

### (1) India Oks...

partnership would benefit the two people." Abdullah later left for Jaipur to attend a conference on counter-terrorism on Tuesday. The conference has been organised by the India Foundation in association with Sardar Patel University of Police Security and Criminal Justice. Having committed \$2 billion for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, India has been playing a significant role in implementing infrastructure projects in the country. The visiting CEO will attend the inaugural session of the event, to be opened by President Pranab Mukherjee. During his four-day visit, the ex-foreign minister will deliver a keynote address to participants. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Government ...

considering to use one of the three legal options available. The statement comes at a time that the Independent Election Commission (IEC) has announced it is working in conjunction with the government of Afghanistan to finalize the calendar of the next elections, saying that world donors have also pledged financial assistance for the process.

"The president has shown readiness. Currently the commission (IEC) is working on the plan to receive a budget for the elections in conjunction with the government of Afghanistan and some of our international partners have shined the green light in this respect," IEC commissioner Sarir Ahmad Barnak said. Pressure is building by the election monitoring institutions for government to end the stalemate over the fate of the selection committee and to move forward with promises it made to the nation a year ago. The refusal of President Ashraf Ghani's legislative decree for election reforms in some way increased hopes for the current officials of the election bodies, a move which also encouraged the IEC to set out the election date.

"The parliament rejected the presidential order, they (MPs) represent the people. So we can say that the people are not willing to negate members of the commission," Barnak added.

But, Jawed Faisal, deputy spokesman for the CEO dismissed Barnak's assertions.

"Implementation of reforms in the election system is resolute. No election will be held without bringing reforms, the elections will be organized only under the supervision of new commissioners," Faisal said. "Leadership of the National Unity Government is considering three legal options and the selection committee will soon start its job," Faisal added.

In addition, The Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan (FEFA) has notified the government to step up efforts for the election reforms and avoid wasting time.

"The government must seek a settlement to the issue facing the electoral reforms," FEFA chairman Yousuf Rashid said.

The reform process deadlocked after the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) rejected a presidential legislative decree on electoral reforms. (Tolnews)

### (3) Over 10,000...

family members. We just don't know where they are, what they're doing or whom they are with."

Donald said there was evidence of a "criminal infrastructure" established over the last 18 months to exploit the migrant flow.

The Observer reported that Europol found evidence of links between smuggling rings bringing people into the EU and human trafficking gangs exploiting migrants for sex and slavery.

"There are prisons in Germany and Hungary where the vast majority of people arrested and placed there are in relation to criminal activity surrounding the migrant crisis," Donald said.

Over one million migrants and refugees, many fleeing the Syria conflict, crossed into Europe last year.

"Whether they are registered or not, we're talking about 270,000 children," Donald told the paper.

"Not all of those are unaccompanied, but we also have evidence that a large proportion might be," he said, adding that the 10,000 is likely to be a conservative estimate.

He said many of the children are "visible", and not "spirited away and held in the middle of forests".

Raffaella Milano, Save the Children's Italy-Europe programme director, said that "unaccompanied minors who travel without adults are the

most vulnerable group of the migratory flow".

"Many minors, in fact, make themselves 'invisible' to the authorities to enable them to continue their journey in Europe, for fear of being sent back," she said.

The UN children's agency UNICEF also voiced alarm and urged European countries to do more to protect migrant children who are on their own.

"We urgently call for a plan within Europe for unaccompanied and separated children covering family reunification, relocation and other alternatives so that children do not end up being abused and exploited by smugglers and traffickers," it said in a statement.

Many children arrive first on the Greek islands before making the journey to relatives across Europe.

Laura Pappa, president of the Greek charity Meta-Action, a group accompanying children who travel without relatives, said they "face a destiny that is worse than that of the rest of migrants waiting to be relocated".

She said they often have to wait for around seven months to be reunited with relatives, and that procedures can be slow and complicated.

"There are some people that present themselves as uncles and take the children. It's not easy in this mess to cross check the identity of the 'uncle'."

