

(1) EU Distressed ...

does not support the interests of the nation, therefore the political leadership should sideline their disputes for the sake of the nation," said MP Fatima Aziz.

Referring to the endemic corruption in Afghanistan, Mellbin hailed the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Justice Center (ACJC) and said it was a positive move to curb the scourge.

He asked government to process large corruption cases in the country as it will heal mistrust between the people and government.

"Tackling impunity is the corner stone of getting rid of corruption in this country and therefore it is very good that the ACJC started its work, I think people should be a little patient, it takes time for any institution to build itself up to start a proper case load, I am sure that overtime it will have the ability to tackle also even larger cases than the ones they started with, what is very important now is that the institution gets off to a good start, that it systematically continues to work with this so the signal is sent to all who are involved with handling official money - that impunity is going to end," he added.

The ACJC was established six months ago and aims to probe major corruption cases against government officials and non-government elements allegedly involved in graft.

"There is ... hundreds of corruption cases that need to be investigated; the anti-corruption justice center has to probe all these cases in order to achieve public trust," said Khan Zaman Amarkhail, head of Afghanistan Anti-Corruption Network (AACN).

The ACJC so far has arrested at least 31 people on charges of corruption and processed 53 corruption cases. (Tolonews)

(2) German Cabinet ...

of 13,000 foreign troops from Germany, Italy, the United States and others. The NATO forces are focused on training the Afghan army and police, not combat operations.

Germany is also slated to provide up to 1.7 billion euros in civilian aid to Afghanistan through 2020. (Reuters)

(3) Olson Retires...

reconciliation process," Kerry said.

His commitment to fostering a strong and productive relationship with Pakistan had been a testament to his unwavering diplomatic service, said the outgoing Secretary of State.

In a statement, Kerry described Olson as one of the most distinguished diplomats, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service who has been on the forefront of American work in the Middle East, Africa, and most recently in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"We need to look no further than his broad range of assignments to understand Ambassador Olson's lasting impact on US diplomacy," he said.

"In over 34 years of distinguished service, he has served as US ambassador to Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, coordinating director for development and economic affairs at US Embassy in Kabul..."

He held positions in Mexico, Uganda, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Iraq, NATO, as well as a number of leadership positions here in Washington, Kerry said. (Pajhwok)

(4) We Want ...

Abdullah called the dialogue between representatives of the two countries as effective and said such sessions helped governments resolve problems.

The joint group held its first meeting in Lahore, Pakistan and concluded its second meeting in Mazar-i-Sharif city on Tuesday. (Pajhwok)

(5) USAID ...

in India and the United Arab Emirates, cultivating new buyers and expanding awareness

for Afghan produce.

Under the extension, the program will focus on a wider variety of crops and develop new Central Asian markets. It also will undertake a grant program to establish or improve cold storage and packing facilities to enable Afghan food products to meet European import requirements.

"A few years ago, exporters could not find enough quality fruit that was up to international standards," Roots of Peace President Gary Kuhn said.

"Afghan farmers are now producing better fruit due to years of USAID-funded projects such as CHAMP. Now we need to increase the value of the harvest and build new markets," Kuhn added.

"There is a huge market in the Indian sub-continent, South-east Asia, and the United Arab Emirates for Afghan produce," said Abhey Misra, an Indian buyer. "Afghanistan has improved quality and packaging. It has a good reputation and is known as 100 percent organic." Through the extension of CHAMP to 2019, USAID will continue to support and facilitate each stage of the agribusiness process, from farm to market, thereby creating jobs and improving livelihoods. (Pajhwok)

(6) Suicide Bomber ...

anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the bomber intentionally targeted the minibus with the members of the agency that provides protection for high-ranking government officials - similar to the U.S. Secret Service.

The attack was the second this year against the agency. In April, a coordinated Taliban assault using a suicide truck bomb and gunmen killed 64 people at the agency's main compound in Kabul.

The Afghan IS affiliate claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attack in a posting on a website used by the militants, saying an IS bomber attacked intelligence service employees.

