

(1) Officials...

MoLSA. "The employment process is being conducted in the MoPH and soon the vacant positions will be filled," said Ahmad Jan Neem, deputy minister of the MoPH. Currently dozens of independent directorates, including the IARCSA are being managed by acting directors. (Tolonews)

(2) Joint Committee...

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's name from international blacklists and to free their prisoners.

"We are trying to establish a joint committee with three members from the Hizb-e-Islami and three from the HPC or NUG and they will discuss issues such as removing Hekmatyar's name from the U.S. blacklist and others and the committee will be created to negotiate with the Ministry of Justice, the NSC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," said Mohammad Nadir Afghan, a spokesman for Hizb-e-Islami.

Meanwhile, Hekmatyar has announced a ceasefire. Officials at the Ministry of Defense (MoD) also confirmed that following the peace deal they have not conducted operations against Hizb-e-Islami supporters.

"Hizb-e-Islami armed men have been present on the battlefield, and based on the peace deal, they decided to cooperate with us," said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the MoD.

In the peace deal it is stated that Hizb-e-Islami supporters must lay down their arms and end their anti-government activities, however, analysts said that knowing the exact number of Hizb-e-Islami militants is vital for the NUG.

"Now Hizb-e-Islami should tell to the NUG how many armed men they have and it should be clear. Also Hizb-e-Islami should register its armed men with the Afghan security forces," said Mohibullah Samim, former governor of Paktika. The NUG has said that HPC has been ordered to pursue further negotiations with the Hizb-e-Islami, however, the HPC have not commented in this regard.

But on Saturday, Mullah Trakhil Muhammadi, an MP, along with a number of clerics declared their support for the peace deal.

"Afghans are tired of fighting and we can't bear seeing Afghans being killed anymore," Trakhil said. Hizb-e-Islami is the first anti-government group that joined the peace process. However, analysts insist that the implementation of the peace agreement is important for the future of the country. (Tolonews)

(3) Summit Delegation...

Afghan female lawmakers and women's rights activists hit out over government's selection.

According to activists, government should make sure that the women's delegation is representative of the whole country.

"Always, individuals are introduced to international conferences who are active only in the capital and they always present the same programs and programs which are limited to the capital," said Kofi.

"If the present delegation participates at the Brussels Summit, this will not be acceptable to us, because their (delegation) programs are not compliant with the issues of the entire nation," said Wazhma Forogh, founder of Women for Peace.

Activists argue that the lack of interest in appointing an energetic and powerful women's delegation for the summit will hamper their potential to seek consistent support from the world in the years ahead.

"We are concerned that this time again we lose opportunities where we make commitments to the international community for aid," said MP Massouda Karokhail.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) which has the responsibility of organizing such delegations for the summit said they had chosen the group in consultation with a number of ministries.

"These delegations have been nominated in harmony with the ministry of women affairs, ministry of labor and social affairs and the ministry of foreign affairs, they will represent the women in the capital and all provinces," said Ajmal Abdulrahimzai, spokesman for the MoF. (Tolonews)

(4) Ground Paved ...

sector in line with a new policy called "Open Access and Competitive Law" the High Economic Council approved on Saturday.

MCIT Minister Abdul Razaq Wahidi told a press conference in Kabul that the aim of the new policy was to facilitate investment by the private sector, improve the communications and information technology sector and expand people's access to the internet. He said opening a healthy and fair

environment for competition in the fiber optic market, providing basic infrastructure in telecommunications and paving the ground for access to active and inactive infrastructures of telecommunications sector to all investors without discrimination are parts of the policy.

"This policy makes a framework through which telecom service providers would be able to create, implement and develop new infrastructures across the country," he said.

The policy encouraged owners of telecom infrastructures to share their resources with each other and all telecommunication service providers from large to small would have equal access to necessary infrastructures, Wahidi added.

Meanwhile, Hamayon Qayumi, senior advisor to the president, said the unity government took effective steps for improving people's economic situation. "Open Access and Competitive Law is one of the policies for improving a sustained economy and attracting cooperation," he said.