Pappa said the group has helped 3,000 children reach family, but that it "is not enough". (AFP)

### (4) WHO Mulls ...

relatively mild, it is believed to be linked to a surge in cases of microcephaly, a devastating condition in which a baby is born with an abnormally small head and brain.

While it has yet to be definitively proven that the microcephaly cases are caused in some way by the Zika virus, WHO chief Margaret Chan warned last week that a causal relationship was "strongly suspected". Zika is also believed to be linked to a neurological disorder called Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Brazil sounded the alarm in October when a rash of microcephaly cases emerged in the northeast.

It has since become the country worst affected by microcephaly, with 270 confirmed cases and 3,448 suspected cases, up from 147 in 2014. (AFP)

### (5) Suicide Attack...

saying a Taliban suicide bomber named Mohammad blew himself up next to the police department in Kabul, killing and injuring around 40 police personnel.

However, police official Abidi insisted that only two police were injured in the suicide bombing. (Xinhua)

### (6) Political ...

be undermining government's fight against corruption.

"The delay in the formation of a cabinet, the delay in appointing governors and the fact that some organizations are still being led by caretakers, including the AGO and other organizations, have all led to mistrust between people and government employees and has weakened the fight against corruption," he said.

A number of cases of corruption are being investigated by the AGO, this despite the fact that the organization is still being led by a caretaker.

"One of the main hurdles in fighting corruption is that we don't have an attorney general," said Shahla Farid, a lecturer at Kabul University.

Meanwhile, Basir Azizi, spokesman for the AGO, said that the organization has completed investigations into the Kabul Bank case, the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs, the Pashtany Bank and scores of other cases of corruption and has referred the cases to court. (Tolnews)

### (7) British Troops...

of more than 1,500 allegations of abuse and killing during the Iraq campaign made by Leigh Day and another firm, Public Interest Lawyers. In that time, the only punishment handed down so far has been a £3,000 fine. The £57 million investigation being carried out by 145 staff is due to last until the end of the decade.

Defense sources said ministers and commanders fear the aftermath of the Afghan campaign will now become bogged down in similar legal challenges, but ministers say they have no choice. Troops could find themselves on trial in The Hague if Britain is seen to be failing to conduct a thorough investigation of alleged abuses.

The newspaper reports that the alleged Afghanistan abuses date from 2011 to 2013 when the British presence in Helmand was at its peak.

But according to them, Operation Northmoor officers have finished investigating three of the alleged incidents of unlawful killing, representing six alleged deaths, and no charges have been brought.

Johnny Mercer MP, a former army officer who served in Helmand province, said: "It's going to go on for ages, it's going to cost loads of money and no one will go to prison."

He said: "There's not another nation on earth that puts its soldiers through this and I find it hard to understand."

A MoD spokesman was quoted by The Telegraph as saying: "There is a legal requirement to investigate credible allegations of criminal offences by UK Forces, which are held to the highest standards wherever in the world they may be. By no means all allegations lead to police investigations and no one is prosecuted on the basis of allegations alone."

"But we are determined to reduce significantly the number of spurious claims brought against our troops."

"Every false, distorted or exaggerated claim diverts defense spending from the front line and could serve to constrain the Armed Forces in their operational effectiveness." (Tolnews)

### (8) Nangarhar Governor...

were paying only lip-service to public security.

"Some days ago, a judge was abducted in Jalalabad and local journalist Mohammad Zubair Khaksar gunned down in Surkhrod district. If it is not insecurity, what is?" he asked.

The provincial police chief, Maj. Gen. Fazal Ahmad Sherzad said police rescued a person from kidnappers and seized a large amount of weapons and ammunitions last week.

Col. Mohammad Noman Hatifi, spokesman for the 201st Selab Crops, said that they had launched Shaheen14 operation in the Karez Kabeer area of Jalalabad and Behsud district. (Pajhwok)

### (9) German Minister...

Eve sexual assaults and robberies in Cologne have heightened tensions over Europe's migrant influx. Zeid Raad al-Hussein, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, said Monday that suspects must be investigated but "what we do not want to see is the stigmatizing of an entire people because of those actions."

