

(1) More Afghans...

moved to Herat city for the same reason by the end of last month. It estimated 2.2 million Afghans would be affected by the drought this year.

In Qala-e-Naw, where there are an estimated 66,500 drought-displaced people, supplies and humanitarian aid are already insufficient to meet the needs of newly arrived families.

The U.N. cited an assessment by aid charity World Vision International that 99 percent of people in Badghis said their food situation was worse or a lot worse than a year ago.

"The assessment also indicates that most farmers lost last season's harvest and nearly all of them lack seeds for new planting season," the U.N. report said, noting reports that about 40 per cent of livestock has been lost in Badghis due to a lack of pasture and fodder.

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), a U.S. funded food security monitoring service, said in a report on Aug. 31 that the number of Afghans in a food "crisis" was atypically high.

"Crisis" is step three on a five step scale, where four is "emergency" and five is "catastrophe" and possible famine.

In Badghis and Faryab provinces, emergency outcomes are expected to emerge in January, FEWS NET said.

"Normally during this time period, food security outcomes begin to seasonally improve in much of the country, but due to drought and severe reduction in wheat production, reduced labor opportunities, and continued conflict more households face Crisis outcomes than normal," it said. (Reuters)

(2) Iran, India...

Gukhall's visit to Kabul to request India from the National Unity Government to focus on fighting the Taliban and striving to receive news of the seven Indian abducted citizens by Taliban.

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Karzai also spoke at the tripartite summit, broadening his country's efforts to reach an agreement to bring about peace and expand ties with Iran and India to serve the interests of its people. (IRNA)

(3) Hekmatyar Accuses...

and fair elections are held.

Hekmatyar stated that they had approached the international community about their concerns but were told it was an "Afghan matter and that the foreign community would not interfere in the elections."

The Hizb-e-Islami leader said government is sinking in corruption and states government is a "corporation".

On the issue of the biometric system, he said that government has agreed to incorporate the system and that a budget of \$15 million has been approved.

According to him, political parties will be briefed on the system within the next few days.

He is insistent that elections be held on time and said it is government's duty to ensure this.

Hekmatyar states that 90 percent of the people of Afghanistan do not have a representative in parliament. He says the current election system being used in the country is used nowhere else in the world and is being imposed on the people.

Earlier in his speech he accused government and the IEC of wasting time and for having used the excuse that there was no time to implement a biometric system. He says political parties demand parliamentary elections be held on time.

Hekmatyar raises the issue of exclusion of political parties in the election process stating without their participation a strong incoming government would not be possible.

Hekmatyar says the independent election commission has been formed by government and that opposition groups have been deprived of taking part in elections Afghanistan.

Hizb-e-Islami and the Afghan government signed a peace agreement with Afghan government in September 2016.

The return to Afghanistan of Hizb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar - who signed a peace deal with Afghan government last year - was on Saturday met with mixed reaction among analysts, businessmen and university lecturers.

Hematyar returned to Kabul early last year, after 20 years.

The civil war and the looting of public property in the late 1970s after Dr Najibullah's government was toppled were the main issues that sparked criticism.

However, today the people have a different point of view on the consequences of possible disagreements between leaders of the country.

"Things are now very different. For instance, today [Abdul Rab Rasul] Sayyaf and other mujahedeen leaders who are in Afghanistan have joined the government. They respect the peace process, governance and the Constitution. They love their country and always have stood against the enemies," said Mawla Mohammad Paiman, a local businessman.

Meanwhile, there are concerns of a possible increase in the country's problems following Hekmatyar's move to join the peace process and government.

"It will not be in Afghans favor and we will face more disorder and problems in the future if political disagreements between government and Hizb-e-Islami are increased instead of being resolved completely. If this happens, we will experience the situation which we did two decades ago," said Hekmatullah Shahbaz, a university lecturer. (Tolo news)

(4) Afghanistan Suicide...

month and a presidential election in April. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Tuesday's attack, although the Taliban issued a statement denying involvement.

At least 25 bodies were taken to hospitals but the final total was unclear and could rise, said Inamullah Miakhel, a spokesman for the provincial health department.

Sohrab Qaderi, a member of the Nangarhar provincial council, said at least 56 bodies were taken to hospital, with 43 more wounded.

The violence has dampened hopes of peace talks to end Afghanistan's 17-year conflict but two Taliban officials on Tuesday told Reuters the movement was preparing for another meeting with U.S. officials following one in July.

