

(1) Ministry, Plans...

management system of the Ministry of Transportation.

According to Mr. Yari, work on the implementation of road and railway link projects is moving in the right direction.

"Of course, lack of security in some regions of the country has its impacts on the projects," Mr. Yari said.

Although it's believed that the cost of road construction projects in the country has been unprecedented over the past eighteen years, but it is said that majority of the amount gone waste due to mismanagement and security threats. (Tolo news)

(2) Sensitive Materials ...

non-sensitive materials should reach provinces in time," he said.

As many as 17 candidates are in the run for the presidency. (Pajhwok)

(3) No Pediatrician ...

hospital beds and appoint pediatricians and pay serious heed to the hospital.

Dr. Nasir Parsa, acting head of the Civil Hospital, told Pajhwok that the number of patients surged every year this month due to seasonal diseases, so some families might have complained.

"Despite lack of pediatricians, our doctors try a lot and provide good services to patients," he added.

He said more than 100 children with seasonal illnesses arrived at the hospital on a daily basis and the hospital staff were required to provide one-by-one health services.

Juma Gul Yaqobi, the provincial public health director, acknowledged lack of pediatricians and said children were provided health services through other section doctors.

He added the MoPH tried to appoint pediatricians but due to law privileges, the doctors did not join the hospital. He promised to resolve the issue at earliest possible. (Pajhwok)

(4) Taliban Expand War ...

terrorists in Badakhshan," said Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former deputy minister of interior.

Some Afghan soldiers on the battlefields in Kunduz said they are fully committed to defending the country against any types of threats.

"Over the past few days, the enemy launched major attacks on Kunduz which were repelled by the special units of the Afghan forces," said a soldier in Kunduz.

"We are ready to defend our faithful Afghan nation till the last drop of our blood," said a soldier in Kunduz.

Security officials said the Taliban does not have the ability to overrun any strategic point in the country.

"Today, the Taliban killed several people in Kunduz who were also Taliban while their leaders in Qatar may be sleeping," Acting Minister of Interior Massoud Andarabi said.

This comes after as the Ministry of Interior said in a statement that 20 Afghan security force members and five civilians were killed and 80 others, mostly civilians, were wounded in the Taliban attack on the city of Kunduz which continued for more than 24 hours.

The clashes left 56 Taliban fighters dead, the statement said. Taliban has not commented on their casualties in Kunduz battle.

The city of Kunduz came under attack for the third time in the last five years. The militants attacked the city from three directions at around 1:30 am on Saturday, according to Interior Ministry.

Taliban, meanwhile, claimed that Afghan forces suffered casualties in the clashes.

This comes as the US and the Taliban wrapped up the ninth round of talks in Doha in which the militant group is pushing for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

(5) Kunduz City ...

was wounded in a suicide that struck a main square in the capital. The blast occurred in Karkazi Chwak area at around 6:00pm.

The blast took place when security forces had gathered to defend the city from falling to the Taliban.

Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for MoI, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Special Forces had launched clearing operation and purged the entire city from militants' presence on Saturday evening.

He said the markets, shops reopened and the situation went back to normal. Information about casualties would be shared later on, he added.

Lt. Gen. Asadullah Khalid, acting Minister of Defense, told media persons on Saturday that nine security forces and 36 militants were killed. On the other hand civil hospital head told Pajhwok that eight civilian bodies and 60 injured had been brought to hospital.

Rahimullah, a resident of Kunduz City, said the situation turned to normal this morning but said electricity was still suspended and telecom services were yet to reactivate.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the fighters had captured dozens of check-posts, seized weapons and ammunition and inflicted casualties on dozens of security forces.

He claimed they were still controlling the captured areas and their aim was to inflict casualties on security forces. He said seven rebels were killed and 11 others wounded in the fighting. (Pajhwok)

(6) Taliban Attack ...

controlling the situation on time and said that security forces were real sons of the country who protected the lives of their people with their own sacrifices.

The capital of Kunduz province has fallen twice to the Taliban during the last four years. (Pajhwok)

(7) Citizen Charter...

development in cooperation with village development councils.

According to the ministry, budget for the program has been estimated at more than \$1 billion and \$630 million of it has been allocated for its first four years.

Rural Rehabilitation and Development Minister Mujib Rahman Karimi, told a three-day 'National Consultative Councils of Development' of the National Citizen Charter Program that such meetings were being held once after every two years to review activities and achievements of the program and development councils.

