

(1) Govt. Set to ...

House of Parliament). Meanwhile, the Election Commissions Selection Committee said the candidates were selected based on the election law.

"They [the candidates who have been selected or shortlisted] are accused; they are not guilty. We are not seeing any legal problem in them," said Yusuf Rasheed, member of the committee.

According to the law, the selection of and rejection of electoral commission candidates is one of the authorities of the president. (Tolnews)

(2) Study Finds...

study said that ignoring the rights of religious minorities is against the government's commitment made to the international community.

"Hindus are facing obvious systematic discrimination and even they do not have a representative in parliament," said Yahya Amar, a university lecturer.

Statistics show that in the past more than 99 percent of Hindus have left the country due to the problems they encountered.

"When students want to write papers about Hindus and when they refer to the central statistic organization to get the number of Hindus living in Afghanistan, there is no number. Our land has been confiscated, even we face various challenges when we want to hold a religious ceremony," said Anarkali Honaryar, a member of Meshra-ni Jirga (the Upper House of Parliament).

Hindus have played a vital role in Afghanistan's social structure and it is said they were living here before Islam. However, recently discrimination against them has forced them to leave the country. (Tolnews)

(3) 1400 People ...

houses had been illegally built on a 40 percent of the captured land. Afghan said a list of people illegally occupying the municipality land had been given to the attorneys.

The mayor said he would himself prevent further occupation of the municipality land and sought the government help in recovery of the previously captured lands.

The mayor did not name anyone and said 1400 people had been listed as illegal land usurpers and the list had been sent to the prosecutor's and other offices.

He said the municipality last year's income stood at more than 244 million afghanis, but they made an 80 million afghanis increase in the revenue this year by renewing property contracts.

In order to increase the income, the rent of all shops related to the municipality had been increased by 20 percent, greatly contributing to the surge in municipality budget.

"I assure everyone that our projects' contracts are being analyzed by professional engineers and if less work is done than agreed in the contract, I shall be held responsible", he said in response to questions about corruption in construction works.

He said corruption existed everywhere and had many kinds like taking cash, misusing authority and nepotism but efforts were being made to fight all these.

When asked about urban development, the mayor said two new districts had been made and after some important works, the districts would start their affairs. (Pajhwok)

(4) Pakistan ...

Pakistan foreign office has said Islamabad supported all efforts amid at peace and stability in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(5) 490 Projects ...

employing many youth. He said many times budget had been approved from Kabul, but could not be used on projects due to the low capacity of local departments in Paktika.

Adam Khan Katawazai, a resident of Kher Kot district, told Pajhwok that they were happy with projects executed this year. "We didn't have clean drinking water in the past, but now we have that."

He said more such projects should be launched in order to help the youth get rid of unemployment. (Pajhwok)

(6) US May ...

read. Russia has delivered 63 Mi-

17 helicopters to Afghanistan since 2001 when its state arms exporter Rosoboronexport and the US Department of Defense signed the relevant contract. "Millions of American dollars should never have gone to Russia for Mi-17 helicopters instead of Sikorsky Blackhawks - a travesty that will now be stopped," Blumenthal said as quoted in the statement. In 2014, Washington imposed several rounds of sanctions on Russia on the pretext of the crisis in Ukraine, but the restrictive measures did not affect the delivery of Russian helicopters to Afghanistan under existing contracts. Russia also supplies spare parts for helicopters to the Afghan army and provides training for specialists on helicopter maintenance. (Sputnik)

(7) Military Attorney ...

months imprisonment and you are fined 50,000 Afs." Meanwhile, Jamshed Rasuli, spokesman for the Attorney General's Office, said the center is working on 50 corruption cases.

"The investigation team has started assessing cases related to ministries of defense, interior, telecommunication, public health as well as the electronic national identity cards department," he added.

This comes after the ACJC's primary court started public trials of corruption cases last week. (Tolnews)

(8) Stoltenberg ...

campaign, which has been a top priority for the secretary general since his appointment in 2014.

"The two leaders agreed that progress has been made on fairer burden-sharing but that there is more to do," it added. (AFP)

(9) Helmand ...

from security forces in Helmand and Uruzgan. The residents also say the Taliban want to spread the conflict into Kandahar.

Local officials acknowledge security threats in Kandahar, but say the threats are not serious or worth concerning because local people fully support security forces and are able to defeat insurgents.

