

(1) CEO Warns...

derailed the government's plan to distribute the cards. Ethnic rifts run deep in Afghanistan, and ethnicity is closely tied to citizens' broader sense of political and social identity. The proposed national ID card project is expected to cost \$100 million, and will be paid for by the Finance Ministry. (ATN)

(2) Enterprises ...

created when enterprises resumed their operations in the country, instructing officials of the country's enterprises to deliver all their programs in connection with increasing their activities in coming session. Officials asserted in case supporting government enterprises in various sections, they could provide better services comparing to private sector. (BNA)

(3) Russia Worried...

major threats to global security. Over the last three years, the extremists managed to seize large swaths of land both in Iraq and Syria. The jihadists are also trying to spread their influence to North Africa, particularly Libya. According to various estimates, the area controlled by the ISIL group reaches 90,000 square kilometers (34,700 square miles). Data on the number of ISIL followers also range from 50,000 to 200,000 fighter. (Sputnik)

(4) Etisalat Group ...

job activity -measured by member interactions with employers' company pages, employee profiles and job postings on LinkedIn. Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Sawaleh Al Shehhi, Chief Human Resources Officer of Etisalat Group, commented: "Innovation is at the heart of what Etisalat Group does, we are always searching for more creative ways to attract the best talent and to interact with anyone who takes interest in our organization. We've been working with LinkedIn for three years to drive Etisalat's branding and positioning as an employer of choice in each of our 18 markets, and I am delighted that our efforts have paid off."

Wade Burgess, VP LinkedIn Talent Solutions, commented: "Numerous factors determine whether a company succeeds or fails, but none more so than hiring and retaining top talent. Doing both requires building an exceptional employer brand, and the 100 Most InDemand Employers are leading the way."

Etisalat Group and LinkedIn have been cooperating as part their 'Global Frame Agreement' for the last three years. Under the terms of the agreement, ten Etisalat operating companies will be able to access a massive global talent pool of candidates on the LinkedIn platform.

Etisalat Group, and its international operations, have now reached nearly 480 thousand followers in total on LinkedIn. Those who follow the company can stay updated on news from Etisalat's multinational operations and be the first to know about new career opportunities within the Group. This has led to strong engagement from Etisalat's global community of followers, resulting in increased awareness of the Etisalat Employer brand. (PR)

(5) Ghazni Deputy...

the province, adding that enemy would not be able to weaken morale of the Afghan security forces by launching attacks on the province. He asserted that Ghazni-based Afghan security forces were ready to bravely defend the province and would seriously respond the enemies at any time. Ghazni deputy governor added that insurgents wanted to launch a widespread attack on Ghazni city and block all roads connecting southwestern provinces to Kabul, but fortunately the Afghan security forces surpassed the insurgents. Eng. Mohammad Khan while praising the Afghan security forces for their efforts added they should not only defend the province but also try to win the people's hearts. (BNA)

(6) NATO General...

reconstruction and training for Afghan forces. But Domrose insists that NATO should also provide military support for its 'Afghan brothers'. The call comes as US President Barack Obama announced in October that Washington will keep 9,800 troops in Afghanistan throughout most of 2016, further maintaining

5,500 troops in after 2016, instead of fully withdrawing all of its forces from the country by the next year, as originally planned. Given the difficult security situation in Afghanistan, Domrose advocated for the expansion of the NATO mission in the country and the start of airstrikes against the radical Taliban.

"This is also a moral question," he explained, adding that the possibility of a "robust counseling" should be considered. "The situation is sobering. It is not as stable as we had hoped for," Domrose added. There are still more than 13,000 soldiers present in the Hindu Kush. Among them there are about 850 German soldiers.

US President Barack Obama speaks during a surprise visit with US troops at Bagram Air Field, north of Kabul, in Afghanistan, May 25, 2014, prior to the Memorial Day holiday. Nevertheless, even after a 13-year presence of NATO in the region, the situation in Afghanistan remains dismal. The country has been destroyed for years to come, with numerous refugees leaving their homes and heading to Europe.

Whether a new military campaign would help to improve the situation in Afghanistan is, however, highly questionable, DWN wrote. Domrose did not explain how exactly a new military operation would stabilize the poor security situation in the country. (sputniknews)

(7) Atmar Visits...

in 2012, India will give four MI-25 attack helicopters to Afghan security forces. This is significant, coming in the midst of a bruising campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan. Doval and Atmar have spoken frequently in the past few weeks.