Zeid said he is "deeply disturbed" by some European politicians' rhetoric over migrants.

He says "it is utterly unacceptable that politicians can be so grossly irresponsible in pointing to the failings, entire failings of a state, and placing them on the shoulders of those who have suffered enough."

Germany's labor minister is threatening to cut benefits for migrants who don't want to integrate into German society.

Germany registered nearly 1.1 million people as asylum-seekers last year. Integrating those who are allowed to stay into society and the labor market will pose a major challenge in the years ahead.

Labor Minister Andrea Nahles wrote in Monday's edition of the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung that "all people who live in Germany, no matter what their ethnic origin, must make an effort, seek work and support themselves and their families as well as they can." Nahles says "we will cut benefits to those who signal that they do not want to integrate." She said that could be measured by willingness to abide by German society's rules and to take language classes. (AP)

### (10) Kabul Struggles....

power lines because of mines and the threat from insurgents. Residents reported more pylons had been brought down, he added.

"Enemy forces have brought machine saws and have been cutting down electricity pylons," he said.

The Taliban has denied responsibility, saying such tactics, which hit ordinary people, do not fit with their fight against the foreign-backed government.

The destruction of the power lines has hit businesses and industry and added further misery for Kabul's long-suffering residents, already tested by a series of suicide bomb attacks this year.

For the well-off with private generators, the cuts have meant higher fuel bills. But those who depend on the public grid have spent dark nights and relied on wood-burning stoves to fight the winter cold.

Abdul Satar Barez, Baghlan province's governor, said operations to secure the area for repair crews had been suspended.

"Taliban are still in the area. They are a threat and danger and we cannot launch our operation now. We are waiting for the weather to get better," he said, citing fog. (VoA)

### (11) Gilan Suicide...

News the suicide attacker on a motorbike detonated his explosives at around 12.00 noon in the Gilan district centre.

He and his guards escaped unscathed, but eight civilians including a woman were wounded in the attack. Some of the injured are said to be in critical condition.

As the commander's vehicle passed through the area, the explosion occurred, witness Noor Rahman said. The casualties were fewer because there was no crowd in the bazaar at the time, he added.

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Pajhwok Afghan News that no suicide attack had occurred in Gilan district.

He said the bomb explosion was carried out by Afghan forces for their personal advantage and to increase their importance. (Pajhwok)

### (12) No Mercy...

department director Mohammad Paiman, revenue director Mohammad Yousuf Daniar and procurement head Taj Mohammad to the attorney's office over their alleged involvement in corruption in five construction projects at the police headquarters in November, 2015.

The attorney's office banned the accused from travelling out of Ghor until their cases were fully investigated.

A week earlier, the attorney's office referred their cases along with six other graft-tainted officials to a local court.

However, Mohammad Amin Tokhi, had rejected the allegation against him as baseless. He had said he had previously asked for a delegation from the central government to assess the issue.

The new governor about infrastructure development projects said that most areas of the province had been deprived of development projects that would have helped people improve their economic condition. Khazea said roads' construction was an important part of development, which would remain his top priority.

He said the road from Herat province to Ghor and from Kabul to Ghor should be constructed as soon as possible so that people could easily commute and transport their goods.

The governor said he planned to complete the Poza Lech power dam project, which was already in the plan of the Ministry of Energy and Water.

"I have recently visited the Poza Lech dam which was covered by heavy snow, but engineers are still working on it, so I assure you this project will be implemented after some more time," he said.

The Poza Lech dam is located on Harirod River on the outskirts of Firozkoh, the capital of the province.

The dam producing 4.5 megawatts of electricity is being constructed by the government at a cost of \$15 million and is expected to complete in five years. (Pajhwok)

### (13) India Approves...

visit to India, will leave for Jaipur on Tuesday where he will attend a conference on counter-terrorism.

