

(1) 90% of...

annually from 15,000 literacy training centers around the country.

"To overcome illiteracy in Afghanistan, we need the people's cooperation, because government cannot achieve this goal on its own," said Raz Mohammad Dalili, head of Sanayee Development Organization - which was awarded the prize. (Tolonews)

(2) MPs Concerned ...

Mesharano Jirga members who asked the Afghan government to immediately halt Moscow's meddling in Afghanistan's internal matters.

Lawmaker Jumma Din Gayanwal said: "Russia has close coordination with Taliban and if the government does not halt these links, Afghanistan will become another Syria or Iraq." He claimed some of Afghan elders had cooperated with Russia in developing links with Taliban who had agreed to cooperate with Russia. He claimed Russia had provided sophisticated weapons to Taliban.

Abdul Katif Nuhzatyar, another member of Mesharano Jirga, said: "Russia wants to convert Afghanistan into a battlefield and they should refrain from repeating the past mistakes." The Russian envoy had announced Moscow was organizing a four-nation conference on Afghanistan next month. Russia, Afghanistan, China and Pakistan would participate in the talks. (Pajhwok)

(3) Senate Demands ...

said the government was yet to come up with a date for holding Wolesi Jirga and district council elections. "The government should remain committed to its pledges and set the election date as soon as possible." He said the elections should not be delayed under the pretexts of poor security and transparency in elections

Another senator Mohammad Rahim Hassanyar also asked the government leaders to hire people as commissioners on merit.

He said the government should take special measures for holding the Wolesi Jirga and district council elections.

Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar also said the government was committed to holdinf the Wolesi Jirga and district council elections.

The Wolesi Jirga's five-year term expired on June 22, 2015, but the president extended its term until fresh elections to the house are held. (Pajhwok)

(4) Govt Urged ...

interests of some specific people and this will not happen with the CCP.

The ministry of agriculture and irrigation also said they are going to build standard warehouses for storing agricultural products through CCP. (Tolonews)

(5) Social Activist...

officials remained silent about the attack on Omarkhel. However, National Security Council spokesman Tawab Ghorzang condemned the incident and said efforts were being made to arrest the assailants.

"The government will investigate this incident very deeply and will arrest the assailants so they could be punished", he added. (Pajhwok)

(6) Meshrano Jirga ...

senator in the Meshrano Jirga. "The two countries [Afghanistan and Croatia] have no political office but Croatia had a presence in Afghanistan because it is a NATO member and it is still helping the country in training Afghan forces," said Najiba Husaini, second deputy secretary of the Meshrano Jirga. Both draft agreements will be sent to the Presidential Palace for approval.

The Chabahar port agreement was signed by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tehran in May. (Tolonews)

(7) Govt Criticized...

"According to the Constitution, summoning of ministers is a legal right of the Wolesi Jirga [Lower House of Parliament]. However, the recent rift between government and Wolesi Jirga should be assessed and that is why the subject has been sent to the Supreme Court," said Mohammad Qasim Hashimzai, head of the commission. (Tolonews)

(8) 2 Projects ...

Ali Panahi said many problems existed in the district, but they lacked enough budget to carry out development projects.

Provincial council member Haji Husain Khalili asked people to seek solutions to their problems through the provincial council. He promised full coordination with people in seeking solution to problems they faced. (Pajhwok)

(9) ARG Approves...

Fahim Qayim as police chief of Wardak

Brigadier Gen. Jora Bek as head of project maintenance department at the ministry

Brigadier Gen. Zahir Gul as commander of the border regiment of Helmand

Brigadier Gen. Abdul Qayum Baqi Zoi as commander of 404 police zone

Brigadier Gen. Ewaz Mohammad Naziri as general director of forces management and Brigadier Gen. Khair Mohammad Temor as commander of 202 Shamshad zone.

According to the statement, the Interior Ministry wished the new appointees success in their services. (Tolonews)

(10) 36 Projects ...

generate job opportunities for a large number of people and benefit 187,000 people when completed.

Minister Durrani, during the contracts' signing ceremony, said 637 irrigation projects worth two billion afghanis had been implemented through RIP program in the past five years. He said \$261 million had been allocated in development budget to MRRD this year and 83 percent of the budget had already been spent and the percentage would rise to 85 until the end of the current fiscal year. (Pajhwok)

(11) Disabled ...

potential to serve their country," said Abdul Hadi, Mushary's father.