Ghorak is highly insecure district in Kandahar's north about 100km from Kandahar City, the provincial capital. Ghorak borders Helmand and Uruzgan provinces where heavy clashes have been underway between security forces and Taliban over the past few months.

A resident of Ghorak district, Mohammad Sarwar Aka, who has brought a patient to Kandahar City for treatment, told Pajhwok Afghan News the road leading to Ghorak from Kandahar City had been blocked over the past few years and people had no option but to reach the provincial capital through long and tough routes.

He said a recent increase in the fighting in Helmand and Uruzgan had affected security in Ghorak district where insurgents had increased their presence.

Aka said he had heard reports that a lot of insurgents with weapons and military vehicles they captured during fighting with security forces had entered the district and wanted to spill over the fire into Kandahar. He asked the government to take serious measures at preventing insurgent activities before they become stronger and well equipped.

A resident of neighbouring Nish district which is 150km from Kandahar City, Mohammad Hanif, said insurgents had not only increased their attacks on security posts but had expedited planting roadsides bombs.

Every day security checkpoints on borders between Nish, Ghorak and Shah Walikot districts came under attack from militants, causing casualties to police, Hanif said.

Mianashin, another northern district of Kandahar, is 70km from the provincial capital on the border with Uruzgan and Zabul provinces.

A resident of the district, Taj Mohammad, confirmed insurgent attacks on security posts had increased in the district.

He said the government should increase the number of security forces, timely provide them supplies, establish more security posts on roads leading to districts and conduct a clearing operation.

Shah Walikot district is also experiencing similar security threats.

Ghorak district chief, Haji Daro Khan, said security threats posed by insurgents had increased. He

called as a serious issue the blockade of road between the district and Kandahar City. He said many residents had fled. He had shared the issues with provincial administration and security authorities.

The district chief said insurgents were now equipped with sophisticated arms including laser weapons and sniper rifles.

The rebels from Maiwand, Khakrez and Helmand's Kajaki districts had sneaked into the province and they attacked security posts with full intensity, Daro Khan said.

He said security forces lacked facilities to detect insurgents and stressed operation against them. Other Kandahar northern districts' chiefs also held similar views.

The Kandahar governor's spokesman, Samim Khaalwak, acknowledged security threats in districts that bordered Helmand and Uruzgan or were located on the Durand-Line.

He said the insurgent there always conducted coordinated attacks on security check posts and planted land bombs but security forces were preventing them with strong resilience.

He said people of Kandahar strongly supported security forces who they had been able to prevent insurgent activities.

He said many roads leading to districts had been damaged and insurgents used the destroyed roads for planting landmines which caused casualties on police and civilians.

However, he said surveys to reconstruct damaged roads were underway and money for the project had been approved.

As an example, he said, \$1.8 million had been approved for rehabilitation of the Kandahar-Uruzgan highway. The highway's rehabilitation would improve security in districts along the road. The road passes through Shah Walikot, Mianashin and Nish districts.

The security forces were busy conducting operations day and night in districts against insurgents, the gubernatorial spokesman concluded. (Pajhwok)

(10) EPA Predicts...

high-lying provinces will witness more snow," said Abdul Wali Modaqiq, EPA's deputy director general.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said that a lack of rain has resulted in the increase of respiratory illnesses among Kabul residents and that if little snow falls this winter, many people will fall ill.

"In the past few years, especially in the past few months, the percentage of patients with pollution-related illnesses has increased. Thus we should be prepared for the upcoming winter," said Khawja Qamaruddin Siddiqi, an advisor to the MoPH.

Officials from Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital also said about 200 children who suffer from respiratory illnesses are brought to the hospital for treatment each day.

"Nearly 200 hundred respiratory patients come to this hospital. Most of them fell ill because of the pollution," said Sayed Jan Qazizada, a doctor at the hospital.

Abdul Aziz is the father of a four-year-old girl who has been in hospital for 19 days.

"Rabia got pneumonia and her illness got worse day by day. Then we came here and it is the 19th day that we stayed here. I spent around 35,000 Afs, but still she does not feel well," Abdul Aziz said.

However, the MoPH says they have plans to deal with the problem of pollution, should it increase. They said that in cooperation with the EPA they will announce an emergency situation and people will be banned from going to heavily polluted areas and schools will be closed for a period of time. (Tolnews)

(11) Kandahar Man ...

say it was for the first time in the world that honey was produced from basil flower.

The man behind the remarkable work is Abdul Bari who owns a bee farm in the Dand district.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News he started beekeeping four years ago with four hives and currently owned 350 hives in his farm.