His visit to India comes in the wake of Modi's visit to Kabul in December when the new Afghan parliament building, constructed with India's aid, was inaugurated. (Monitoring Desk)

### (14) Refugees Forced ...

than 85,000 undocumented Afghans were forced to go back to their home country.

In 2016, it is expected that more than 100,000 unregistered Afghans will be forced from Pakistan and will return to Afghanistan, Qurat Sadozai, regional director of the Norwegian Refugee Council, told DW.

"These Afghan citizens will be coming back to a country where their properties have been occupied, they don't have any job opportunities and they also lack legal documentation which is essential to access their rights of being an Afghan citizen or as a legal returnee," Sadozai says.

Undocumented returnees are not protected under the mandate of the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. So unlike documented returnees, they are not provided with any financial help, and once they reach Afghanistan they are not provided with any shelters or specific camps and are forced to live in general communities.

According to Sadozai, "Due to conflict and fighting, many returnees cannot go back to where they origi-

nally belong to. So, for instance, someone from the north of Afghanistan will settle in and around Herat in the western region." She added that this makes it difficult for humanitarian organizations to find and assist them.

Philipp Kauppert, director of the Pakistan office of the German foundation Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), doesn't agree with Pakistan's policy of sending back all undocumented migrants. He told DW that Pakistan's mainstream media often link the subjects of terrorism and Afghan refugees, which is misleading and is confusing public opinion. "Afghan refugees are a relatively easy target within Pakistan, through which the authorities want to prove the 'effectiveness' of their actions. Unfortunately, this doesn't address the root causes of terrorism and extremism in Pakistan."

Sadozai is of the view that the governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, which also hosts nearly one million Afghan refugees, should work together to find a sustainable solution. She believes that documented and undocumented returnees should be dealt with equally.

"The government of Afghanistan is working with NGOs to handle this situation and also wants efforts made to deal with all the returnees in a same way," says Sadozai.

Afghanistan is a country which has been in a protracted conflict for more than three decades. The ongoing feud has impoverished millions and hampered economic as well as social development. As international forces continue to withdraw from Afghanistan, foreign aid and international investments have also been reduced. (DW)

### (15) Iranian Poets...

second Iran-Afghanistan Joint Poetry Circle held in Afghanistan Ministry of Information and Culture Hall.

Iranian poets will also travel to Herat to meet the poets of the city and to participate in Poetry Circles.

The Iranian poets visiting Afghanistan are Esmaeel Amin, Alireza Ghazve, Naser Feiz and Mohammad Javad Shahmoradi. (IRNA)

### (16) Projects worth...

should be given to contractors who had the capacity to maintain quality. Gulab, a resident of Sharana, told Pajhwok Afghan News that NSP projects had not been carried out in Paktika the way they were executed in other provinces.

"But we are happy projects under NSP are once again being launched in our province, but the proposed projects should be given to reliable contractors," he said.

A resident of Mata Khan district, Ibrahim, said the government had been giving Paktika a "step-motherly" treatment with regard to NSP projects. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Syedabad...

metres from the mosque whose wall was hit by the shell. I could not forget that wrenching moment when my son, grandchildren and other villagers were killed before my eyes," he comments.

The man wept for a while before overcoming his emotions while recalling the heart-rending incident.

"Some of the victims cried, as others breathed their last. They were lying in a pool of blood; their heads broken by the shrapnel."

The Afghan forces have already committed several cruel acts against the ordinary people in different areas, alienating the nation from the government, Gul alleges.

Mohammad Rafiq, another resident of the village who lost three grandsons and a nephew, claims: "There was neither a single fighter nor any clash in the area when the army-fired shell landed in the mosque, killing the innocent young people and children."

Despite the passage of two months, he adds, the village remains in a state of mourning. The victims' relatives, including women and children, continue to suffer from mental disorders. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Zaranj Bakeries ...