"The Afghan government knows the country's economic and social improvement is not possible without an effective partnership with the private sector. With implementation of the new policy, basic and revenue generating infrastructures would be taken out of the government's monopoly," he said.

Qayumi said the policy would allow the private sector to legally find access to telecommunications infrastructures and extend the fiber optic networks across the country.

The policy would convert Afghanistan into the connection and transfer point for information and would play a special role in neighboring countries, he added.

Economy Minister Abdul Sattar Murad, who also participated the conference, said the new policy would generate jobs, improve the private sector, develop economy, increase national revenue, improve e-governance and joint investment, healthy competition in telecommunications, and reduce internet prices.

Based on the policy, the private sector would also play a role to improve national economy, he said, but added the partnership need an effective program to be made operational.

Atiqullah Nasrat, operations board head at the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), said despite government's achievements in the past 14 years, problems in areas of standardization and prices remained.

For resolving these problems, the private sector had always supported the creation of effective policies and procedures, he said.

He added the government's monopoly on telecommunication services and discriminations were problems that prevented the private sector from investing in the area.

He asked the government to provide more facilities to the private sector so it could compete with the government. (Pajhwok)

(5) Chinese Embassy...

Afghan Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, former President Sibghatullah Mujadidi, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and other top officials attended the ceremony. (Xinhua)

(6) Contract Signed ...

The Minister of Energy and Water Ali Ahmad Osmani said 150 megawatts of electricity would be produced in total with the completion of extension of the dam.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said earlier in March that work on key infrastructure projects including construction of water dams will start in accordance with the available resources.

During a meeting of the National Procurement Commission (NPC), President Ghani reviewed a report by the Ministry of Energy and Water regarding the construction of 29 large, medium and small water dams. (KP)

(7) Angelina Jolie...

Back at home, she successfully took on the Department of Defense and helped overturn the Combat Exclusion Policy, which banned women from combat positions.

The book is scheduled to be released on March 7, 2017 by Berkley Caliber, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Jolie is in negotiations to play Hegar in the film.

This will be the second film for Angelina Jolie based on Afghanistan after "The Breadwinner" film depict the life of a young Afghan girl which puts into the screen the courage of the girl who disguises herself as a boy to become the breadwinner of her family.

The Breadwinner movie will be based on the novel of Deborah Ellis and will be titled "The Breadwinner" which will tell the story of a young girl named Parvana, who lives in the

reign of Taliban in Afghanistan. (KP)

(8) NUG's Foreign...

ties with the Russian Federation and China.

"This indicates that Afghanistan is no longer an isolated country, but on the focal point of all countries and international institutions," said Mur-tazawi.

"We can forge better ties with Russia besides having a security agreement with America, we can also forge good relations with China and India," said political analyst Hekmatullah Shah-baz.

According to political analysts, the NUG leaders succeeded in isolating Pakistan in the international sphere.

"Initially the national unity government tried to benchmark Pakistan's honest cooperation with the Afghan government, but later it was revealed that Pakistan was not an honest country, in the wake of those efforts, Kabul then launched extensive efforts to forge an international consensus against Pakistan," said political analyst Hadi Meeran.

This comes just a few days ahead of an international summit on Afghanistan in Brussels where the world will renew its commitments to Afghanistan for another four years. (Tolonews)

(9) Tension Reported...

parliament had caused problems for Argo residents.

"Jamiat-e-Islami and Hizb-e-Islami do not have problems in Badakhshan. Muslim gathered the people and spoke to them over a loud speaker and then attacked the police headquarters. Police reacted to their move and a few people were killed and wounded," Akbari said.

"The parties do not have any problems. The clashes happened between irresponsible armed men and the commander of public uprising. After a few hours of firing, police managed to control the situation," said Zahid Mosadiq, district governor of Argo. "Parties do not have problems in Badakhshan, but a number of irresponsible persons used their names. The situation is under control and we are trying to arrest the perpetrators," said Ghulam Sakhi Ghafoori, chief of Badakhshan police.

