

(1) Senate Approves ...

Lawmakers stressed imbalances in the budgetary projections must be rectified to ensure even-handed development of the country and remove the sense of deprivation in certain provinces.

Earlier, Wolesi Jirga Deputy Speaker Haji Zahir Qadir warned if the Supreme Court give its nod against the house decision regarding the seven disqualified ministers the lower house would reject the draft budget.

The lower house has recently disqualified seven ministers over the low spending of development budget. The president, however, referred the case to the Apex Court to take final decision in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(2) Afghan, Turkmen...

This country is ready to help Afghans in sport events, it said. Ghani travelled to Turkmenistan late Friday to attend the 1st Global Conference on Sustainable Transport.

The conference was held on Saturday and Sunday in the Turkmen capital, Ashgabat, and was attended by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and leaders from several countries.

Ghani will also attend and deliver a speech at the inauguration ceremony of the newly built railway between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan at Turkmen Abad.

The Global Sustainable Transport Conference has its foundation in the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in the Brazilian city of Rio in 2012. Ahead of the conference, the United Nations in a statement said that all modes of transport - road, rail, aviation, ferry, and maritime - will be addressed at the gathering, including in both developed and developing countries, as well as landlocked and transit countries.

Particular focus will be on developing and landlocked countries. The transport sector is responsible for about one quarter of greenhouse emissions. Also, more than 1.25 million are killed annually in traffic accidents, mostly in developing countries, according to UN. (Tolonews)

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(3) India Hands ...

comes as diplomatic sources said late in August that "The fourth helicopter is yet to be transferred. It needs spares before it can be made fully operational and the spares have to come from Russia."

The sources further added that efforts were on to fix the issue. "There was an issue with the spares. It is being sorted out. It should be delivered very soon," a senior defence official said without specifying a timeframe. Afghanistan received three of the four Mi-25 gunship helicopters from India late in the month of December last year and days before the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kabul.

The decision for the delivery of Mi-25 gunship helicopters was concluded during the recent visit of Afghan National Security Adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar to New Delhi. India has remained one of the key donors for the reconstruction of Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.

Since 2002, the Government of India has committed USD 2 billion dollars to the socio-economic rebuilding of the Afghan state and society in accordance with the development priorities of the Government and the people of Afghanistan. (KP)

(4) MPs Concerned ...

were yet to be established had been settled as refugees in Nangarhar and some northern parts of the country.

He said the rebels posing as refugees owned weapons, but could not talk in local languages. Zarmati asked all intelligence and detective organs to recognize all people returning to Afghanistan in the name of refugees.

Another senator Jumma Din Gayanwal said a large number of masked refugees equipped with modern weapons and vehicles had established homes in Gomal, Barmal and Gayan dis-

tricts of Paktika about a month ago.

He said local residents could not understand languages the masked refugees spoke. "Even men of these families do not show their faces to people, some of them have rented houses and others live in tents," he added.

Second deputy chairman Eng. Hasibullah Kalimzai asked the government to register refugees returning to Afghanistan.

Release of prisoners using HIA cards

Under an agreement between the government and the HIA signed on September 29, all prisoners related to HIA party should be released from government jails. Meshrano Jirga secretary Abdullah Qarlaq said some prisoners not related to HIA used fake cards of the party to be granted release.

He expressed concern over the release of individuals involved in the killing of people and Afghan forces and said such individuals should not be freed by using fake identity cards.

Atiqullah Safi, who heads HIA wing responsible for refugees returning to Afghanistan, agreed with Qarlaq, but said no prisoner had been released so far over fake cards.

The HIA had not distributed new identity cards to its followers and no prisoner would be released without investigation of the judiciary commission composed of representatives from HIA, the High Peace Council (HPC) and the government, he said.

The list of HIA prisoners is available with both the party and the government and no criminal would be allowed to misuse the opportunity, Safi added. (Pajhwok)

(5) Kunduz War

Kunduz city and they fled to Mazar-i-Sharif to reside here.

"We have no relatives or friends in Mazar-i-Sharif, we had no idea where to go and what to do," he said. "My mother found a bed sheet and placed it on the side of a road in Rawza area. We covered the sheet with old clothes and things to keep us warm," he added.

Firzo said they spent about one and a half months on the roadside and people paid them little money like beggars.