In other violence, a man was killed late Tuesday night when a sticky bomb attached to his car detonated in Kabul, the city's police said. The police said the vehicle belonged to a government ministry office in charge of rural development.

The Islamic State group emerged for the first time last year in Afghanistan as an offshoot of the militant group fighting in Iraq and Syria. Analysts believe the IS affiliate in the country is mostly made up of disenfranchised Taliban fighters. (AP)

(7) Child Kidnappers...

immediately after the operation he contacted security and civil servants in Farah after the rescue of the child and told them to check the boy's health and meet his all needs.

The kidnappers in detention would be sentenced based on the relevant law, he said, adding: "Those who threaten our people's lives and commit brutal acts will be dealt with harshly."

Ghani ordered Abdul Salam Rahimi, head of Office of Administrative Affairs at the Presidential Palace, to bring the child to Kabul for better medical care.

Intelligence and crime branch personnel, who worked hard to rescue the minor, would be given special awards, the president promised. (Pajhwok)

(8) Soldiers...

Ahmadi confirmed Afghan forces operation on the prison but said that no security personnel were included among those released..

"We strongly reject the claim of Afghan forces release from the Taliban jail, the prison kept people involved in criminal activities and disputes, the enemy raided the jail in which only non-political inmates were kept," he said.

He added the Taliban imprisoned Afghan forces in separate and more protected locations. (Pajhwok)

(9) All three...

In four days, MPs dismissed seven ministers.

The ministers who failed to secure a vote of confidence are minister of communications and information technology, Abdul Raza Wahidi; minister of higher education Farida Momand; the education minister Asadullah Hanif Balkhi; the minister of transport and civil aviation Mohammadullah Batash; the minister of public works Mahmood Baligh; the minister of labor, social affairs, martyrs and disabled Nasreen Oryakhil and Salahuddin Rabani, the minister of foreign affairs. (Tolonews)

(10) Hekmatyar...

war the party was involved in 1990s.

A senior member of the party Qarib-ur-Rehman Syed told VOA's Afghanistan service that "Hezb-e-Islami considers itself a member and party of the people. Hezb-e-Islami belongs to the people and people belongs to Hezb-e-Islami. In every and every second, we apologize from those who were hurt."

Syed further added "We have in the past tendered apologies to the people since this is our home, village and people."

He said a special tribunal should be established to try those who have been involved in war crimes, including any member of Hezb-e-Islami. (KP)

(11) Film Dept....

foreign movies.

According to the Afghan Film Department, the cinema industry has struggled tremendously in the past few years due to a lack of financial assistance and government support.

The department says it has reduced the number of its employees from 240 to 70 people. "The ministry of finance is responsible to provide us the budget, we are a state run association; if the high level authorities permit it, then there are some uneducated authorities in the lower levels who in fact do not have culture and do not know what cinema really means," said Arefi.

Staff from the department said however that they still want the leaders of the national unity government to make good on their promises regarding the rejuvenation of the culture of movies in the country.

Government pledged to build 34 new cinemas in all provinces with the Afghan Film Department taking charge of these cinemas. However, Kaihan said this has not happened. (Tolonews)

(12) Insecurity,....

said the Mediothek Afghanistan had been making efforts at reducing the negative effects of the war on activists' minds.

He said civil society activists were in direct contact with their communities and they could easily spread the message of peace.

Balkh provincial council head Dr. Mohammad Afzal Hadid said Afghanistan needed people who worked sincerely for peace.

He said improper governance, insecurity and administrative corruption were main hurdles to bringing peace in the country.

He said peace could be achieved if the nation in one voice demanded it and in this regard the role of civil society activists was vital.

A civil society activist from Kunduz, Hamidullah Baloch, told reporters that such gatherings had been useful for intellectual awakening.

Recent incidents in Kunduz had negatively impacted the province's social fabric, Baloch said, adding if civil society activists properly raised their voice for peace, they were likely to achieve it.