However, Zaranj acting mayor Mohammad Ali said no one had the right to close their bakery. He said they had discussed bread imports from Iran and would decide about the issue soon.

"Those who did not reopen their bakeries until tomorrow, their license will be cancelled," he warned. (Pajhwok)

### (19) 2 Kabul Roads ...

attended the inauguration ceremony, said the roads, key routes of Kabul city, would help resolve problems of a large number of people. "Kabul is our shared home, we all together should work to rebuild

it and keep it clean," he said. However, Khan criticised the acting mayor for what he said a bad condition of most of Kabul roads and said rain waters had no proper exit system and had been a major cause of roads' destruction. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Intelligence ...

hammad Nabi.

He asked the government to release the detainees before the locals were alienated by the NDS action. He also claimed two other people had been arrested in Khadar Bazaar area, but had no further information. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Newborn ...

Many other relatives and Rahim said they would not return to their village until the baby was found and handed over to them. They threatened to close the hospital. "It is shocking. How can a baby go missing from hospital?"

Grandmother of the missing child said: "I handed over my grandson to a nurse after he was delivered and I went to the market to bring medicines, but when I returned and asked the nurse where is our baby, she denied being handed over the baby." (Pajhwok)

### (22) Father was...

fice, was one of the killed people in the brazen attack.

In an exclusive interview, Ahmad HilalAhamdMomand told Pajhwok Afghan News his father had retired from his job in 2014, but he continued visit the department to see his colleagues and help them with their work.

"The day the suicide attack occurred, I dropped him at 8am in front of the office and went to my own workplace," Momand recalled. After being informed of the incident, he contacted his father over the telephone.

His father responded: "I am OK, my son, but the attack is terrible. Right now, I am in the crime branch. Let's see what happens."

Being a son, Momand was concerned about his dad. The mobile number of his father was switched off after 4pm, fuelling further his concern. At 6pm, he was informed the corpse of his father had been shifted to the Balkh Civil Hospital. (Pajhwok)

### (23) Security Forces ....

of Hawjah, some 90 km west of the northern city of Kirkuk, the source said.

Sporadic clashes continued in the rugged areas near the oil fields of Allas and Ajil in east of Salahuddin provincial capital city of Tikrit, which located some 170 km north of Baghdad, the source said. (Xinhua)

### (24) Australia, Pacific ...

tinue to monitor that." Zika carrying mosquitoes are endemic to tropical and sub-tropical environments.

There are currently no reported cases of Zika in Australia. Though the World Health Organisation (WHO) is convening an emergency meeting in Geneva on Monday to determine its response to the spread of the virus, vaccine manufacturers have said a vaccine for wide-scale public use is months, if not years away. (Xinhua)

### (25) German Populist

Social Democrats are junior partners of Merkel's conservatives in the coalition government, said Germany's domestic intelligence agency (BfV) should monitor the AfD. "To me, the AfD belongs in the BfV report and not on television," Gabriel told the mass-selling Bild newspaper on Sunday. "It is unbelievable that such parties may now excrete their slogans on public television." (Reuters)

### (26) 849 People...

statement, Iraqi capital of Baghdad was the worst affected province with 1,084 civilian casualties, including 299 killed and 785 injured, while the provinces of Diyala, Nineveh, Kirkuk and Salahuddin followed in the list. (Xinhua)

### (27) UN Envoy's ...

. Special Envoy de Mistura at his office at 5 p.m. local time Monday.

"We have come to Geneva to seek relief for our people by insisting UN Security Council resolution 2254 is implemented, which means humanitarian relief, the lifting of sieges, and the end of attacks on civilians," said Spokesman Salem Al-Meslet. (Xinhua)

### (28) Turkey Must ...

Turkey's mostly Kurdish southeast since the collapse in July of a peace process with the PKK. The Turkish Human Rights Foundation says at least 198 civilians, including 39 children, have died in combat areas under curfew since August. (AP)