About other members of their family, he said one of his brothers had gone to Iran for work several years ago. They had no information about his brother's whereabouts in Iran, he said. To questions about their future, Firoz remained silent and could not say anything. However, he was hopeful about his mother treatment in the hospital.

Mohammad Ashraf Rawan, a doctor at the mental health section, said Mahria Khal was brought the hospital by security personnel on Saturday. He said the woman at first was in serious condition and could not even talk.

Rawan called her illness Schizophreniform disorder --- a mental disorder diagnosed when symptoms of schizophrenia are present for a significant portion of the time within a one-month period, but signs of disruption are not present for the full six months required for the diagnosis of schizophrenia.

People who face many problems develop such diseases, the doctor said and hoped Mahria Khal's health would be recovered soon. (Pajhwok)

(6) Taliban ...

200 Taliban families are being settled in every district, they will draw the people to themselves and then fighting with Taliban will be difficult," said Abdul Wadood Paiman, an MP. Nearly 985,000 refugees returned to the country this year - 610,000 of them from Pakistan. (Tolonews)

(7) Taliban Council...

people and had prevented Lashkargah from falling to Taliban. He said Taliban's plan to shift their leadership council from Pakistan to Afghanistan had been failed.

Hayat added a large number of militants had suffered casualties during a successful operation recently launched in Lashkargah. An operation to eliminate militants in a number of districts would be also launched soon, he said. He added seven militants in-

cluding two commanders were killed during an operation in Sangin district on Saturday night. Twelve landmines planted by Taliban were also defused, Hayat said.

Also on Sunday, the Meshrano Jirga or upper house of the parliament expressed concern over the shifting of Taliban leadership from Pakistan to Helmand and asked the government provide clarification in this regard.

A senator from Kandahar province, Rahmatullah Achakzai, said that security and intelligence forces should provide information whether the Taliban Quetta Shura had been shifted to Helmand or not.

If the Taliban council had been shifted for then Afghans would support it, but if the shifting was based on Pakistan interest, it would be dangerous for Afghanistan, he said. (Pajhwok)

(8) Major Drug...

provincial council also said security forces in the province are alert and that Herat resident will never accept insurgent's propaganda.

"Herat people support security forces and never will accept enemies propaganda," said Kamran Alizai, head of the council. (Tolonews)

(9) Taliban Must ...

government authorities have made several promises about launching operations in this province, but they yet to honour their pledges", Alami added. The residents of Kunduz have also been asking the government to launch winter operations against Taliban militants.

One of them Rahmat said the government last year promised conducting winter operations which didn't occur for unknown reason and resulted in the collapse of Kunduz City.

Gen. Sher Aziz Kamawal, the 808 Spinzar zone police commander, said security forces would launch "Operation Shafaq 2" in near future in Kunduz.

"The second round of Shafaq operation will be launched as soon as possible and we assure the people that Taliban will be entirely eliminated in this city", Kamawal added. However, he didn't provide a specific date for launching the offensive. (Pajhwok)

(10) Kabul Police ...

smoke through water, are popular public gathering spots for Afghan men. The Afghan authorities, however, say the cafes can be breeding grounds for petty criminals.

Led by the health ministry, authorities plan to go through each Kabul neighbourhood this week to enforce, for the first time, a two-year-old law banning indoor smoking in restaurants.

"We have to have control over shisha cafes, which promote debauchery and vulgarity in society," Kabul police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi told reporters outside one of the many restaurants raided by police.

"This is a religious and Islamic society and our young generation should not waste their energy in a wrong way," he added while standing near two pick-up trucks full of confiscated shisha pipes. Teams of police officers on Sunday walked from one cafe to the next, confiscating pipes and ripping down pictures advertising shisha smoking. Many cafe owners and customers were taken by surprise, with a few racing out covering their faces.

Some angry customers said that police should be focusing more on protecting the community from suicide bombers and kidnappings.

"The police cannot even secure the safety of their people and are instead wasting their time on grabbing some water pipes from these small businesses," said Saboor Bayat, a customer at Kabulistan cafe. (Reuters)

(11) MP Warns of...

"I have a number of friends who are also university students. When I discuss with them, they are supporting Taliban," said Khatera, a university student. Another student, Ali Rahman Rahmatyar, said: "A number of religious scholars even refuse to attend the funeral ceremony of security forces."

At the same event, a number of religious scholars said the subject of the culture of Islam at universities should be reformed.