While these are not the MI-35 that Afghanistan had asked for, the decision to supply the choppers still is important because New Delhi had hitherto shied away from giving weapons and defence equipment to Afghanistan. India also had issues of capacity - India's defence manufacturing is modest. However, a trilateral defence cooperation arrangement between India, Russia and Afghanistan made it easier for Kabul to source defence equipment from Russia paid for by India.

Atmar's visit also comes after the recent Kunduz operation which fell to the rebels before being retaken by the Afghans but was seen as a failure of intelligence and security preparation of the national army, while being indicative of a resurgent Taliban. (Agencies)

(8) Afghanistan,...

assured that the pace of work on it would be accelerated.

The Afghan ambassador said Vision 2025 would promote regional connectivity and also appreciated the scholarship scheme of Pakistan government for Afghan students. (Wadsam)

(9) MPs Called ...

avoid these types of crimes; otherwise, we will be witnessed to one murder on a daily basis," Gulali Noor Safi, MP from northern Balkh province stated.

Fawzia Kofi another MP from Badakhshan said, "we are not against the implementation of Sharia when we are making the laws. Those who can't read Shahada are doing these types of crimes". This is not the first time a woman has been publically punished in Afghanistan, earlier angry mob lynched, killed and burned an Afghan girl, Farkhunda, in Kabul over the accusation of burning a piece of the Holy Quran. (ATN)

(10) Municipality ...

selective soon and all citizens have the rights to elect themselves for such position."

For the first time the Kabul municipality position will be optional so that all the candidates could apply for the following rank, though there are three technical problems ahead of us, we will still push our efforts through to begin the process and select the new Mayor for Kabul city Head of the local Governance Abdul Baqi Popal urged. Officials in Ministry of Urban and development stressed that necessary measurements should be adopted to tackle the existed challenges.

Deputy Minister of urban and development Amruddin Salik said, "efforts are underway to remove the existed challenges." However the head of the UN housing in Afghanistan Mr.Moshi

said, "we promise to change the face of Kabul city better comparing to before and we are committed to provide cooperation." The following issue comes after officials in Ministry of urban and development reported that new residential town to be built in 68 Acre in Kabul city, saying the following residential apartments will be built based on the International standards. (ATN)

(11) Afghanistan's ...

as Afghanistan's mother of education, Dr. Yacoobi, 65, has spent two decades working persistently to rebuild her country's education landscape, devastated by war.

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) Chairperson Sheikha Moza bint Nasser presented Dr Yacoobi the award today at the opening plenary session of WISE. Over 2,000 members of the WISE community from diverse fields and over 150 countries witnessed the presentation of the award at the Summit which is a global initiative of QF.

First awarded in 2011, the WISE Prize for Education recognises an individual or a team for outstanding achievement in any field of education.

The WISE Prize for Education raises global awareness of the crucial role of education in all societies, and is a testament to QF's commitment to building the future of education by unlocking human potential.

Sheikha Moza bint Nasser said, "Our WISE Prize for Education Laureates embody the spirit of WISE. They are tireless advocates for the right to education."

"This year's Laureate is distinguished by her determination to bring education to her fellow citizens in the most adverse conditions of war and occupation."

"From refugee camps to secret night schools, and often at great personal risk, she established a network of organisations that provide general education as well as public health education. While her work focuses on girls and women, it also benefits boys and men. Millions have benefited from her optimism."

On receiving the WISE Prize, Dr. Yacoobi said, "I feel honoured and blessed to be chosen as this year's WISE Prize for Education Laureate. This is a great moment for Afghanistan because right now at its tipping point. Our people are suffering, they are oppressed, and poor and really hopeless."

"With this Prize, we know that we can continue to educate more and more Afghans, giving them hope and encourage them to go forward no matter what they are facing."

"It is such a great gift to me, and I dedicate the Prize to the Afghan Institute of Learning and all of the women, men and children we are educating," said Dr Yacoobi.

For Dr Yacoobi it all began in the early nineties, when she started working in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan.

A passionate educator herself, she trained teachers, opened schools for children, and learning centres for women.

The Taliban rule in the mid-1990s did not deter Dr. Yacoobi from her mission to provide education and health services to women and children, especially girls. She launched the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) in 1995, with the primary objective to improve teacher training through innovation.

AIL's teacher training programmes focus on quality, in-depth education to Afghan teachers in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Once teachers are trained in the basics of teaching, AIL offers workshops to strengthen their teaching skills.

When the Taliban banned girls' education in the nineties, AIL supported underground home schools for 3,000 girls across the country. It was also the first organisation to open learning centres for women in the country and continues to find innovative ways to provide literacy and vocational skills to girls and women.