Karimi said currently 8,500 projects have been under construction and 2,000 have been implemented and put into services.

He said, \$ 253 million had been sent to the accounts of village councils and for implementation of the projects. He added local people also contributed a 10 percent share of the projects.

Deputy Director of Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) Abdul Baqi Popal said 12,000 development councils have been created in 123 districts of provinces under the program.

He said men and women equally benefited from the program but in cities, women were given a 10 percent more share.

Haji Abdul Jabar, a development council head in Ahmadabad district of southeastern Paktia province, said all projects of the programs were based on people needs in areas of irrigation, construction of canals, bridges and local squares.

He added that the role of people in implementation of the projects ensured quality of works. (Pajhwok)

(8) Observers Skeptical ...

I the new software to the devices.

"We are trying to resolve this defect. We are checking the biometric devices one by one which are supposed to be sent to the provinces," said Mawlana Mohammad Abdullah, an IEC commissioner.

"Unfortunately, the commission escaped from the responsibility till the end of the issue despite there is time to finalize their plan about checking this," said Yusuf Rasheed, the CEO of Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan. "Even now the shortcoming we have is the lack of a specific plan to determine the use of the biometric system."

The IEC last year purchased almost 18,000 biometric devices for parliamentary elections from a German company, Dermalog. Election observers said the biometric devices purchased from Germany are "not working" properly.

The IEC has so far trained 2,000 individuals to use the of biometric devices. The commission has appointed 110,000 employees for election day - half of whom are women.

In June, IEC announced the allocation of \$30 million for purchasing biometric identification devices ahead of the September presidential elections.

The Afghan people prepare for elections at a time that rumors about threats continue to grip the process despite assurances by the Afghan security forces and their foreign counterparts.

Figures by the IEC indicate that almost 2,000 polling centers will remain closed on the election day due to security threats but more than 5,000 polling centers will be remain opened countrywide.

The IEC had considered 7,385 centers for the election day but only 5,373 centers will remain open, the IEC statistics show.

Kabul will have 558 open polling centers and only two polling centers will be closed in the province.

Almost 300 polling centers out of 462 will remain open in Herat which is a major province in the west of the country. Other provinces in the west such as Badghis, Ghor, and Farah will have the highest number of closed polling centers with 136, 111, 174 closed centers respectively.

But on August 30, IEC started the transfer of election materials to all provinces which was delayed for two days due to issues around malfunction in biometric devices.

Head of the IEC secretariat told reporters at the commission on Friday, August 30, that the process will end on September 11. Afghanistan's presidential election is scheduled for September 28. (Tolo news)

(9) Taliban Attack on ...

area where the Taliban staged attack, said the militants were still present in the area and were searching homes and torched the house of commander Obaid.

The Kabul-north highway has also been shut for traffic as a result of the conflict.

Taliban's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the fighters captured several security check-posts and military centers and caused casualties to dozens of security forces. (Pajhwok)

(10) 27 Civilians...

Public Health Director Dr. Ihsanullah Fazli told Pajhwok Afghan News the bodies of six civilians and 85 injured had been shifted to the hospital.

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(11) Ghani's Campaign ...

the attack and said security forces were now investigating it.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. However, Taliban militants had earlier threatened to target electoral campaigns for the September 28 presidential election. (Pajhwok)

(12) 2 New Polio ...

vaccination campaign in the province, he said. "This is an alarm for all parents that kids' paralysis is real and a serious threat", he added.

With registration of these two new polio positive cases, the number of such cases increased to seven in the province. (Pajhwok)

(13) Trade 20pc...

He said traders were concerned about the situation and were trying to reduce their business activities - a reason commercial affairs declined, he said.

Younisi said he had shared the problem with officials in Kabul but no practical action was so far taken.

Mohammad Ibrahim Ghazanfar, a trader in Balkh, said that goods prices also increased after the security situation worsened. He said prices soared in markets due to cut in imports.

"When Taliban collect taxes from traders on highways, it affects imports and increases prices in markets because most of our goods we need are imported," he said. Ghazanfar said recent security problems had worried traders and the situation had widely affected the general public.

Another Balkh trader, Bahktyar Bakht, also said collection of taxes by militants on highways had affected business affairs.

He said traders had to pay their taxes twice - once to the government and then to the Taliban. The government should take serious action for resolving this problem, Bakht added.