"The culture of Islam subject should be reviewed. The issues which were added to this subject one or two decades ago are not helping to address and answer the problems of today's society," said Abdulhaq Habibi, a university lecturer. However, a Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs official said they believe that religious extremism is a foreign phenomenon.

"The ideology of extremism in others countries, particularly in Pakistan, is operative seriously. There are different ideologies in Pakistan. And they would try to inject it in Afghanistan," said Daee-ul-Haq Abid, deputy minister of hajj and religious affairs. (Tolonews)

(12) Farmers Happy...

during water deficit." Dawood, a resident of Zaranj, said: "Inshallah, we will have above-average snow and rain-falls this winter because winter season is yet to arrive while snow falling has begun."

The rain and snowfalls besides making water level increased in rivers and underground wells is also hygienically useful in declining water-borne diseases.

Aminullah, a farmer, said, "If one drop of rain falls from the sky, we feel so happy about it." Nimroz is one of the water-deficit provinces where rain falls between five to four times annually and the province witnesses snowfall in six to eight years of period. (Pajhwok)

(13) Jawzjan Officials...

many illnesses. Five people died due to cold weather and expectant mothers lost their babies," Hashar said.

Halima Sadaf, a member of the provincial council confirmed these displaced people are in a desperate situation and many are living in the open air, in tents, mosques and schools.

"According to our information, five people died due to the cold in Darzab district and many of them don't have access to healthcare centers," she said. However, local officials said that a group of doctors had been sent to the district to treat the sick. Nearly a million people have been displaced so far this year in Afghanistan due to the ongoing war. (Tolonews)

(14) Returnees Desperate...

said every Afghan refugee in Pakistan had been in trouble and wanted to return back to the homeland.

Kandahar refugees and repatriation director, Mohammad Azim Nawabi, said the number of refugees returning from Pakistan through Torkham border had increased this year.

He said last year 2,500 refugees returned, but their number increased to 6,000 in the past nine months of the current year. He confirmed the refugees had only been assisted by UNHCR and the International Organization of Migration (IOM), but the Afghan government had done nothing about them so far.

However, he said work on a township in 1,200 acres of land for refugees was underway in Panjwai district.

Nawabi said Refugee and Repatriation Minister Sayed Hussain Alami Balkhi had traveled to Kandahar few months ago and inaugurated initial works on the refugee township.

The township would have facilities like clean drinking water, asphalted roads and electricity, he said, adding the plots would be distributed by a special delegation of the governor's house. But he said construction process of the township was going slow due to limited budget. The township would complete over the next nine months. After making available essential services, 1,600 entitled refugees would be distributed land plots in the township in the first phase, he said.

He said only one township in Kandahar could not accommodate all the refugees and thus 10,000 acres of land in Zherai, Daman and Spin Boldak districts had also been allocated to the returnees.

Nawabi asked the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation to resolve budget shortage problem and accelerate construction process of townships so that the refugees could start a normal life. Though UNHCR has stopped

supporting Afghan refugees, Afghans in Pakistan continued to return to their country, he said. He added the IOM was currently providing edible and non-edible items to Afghan returnees who lived as unregistered refugees in Pakistan.

In addition to returning refugees, thousands of war-affected families from Helmand and Uruzgan provinces live in Kandahar. The Kandahar refugees and repatriation director said 3,600 families from Helmand and Uruzgan had been displaced to Kandahar.

He added 2,900 of the displaced families had so far received aid from charity organizations.

A survey of the internally displaced families was underway and those who had not yet received aid would be provided with essential items.

Nawabi said the number of returning refugees would increase next year and the government must be prepared for that. (Pajhwok)

(15) 8-Member Criminal...

Video clips of other people having sex with boys were also found with the detainees, he said.

Mohammad Akram, a resident of Kandahar province, who owns a vehicle oil company in Ghazni, said first the men purchased some oil from him and then invited him to their area.

"When I went there, they guided me to a room where a boy was already there. The boy there requested me to have sex with him. The men recorded what happened in the room," he said. He said the men then contacted him over phone and asked him to pay \$20,000 otherwise they would release the film on the internet.

Akram said he contacted Ghazni crime branch police. "Police recorded all telephonic conversations between me and the criminals and arrested them when they came for taking money on Saturday evening," he added.

