

**(1) ANSF Kick...**

launched Tuesday morning would continue for unspecified period, Karimi said. Afghan Defense Ministry announced recently to keep on pressure on militants elsewhere in the country throughout the winter. (Xinhua)

**(2) Enter Open...**

benefit them security-wise and economically.

Afghan citizens were returning home in record numbers, including hundreds of thousands of people from both Pakistan and Iran, in the past six months alone, the UN envoy noted. More than 1.5 million people were "on the move" this year, he said, adding similar numbers of people would necessarily bring with strains and pressure on the economy, on social services and could further swell the number of those seeking employment in 2017. "Refugees come back to Afghanistan with hopes," he said, but "a better future is not possible without peace." In 2016, thousands and thousands of Afghans were killed in the conflict, and tens of thousands more wounded. (Pajhwok)

**(3) 74 Journalists ...**

were killed.

In a statement, RSF said the alarming figures reflected the increasingly deliberate use of violence and the failure of international initiatives aimed at protecting journalists.

The fatalities included 57 professional journalists, 9 citizen journalists and 8 media contributors. Two-thirds of the journalists killed this year were in conflict zones, unlike 2015, when many were killed in countries at peace, like the attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

"This year, Mexico has been the world's deadliest country for professional journalists, who were the victims of violence by not only criminal cartels but also by police and government officials, among whom corruption is widespread," the report added. According to the RSF report, the top five deadliest countries are Syria (19 deaths), Afghanistan (10 deaths), Mexico (9 deaths), Iraq (7 deaths) and Yemen (5 deaths).

"The violence against journalists is more and more deliberate," RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said. "They are clearly being targeted and murdered because they are journalists..." (Pajhwok)

**(4) 30 Rebels ...**

A suicide bomber was among 30 militants killed and 40 others wounded during the latest operation. Two tanks the Taliban had seized from security forces were also destroyed in the battles.

He said over the past few months, police had recaptured several areas from Taliban. During the past months, the rebels made several attempts to regain control of the lost areas, but they did not succeed. Sarhadi said they had started a search operation against policemen joining militants and giving them their weapons.

So far 18 security officials who joined the rebels had been introduced to judicial organs, the police chief said.

Separately, several people were killed and wounded after airstrikes hit a wedding ceremony in Khanqa locality of Tirinkot on Monday night. A locality resident, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News the airstrike targeted a house where a wedding party was underway. He said he had had exact figures about those killed and wounded, but the victims included women and children.

Provincial civil hospital director Aminullah Tokhi said confirmed receiving six injured people at the hospital and one of them died on the way to hospital. (Pajhwok)

**(5) ACB...**

based on favoritism and relations. "I want to assure the public that no one will be allowed to have political, ethnic or favorite interference in the ACB activities. We want to build a national organization," Mashal stated.

He added: "An office should assess all activities of the ACB from the past five years. If we find any mistake or flaw, we will share it with you."

Mashal said his goal is to get the Afghan national team to eighth position on the International Cricket Council's (ICC) log next year. (Tolnews)

**(6) MoF Signs ...**

in the new year than the last year and that it shows government is committed to bring reforms in economic sector," he said.

Thomas Panella, head of ADB meanwhile said the lack of electricity in the country has affected economic growth negatively and that by implementing the project lots of challenges will be resolved. "This will bring urgently needed power to Afghanistan that will eventually reach Kandahar once the southern line is finished by USAID," he said.

ADB has provided more than \$2 billion USD to Afghanistan to make electricity available to Afghan people and said it will continue its support in this sector. (Tolnews)

**(7) Pentagon ...**

were actively involved in carrying out and plotting terror attacks inside and outside Afghanistan," he said.

According to Cook, the deaths of these three al-Qaida leaders will significantly reduce the group's ability to threaten the United States, our interests and our allies.

"This strike is further evidence that those who seek us harm are not beyond our reach," he added. (KP)

**(8) MoI Orders ...**

"So I left my house in Zari and came to Kabul to share my complaint with the government," she added.

Mohammad Yaqob, another resident of the district, said his son was killed by a friend of the police chief and they threatened with death if he complained.

According to information received by Pajhwok Afghan News, the MoI on November 21 had sent a delegation to Zari district to investigate about allegations against the police chief.

In its investigation report, the delegation says "despite direct complaints shared with the Balkh police chief about sexual assaults, death threats, kidnapping and a murdering case against the Zari police chief and his bodyguards, the police chief did not take a proper action or totally ignored the complaints."

The report says the delegation consumed much time and launched an inappropriate and unprofessional investigation into the cases. The MoI and judiciary organs should have taken action long before, it added.

The delegation said, "Balkh police chief must arrest the Zari police chief and others complicit in the cases and hand them over to relevant organs to address the issue."

Balkh police chief, Col. Sayed Kamal Sadat, said, "Despite Zari district chief, Mohammad Akram Zari, retirement and replacement, he returned to his duty again without our coordination, we don't know why it happened. There might be some political games behind the move."

However, Balkh governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, rejected accusations against Zari district chief and said a rival of Akram Zari was trying to defame him.