He said apiculture was not common in Kandahar and he was pioneer in the field and some other people had also started doing the business.

He said currently he was raising bees in his farm and also sold them to other people. He exported basil plant from India where the plant was used in medicine production. Abdul Bari lamented the agriculture department in Kandahar lacked agenda for apiculture development in the province. He used to travel to Kabul to bring medicines and other equipment to prevent bees from diseases and other disasters.

He said the government could help honey producers adopt standard packing of honey and access international markets for their products.

He claimed honey produced from basil ranked second after blueberry honey in the market and one kilogram was accounted for 600 afghanis.

After marking increase in high-quality honey production in central provinces of Afghanistan, beekeepers urge the government to help them find access to international market

They claim they produce over 15 tonnes of good quality honey annually. Honey gets its start as flower nectar, which is collected by bees, naturally broken down into simple sugars and stored in honeycombs.

The design of honeycomb coupled with constant fanning by the bee's wings causes evaporation to take place, creating honey.

Mohammad Ibrahim, a beekeeper from Arghandab district, has 40 hives. He urged the authorities to provide him with honey export facilities.

Many farmers use imported plastic boxes to keep bees. "If these boxes are built inside Afghanistan, I think our honey yield will fetch more income," he believed.

Lack of facilities, little government support and some bee infections are among the key problems Kandahar apiarists face.

Eng. Mohammadullah Noori, an agriculture department official who has a farm, said they provided only technical help to farmers how to keep bees.

He added 14 honeybee farms registered with the department produced 8,000 kilograms of honey, showing a 100 percent increase. The department has also set up a farm at the Kandahar University.

Noori called Kandahar's climate suitable for beekeeping. Bees feed on different flowers, including almond and apricot. But basil flowers are known to give a six-time higher honey yield.

At the moment, seven types of honey -- acacia, orange, basil, cedar and some other flowers -- are available in Kandahar. (Pajhwok)

(12) Norwegian Police ...

not more than 10 minutes and in many of the cases the expulsion was due to the older age of the boys than previously informed. After medical and dental examinations, the age was determined to be over 18 years old.

According to Aftenposten, all the imprisoned are Afghan men and only five of them have stated the date of birth earlier than in 1991. They had been placed in asylum reception centers throughout Norway.

When an asylum application is refused by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI), the applicant can submit an appeal against the decision to the Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board (UNE). In case the appeal is rejected, the applicant usually gets a deadline of four weeks to leave the country.

One of the arrested boys tried to commit suicide regarding the court hearing. According to the court document, he could not be present when passing the sentence, because he "tried to commit suicide in the break before the decision and was hurt."

The Afghan said that he was 16 when he came to Norway and one year later his age was determined to be 20 years old.

For the last few days the Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS) has received several inquiries that have risen concern about Afghan asylum seekers being picked up by the police without having been informed of the UNE's decision.

The police has confirmed that all the arrested people have been informed about the negative decision of the UNE after they had been arrested, Aftenposten wrote.

"This is very problematic for many reasons. It weakens the rule of law because the asylum seekers are deprived of the possibility of going through the decision in a proper way and check that there were no errors committed in the treatment. They do not get possibility to contact us or their lawyer, for example. In addition people are deprived of the possibility of choosing voluntary return," Jon Ole Martinsen, a senior advisor in NOAS, told Aftenposten. (Xinhua)

(13) Taliban Closing...

He said the Taliban stormed their area from four sides. "We left our houses and are now searching for a safe and secure place."

Security officials said they would launch fresh attacks to capture areas lost to the rebels after the arrival of reinforcements. (Pajhwok)

(14) Terrorists Arrested...

magazines, 13 hand grenades, and some explosives.

According to NDS, the security forces also confiscated 4 capsules of explosives which are used to manufacture suicide attack vests and homemade landmines.

The detained individuals have been identified as Akram son of Mohammad Zahir and Hasibullah son of Sher Aqa, NDS added.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

This comes as the militant groups staged a major attack in Pul-e-Mohammad Khan area of the city earlier this week, leaving at least 4 security personnel dead and 11 others wounded.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group claimed responsibility behind the attack. (KP)

(15) U.S. Officials...

and Pakistan.

"Officials from Homeland Security are in Australia right now in fact and they will be going to Nauru shortly," Turnbull said on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Lima, Peru. A transcript of his remarks to journalists was issued by his office. Resettlement is unlikely to come before Trump's January 20 inauguration, and Turnbull said the timeline would be determined by American officials. (Reuters)

(16) Yemeni Houthis ...

forward by John Kerry.