Amarkhel also said four drug smugglers and a militant involved in planting roadside bombs had been arrested in Ghazni. He said 2,000 different types of bullets were seized from the detainees. (Pajhwok)

(16) Half Million...

schools and hospitals to continue playing, learning and, when necessary, seeking medical care. In one besieged area, a group of volunteers built a playground and a park by linking a series of basements. On average, around 200 children come to this playground every day. In another besieged area, an underground school provides 250 girls with the chance to keep learning. (Xinhua)

(17) Trump Aide...

took to Twitter Sunday morning to condemn the Green-Party backed recount effort as "a scam." Clinton's team joined the effort in Wisconsin after Green Party nominee Jill Stein filed paperwork formally requesting a recount.

President-elect Donald Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway says she has personal concerns with the prospect of Mitt Romney being selected as secretary of state. (AP)

(18) Clinton Says...

abuse. "We need to do what the UK did and make psychological abuse a crime," Jennifer Teteffsky, a domestic violence survivor, told the Huffington Post. "Just because one was never hit, doesn't mean you're not a victim too." (AP)

(19) Russia May...

Russia was ready to cap its output at the current level, adding that Moscow is in talks about a crude oil output freeze with other non-OPEC countries, in particular with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Mexico. (Xinhua)

(20) Syrian Army ...

Aleppo over the past 24 hours, civilians started fleeing toward government-controlled areas in western Aleppo.

The military operations in eastern Aleppo aim to set free the civilians "who have been taken hostage by the rebels," said a security source. (Xinhua)

(21) Winter Closes...

city the fighters have held. The United Nations is asking

donors to fund winter kits for 1.2 million people -- preparing for a worst case scenario that much of the city's population may have to flee. Seventy-two thousand have fled so far, and winter has brought freezing temperatures.

The Kurdish authorities are requiring fleeing civilians to stay in camps even if they have family outside, so that males can be checked for ties to Islamic State. Relatives crowded out front, bringing blankets and pillows.

"My relatives have ice on their tent at night," said Salah, as he waited for his cousins and their five children to pick up the bags. "They don't get enough blankets so I brought them from my house."

Salah escaped Mosul for Kurdish-held Erbil, 60 km east of the city, when Islamic State swept through the area in June 2014. The rest of his family fled two weeks ago. (Reuters)

(22) French ...

He wants to drop sanctions against Russia over its aggressive actions in Ukraine and partner with Russia in the fight against Islamic State extremists. (AP)

(23) Swiss Seen...

2024 and Leibstadt in 2029, were the initiative to pass.

The Swiss government and industry have fought the initiative, saying it could lead to blackouts, higher costs and the loss of energy independence because the country would become more dependent on coal-fired power from neighboring Germany.

"We're very happy Swiss voters are giving such an explicit result," said Heinz Karrer, a former head of the utility Axpo and current president of the pro-business group Economiesuisse, in an interview on state-run television SRF.

"Switzerland's people don't want a radical solution," he said. "It would have caused uncertainties about our energy supply, something Swiss people were unwilling to risk."

Germany plans to shutter its remaining nuclear plants by 2022, a response to the 2011 disaster in Japan that also prompted the Swiss initiative. (Reuters)

(24) Sanctions Renewal ..

imposing] sanctions and violation of the previous commitments by the opposite side," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The GOP-controlled US House of Representatives on November 15 passed a bill for a 10-year reauthorization of the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA).

The ISA will expire at the end of 2016 if it is not renewed. The bill must be approved by the Senate before being signed by the US president into law. (Presstv)

(25) Militants Kidnap...

group and that the Polish embassy in Islamabad is monitoring the situation.

No militant group has claimed responsibility for the kidnappings. In the past, militants from the hardline Islamist Pakistani Taliban group have kidnapped people in the region for ransom or to bargain for the release of prisoners.

The area where the workers were kidnapped is close to South Waziristan, part of the lawless Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) bordering Afghanistan. Geofizyka Krakow has a long history of seismic survey work in Pakistan.

In 2008, a Polish engineer working for the firm was kidnapped by the Pakistani Taliban near the northwestern city of Attock, and beheaded several months later. Overall security in Pakistan has improved over the last few years but many of the northwestern areas bordering Afghanistan remain volatile and dangerous, especially for foreigners and those working with foreign companies.

The frontier regions, deeply conservative and hard to access due to rough terrain, have long been the sanctuary of fighters from al Qaeda, the Taliban and other militant groups.

Most of the myriad militant groups that stage attacks inside Pakistan are trying to overthrow the government to establish an Islamic theocracy and impose a stricter interpretation of the religion than is practised in much of the country. (Reuters)