Meanwhile, a number of teachers said that disabled children are often very clever and if government provides them with the opportunities, they too can achieve good results.

"Prohibiting disabled children from going to school is a big crime. I urge all families to let their disabled children attend schools," said Mohammad Sarwar, a teacher. (Tolonews)

(12) Police Helpless ...

and did anything against them. "People have completely lost trust in police because they cannot do anything," he said.

Mohammad Salam, a shopkeeper in Pul-i-Khumri city, said the gunmen who entered the city and harassed people were linked to a Wolesi Jirga member and a provincial council member.

He said police and other security forces could not improve security in the province.

However, Baghlan police spokesman Ahmad Javid Basharat said that police had prevented an armed clash among the protestors who were very angry.

Calling the presence of irresponsible armed men a big threat to police, he said, "Whenever we had tried to disarm these armed groups, a number of individuals from inside the government had prevented our move."

Basharat did not name those supporting the illegal armed groups, but said the central government should make a decisive plan on disarming the armed groups threatening the security situation. (Pajhwok)

(13) US Drone Strike...

Ismailkhel and Mondozaï dis-

tricts when security forces were patrolling the area, he added. Militants have not commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

KHOST/GARDIZ - One policeman and a Taliban notorious commander have been killed in a clash and a US drone strike in southeastern Khost and Paktia provinces, an official said a statement said on Sunday.

The Taliban Commander Saifullah was killed and two others wounded in a US drone attack in Paktia's Zurmat district on Saturday night, a statement from the governor house said.

The unmanned aircraft targeted Taliban commander in Shah Karez locality, it said.

Elsewhere, a policeman was killed and another wounded during a clash with Taliban in Khost province early on Sunday, Governor Spokesman Mubariz Mohammad Zadrani said.

The clash took place on Khost-Gardiz highway near Ismailkhel and Mondozaï districts when security forces were patrolling the area, he added. Militants have not commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

(14) Hostage Rescued ...

on the rise across the country during the recent months.

A group of kidnappers were arrested during an operation by the Afghan intelligence operatives late last week after they kidnapped in western Farah province of Afghanistan.

The operation was launched days after a horrific video of the kid emerged online with the family members of the kid saying the kidnappers were demanding a large sum for his release. (KP)

(15) 14 Insurgents...

heavy rounds of ammunition. The statement added that "the Ministry of Interior Affairs appreciates the Afghan National Security Forces operations to eliminate the terrorists' sanctuaries and it is a good step toward improving the security and stability." (Tolonews)

(16) 9 Taliban...

on the government compounds. The Afghan forces have stepped up counter-terrorism operations against the group in this province after they launched a major attack to take control of the strategic Tarinkot city earlier in September.

Scores of additional forces including special forces of the Afghan national army were deployed to the area as the group managed to take the war in the outskirts of the city. (KP)

(17) Iraqi Forces ...

siege Sunday to the Al-Zohour neighborhood, about eight kilometers (five miles) from the city center. The arrival of the troops at the neighborhood's fringes prompted hundreds of civilians to emerge from their homes waving white flags.

"The biggest hindrance to us is the civilians, whose presence is slowing us down," al-Aridi said. "We are soldiers who are not trained to carry out humanitarian tasks." (AP)

(18) Syrian Government ...

that the Syrian government grant eastern Aleppo autonomy in exchange for peace, and called on the estimated 900 al-Qaida-linked militants in the east to depart to other rebel-held territory in Syria.

But al-Moallem refused the offer in a meeting with de Mistura in Damascus on Sunday. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, the foreign minister said restoring government rule was a matter of "national sovereignty." He said Damascus would not allow the people of eastern Aleppo to be "hostages to 6,000 gunmen."

"We agreed on the need that terrorists should get out of east Aleppo to end the suffering of the civilians in the city," he said. (AP)

(19) Millions Throng ...

mostly Iranians who started crossing the border days ago. "We are on maximum alert," Staff Major General Qais Khalaf Rahaima, the head of the secu-

rity command responsible for the area, told AFP.