Hours before the truce took effect, the coalition warplanes launched a series of air strikes throughout Yemen, targeting Houthi fighters and their allied forces loyal to Saleh, particularly in the Houthi-controlled capital Sanaa.

On Nov. 15, Kerry, during his recent Gulf tour, announced the ceasefire in Muscat, saying the Houthi group and the Saudi-led coalition had agreed on the cessation of hostilities.

He met with representatives of Houthis and Saudi-led coalition which supports Yemeni internationally recognized exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

"We also agree to the arrangements set out by UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed for attending the peace talks proposed to be held by the end of this current month," they said.

The agreement aimed to pave the way for resuming the UN-sponsored peace talks between Houthis, Saleh's party and the Saudi-led coalition.

Kerry said the roadmap was strongly supported by the UN envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. However, Hadi's Foreign Minister Abdel-Malik al-Mekhlafi responded to Kerry's roadmap as "no more than a media bubble."

"The government was not aware of what Secretary Kerry announced about reaching an agreement with Houthis," Mekhlafi wrote on his official Twitter page.

Mekhlafi said Kerry's announcement was in conflict with UN Security Council Resolution 2216. (Xinhua)

(17) Iraqi Forces...

them after a clash, and continued searching for other militants in the vast area in west of Shirqat, the source said.

The attacks came after a month of a massive offensive to dislodge the extremist militants the city of Mosul, which represents their last major stronghold in Iraq.

On Oct. 17, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the start of a major offensive to retake

Mosul, the country's second largest city.

Mosul, some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, has been under IS control since June 2014, when Iraqi government forces abandoned their weapons and fled, enabling IS militants to take control of parts of Iraq's northern and western regions. (Xinhua)

(18) Putin's Anti-...

over a long period of time," Smirnov, a former Soviet minister who spent 44 years as an International Olympic Committee member, told The Associated Press in an interview in his spacious office at the Russian Olympic Committee. "There was no organized doping system on the state level. We believe that the participants in this were individuals, who were pursuing their own goals."

Putin's love of sports as a judo black belt and recreational hockey player means the Russian government couldn't have sponsored an East German-style doping scheme, Smirnov said. (AP)

(19) UNHCR, UNICEF...

that outlines key areas of collaboration in child protection, education, health and nutrition, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

The agreement, which will end in August 2020, enables the two agencies to work together in accelerating their joint refugee response in terms of technical assistance, visibility, advocacy resource mobilization and supply management.

The collaboration will also have a strong focus on identifying risks and ensuring that contingency planning and preparedness measures are in place, noted the statement.

"UNICEF and UNHCR have a long history of effective and demonstrated collaboration in humanitarian action which has greatly improved the lives of refugees over the years," said Nkweta-Salami of UNHCR, adding, "This agreement will further cement our partnership and help us to advance our respective mandates in Ethiopia." (Xinhua)

(20) New Gov't ...

and construction industry as well as agriculture, sector of services and trade in the first eight months of this year," he noted.

Vucic said inflation for 2016 will be around one percent and estimated the "growth rate will be highest so far despite consolidation measures that the country has implemented".

"Many did not believe when I said that we will have a GDP growth bigger than 2.7 percent this year and it turned out true. I predict that next year it will be more than 3.5 percent," Vucic announced.

At the same time he reminded that the government raised minimum wage prescribed by the law by more than 7 percent both in public and private sectors, and announced the aim in the future will be to turn Serbia into a modern country and raise living standard with growth of GDP over three percent in the following years. (Xinhua)

(21) China's Climate ...

issues and their resolution. "Developed countries should fulfill their commitments, especially the financial support for developing countries," Xie said, referring to the annual 100 billion U.S. dollars promised in 2009.

Meanwhile, future negotiations should better address developing countries' concerns over adaptation, financing and capacity building, he added.

The Paris Agreement was signed last December and entered into force on Nov. 4. So far 111 of the 193 signatory parties have ratified the agreement. (Xinhua)

(22) Turkmenistan, ...

routes in order to develop effective and mutually beneficial solutions for cargo transshipment. The volume of bilateral trade between Turkmenistan and Latvia has been growing over the recent years.

Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's official visit to Latvia in September 2012 and the visit of former Latvian President Andris Berzins to Turkmenistan in May 2013 gave an impetus to bilateral relations between the two countries. (Trend)