Nangarhar, one of the main strongholds of Islamic State militant fighters since early 2015, has been one of the most volatile regions this year, with a string of suicide bombings and attacks on its capital, Jalalabad.

Officials and elders said Tuesday's attack targeted a gathering to protest against a police commander, adding that hundreds of people were present when the blast happened.

The blast dispersed the crowd, but more people gathered after the explosion to continue the protest.

Qaderi said rescue efforts were being hampered by reports of another suicide bomber in the area, making police and emergency services cautious about approaching the scene.

The explosion followed a series of smaller blasts on Tuesday that targeted schools in Jalalabad and surrounding districts, killing at least one person and wounding three.

In the northern province of Sar-e-Pul, hundreds of armed men assembled to boost the city's defenses as security forces fought to push the Taliban back from the city center, said Zabihullah Amani, the provincial governor's spokesman.

There were no reports of U.S. strikes in Sar-e-Pul on Tuesday but there were three strikes on Monday, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan said in an emailed statement.

Two air strikes in Baghlan province on Tuesday followed six the day before and American advisers were on the ground supporting Afghan troops, the spokesman added.

Ghulam Mohammad Balkhi, deputy spokesman for the Afghan army's 209 Corps, said at least 30 Taliban fighters were killed in the joint operation. (Reuters)

(5) 67 Militants...

were also killed and 11 others wounded, he said, adding seven vehicles and several weapons belonging to the Taliban were destroyed during an airstrike.

Separately, 10 insurgents were killed and 23 others, including eight policemen, wounded during a clash in Khakrez district late on Tuesday night. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(6) Kerry Says...

Hamid Karzai and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah were the leading candidates.

Due to his engagements in Afghanistan's important issues, now most of Afghan people know Kerry and have a picture of him in their memories.

Kerry in a part of his book has said that following tough discussions over 2014 elections result, Ghani suddenly proposed establishment of the National Unity Government.

Kerry said he had asked Ghani to give Abdullah real power in NUG and jointly govern the country.

"We in our talks had reached a very sensitive phase that suddenly Ghani proposed the idea of establishment of the National Unity Government. I always was thinking that he was aware of the popularity of the idea. Finally, I put my hand on Ghani's shoulder and said: Ghani! You are the president and Abdullah will help you in implementation of a joint agenda, but you should be convinced in transferring the real power to him and give him the chance to jointly govern with you because it is for the benefit of the country," read the book.

In his recently published book, Kerry has said Ghani is a technocrat, west-oriented and less experienced in politics while define Abdullah as a good politician who is familiar with Afghanistan's internal affairs. "Ghani was a west-supporter nationalist Pashtun and technocratic words were coming out of his mouth. He has mostly

worked in the US and World Bank and had problems in making an agreement with regional politicians. He had extraordinary ideas but had less experience in politics and occasionally was extreme in his reactions," read the book.

Kerry meanwhile said he has honestly and without any bias has written the facts that he has witnessed.

"First of all, I think it is honest. I talk about a lot of things, sort of very personal and try to give everybody a sense of who I really am. And then it goes through these gargantuan shifts and periods in our lives and my successes and failures as I tried to navigate those early years," said Kerry.

About the name of the book, Kerry in the first page has written that when he came alive from Vietnam war, he come to an understanding that every day is an extra and that he named his book as Every Day Is Extra.

Kerry has served in Vietnam war, has been US senator for five-term, was a presidential nominee from Democratic team in US's 2004 elections and has served for four years as US Secretary of State during which also was involved in Afghanistan's issues. (Tolo news)

(7) Kabul Calls...

the other two committees have a short way to go to finalize their attempts.

Araqchi said Iran's policy on Afghanistan is based on national sovereignty and cooperation between governments and the country is ready to support the Afghan government to safeguard its national unity and provide peace, stability and security.

'Iran regards Afghanistan's security as its own, so there should be more cooperation between the two countries in fighting Daesh,' said Araqchi.

He said the worth of commerce between Iran and Afghanistan is about three billion dollars.

The two officials discussed issues like fighting terrorism, fighting production and trafficking of narcotics, water crisis, Iran nuclear deal, and the immigrants. (IRNA)

(8) China, Pakistan...

"We will identify the pathways and cooperation for the CPEC. We will accelerate the industrial cooperation and the projects of the people's livelihoods and extend the CPEC to the western area and make the people gets benefits from it."

According to the report, India has India has protested over the economic corridor, a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative as it traversed through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Wang in April announced plans to extend it towards Afghanistan during the first trilateral foreign ministers meeting held in India.

