

### (1) Working for...

peace process with the HIA increased people's trust in peace, but efforts being made in this regard should not remain on paper only, Melbin said. He said there would be ups and downs in the peace process, but efforts should not stop.

"In peace negotiations, matters should be explained and discussed comprehensively so it leads to stable peace in Afghanistan," he added. (Pajhwok)

### (2) AGO to Offer...

to provide legal documents, such as graduation certificate and Afghan Tazkira;

- The applicants may apply for internships only in the provinces in which they currently reside;

- The shortlisted applicants will be asked to appear for a written test in the AGOs;

- The applicant must be interested in sitting for the AGO entrance examinations and, if selected, work for the AGO;

- Applicants must be able to go to Kabul for one-month training and one-week workshop. (PR)

### (3) German Government

way for about 50 to be sent home from Frankfurt on Wednesday night.

The deportations were announced by refugee aid organization ProAsyl. The German government says it will confirm deportations when they happen.

Petra Haubner, a lawyer from the Bavarian city of Passau, told The Associated Press that her 20-year-old Afghan client was detained by police at his shelter and on his way to Frankfurt to be deported.

More than 12,500 Afghans have received orders to leave the country, but haven't yet been deported.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has said in recent weeks that Germany needs to toughen its stance and ensure that migrants who are refused asylum leave the country.

"We need a national effort to return those who are rejected - that is undisputed and we are working on that at present with great vigor," Merkel told a conference of her conservative bloc's youth wing in October.

Critics say that it's not safe to deport people to Afghanistan because of Taliban control in some parts of the country and frequent suicide bombings. The German government claims that migrants will only be returned to safe regions. (AP)

### (4) Irish Experts...

serious efforts at the peace accord's implementation.

He said the Irish delegation would share their experience with Afghans in order the government and the HIA were able to benefit from that in enforcing the agreement.

The joint commission head, Mohammad Akram Khpalkwak, vowed to effectively implement all points of the HIA-government agreement.

He said the commission had so far held many working sessions and had devised a comprehensive plan to pave the ground for the accord's implementation.

HIA negotiation team head Mohammad Amin Karim said he said the way his team worked for achieving the peace agreement, it would continue efforts at implementing it. He said no one would be allowed to create hurdles to the agreement's enforcement.

The Irish experts also shared their experience with the meeting participants about how to deal with those creating hurdles to agreement resulted from peace talks.

They also talked about how to achieve public support for peace agreements and promote kindness towards families affected by the conflict.

They said direct talks should be initiated with those affected by the conflict in order to assure them that their rights were not being violated. (Pajhwok)

### (5) 34 Women ...

religious scholars, tribal el-

ders, children, women and members of some institutions.

A civil society activist, Anar Gul, at the gathering said recently women had realized their rights and were trying to achieve them. Women were subjected to violence when they asked for their rights, he believed.

Last year 155 cases of violence against women were recorded in the southeastern zone encompassing Paktia, Khost, Logar and Paktika provinces. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Eshchi's Claims ...

"They [Eshchi] failed to remove Dostum and now want to damage his reputation. Dostum is not only a person, but is the first vice president of the country," said Bashir Ahmad Tayyanj, an MP.

Some other MPs meanwhile criticized government's decision to investigate the incident and said they should not differentiate between crimes.

"We do not say government must not probe the allegation. If the allegations prove to be right, Dostum should be sentenced. But why does government not probe other crimes and allegations. Differentiating between crimes itself is oppression," said Ahmad Behzad, an MP.

"I urge government to probe Eshchi's allegations and make the issue clear and punish the offenders," said Zahir Qadir, first deputy speaker of parliament. (Tolnews)

### (7) Junbesh-e-Milli...

least two meetings with the security council since the reports surfaced.

However a final decision about on how to proceed with an investigation has not yet been made.

The statements come a day after former Jawzjan governor and ex-member of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, Ahmad Eshchi, who was allegedly assaulted by the first vice president last month, claims that he was also sexually assaulted by Dostum and his bodyguards - while in Dostum's 'custody'. (Tolnews)

### (8) Over 800...

WFP to help poor people with firewood and other items of heating.