Argo is the biggest and the most secure district of Badakhshan - where Taliban are not active. However, military analysts believe that both parties should call their supporters to order. (Tolonews)

(10) Balkh's Historical...

are more than 120 monuments and historical sites; it means 60 historical buildings are from different eras even pre-Islam," said Khaliq. However many have been reconstructed.

"Fifty percent of these historical buildings have been reconstructed very well and the others need reconstruction," Khaliq added.

Meanwhile a number of academics have said there is a need for maintenance of these historical sites and that if attention is not paid to this, the intellectual capital of the country will be destroyed.

"Every country's ancient relics is the history of the people which introduces the past to those today and this is the responsibility of each generation and government to pay attention to the maintenance of these ancient relics," said Mabina Khairandish one historian.

"The monuments link and connect the past with the present and future generations and this is one of the government's responsibilities to maintain the monuments," said Habibullah another academic.

Meanwhile Balkh culture and information department said that dozens of historical sites and monuments have been reconstructed with the aid of America, Turkey, Norway and Holland and efforts are under way to keep them from being destroyed. (Tolonews)

(11) Afghan Girls ...

threats posed by terrorism. Feresteh Forough, the found of Code to Inspire company has told PBS "It's more about showing a good image of Afghanistan that the media, unfortunately, doesn't show."

The company teaches women and girls about technology and coding amid a surge in mobile phone usage across the country since the fall of the Taliban regime.

The application to be built by the young Afghan girls will help the subscribers to take a quiz about Afghanistan and based on their selections, see a list of suggested places to visit and food to try.

Forough was born in Iran and currently lives in New York where her nonprofit is registered. She started the school in 2015 with \$22,000 raised on a crowd-sourced fundraising website and with 20

laptop computers donated by Overstock.

Forough earned her bachelor's degree in computer science at Herat University and a master's degree at the Technical University of Berlin in Germany. After finishing her education, she taught for three years at Herat University. (KP)

(13) 28 Security Men ...

inhabitants into leaving homes. Another resident of the district, Shahzadah, said the insurgents had entered people's homes and used them as bastions in Chah-i-Injir locality.

"Almost all families in the area have been displaced and shops are closed. Only those families who were unable to flee homes remain in the area."

An official of the Afghan Border Police (ABP) at the conflict scene, Esmatullah, said many groups of the Taliban had arrived at the area over the past 24 hours.

He said the two warring sides were just 300 metres away from each other. He said the insurgents would be pushed back of reinforcements arrived.

Asadulah, another ABP official said, heavy casualties were inflicted on the insurgents during the hours long clash.

Helmand governor's spokesman Omar Zwak said the insurgents had reached near Lashkargah and wanted to attack security posts, but security forces blocked their advance. He said soon a massive operation would be launched by security forces in Bolan area.

At least 28 insurgents and 12 security personnel suffered casualties in the clash, Zwak said, without specifying the number of those wounded and dead.

On the other hand, officials at the Emergency-run hospital said 28 wounded security personnel had been delivered to the hospital so far. The wounded included Afghan National Army (ANA) and police personnel.

The Taliban confirmed the clash, with their spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi claiming the fighters had closed roads from Nad Ali, Marja and Chah-i-Injir leading to Bolan area. He said the fighting was ongoing and security forces had sustained many casualties.

Helmand is one of the most insecure provinces of Afghanistan. Currently four of its districts are under Taliban control and in some other districts, security forces control only district centres. (Pajhwok)

(14) Returning ...

repatriated refugees who is currently living in a tent in Gadanha village of Dand-i-Ghori locality, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had been living with his family in Pakistan's Karachi city over the past 18 years. He said they were recently forced by Pakistan to leave the country.

"All of our land properties were usurped by powerful individuals in Pakistan, our houses here had been destroyed due to the decades of war, currently we live in a ruined place under a tent in a village which is under Taliban control, we all are jobless and no one has so far helped us," he said.