Under her leadership, AIL has established itself as a ground-breaking, visionary organisation which works at the grassroots level to empower women and communities. This bottom up approach has triggered a lasting local transformation.

Since its establishment, AIL has brought education and health services to at least 12 million beneficiaries living in rural and marginalised areas of Afghanistan.

Recently, Dr. Yacoobi opened private schools to provide high qual-

ity affordable education. She also set up a radio station, to deliver her institute's educational content to people living in remote areas. Her future plans also include the creation of a television network and a university for women.

The WISE Prize for Education raises the status of education by giving it similar prestige to other areas for which international prizes exist -such as literature, peace, and economics. The WISE Prize for Education Laureate, announced at the Summit's Opening Plenary Session, receives a gold medal and \$ 5500,000. (Agencies)

(12) Fired Staff ...

informed to leave the office," he said. "I was fired at the same day when nine new people from a specific ethnic group were employed." Meanwhile, a former recruitment officer at the office, Abdul Karim Karimi, said he also knew about the dismissal of more than 100 skilled workers of the office.

"This is against the law of civil services," he said. "The fate of these employees is unclear now."

"We do not have any issue if senior officials are sacked ... but dismissal of technical staff comes under no law," said Ehsan Teheri, office's former head of monitoring and evaluation.

Meanwhile, the Office of Administrative Affairs said these dismissed employees had already received notice for making frequent absences.

However, the office didn't allow TOLONews reporter to get access to the time-sheet of the employees and also the warning letters they received. (Tolonews)

(13) Afghans Set ...

and then to Greece, Italy and France," said the Germany's top intelligence officer Gerhard Schindler, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung reports.

According to Schindler, deteriorating security and economic situation in Afghanistan plays into the hands of smugglers, as there are more people willing to flee the country. Thus, we can expect an increase in the number of Afghan refugees in Europe. (Reuters)

(14) Abdullah ...

committed to the well-being of our people [and] to making efforts towards stabilization of the country and has sincere commitments for the establishment of durable [and] dignified peace in the country," he noted.

Meanwhile, Li Yuanchao praised the long-historic relations between Kabul and Beijing, which entered its 60th year.

"In the past six decades since the establishment of diplomatic relations in particular in very recent history, our two countries have always shown each other mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual support," the Chinese VP said.

"We have also established strategic cooperative partnership," Li Yuanchao added, after signing three major cooperation agreements with Afghan government on security, education and reconstruction sectors.

Based on the agreements signed Tuesday, China will build four security gates at the entrances of Kabul city.

Besides providing 1,500 new scholarships for the Afghan students, China will also construct 10,000 residential units for the families of victims of Afghan Army and Police. (Tolonews)

(15) MSF Call ...

interest of any country. "It is important that all countries recognize the fact that supporting terrorism and extremism will not serve any countries [and] any nations' interests," Abdullah said.

He maintained that the National Unity Government (NUG) is making all efforts to achieve a sustainable peace.

"The unity government is committed to the well-being of our people [and] to making efforts towards stabilization of the country and has sincere commitments for the establishment of durable [and] dignified peace in the country," he noted.

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(16) Plane Carrying ...

state minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, said that the Afghan government will distribute the supplies to the victims of the earthquake as soon as possible.

"We have used our air forces for evacuation of injured people, which has been now completed. At the same time, we've used government transport for relief items that have been sent to the affected communities and distribution has already started," Barmak said. During Chinese Vice-President Li Yuanchao's visit to Afghanistan on Tuesday, he announced that the Chinese government will provide another one million U.S. dollars in funds to Afghanistan as emergency aid.

On Tuesday, Afghanistan and People's Republic of China celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. (Tolonews)

(17) China Names...

and Singapore before becoming ambassador to Afghanistan in September 2013.

"Deng, familiar with Afghanistan affairs, will fulfill his mission," Hua said, reiterating China has always actively participated in and promoted the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

Deng replaces Sun Yuxi, the first special envoy for Afghanistan affairs since the post was set in July 2014. Sun was a former foreign ministry spokesperson and ambassador to Afghanistan from 2002 to 2005. (Xinhua)

(18) Foundation...

\$100 million from this project," he said. "About 2,500 people will also find jobs through this project."

Naderi added that besides a number of countries, private companies have also shown willingness to invest in urban development and housing projects in the country and that Smart City is the first step taken by the private sector in this regard.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's special advisor on reforms and good governance Ahmad Zia Masoud who also took part in the ceremony said that Smart City is a major step towards the economic growth of the country.