Earlier, the WFP provided food items to 293 displaced families in Samangan. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Investigation...

but some of them work without any privileges.

TOLnews findings however indicates that the CEO has 111 advisors of whom about 10 work within the government structure and are stationed in the Sapedar Palace. They reportedly earn between 200,000 and 300,000 Afs per month.

Some others advisors who are hired based on contracts and work as experts receive between 50,000 and 70,000 Afs per month.

In addition to this, there are other advisors who work within the government structure and receive \$1,500 to \$2,000 USD from project budgets funded by foreigners.

Honorary consultants however, work without receiving a salary and receive few benefits, the CEO's office said.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) meanwhile said salaries of advisors are paid from foreign aid as well as out of budgets of relevant departments.

"The senior advisors are paid according to the salary scale of senior officials. Other advisors are appointed based on the (National Technical Cooperation) agreement in government departments to bring good changes to the relevant offices," said Ajmal Hamid Abdul Rahimzai, spokesman for the MoF.

Some advisors interviewed by TOLnews responded to critics and said different people were suited to different jobs.

"A person may not be well-educated, but can work as a tribal advisor. Another person who is not a professional in a field, but is a tribal elder, is a jihadist," said Sanjar, the tribal and bor-

der affairs advisor to the CEO. "Tell me if there is any advisor who has grabbed land? Tell me if there are any advisors who have committed oppression? We are aware of what we are doing. We carry out our duties based on the guidelines," said, Bakht Mohammad Zadran, an advisor on youth affairs.

Analysts meanwhile said appointing advisors has become a way of giving privileges to campaigners in the last elections.

"The advisors of the CEO and President Ashraf Ghani are people who spent lots of money during election campaigns. Now the CEO and Ghani have to appoint them as advisors, because there is no alternative," said Hikmatullah Shahbaz, a university lecturer. (Tolnews)

### (10) 2nd Breast...

ceremony, said cooperation with the Afghan health sector was his country's priority.

He said his country was committed to supporting to Afghanistan in future too. Italy had spent 23 million Euros in the health sector in Afghanistan since 2001, he added.

Few months back, a breast cancer diagnosis center was opened at Jamhoriat Hospital in Kabul city. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Framework for ...

ensuring citizens are well informed about government performance; they also give citizens a platform to freely express community sentiment, especially on the development of public policy.

"A free society cannot exist without a strong independent media serving as a watchdog of government for the people," USAID Mission Director Herbert Smith said. "USAID always has been, and will remain, a strong supporter of civil society and media independence, as well as an advocate for freedom of expression throughout Afghanistan."

USAID ACEP is a 2013-2018 initiative that promotes civil society and media engagement, enables Afghan citizens to influence policy, monitors government accountability and serves as an advocate for political reform. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Transformer...

the company had the capacity to manufacture 25 to 400 kilowatt transformers.

In near future, it will be able to produce transformers with the capacity of 1,200 kilowatts. About 150 transformers were manufactured by the company during the trial period.

Meanwhile, Governor Mohammad Sami expressed his gratitude to the private sector, hoping the venture would help Nimroz residents become self-sufficient and get rid of relying on foreign transformers. He said that an industrial park would be inaugurated soon in Nimroz, with the government trying to facilitate businessmen and entrepreneurs. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Public-Police...

and people should help and support security forces.

Bamyan governor Mohammad Tahir Zahir told the reception held in honour of security forces that every unstable province had impact on Bamyan. Bamyan residents as a part of the nation also suffered from insecurities in other provinces. Mohammad Hassan Asadi, a member of the provincial council, also held similar views. He linked stability in Bamyan to cooperation of civilians with military forces. He said if people didn't support security forces, they solely couldn't ensure security.

The event was held to support security forces. Dozens of influential figures, clerics and civil society activists participated in the reception, lauding performance of security officials. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Faryadi Sarwar ...

some of the heaviest fighting in the civil war.

Sentencing, the judge said he had presided over a brutal re-

gime of terror and his crimes had been so serious that they transcended national boundaries.