Balkh traders say Taliban collect 20,000 to 35,000 afghanis in tax from each truck on the Mazar-Shiberghan highway. (Pajhwok)

(14) Polish, German...

Germany I want to assure you that we will not forget, we will always remember about this, we want to remember and we are taking this responsibility that our history has imposed on us," Steinmeier said.

Duda thanked Steinmeier for attending the painful anniversary and said it was a form of giving "moral satisfaction."

"Mr. President, thank you for your presence and your attitude," Duda said.

"I can see a man who has come with humility, a bowed head in order to pay homage ... to share the pain."

"Do you, those gathered here, think it is easy to come to the town that has been destroyed by the Germans? To look in the eyes of those who have survived?" Duda asked of those attending.

Minutes later, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and Frans Timmermans, a top European Union official, led observations at Westerplatte Peninsula, on the Baltic coast, the site of the war's first battle as Polish troops put up resistance.

"Eighty years ago unspeakable horrors were unleashed on the Polish population, unspeakable horrors that we need to remember to prevent them from recurring in Europe," said Timmermans, the first vice president of the European Commission. "Can you imagine in this gathering that every fifth person sitting and standing here would suddenly disappear? This is what happened to the Polish nation at the hands of cruel Nazis who lost every understanding of humanity."

Poland remained under German occupation for more than five years and lost around 6 million citizens, and suffered damaged towns, villages and industry. More than half of those killed were Polish Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

"A special mention needs to be made of the Jewish Poles who were all but exterminated completely at the hands of the Nazis," Timmermans said. "We remember them

here today."

At noon, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, German Chancellor Angela Merkel along with the leader of Poland's ruling party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, joined Steinmeier and Duda and many other leaders for the main event in Warsaw. President Donald Trump was originally scheduled to attend but canceled to deal with Hurricane Dorian.

The invasion of Poland by Nazi German troops on Sept. 1, 1939, marked the outbreak of World War II.

The war's threat is still present, as about 3,000 residents had to be evacuated in the western town of Boleslawiec to allow military experts to remove 37 unexploded wartime missiles.

Today Germany and Poland are allies in NATO and the EU and have a strong economic and trade partnership. (AP)

(15) North Korea...

Pompeo lately, calling him a "diehard toxin", and casting doubt on attempts to restart talks

In Washington, a State Department official indicated on Saturday that the United States remained interested in pursuing talks.

"As we have indicated, we are prepared to engage in negotiations as soon as we hear from our counterparts in North Korea," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Negotiations aimed at dismantling the North's nuclear and missile programs have stalled since a failed second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi in February.

Trump and Kim met again in June at the inter-Korean border and agreed to reopen working-level negotiations, but that has not happened.

Since the Vietnam summit, North Korea has demanded that Pompeo be replaced with a "more mature" person, while lauding the rapport built between Kim and Trump.

North Korea has fired a series of short-range missiles in recent weeks in protest against U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises and the adoption of new weapons, complicating the reopening of the talks. (Reuters)

(16) Israeli Military...

what it said were details about an extensive Iranian-sponsored campaign to provide Hezbollah with the means to produce precision-guided missiles.

Such missiles - which Hezbollah acknowledges possessing - could potentially pose a counter-balance to Israel's overwhelming military force in any future war, with the capacity to home in on and knock out core infrastructure sites. (Reuters)

(17) Spain's Sanchez...

by the Socialist Party and Unidas Podemos."

"(On Tuesday) we will present a program to the people and, in particular, to Unidas Podemos in order to be able to find that necessary support so that the legislature can start," Sanchez said in the interview.

Last week, the Socialist Party rejected a reworked Podemos' offer to form a coalition government saying it could not trust such a partner in an administration.

Even if the Socialists and Podemos reconcile their differences, they will need the cooperation of other parties to govern.

While Sanchez said there was plenty of time to still strike a deal, Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias on Saturday tweeted that they had not been approached in August and that Sanchez was not planning to meet them until September 10.

A Sigma Dos poll published on Sunday by El Mundo daily showed that 55% of Spaniards want the two parties to hammer out a government deal. Another survey by pollsters NC for La Razon had 48.4% saying they did not want new elections, while 35% said they did.

Sanchez also reiterated his call for the conservative People's Party and centre-right Ciudadanos to abstain and allow him to form a government.

