to locals, have killed innocent civilians, destroyed schools and ruined health clinics.

"We have been fed up with the Taliban's harsh interpretation of Islam and their despotic policies," another pro-government armed commander Sahib Khan told Xinhua, warning the armed insurgents to either lay down arm or face dire consequences of the people's wrath.

Taliban militants in their recent onslaught have captured some villages in parts of Faizabad district of Jawzjan and Ghormach district of Faryab province and have set ablaze several houses, according to locals.

Even scores of women have taken arms in parts of Jawzjan province to quench Taliban threats over the past couple of months.

The armed outfit in its latest offensive against government interests launched coordinated attacks in the southern

part of Jawzjan's neighboring Saripul province early Tuesday triggering fighting.

"Taliban militants launched coordinated attacks on the southern part of Saripul provincial capital the Saripul city early this morning but fled away after suffering casualties and leaving nine dead bodies including two key commanders Gul Hamid and Mabariz," provincial capital Mohammad Zahir Wahdat told reporters here.

Fifteen more militants have been injured and sporadic fighting between security forces and Taliban fighters is going on in some villages in the outskirts of the provincial capital the Saripul city 360 km north of Kabul, the official added.

He also confirmed that six security personnel have been killed or injured in the fighting.

Taliban militants, who are active in parts of Saripul province, haven't commented.

Meanwhile, observers believe that the Taliban militants would intensify activities to gain more grounds and consolidate their grips ahead of snowfall in the mountainous country. (Xinhua)

(10) 900,000 Refugees ...

garding the refugees; the refugees are living in very bad conditions," said an Afghan returnee Rozi Khan.

"We left Pakistan five days ago, now there is no shelter for us to live in and no food to eat, we have a lot of problems," another refugee Mohammad Jan said.

The MoRR has said that it is committed to meeting the challenges facing the refugees in line with its capacities.

"Government has announced the allocation of \$100 million USD for the returnees, some financial cooperation has been considered for each returnee," said Hafiz Ahmad Miakhail, media advisor to MoRR.

Recently the UN called on the international community to provide \$150 million USD in financial aid to cope with the influx of return refugees. (Tolnews)

(11) Fact-Finding ...

delegation.

Crime investigation general direct at the Attorney General Office, Abdul Wahab Karimi and deputy head of defense and security department of Office of Administrative Affairs are other members of the probe team, the statement added.

A presidential order said the delegation was responsible to comprehensively investigate the injuring of 35 security personnel in the Dostum-led convoy in Faryab in cooperation with the provincial organs and share the final report with the Presidential Dalace.

The president also ordered Faryab officials to provide all transport, security and residential facilities to the delegation and the Ministry of Defense should take measures for safe transfer of the team to and from Faryab by air.

Dostum had escaped unharmed from the ambush by Taliban insurgents earlier this month as his convoy returned from overseeing fighting at a northern battlefield.

The ambush took place during a frontline visit by Dostum, who was on the way back from overseeing the fighting in the Ghormach district. (Pajhwok)

(12) Protestors Want ...

recruiting ghost teachers. They said the Ulema Council and other people did not want a notorious person to head the education department.

Maulvi Nasir Nasratyar, deputy head of the Islamic education department, said: "All security, judicial and crime branch officials are aware of the education director's corruption, but no action has been taken against him. The director was once introduced to the attorney office, but was released by his supporters." The education department is an important organization, where 50 percent of employees were women, he said, adding a corrupt director — incapable of promoting the cause of education — was unacceptable to them.

"There is no shortage of competent and qualified individuals to hold the position. Anyone who has got Ghulam Sakhi Bayan appointed as education director should review his decision and replace him with an honest person," he continued.

Maulvi Gul Ahmad Amiri, a member of the Faryab Ulema Council, alleged Bayan had converted the education department into a hub of corruption that had sparked a public backlash.

If government leaders did not replace the education director, it would mean they themselves were corrupt, the scholar observed, warning of continued protests if their call was ignored.

Qari Abdul Basit, head of Qaisar Madrasa, said a corruption-free government would never hire such a crookedman as head of the education department.

Ulema Council members tried to shut the department, but faced reaction from a number of workers and students of Arab Khana High School. Some of the protesters were even beat-

en up. (Pajhwok)

(13) Daikundi Relatively...

headquarters in [Daikundi] districts are without buildings and they use rental houses," Daikundi police chief Sayed Baqir Murtazawi said.

Some residents of the province meanwhile said the hunger for power among some local officials has resulted in Daikundi being such an undeveloped province.

"The people are mostly busy supporting parties. We are victims of this group of people," said Muzammil Mohammadi, a resident of Daikundi.

Another resident, Noor Mohammad Ekhtiyari, said: "The road to the center and other parts of the province are in a bad condition and we travel with difficulty."

Meanwhile, a number of MPs and provincial council members from Daikundi urged government to fulfill its commitments regarding that part of the country.

"Government leaders should not forget their promises they made about our province. They should construct roads and connect the center of the province with other parts," said Suhrab Ali Etemadi, head of Daikundi provincial council.

"The issue of roads is one of the main problems that has not been addressed so far. A main road and other roads should be constructed in Daikundi," said Sadiqzada Nili, an MP from Daikundi.

Deputy Governor of Daikundi, Habibullah Radmanish, meanwhile pointed out that the province was plagued by a number of other problems. (Tolnews)

(14) Herat Growers ...

City shopkeepers buy per four kilograms of raisins from farmers for 450 to 500 afghanis, according to Kasuli, who urged the government to explore foreign markets for their produce.