It was thought to be the first time torture offences committed in one country had been prosecuted in another.

The British embassy in Kabul refused to comment on his case but said foreign nationals serving custodial sentences in the UK were routinely considered for deportation.

Zardad is currently in the custody of Afghanistan's NDS intelligence agency. Correspondents say there are no plans to bring a case against him.

Earlier this year the Afghan government signed a peace deal with Hezb-e Islami. After the Taliban, who were ousted from power in 2001, it remains the country's second largest militant group. (BBC)

### (15) In Jawzjan, ...

sleeping with male addicts for drugs and money.

Maghfirat Samimi, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) head for Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul and Faryab provinces, says: "This is an issue of concern for me and residents of Jawzjan. Women and men gather in dark corners around the city to take drugs together."

Samimi urged the authorities concerned to collect women addicts, admit them to a rehabilitation centre and hand them over to their families after treatment. If not curbed, the practice could affect other families as well.

Governor Mohammad Raza Ghafoori confirms the problem, suggesting the hospitalisation of women addicts. Increasing addiction among women is worrying, he comments, acknowledging efforts by officials of the 50-bed rehab in the city.

"The governor house doesn't enough resources to cope with the problems, but we have put all efforts into addressing the issue. We have planned measures in coordination with high-ranking officials in Kabul to fix the problem."

Halima, 45, an addict from Aqcha district, says: "Earlier I took drugs for relieving myself of stress. Gradually, however, I became dependent on them. I have been using opium, purple pills and methamphetamine over the past three years."

Asked how she gets drugs, Halima replies they are freely sold in the bazaar and other areas of Aqcha district. Sometimes she is provided narcotics by neighbours.

"I buy heroin and methamphetamine as soon as I get money. All people have left me alone. Now I have decided to quit this menacing habit." She has been under treatment for the past fortnight.

Feeling more comfortable, she remarks: "Addiction is a scourge that not only damages health and safety of the victim, but also strips him/her of all dignity and honour."

Halima has decided to encourage women addicts into becoming useful members of society after being treated. "I will visit all neighbourhoods of the city to persuade addicts to go to the rehab to regain their health."

Dr. Abdul Ghafar Khoshiwal, in charge of the 50-bed rehab, says since the beginning of the current year, more than 200 addicted women have been treated in Jawzjan. Another 18 others are currently in the rehabilitation process.

Some women from Shiberghan relapsed into addiction after being rehabilitated but for unknown reasons. Women addicts could be seen in parts of the provincial capital, but their number is particularly high in Aqcha district, where males and females use drugs together. A specific number of women addicts in the province is not known, but the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics says 3.5 million Afghans, including 2.9 percent women, are taking drugs. (Pajhwok)

### (16) 21 Militants ...

operated, he said.

On the other hand, he said that two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were wounded in a roadside bombing in Sangin district of the province. Governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, said that Afghan forces captured several areas from Taliban militants in Bushran area.

He said four Afghan security personnel were also injured in Bushran operation but claimed militants suffered heavy casualties.

Taliban did not comment about the operation so far.

A day earlier, Helmand police chief had said that they had launched clearing operation in Lashkargah and four districts of the province.

Helmand is one the most unstable provinces of the country where six of 14 districts are completely under the Taliban control. The Afghan forces control centers of a number of other districts there. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Talks with...

powers with each side accusing the other of violating commitments under a cease-fire deal aimed to facilitate a peaceful solution to the Syria crisis. (Xinhua)

### (18) Panel Recommends...

investors currently don't have the information they need to respond to these developments. This must change if financial markets are going to do what they do best: allocate capital to manage risks and seize new opportunities." (AP)

### (19) EU's Proposed...

Dec. 11, 2016.

With the proposed reform, the EU is apparently looking for ways to continue its old game of protecting its industries from competition from China. But as a matter of fact, imposing punitive duties on foreign imports is not a way out for European economic growth and jobs against the backdrop of sluggish global economic recovery. (Xinhua)

### (20) Russian Envoy

an impassioned plea from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his last weeks on the job, for a cessation of hostilities to allow humanitarian aid.