Mediothek's Balkh office in-charge, Naqshbandi, said the caravan would go through Balkh's historical areas on the second day of the conference and the third day had been specified for poetry and music

programmes. (Pajhwok)

(13) Baghlan Child...

Baghlan police chief Noor Habib Gulbahari.

Officials at Baghlan's Women's Affairs Department said that child marriage was one of the key reasons for the high level of domestic violence.

"The girl married when she was quite young, now she is fourteen years old, her husband is also underage, therefore such issues happen; the woman has been tortured a lot, she escaped from her home and went to the security forces," said Khadija Yaqeen, head of Baghlan's Women's Affairs Department. This comes two days after officials reported the rape of a five-year-old girl in the province. (Tolonews)

(14) 21 Taliban....

Haider, Mullah Kabir, Mullah Faiz Mohammad and Sher Agha, the governor said.

However, Taliban claimed the fighters killed seven security forces and injured 13 others over the past two days in Balghi area.

Mohammad Noor Rahmani, the provincial council chief, confirmed the clashes, but had no exact information about Taliban casualties.

He said more than 100 militants launched coordinated attack on some parts of the provincial capital on Tuesday night, but were pushed back by the commando and air forces. (Pajhwok)

(15) Trump Called...

Western officials."

The comment comes after US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said on Monday that he would support a peaceful transition of power but that there was an ongoing need to destroy Daesh not only in Iraq and Syria but also in Afghanistan.

Speaking in an interview forum hosted by The Atlantic on Monday in Washington D.C, Carter said: "...we need to destroy the fact and the idea that there can be Islamic State (Daesh) based upon this ideology and it needs to start there."

"I just want to say that it ...is necessary, it's not sufficient. So, we also need to operate against it and are wherever it arises. Libya, Afghanistan, and so forth and then absolutely we need to protect our own people. And we do that every single day; protect ourselves from attack."

He pointed out that after the 9/11 attacks in the U.S, NATO worked with them in Afghanistan and has been "working with us ever since to make sure that Afghanistan doesn't once again become a place from which attacks on America or France or Germany or the United Kingdom or anywhere else in Europe are launched from."

Carter went on to condemn the recent suicide bombing on coalition personnel at Bagram Airfield that killed two U.S service members and two U.S contractors and injured 16 other U.S service members and one Polish soldier.

On Friday a suicide bomber, who had been working at the base for four years, detonated explosives on the base. According to Afghan officials, the bomber had originally been a Taliban member but joined the peace process four years ago. (Tolonews)

(16)3 Women ...

Meanwhile, Mohammad Rafiq Shirzai, the Herat Zonal Hospital spokesman, said the dead bodies of the women were delivered to the hospital last night. (Pajhwok)

(17)MoI Helicopter...

the chopper made a hard landing due to technical problems," he said, adding no one was hurt.

He said the helicopter was still in the area and rescuers had arrived at the site to help the crew.

Azizuddin, a tribal elder from Shah Mazar area, claimed the helicopter landed close to his house at around 11pm last night. A heavy clash is still

underway between the Taliban and security forces, he said, adding the militants did not allow the helicopter to fly.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed the helicopter was shot down by the movement's fighters. He also confirmed a large number of security personnel had suffered casualties in the ongoing clash. Baraki Barak, one of the unstable districts of Logar, is located 20 kilometers south of Pul-i-Alam -- the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

(18)Assad Expresses...

willingness to cooperate with Russia in the war on terrorism, and thus a possible cooperation with the government of Assad.

"When you think about it, wouldn't it be nice if we got along with Russia?" Trump said in July. "Wouldn't it be nice if we got together with Russia and knocked the hell out of IS (the Islamic State)?" he added. (Xinhua)

(19)China, U.S. ...

search and rescue of survivors. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command and the U.S. Army Pacific will send delegations to observe and instruct the drill. Forty military officers from 24 countries will also observe the drill.