He said Akram Zari rejoined duty after requested by 500 elders and people of Zari district to do so.

Meanwhile, a document from the interior minister received by Pajhwok Afghan News orders the officials concerned to arrest the Zari district chief and other individuals involved in crimes and bring them to justice. (Pajhwok)

**(9) New Taliban ...**

and the family's Haqqani captors.

"We understand both sides hate us and are content to leave us and our two surviving children in these problems," she said.

"But we can only ask and pray that somebody will recognize the atrocities these men carry out against us as so-called retaliation in their ingratitude and hypocrisy."

The two young boys - who, along with their parents, appeared healthy - fidgeted on their father's lap as Coleman added: "My children have seen their mother defiled."

Two senior Taliban figures told the news agency by telephone that the video had been uploaded by the radical Islamist insurgents.

One said the video came from the Haqqani network - a close affiliate of the Afghan Taliban - and it had been delivered to both US and Canadian officials before being posted on YouTube late on Monday night.

He said the Haqqani network was demanding the release of three of its senior members - including the brother and maternal uncle of Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is deputy leader of the Afghan Taliban.

Coleman's reference to her two "surviving children" was unexplained. She appealed to both President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump to make a deal with their captors. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Ghani's Remarks ...**

and his deputies right down to the lowest person in society," he said.

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) meanwhile said they have been investigating claims made by Ahmad Eshchi, former governor of Jawzjan, against General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the first vice president, but have not completed their investigations. (Tolnews)

**(11) Taliban Return...**

disarmament and reintegration require careful planning. The agreement presents an opportunity to put the future together, not justify the past. Making the agreement work necessitates collective and careful efforts from all stakeholders, across domestic and international spectrums," he said.

"Those who want to take advantage of this historic opportunity should refrain from all derogatory, divisive and xenophobic activities. The Government pardon is not a justification of their past violent activities and should neither be misused nor abused," he added.

"It is noteworthy; the people of Afghanistan have the full right to seek justice, in accordance with their fundamental rights. We expect the implementation of the agreement to improve security, strengthen political stability and national unity of the Afghan people and set a good precedence in the peace process," Saikal said. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Mayor ...**

is nothing new, the practice of land grabbing has been ongoing over the past few years. Had officials concerned and the mayor not helped the usurpers, they would never have been able to usurp lands", he believed.

He said the provincial council was paying serious attention to the matter. A joint delegation would soon be tasked with addressing the issue and bringing the responsible ones to justice in coordination with the governor.

Meanwhile, Abdul Satar Bariz said people's complaints with regard to land usurping had been referred to the attorney's

office for investigation.

The allegations against the mayor follow a protest rally involving dozens of residents against him last week. The protesters had demanded dismissal of the mayor.

However, Eng. Safar Mohammad denied the claims, but acknowledged a number of powerful men had usurped lands, saying they had prepared a list of them and had shared it with police. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Dozen Killed,...**

huge black truck speeding through the markets crushing so many people and then all the lights went out and everything was destroyed.

"I could hear screaming and then we all froze. Then suddenly people started to move and lift all the wreckage off people, trying to help whoever was there." O'Neill said there was "blood and bodies everywhere". (Pajhwok)

**(14) 9 Rebels Killed...**

He said Kunduz needed a massive operation to drive insurgents from all areas. He called for more security forces to be stationed at sensitive areas of the province.

Meanwhile, high-ranking military officials in Kunduz promised the launch of another operation codenamed 'Shafaq 2' in the province. (Pajhwok)

**(15) 2 Men Arrested...**

an imam who sexually assaulted his 11-year-old pupil had also been arrested.

The imam committed the crime on Monday and was arrested in Ghaib Qalandar area of Ghazni city today.

"Six children were receiving primary education from the Imam who sexually assaulted one of them and he had confessed to his crime," he said. Naseri said the case has been referred to the court. (Pajhwok)

**(16) 2 Sisters...**

also agreed with Ali's suggestion.

Hazrat Ali urged tribal figures from Khewa district to take action and resolve the case in a local Jirga.

Malak Nazir, a tribal elder from Khogyani district, and the High Peace Council (HPC) head for Nangarhar, also said all those involved in the forced marriage case should be detained by the government and then handed over to local tribal elders for a resolution.

Malim Mohammad Akbar, a tribal elder from Khewa district, said it was a problem between a nephew and his uncle, but some people had made it a big issue.

He said families of the man and girls were not criminals, but those complicating the issue had betrayed Nangarhar's dignity.

"This issue should be controlled by the government; the people involved should be arrested and then brought to the negotiating table of tribal elders for a solution," Akbar said. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Trump Officially...**

and senators in Congress -- 538 in total, with those extra three electors coming from Washington District of Columbia. Among them are state party leaders, elected officials or just individuals with a personal connection to a presidential candidate. (Xinhua)

**(18) Syrian Army ...**

evacuation agreement allows them to carry personal weapons but not heavier arms. (Reuters)

**(19) Scotland Seeks...**

European single market. Nonetheless, she conceded it was unlikely that Britain will choose to stay in the free trade bloc.