But then the Russian ambassador brought his own news.

"The Syrian government has established control over east Aleppo so now the stage has come for practical humanitarian initiatives that the population that remains there should not need to leave," Churkin said. (Xinhua)

### (21) Iraqi Troops...

Mosul, the country's second largest city and IS's last major urban bastion in Iraq.

Most gains have been made by special forces operating in the section of Mosul east of the Tigris River, while other forces are advancing on the city from other directions. (AP)

### (22) Non-OPEC ...

that output rises by some countries would not stop the oil market from rebalancing in the second half of next year after a long, stubborn glut due to oversupply. The joint action in curbing supply is expected to help "accelerate the reduction of global inventories and bring forward the rebalancing of the oil market to the second half of 2017", the report said. (AFP)

### (23) China Concludes...

Astronaut Center of China launched a call for volunteers in May last year. They have lived in a 1,340-cubic-meter sealed capsule with a floor space of 370 square meters for the past 180 days.

The project's success has opened up new areas in life support technology for extra-terrestrial bases, Li said. (Xinhua)

### (24) Pakistan, Russia...

said. Reports circulating earlier this month claimed that the Russian spy chief had made a visit to Pakistan in order to inspect the Gwadar port. (Monitoring Desk)

## Saudi King Says Equal Redistribution Key to Economic Reforms

RIYADH - Saudi King Salman bin Abdullah Al Saud stressed Wednesday that economic reforms depend on equal resource redistribution, Al Eqtisadiya local online news reported.

He highlighted that during the first session of the Shoura (consultative) council's new legislative term, without explaining further the redistribution process roadmap, stressing that the reforms aim to ensure decent living standards for citizens.

Saudi Arabia has launched various initiatives promoting economic diversity to attract investments in preparation for a post-oil era after the plummeting oil prices in international markets.

He added that the economic policy is based on diversifying incomes and enhancing productivity, and assured that the current financial impediments will soon be overcome.

In addition, he said Saudi Arabia supports political solutions for international crises to attain peace, stressing that the country's stance toward Yemen remains unchanged.

He highlighting that Yemen's security is Saudi Arabia's security and affirmed that Saudi Arabia does not intend to interfere in Yemeni internal affairs. (Xinhua)

## Rebels Still Mired in Aleppo as Syrian Army Chanting Victory

DAMASCUS - The anticipated evacuation of rebels from the northern city of Aleppo has been delayed for unknown reasons, sources in Aleppo told Xinhua on Wednesday.

Government buses were ready at the Salahuddin crossing to transport the rebels from the few southeastern pockets they are located in, journalists in Aleppo told Xinhua.

Evacuation of the rebels was scheduled to take place at dawn on Wednesday, yet for unknown reasons, the evacuation has not taken place, without any official statement.

"The buses are ready, journalists are in place, but no one has any idea what's going on, and why the evacuation hasn't started yet," Firas Marwan, a journalist, told Xinhua.

However, the ceasefire which was agreed upon in tandem with the evacuation is still in place. A day earlier, Vitaly Churkin, Russia's permanent representative to the UN, said during a UN Security Council session on Tuesday that "a deal has been reached for the evacuation of the rebels only from Aleppo in the next hours,"

stressing that "no one will harm the civilians." (Xinhua)

## US Promises Continuing Support for Lebanon to Handle Refugee Crisis

BEIRUT - Visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Anne Patterson said on Tuesday that "it is necessary to continue assisting Lebanon as it struggles to cope with the refugee crisis."

According to the National News Agency (NNA), Patterson expressed Washington's readiness to maintain its support for Lebanon in handling challenges.

She also hailed Lebanon's role in combating terrorism and preserving the country's stability. For his part, Lebanese President Michel Aoun urged the U.S. to maintain assistance for the country's security forces to fully perform missions.

"The army has achieved great success in the preemptive security operations that it is staging as part of its war on terror," Aoun said. "The real solution for the plight of Syrian refugees should be through finding a political solution to the Syrian crisis." (Xinhua)