The CPEC was originally conceived to be a strategic link with highways, rail and pipeline links between China's Xinjiang and Pakistan's Gwadar port.

But several projects have been extended to different provinces following allegations that all the main projects are garnered by Pakistan's dominant Punjab province, the Economic Times reported.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in the past had accused the previous Pakistani government of depriving other provinces, specially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the western borders with Afghanistan.

"During the (Wang's) visit, we have reached consensus on advancing the CPEC... The key is to accelerate industrial cooperation and the projects related with people's livelihoods. To extend the CPEC to the western areas and make the people get benefits from these project," Geng said. During his visit to Pakistan, Wang said there were currently 22 cooperation projects in Pakistan within the framework of the CPEC of which nine have been completed and 13 are under construction.

The total investment of the projects was to the tune of \$19 billion and they have created 70,000 new jobs, he was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency. Chinese officials said it is not the practice to announce any economic packages during China's foreign minister's visit. The new government of Pakistan said it will regard its ties with China as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. (Tolo news)

(9) China Seeks Open...

Delivering a speech in the opening ceremony, Wang Shouwen, Vice Minister of Commerce of People's Republic of China and Deputy China International Trade Representative, said China would open wider market access and support Chinese companies go global. He said China champions for globalization and global economy and its outbound investment has reached \$1.88 trillion. He attributed China's economic growth to its reform and opening-up.

Meanwhile, Hu Bangshen, Deputy President of China Radio International, said in the opening ceremony that CIFIT is a platform for mutual learning and mutual benefit. China would "support multilateralism and multilateral system" and contribute to the prosperity of global economy, he added.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the fair and said that he

hopes the fair could be made into an international, professional and branded event that will become an important platform for a new round of high-level opening up, and play a positive role in creating a new pattern of opening-up on all fronts and building an open world economy. Through its 20 years, the fair has made contributions to China's reform and opening and socialist modernization, read the letter.

Briefing the media delegates from South Asia and Southeast Asian countries, Wang Qiongwen, Director General of Xiamen Conference and Exhibition Bureau, said the fair focuses on bilateral investment inspiring foreign investors from outside world back to China and Chinese enterprises to go global and make investment in overseas areas.

"Over 30 years of development, we invite roughly 20 thousand investment projects from the outside world to China worthy of about 300 billion US dollars. In the last five years we encouraged a lot of capable Chinese enterprises to go global. So, about 180 billion RMB to invest in the overseas areas," he said. "Every session of the CIFIT, over 2000 investment projects we have signed, worthy of 500 billion RMB. In terms of the international participation, every session we have about 110 to 120 overseas countries and regions." The number of overseas delegation, he said, reached up to 800 to 1000.

Answering to a question asked by Outlook Afghanistan if China would tackle the challenges faced by Afghan traders such as lack of direct route or railroad so that Afghan businessmen could export saffron, precious stones, carpets, etc., Wang said, "This is actually our mission, if you want to integrate into the One Belt, One Road Initiative, we have to take into consideration your requirements and your needs. Afghanistan is an inland country and is not so easily accessible and the logistics is not so quite developed. So, the transportation is very very important." He also said the infrastructure construction is the top priority and China collided a lot of projects, majorly in relation to the infrastructure constructions. "But I can tell you that these infrastructure projects actually depends on two sides. This time we invite the new Silk Fund and AIIB to come here and we talk about how to make investment in the infrastructure facilities, especially making investment in the inland countries like Afghanistan, like Mongolia. It is actually a long term project," he continued.

(10) Afghan Taliban...

the future talks and we would see if the US is serious and sincere in negotiation," one of the officials involved said.

"We would hand over a list of prisoners languishing in jails across Afghanistan. If they set free our prisoners then we would meet again for another great cause."

If confirmed, the meeting would follow an earlier round of talks in Doha in July, where Taliban officials met Alice Wells, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia at the US State Department.

The Taliban delegation at the planned upcoming meeting would be led by the head of the group's Qatar-based political office, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanakzai, the officials said.

However they said the high command was planning to replace Stanakzai, who has been serving as interim head, with a new permanent head of the Qatar office.

"You may know Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanakzai was deputed in the Qatar office on acting charge basis. The top leadership is now planning to appoint someone else in his place," one said.

Hopes that peace talks to end the 17-year conflict in Afghanistan have stuttered in recent months, following the failure to agree a repeat of the unprecedented Eid ceasefire in June which saw unarmed Taliban fighters mingling with security forces in Kabul and other cities.