In that event, Sturgeon proposed that Scotland could stay in the European Economic Area by means of special arrangements like those that apply to the Channel Islands and the Faroe Islands. (AP)

**(20) Russian Embassy...**

the Russian Federation to the Republic of Turkey Andrei Karlov. We resolutely and unconditionally condemn this bloody terrorist attack," Aliyev said in the letter.

A gunman assassinated Russia's ambassador Andrei Karlov at an Ankara art gallery on Monday in what leaders of Russia and Turkey called a provocative terror attack. Ambassador Karlov's shooting was captured in real time in photos and video that quickly spread through the Internet worldwide. (Xinhua)

**Russian Delegation in Ankara to Probe Assassination of Ambassador**

ANKARA - An 18-member Russian delegation arrived in Ankara on Tuesday to investigate the assassination of Russian Ambassador to Turkey Andrei Karlov, local media reported.

The team, including one prosecutor and two defense attaches, will investigate the incident together with Turkish officials, private NTV reported.

The plane, which is expected to depart from Ankara Esenboga Airport on Tuesday afternoon, will take Karlov's body to Moscow after the accomplishment of procedures by Turkish and Russian authorities.

A ceremony is planned to take place at the airport to bid farewell to Karlov.

Meanwhile, Turkish police has arrested seven people over the Russian envoy's murder so far.

After six relatives and the roommate of Mevlut Mert Altintas, the assassin, were arrested early Tuesday, his uncle was released on judicial control.

Earlier, Altintas' parents, sister, and two other relatives were arrested in the southwestern province of Aydin. (Xinhua)

**Saudi on High Alert to Fight Spread of MERS Corona Virus**

RIYADH - Saudi Health Ministry has vaccinated more than 2 million individuals with high risk of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) corona virus with seasonal flu vaccine, Okaz local newspaper reported on Tuesday.

It also announced succeeding in dealing with 90 percent of MERS corona virus contamination-spreading spots in health facilities.

It increased the number of hospitals in the global infectious disease surveillance program to 28 institutions.

Although Saudi Arabia has been taking serious steps to ensure nationwide protection from the virus, the ministry announced on Monday a death and two new MERS corona virus cases.

The country has reported hundreds of deaths and infections since the first diagnosed case in 2012. It recorded the highest number of cases in the world. (Xinhua)

**UNSC Hails Formation of National Unity Gov't in Lebanon**

UNITED NATIONS - UN Security Council on Monday welcomed the announcement of the formation of a national unity government in Lebanon, and called for international support for Lebanon in addressing its economic, security and humanitarian challenges.

In a press statement issued here, the 15-nation UN body congratulated Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri and his cabinet.

"They encouraged all of Lebanon's political leaders to build on this momentum of nation-

al unity and to ensure Lebanon's ability to address the pressing security, economic, social and humanitarian challenges facing the country," the statement said.

It also stressed the importance of holding parliamentary elections by May 2017 in accordance with the constitution in order to sustain Lebanon's democratic tradition. "Members of the Security Council reaffirmed that the preservation of Lebanon's stability is essential to regional stability and security."

The council members underscored their previous calls on all Lebanese parties to recommit to Lebanon's policy of dissociation and to cease any involvement in the Syrian crisis, in line with their commitment in the Baabda declaration, the statement said. (Xinhua)

**Belgium, Germany Sign Deal on Safety of Nuclear Power Plants**

BRUSSELS - Belgium and German on Monday signed an agreement on exchanging information on the safety of nuclear power plants.

The deal, signed by Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon and German Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks here, aims to ease safety concerns over nuclear reactors located in the border areas between the two countries.

Under the agreement, the two neighboring countries will set up a joint committee to carry out regular information exchange of the safety of nuclear power plants.

In addition, German experts will also be able to attend the inspection of Belgian power plants and vice versa.

"We want to be very transparent about our security policy and about the elements which make up the basis for our decisions," said Jambon at a press briefing after the signing ceremony, stressing that "Belgian nuclear power plants are safe." The agreement serves as a legal basis for "a critical discussion on the key questions about nuclear safety," according to the minister. (Xinhua)

**Turkey to Continue Efforts for Syrian Political Solution, Wider Ceasefire**

MOSCOW - Turkey will continue its efforts for a political solution in Syria, for the widening of a ceasefire across the country and for the interrupted supply of humanitarian aid, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Tuesday. He was speaking at a news conference with his Russian and Iranian counterparts in Moscow where they held a meeting to discuss the situation in Syria. (Reuters)

**Russia, Iran, Turkey Ready to Help Get Deal Between Syria Government and Opposition: Lavrov**

MOSCOW - Russia, Iran and Turkey are ready to help get a deal done between the Syrian government and opposition, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said after meeting his Iranian and Turkish counterparts in Moscow on Tuesday.

Russia, Iran and Turkey have backed a declaration to revive Syria peace talks while supporting the principle of Syria's territorial integrity, Lavrov told a news conference. (Reuters)