Many in the sea of black-clad devotees swarming the shrine walked days to reach Karbala, sometimes from cities as far afield as Basra, about 500 kilometres (300 miles) away by road. (AFP)

(20) NATO Chief ...

and his national security team" - and even threw in a nod to the new president's repeated demands that other NATO countries spend more on their militaries. (AP)

(21) French ...

between the top two vote-getters a week later.

The three leading candidates are former president Nicolas Sarkozy, 61, and former prime ministers Francois Fillon, 62, and Alain Juppe, 72.

The winner is expected to have strong chances of claiming victory in the April-May presidential election, because traditional rivals on the left have been weakened by Socialist Francois Hollande's troubled presidency.

The conservative candidate's main challenger may turn out to be far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who is hoping anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-establishment sentiment can propel her to the presidency.

Le Pen, official candidate of her once-pariah National Front party, is not taking part in the conservative primary. (AP)

(22) Trade, Investment...

their two-way trade amounted to 558.4 billion U.S. dollars.

Mutual investment between the two leading economies has also expanded rapidly, with accumulated two-way investment surpassing 160 billion dollars. CHINA'S ECONOMIC REBALANCING DRAWS U.S. INTEREST

China is a major trade partner with Portland, the largest city in Oregon, Derrick Olsen, President of the World Affairs Council of Oregon, told Xinhua.

Hit hard by the recession, Portland began to explore ways to reinvigorate its economy, which included pursuing export opportunities for its electronics manufacturing and green businesses sectors.

Chinese cities offered Portland great business potential. (Xinhua)

(23) Turkmenistan ...

of Turkmenistan. Cotton is the main raw material for the textile industry of Turkmenistan. Moreover, it is an important export product.

The country supplies cotton to China, Russia, the UK, South Korea, Turkey, Iran, Indonesia, Singapore, Ukraine and Baltic countries. Cotton products are sold through auctions in Turkmenistan's commodity and raw materials exchange. (Trend)

(24) Nearly 250,000...

that external debt was recorded at \$72.98bn on June 30 this year, out of which \$61.36bn was public debt, Public Sector Enterprises (PSE) guaranteed debt stood at \$1.27mn, PSE non-guaranteed debt was \$1.48mn. (Monitoring Desk)

(25) Iran Ready ...

in an offensive to liberate Mosul, the last stronghold of Daesh terrorists in the country. The city, which is divided by Tigris River, fell to Daesh in 2014, the year the terror outfit began its campaign of death and destruction in northern and western Iraq. (Presstv)

France's Center-Right Parties Hold First Round of Primary to Pick Presidential Candidate

PARIS - France's opposition, the center-right parties, started voting in the first round of the primary Sunday to pick their candidate to run in the presidential elections next year.

About 2.8 million conservative voters are expected to cast their ballots from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time (0700 GMT to 1800 GMT) on Sunday in 10,228 polling stations across the country.

Voters will choose between seven contenders with two front-runners -- former premier Alain Juppe and ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy.

Enjoying fast-growing support just days before the vote, former prime minister Francois Fillon, in third place, narrowed the gap for the presidential nomination, making the three men neck and neck.

Other competitors for the primary include former agriculture minister Bruno Le Maire, ex-ecology minister Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, former president of the conservative party UMP Jean-Francois Cope, and head of the Christian Democratic Party Jean-Frederic Poisson.

The top two winners of the first round of the primary on Sunday will compete in the second round of the primary scheduled on Nov. 27, unless one of the seven contenders collects more than 50 percent of the votes in the first round and will directly be nominated as the presidential candidate.

The center-right candidate will face a Socialist candidate and Marine Le Pen, head of the far-right National Front party, during the presidential race next year.

According to pollsters, the center-right candidate has a big chance of winning the election, due to a deep division within the left parties and the public's general dislike of far-rightists. (Xinhua)

20 Suspected Al-Shabaab Members Arrested in Somali Capital

MOGADISHU - At least 20 people suspected to be members of Islamist group Al-Shabaab were arrested in an operation in the Somali capital of Mogadishu on Saturday night, police said.

Banadir region police chief, Bashir Abshir Gedi, told journalists troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali soldiers carried out the operation in Hamar Jajab and Waberi districts in Mogadishu to hunt down Al-Shabaab suspects.