This is first time the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs and Housing is securing such a huge income for government through private sector, he added. (KP)

(19) Finland ...

from Afghanistan. Last month, the country's immigration service narrowed asylum criteria for Iraqis and Somalis based on its assessment of an improved security situation in both countries. (Reuters)

(20) Activists to...

engage contemporary issues. President Obama said last month that he will keep 5,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan into 2017, ending his ambitions to bring home most American forces from that country before he leaves office.

Wednesday night's event is sponsored by UK Peace Studies and the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice. (Agencies)

(21) Migrants ...

in Nike, where temperatures have reached around zero degrees Celsius and a snowstorm had moved in last week. Qais Faridoun, another migrant from Afghanistan said he set out to buy a bicycle immediately after arriving in Nike, having travelled from Moscow.

"There is no other option for us there. We have to go to Norway. I don't know any other way, there isn't

The Arctic route is a more roundabout way of reaching Europe than crossing the Mediterranean, but the migrants taking the route think it is safer.

Refugees who seek asylum in Norway are flown to Oslo for registration before their applications are considered.

This comes after the UN Refugee Agency announced Monday that more than 218,000 migrants and refugees crossed the Mediterranean to Europe in October -- a monthly record and more than during the whole of 2014. (Tolonews)

(22) Death Sentence...

do Force of the Afghan Army in the year 1979 when the massacre happened was arrested on October 27 in Holland.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report after the arrest was made that if this case goes to trial, survivors and witnesses are expected to recount how on April

20, 1979, troops of the 444th Commando Force of the Afghan Army, which Alamyar commanded, shot more than 1,000 men and boys in Karala, in Kunar province, the report states, adding that according to the Afghanistan Justice Project, as the remaining villagers watched, Alamyar's forces then bulldozed the bodies into a trench. Many were only wounded and buried alive.

"The mass grave is still visible in Karala. The incident has been described in media accounts and documented by human rights organizations, but no one has ever been held accountable for the atrocity," stated the report. (KP)

(23) Erdogan ...

place," Kalin added. The party, however, is still 13 seats short of the 330 required to call a referendum on any constitutional change. Kalin did not say how those limitations can be overcome and it was not clear if the AKP would seek the support of other parties represented in parliament. (AP)

(24) EU Plans ...

and other bio matter that are wasted. In the European Union, Commission data shows about 40 percent of household waste is recycled as an average across the 28-member bloc. The Commission targets plastics specifically, stating less than 25 percent of plastic waste collected is recycled and about 50 percent goes to landfill or lands up in the ocean where it poses a threat to wildlife. (Reuters)

(25) Sissi Visits...

rorism at a moment of heightened tensions following the crash of a Russian plane over the Sinai. Islamic State militants have claimed they "brought down" the aircraft to avenge those killed as a result of Moscow's recent air campaign in Syria, which is supporting Islamic State group adversary President Bashar Assad. (AP)

(26) US Approves...

buy armed drones from the United States.

Initially U.S. lawmakers had concerns, ultimately spurring an inter-agency review that produced the new drone export policy.

U.S. lawmakers have 15 days to block the sale but such action is rare since deals are carefully vetted before Congress is formally notified.

The proposed sale includes 156 AGM-114R2 Hellfire II missiles built by Lockheed Martin Corp, 20 GBU-12 laser-guided bombs, 30 GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions and other armaments, according to the officials. (Reuters)

(27) German,...

ated mostly with forged passports and tried to bring people to Germany via plane. The traffickers charged around 10,000 euros (\$11,000 dollars) per person which in most cases had to be paid in advance.

Many of the asylum seekers never made it to Germany, however, as their fake documents were recognized by authorities along the way. One 10-person Lebanese family, for example, was detained in Malaysia for several weeks after being stopped there en route, police said. Eventually, they received assistance from the U.N. refugee agency in connection with the German Embassy and were allowed to travel on to Germany for humanitarian reasons. (AP)

(28) First Refugees...

ceremony at the airport, including European Commissioner for Migration Dimitris Avramopoulos, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn and Greek Deputy Minister for Migration Policy Yaninis Mouzalas, acknowledged that Wednesday's relocation was like a drop of water in the ocean.

They suggested more systematic steps so that Europe demonstrates substantial solidarity with the refugees fleeing war zones. (Xinhua)

(29) NATO Tests ...

codenamed Trident Juncture, is to ensure NATO's beefed-up Response Force is up to the job, and that the United States and its allies can respond promptly and in unison to a crisis. For more than a year, the alliance has been in the throes of a major makeover, largely in response to Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and support for a pro-Russia separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine, but also to better meet the new types of security threat represented by Islamic State and other armed extremist organizations. (AP)