"If in the end we have to go to the polls on November 10 (...) I am convinced that the progressives of this country are going to bet more strongly on the Socialist Party." (Reuters)

(18) Japan Holds...

destroyed, of which 412,000 would be destroyed by fire. The death toll was assumed to reach about 23,000, and about 16,000, or 70 percent, would be killed by fire. Meanwhile, it is estimated that 123,000 people would be injured, 58,000 people would need to be rescued, and as much as 7.2 million people would be displaced.

During the drill, ministers and officials gathered after rushing from their dormitories to the prime minister's office. Around 8:00 a.m., the "Emergency Countermeasures Headquarters" was set up to discuss the extent of damage and response policies. Meanwhile, they held a video conference with the governor of Chiba Prefecture near Tokyo, where severe damage could be expected in such a major quake. They were

informed of the situation and assessed what kind of assistance would be needed. (Xinhua)

(19) North Korea...

nothing but a sort of a nasty game aimed at tarnishing the image of our Republic and finding justification for sanctions and pressure campaign against the DPRK," the statement said.

Washington has made scant progress toward its goal of getting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program, despite three meetings between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korea's vice foreign minister said on Saturday that hopes for talks with Washington were fading, and criticized Mike Pompeo's recent comments about "North Korea's rogue behavior".

Pyongyang has been blamed in recent years for a series of online attacks, mostly on financial networks, in the United States, South Korea and over a dozen other countries, as experts say such cyber activities generate hard currency for the regime.

The crux of the allegations against North Korea is its connection to a hacking group called Lazarus that is linked to \$81 million cyber heist at the Bangladesh central bank in 2016 and a 2014 attack on Sony's Hollywood studio. (Reuters)

(20) UK Lawmakers...

without a deal, but opposition lawmakers - and several from his own Conservatives - want to push through legislation to rule out no-deal during a narrow window of opportunity before parliament is suspended in little over a week's time.

Starmer said the plan, which will be published on Tuesday, had one "very simple" aim: to stop Johnson taking Britain out of the European Union without a deal.

"Obviously, if we are at the 31st of October, that will require an extension," he told the BBC's Andrew Marr on Sunday.

"But I think this should be a very short, simple exercise designed to ensure we don't crash out without a deal."

Gove, one of Johnson's key ministers who is co-ordinating no-deal contingency plans, said he believed a majority of lawmakers would back the prime minister and defeat the attempt.

"We know the prime minister is making progress with our European friends and allies in attempting to secure a deal, and I don't believe that people will want to erect a roadblock in his way," he said.

David Gauke, a former British justice secretary and a Johnson critic, said he would meet the prime minister on Monday to hear his plan to deliver a Brexit deal he could support.

But he said he was prepared to disobey Conservative Party discipline and lose the whip if he was not persuaded.

"Sometimes there is a point where you have to judge between your own personal interests and the national interest, and the national interest has to come first," he told Sky News. "But I hope it doesn't come to that."

Johnson said told the Sunday Times that those backing the opposition to no-deal risked there being no Brexit at all.

"Are you going to side with those who want to scrub the democratic verdict of the people - and plunge this country into chaos?" he said. (Reuters)

(21) Netanyahu Repeats...

reaffirmation of the annexation promise came amid a campaign push to draw supporters of far-right factions to Likud in the coming election, in which votes are cast for a party's list of parliamentary candidates.

In power for the past decade, but with corruption charges looming, Netanyahu has cautioned that Likud needs to emerge with a decisive lead in the ballot or Israel's president might choose another candidate to form a governing coalition after the race.

Netanyahu has denied any wrongdoing in three criminal investigations against him. Likud is running neck-and-neck in opinion polls with the centrist Blue and White party led by former armed forces chief Benny Gantz.

With publication of a U.S. peace plan still pending, Trump has already recognized Israel's 1981 annexation of the Golan Heights, land captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

Palestinians seek to make the West Bank part of a future state that would include the Gaza Strip and have East Jerusalem as its capital. Israel seized those areas in 1967 and moved troops and settlers out of Gaza in 2005.

"This is our land," Netanyahu said in his speech in Elkana. "We will build another Elkana and another Elkana and another Elkana. We will not uproot anyone here."

More than 400,000 Israelis now live in the West Bank, according to Israeli figures, among a Palestinian population put at about 2.9 million by the Palestinian Statistics Bureau.

A further 212,000 Israeli settlers live in East Jerusalem, according to the United Nations. (Reuters)