Over the past year, the United States has stepped up air strikes against the Taliban and boosted training for Afghan forces. However US officials say the goal is to reach a negotiated, Afghan-led settlement to end the war.

On the Taliban side, the assault on the strategic city of Ghazni last month that killed hundreds of soldiers, police and civilians underlined the insurgents' determination to increase pressure on the Western-backed government in Kabul.

The Taliban, seeking to reimpose strict Islamic law after their 2001 ouster at the hands of US-led troops, have maintained their refusal to negotiate directly with the internationally recognized Afghan government, which they consider an illegitimate regime put in place by foreign powers and say they will only talk to the United States.

As the push for talks has picked up following the Eid ceasefire in June, the United States has agreed to participate directly and has appointed former US ambassador to Kabul Zalmay Khalilzad as special envoy to reinforce the effort. (Tolo news)

(11) Ghazni police...

several times come across this situation,

if we do not pay money to police, they would not let us enter the city," he said.

In response to a question, he said: "It depends on bargaining, police take 100 afghanis, 200 or 300 afghanis from people." Rahimullah said Taliban had also created a checkpoint in Arzo area on the outskirts of Ghazni city and they stopped people and searched them.

"Taliban in Arzo check people and ask about SIM card of Salaam telecom, they take the SIM card from people, it is another problem," he added.

Essa Mohammad, a car dealer in Ghazni city, said police also took money from drivers on the Kabul-Kandahar highway just outside Ghazni city.

"I traveled from Kandahar in a non-customs-paid vehicle, whenever I enter Ghazni city, police stop me and demand money as gift, they would not let me move until I give them money," he said. He said he paid from 500 to 1,000 Pakistani rupees to police on roads and highways.

A number of other residents of Ghazni held similar complaints.

On the other hand, Ghazni officials say they have started serious efforts at controlling the situation.

Governor's spokesman, Mohammad Arif Noori, said some people had complained about the police extortion to the governor's house as well and the issue had been shared with the security organs for solution.

Ghazni police chief, Brig. Gen. Farid Ahmad Mashal, told Pajhwok that he would arrest policemen if found involved in extorting money from people.

Mashal said that he had tasked a committee with identifying such policemen. "I have also received similar complaints, those who misuse the police uniform and take money from people are worse than our enemy and they deserve harsh punishment," he said.

People in other provinces of the country have made similar complaints against police forces. (Pajhwok)

(12) 30 Taliban Killed...

Zabihullah Mujahid, rejecting any advance by government forces in the district.

He said the government forces had failed in their operations in Baghlan-i-Markazi district and was making propaganda in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(13) Pakistanis Among...

killed and two others wounded in the attack.

On the other hand, Paktia officials said new security posts were deployed on Paktia-Zurmat highway for the highway's security.

According to another report, Taliban militants attacked a security post in Sar-i-Pul Regi area on the outskirts of the capital of Farah province on Monday night.

Dadullah Qanay, a provincial council member, said that the security post was temporary captured by the Taliban and then retaken by Afghan forces.

He said two policemen were killed in the Taliban attack.

But the Taliban say three policemen were killed and a fourth one was wounded.

Two days back, the Taliban killed six policemen in their attack on the same security post. (Pajhwok)

(14) Armed Residents...

resources in the last night fight against the Taliban.

According to reports, the Taliban captured eight security posts.

Usman Khan, head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), said the national unity government always strived to keep security of the people.

He said the existing security forces in Sar-i-Pul could only ensure security of the provincial capital.

He said commando forces and Special Forces had arrived in the province to drive back the enemy forces. (Pajhwok)

(15) Sources Claim...

a heavy casualty toll.

Local officials in northern Jawzjan province confirmed that the center of Kham Aab district of the province fell to the Taliban.

Ismael, the district police chief confirmed the center had collapsed after the Taliban stormed the district at about 4:15am local time early Monday morning.

Kunduz provincial council members meanwhile said on Monday more than 30 bodies had been transferred to the provincial hospital. The bodies were recovered following battles in Dasht-e-Archi district of the province.

The soldiers who were wounded in the battles have said that the lack of reinforcements was one of the key factors of the high casualty toll.

The Taliban also attacked the center of northern Sar-e-Pul province on Sunday night, local officials confirmed.

The clashes started on Sunday night after the Taliban attacked the center of the province from three directions, a spokesman for the provincial governor Zabihullah Amani confirmed. (Tolo news)