"These people (suspects) were planning attacks on the city but our intelligence helped us arrest them before they could do anything," Gedi said.

Al-Shabaab has been fighting against the Somali government for years, staging frequent attacks in the country.

The operation comes as Mogadishu prepares for presidential election scheduled for Nov. 30. Parliamentary elections are ongoing in various parts of the country.

AMISOM and Somali forces have beefed up security in Mogadishu ahead of the election, erecting security barriers and putting up checks on vehicles during day and night. (Xinhua)

S.Korean Presidential Office Regrets Prosecutors' Investigation Results

SEOUL - South Korean President Park Geun-hye's office expressed deep regrets Sunday over prosecutors' interim investigation results that suspected Park of having conspired with her longtime confidante and former aides for multiple crimes.

President spokesman Jung Youn-kuk told a press briefing that the prosecution office's announcement was deeply regrettable, saying prosecutors regarded Park as having committed a grave crime.

Jung said President Park will prove her innocence by actively cooperating with an investigation by a special prosecutor who will be appointed given that the president unconditionally accepted the independent counsel proposal.

The comments followed the prosecutors' announcement that Park has a complicity "to a significant extent" with her decades-long friend, Choi Soon-sil, and two former presidential aides indicted on Sunday for criminal charges. Park became the first incumbent South Korean president in history to be investigated by prosecutors as a criminal suspect. Eight heavyweight politicians and presidential hopefuls agreed to ask their opposition parties to discuss the impeachment of the scandal-hit president. Even scores of non-Park faction members in the ruling Saenuri

Party and its presidential potentials called on the embattled president to be immediately impeached and secede from their party.

The impeachment, however, can be a tough option to select as the passage of impeachment motion requires at least 200 ayes from the 300 parliamentary seats. The Saenuri Party has over 120 seats in the National Assembly.

Even after the passage, it must be approved by at least six judges of the nine-member constitutional court. Two judges, including the chief justice, are scheduled to end their tenure early next year. They would be replaced by new ones appointed by the president. (Xinhua)

Almost 6,700 People Die in Road Accidents in Portugal in Last 10 Years

LISBON - Almost 6,700 people died in road accidents in Portugal in the last 10 years, Lusa News Agency reported on Sunday, to mark World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

Road accidents amounted to 6,693 between 2006 and 2015, with the number of people killed dropping annually and to half the number in 10 years.

The number of seriously injured victims in road accidents has also decreased, with 25,418 people being left severely injured in the past 10 years.

The National Road-Safety Authority revealed that 374 people died in road accidents this year, 17 less than in the same period in 2015. (Xinhua)

Kenyan Police Kill 4 Al-Shabaab Militants in Border Town

MANDERA - Kenyan police on Saturday evening killed four militants from Somalia-based Islamist group Al-Shabaab and recovered weapons in the northeastern border town of El-Wak, an official said.

Northeastern Regional Coordinator Mohamud Saleh said Sunday the killed were Al-Shabaab militants who had planned to attack police targets in the town, which is situated on the border with Somalia in Mander county.

"On Saturday afternoon, the police officers acting on intelligence pursued five or so Al-Shabaab militants who had been sighted," Saleh said.

Saleh said police officers tracked the militants and then engaged a group of 20, who were carrying machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers, in an exchange of fire.

Saleh said the police killed four militants and recovered AK 47 rifles with 90 rounds of ammunition.

Kenya has enhanced security in border towns following several attacks blamed on Al-Shabaab in the past months.

Al-Shabaab militants have carried out a series of bloody attacks in Kenya since Kenyan troops entered Somalia to battle the group in 2011, as part of the African Union peacekeeping force. (Xinhua)

Bangladesh PM "Deeply Shocked" at Loss of Lives in Indian Train Crash

DHAKA - Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her "deep shock" and condolences over the train accident in India in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"I am deeply shocked and saddened at the tragic death of so many people and injury of scores others in a train accident in Uttar Pradesh in India," Hasina said in a message to her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

"On behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh, and on my own behalf, I express my deepest condolences ... our thoughts and prayers are with the grieving families," reads the message to Modi. In one of the deadliest train accidents since 2010, at least 91 people were killed and more than 150 others injured after an express train derailed in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh early Sunday morning. (Xinhua)