Shahabuddin, in charge of a raisin factory in Herat City, said they produced up to 20 tonnes of raisins by drying Mir Ahmad and Khalili varieties of grapes.

He claimed the raisins produced by the factory had enormous international market value and tens of tonnes were exported to India and other countries in the region annually.

He, however, complained provincial agriculture officials did not cooperate with them in raisin production and on other related issues.

Saad Khatibi, head of the chamber of commerce and industry, said raisins were earlier sent to Iraq and Syria, but fighting in the Gulf countries had led to a decline in exports.

He added the raisin factory had been constructed to high standards and. Agriculture experts believe the government should work harder to find a profitable market for domestic products. (Pajhwok)

(15) US Faces L...

Afghan National Police; and c. War crimes of torture and related ill-treatment, by US military forces deployed to Afghanistan and in secret detention facilities operated by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The possible charges relate to the period between 2003 and 2004, although allegedly continuing in some cases until 2014.

The US is not a member of the court but can face prosecution for crimes committed within the jurisdiction of a country that is a member, as is the case for Afghanistan. (Agencies)

(16) Kidnapped Child...

National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces on Tuesday. The intelligence agency published a video clip that shows security forces hand over the child to his father during a gathering participated by Farah governor.

The NDS office released no more details about their operation for saving the child from his kidnapers.

A number of people including the father of Naveed attended the gathering in Farah city and asked the government to execute the kidnapers.

The father, talking with Pajhwok, thanked provincial security organs for their operation to rescue his son.

He asked the president to hang the kidnapers in order others could learn a lesson. "They put me in a well and would give me little food, they would beat me and I was afraid there," Naveed in his father's arms said.

Governor Mohammad Asif Nang said he wished public execution of the kidnapers, but the punishment should be given based on the law.

He said the kidnapers kept changing location of the child, but Afghan forces were finally able to find him in old Farah city in a house.

Afghan forces arrested three people in connection with the kidnapping and search for four other persons involved was underway, he said. (Pajhwok)

(17) Female Teacher ...

of the conservative Afghanistan often bar girls from attending school or getting higher education.

According to the Afghan government, more than 10 million children with 40 percent of them girls attend 15,000

schools across the country this year, while more than 1.3 million school age children have no access to education due to poverty, conflicts, traditional obstacles and insurgency.

In Kandahar and neighboring Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan Provinces where Taliban militants are active, many students are leaving school for fear of conflict and insecurity.

"Out of 470 schools in Kandahar, 150 have already closed down due to insurgent activities and conflicts," Mohibullah Qaderi, head of Kandahar's Education Department said recently.

According to the official, no school is open in Shorabak, Rigistan and Ghorak districts due to security problems at the moment. (Xinhua)

(18) ISIS in Afghanistan...

told Reuters.

The remarks by ISIS commander in Afghanistan came as Trump earlier promised to defeat "radical Islamic terrorism just as we won the Cold War."

The US forces in Afghanistan as well as the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) have stepped up counter-terrorism operations against the militant groups, including the ISIS terrorist group. (KP)

(19) Woman Among ...

spokesman, Abdul Karim, said the woman was a victim of family violence.

Police arrested her brother Ghulam Mohammad and her spouse Abdul Basir in connection with the killing, he said.

A security official, who wanted to go unnamed, said Rahima had been forced into marriage with Basir in return for giving the hand of his sister to Mohammad. But Rahima's mother in law subjected her to brutality and she returned home. (Pajhwok)

(20) Airstrike Kills 3 ...

several American and Afghan soldiers in Ghanikhel operation and confirmed the killing only one fighter.

Separately, police impounded a truck illegally transferring food and non-food items to Jalalabad, the provincial capital. The truck carried 7000 packages of food and nonfoods items, police spokesman Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraqwal told Pajhwok Afghan News. (Pajhwok)

(21) Afghan Money ...

not its responsibility but that it is trying to find a solution to the problem.

"We have sent an email to the Indian Central Bank on how to solve the problem and we hope that soon we will get a response in this regard," said Emal Hashor the bank's spokesman. (Tolnews)

(22) One School...

eight and 10 years. The injured were evacuated to Jalalabad, the provincial capital, for treatment.

Separately, police arrested two Daesh militants in the Abdulkhel village of Achin district, police spokesman Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraqwal said.

The detainees hail from northwestern Faryab province. (Pajhwok)

(23) British PM...

of poverty around the world. They have brought nations closer together, broken down barriers and improved standards of living and consumer choice." (Xinhua)

(24) UN Asks...

years, with the increase greatest in low- and middle-income countries.

The disease shortens lives and, if not managed, can cause severe complications such as amputations, strokes or kidney failure. (Xinhua)

(25) Year 2016...

Paris Agreement, a global action plan to combat change has entered into force earlier this month. The deal asks for efforts to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius and seeks to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. (Xinhua)

(26) Obama Visits ...

Prokopis Pavlopoulos will welcome the outgoing U.S. president at the Presidential Mansion and then Obama will have talks with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. (Xinhua)

(27) Merkel Praises...

SPD. Following the decision, Steinmeier said that he saw a "giant responsibility" with the office of German president. (Xinhua)

(28) Germany Says...

from Europe is not a decision for Europe or the European capitals but should be made in Turkey," Steinmeier told reporters.

"I am for a better relationship," he added. (AFP)

(29) UK Government...

The Times said the memo was written by a consultant on his own initiative, not at government request.

The government says it will trigger two years of formal exit talks with the EU by March 31. (AFP)