He was concerned about the fast approaching winter and said: "We do not know what to do, where to go and how to address our problems."

Yar Mohammad, another refugee who returned from Pakistan to Baghlan with his 10 member family, said: "We are from Jar Khushk area of Baghlan-i-Markazi district, we cannot go to our area due to clashes there and we currently live with our relatives in Shar-i-Jadid, we don't know how long we would be here." He said he has several times shared his problems with the Baghlan refugees and repatriation department, but no avail. (Pajhwok)

(15) Jawzjan: War-Hit...

supports her seven-member family with the income.

Besides women, children are also seen busy in making bricks. Yadgar, 13, said they left school due to conflict and shifted to Jawzjan and now worked in a kiln.

"I wanted to become an engineer but the war and other issues shattered my dreams and now I have to work to earn," he said. Yadgar said the brick mould was heavy and very difficult for him to lift and carry.

According to statistics, as many as one million children in Afghanistan have been engaged in hard labour and the government has no strategy to get the children out of labour and enroll them in schools. (Pajhwok)

(16) China's Investment...

Describing Sino-Afghan relations as deep rooted and historical, the professor noted that the People's Republic of China had invested in several significant projects in the past centu-

ry in 1970s such as Parwan Irrigation Canal, Bagram Textile factory, etc. He hopes China can invest in similar projects at present and in the future.

The senior economist has sought more investment by Chinese companies and Chinese government in the peaceful provinces of Afghanistan such as central region.

"Several provinces including Bamyan, Daikundi, Panjsher, Balkh and many more areas are peaceful and environment for investment is conducive, therefore our request from China is to invest in any field including industrial, agriculture and tourism to help this country rebuild its economy," the economist argued.

The senior economist has also advocated for investment in diverting illicit drug to pain killing medicines and sought China's support in this field in the poppy growing Afghanistan.

Describing railway connection between China and Afghanistan through central Asian States of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan as a stride for boosting trade and economic relations between the two neighboring countries and the region, the senior economist maintained that Afghans looking towards China for more investment.

Afghanistan, according to the economist, owns untapped mineral treasure worth 5 trillion U.S. dollars, and Afghans are looking forward to seeing Chinese investment in the mining field, which is necessary to create job opportunities and poverty alleviation in the cash strapped and foreign aid dependent country.

Lauding China for opening Confucius Institute in Kabul University, professor Masoud requested more scholarships to Afghan students for higher study in Chinese universities, saying getting education by Afghans in Chinese universities would further contribute in enhancing people to people contact and eventually strengthening bilateral relations. (Xinhua)

(17) Parwan Farmers ...

the causes that protected vines from diseases and pests, he said.

Baz Mohammad, a gardener from Rahish area of Charikar, who sold grapes on Parwan-Kabul road, said that he collected 10.5 tons of grapes from 800 vines this year compare to last year's 3.5 tons.

"I earned around 150,000 Afghani this year due to good market for grapes, but last year I earned only 40,000 Afghani," he said.

Mohammad Payman, a grapes trader in Qarabagh district of Kabul, bordering Parwan province, said that grapes market was good this year because most of the fresh fruit was exported to India.

He said that he exported 28 tons of grapes from Qarabagh district to Kabul, Kunduz, Balkh, Jalalabad, Khost and to India this year.

Parwan agriculture, irrigation and livestock director, Abdul Karim Farzam, said that the grapes production has increased in the province compare to last years.

He linked increase in the grapes production to farmers training in areas of branches trimming, timely irrigation, pesticides, making fences and others. (Pajhwok)

(18) Rebels Shut ...

he said.

The construction process of development projects in the district have also been suspended because all the supplies had passed through the alternative road, Hamid added.

A provincial council member, Abdul Wali Wakil also said that security threats have increased on the alternative way to Azra district and local residents could not travel on it.

"The implementation of nearly 30 development projects have been suspended due to absence of needed materials, Taliban militants do not allow construction companies to transfer supplies for the projects," he said. (Pajhwok)

(19) Sikh Man's...

occupied, we are threatened and our friend was mercilessly killed, but no one came to our help."

Later, deputy governor Mohammad Hanif Gardiwal met the protesting Sikhs and condoled with them on the death of Royal Singh.

Gardiwal said the provincial administration had directed the security organs to investigate the murder and arrest the killers soon. (Pajhwok)

(20) Woman among...

over to his family.

Kidnap for ransom cases still continue in parts of the country despite the Afghan intelligence nabbed two MAFIA bosses involved in major kidnappings who were later executed by the government.

The two top MAFIA leaders, Habib Istalif and Raees Khudaiddad, were executed late in 2014 and early in 2015 after they were arrested by intelli-

gence operatives.

The NDS operatives released a hostage during an operation conducted in central Wardak province of Afghanistan earlier this year.

The operation was conducted as the kidnapers were demanding a huge ransom of \$1 million from the family of the hostage, forcing the intelligence operatives to intervene and secure his release. (KP)

(21) WHO Calls...

WHO is calling on all parties in the conflict to allow access to provide medicines, medical supplies, fuel and health personnel, to support overwhelmed staff in Aleppo, immediately halt all attacks on health workers, facilities and supplies, respect the safety and neutrality of health workers and health facilities and cease removal of critical supplies from deliveries of medical supplies. (Xinhua)

(22) Russia Accuses...

and Washington earlier this month could have led the two countries to coordinate strikes against jihadists, but the deal fell apart as both sides blamed each other for its failure. Moscow has been accused of indiscriminately bombing Aleppo's opposition-controlled east as it helps an assault currently being conducted by Syrian government troops to capture all of the country's second city. (Monitoring Desk)

(23) Russian FM ...

lasted one and a half hours. During the phone talks, Lavrov also confirmed that Russia remained open for dialogue with the United States on all key issues of the Syrian reconciliation, Ryabkov said. (Xinhua)

(24) 15 Turkey...

agency said. Ege University is the fourth largest in Turkey.

Some 32,000 people have been arrested in the wake of the coup under a state of emergency.

Those arrested include top former generals accused of organizing the coup but also people from every sector of life ranging from pastry magistrates to journalists to former footballers.

Erdogan said this week that the state of emergency imposed after the coup should be extended for another three months when it expires in October. (Agencies)

(25) Movement Restrictions...

The conflicting sides in eastern Ukraine reported more combat casualties early this month among their soldiers despite a ceasefire that has been in place since Sept. 1.

The conflict that erupted in mid-April 2014 killed more than 9,500 people and injured some 22,000 others. (Xinhua)

(26) UN Chief ...

fully with the Board," the statement said. According to the statement, in the evening of Sept. 19, as 31 trucks delivered lifesaving assistance in Urum al-Kubra, a few kilometres west of Aleppo city, humanitarians came under fire.

At least 18 people, including the head of the SARC in Urum al-Kubra, were killed, the statement said, adding that the warehouse where supplies were being unloaded, as well as a nearby medical clinic, were also severely damaged. (Xinhua)

(27) Coming Week...

assembly, the most representative body in the world organization, with 193 member states.

The interview is part of the General Assembly's efforts to make the selection process transparent.

"The important day here is Wednesday because that's when you'll see the colored ballots being used for the first time and we'll have a clearer idea about whether this is a longer process or a shorter process," Thomson said. (Xinhua)

(28) UN Mourns...

service of the United States, Ban noted.

As President of the Staff Management Coordination Committee, he helped foster relations with the international civil service. He also served one of his most cherished endeavours was the annual celebration of UN Day at the Julian Curtiss School in Greenwich, the U.S. state of Connecticut, where he brought people together to celebrate the world body. (Xinhua)

(29) Hungarian PM...

unlimited numbers of "illegal immigrants" to settle in Hungary. On the surface, Sunday's referendum question appears simple, he said, but it actually includes all issues affecting the fate of the European Union, and within that, of Hungary. (Xinhua)