The drill is the fourth of its kind between China and the United States since 2013. (Xinhua)

(20)Security Challenges ...

change also continue to pose threats and challenges to regional security since they adversely impact people's livelihoods as well as the national, regional and international socio-economic development," the Lao defence minister said. (Xinhua)

(21)Iraqi Forces ...

and destroying seven booby-trapped cars, along with seizing a large cache of weapons and mortar rounds, Yarallah said.

Tuesday's advance brought the paramilitary units to about 18 kilometers from the airport of the tow of Tal Afar, Yarallah said, asserting that the recapture of the airport will enable the troops to use it as a launching pad to free Tal Afar.

Tal Afar, which used to have majority of both Sunni and Shiite Turkoman villagers, as well as other minorities of Kurds and Arabs, fell to IS in 2014. (Xinhua)

(22)UNICEF Leads ...

5,000 kits of water purification tablets, high energy biscuits, jerry cans, buckets, hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste and baby supplies, including diapers.

The distribution was completed in six hours despite nearby artillery fire and explosions that sounded almost constantly during the day. (Xinhua)

UNICEF Urges Bangladesh to Increase Budget Allocation for Child-Related Initiatives

DHAKA - The United Nations children's agency has urged the Bangladeshi government to increase the proportion of national budget allocation for child-related initiatives from 14 percent in 2016 to 20 percent by 2020.

The call was made at the launch of "Shishuder Budget Path Shohaika (Child Friendly Version of the National Budget of Bangladesh)", a joint publication prepared by the Bangladesh's Finance Division and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Bangladesh.

"The national budget is an important instrument in ensuring adequate and equitable resource allocation for children. It is now increasingly acknowledged that children hold the key to development. No investment will be more effective and efficient than to invest in children to give them a good start in life," said UNICEF Bangladesh Representative, Edouard Beigbeder.

While urging the government to increase the proportion of national budget allocation for child-related initiatives, Beigbeder also suggested the establishment of a permanent Child Focus Budget

Unit at the Finance Division to provide technical support to all other relevant ministries/agencies.

The publication has been prepared to increase awareness on public finance processes among adolescent boys and girls and the impact it has on their well-being. (Xinhua)

Iraqi Security Forces Foil Multiple IS Suicide Bomb Attacks

RAMADI, Iraq - Iraqi security forces foiled five suicide attacks by Islamic State (IS) militants Wednesday against a military base in Iraq's Anbar, killing three soldiers and wounding eight others, a provincial security source said.

The attack occurred early in the morning when IS militants detonated five suicide car bombs against the base in the town of Rutba, 370 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The troops opened fire against the attackers and detonated four car bombs before reaching their targets, but the fifth suicide bomber managed to approach the entrance of the base and detonated his car bomb, killing three soldiers and wounding eight others, along with the five suicide bombers, the source said.

Rutba, which is located on the Baghdad-Amman international road, was taken over by IS in 2014, and recaptured by security forces in mid-May 2016.

Iraqi security forces and allied paramilitary units have been battling IS militants for months to regain control of territories in northern and western Iraq seized by the IS since June 2014. (Xinhua)

Austria's EU Exit Would be Highly Damaging to Economy: Study

VIENNA - A hypothetical Austrian exit from the European Union (EU) would be highly damaging to its domestic economy, a new study claimed Tuesday.

Presented by the Austrian Economic Chambers (WKO) who commissioned it, the study presumed that between 100,000 and 150,000 jobs would be lost should Austria depart from the union.

In addition, small and medium-sized businesses would again suffer from taxes and tariffs involved in entering other European markets, the study showed. It was noted that Austria's total exports within the EU have increased 224 percent since its entry into the union.

It was also stated that Austria paid a net 1.24 billion euros (1.33 billion U.S. dollars) into the EU in 2014, with domestic EU funding through various programs and projects subtracted. This accounted for about 0.4 percent of Austria's GDP, while the net benefit of investments and innovation brought by the EU membership amounted to about 7.2 percent of its GDP.

Foreign companies would also be less likely to invest in Austria, the study showed, as the EU membership is estimated to be responsible for about 28 percent of such investments. (Xinhua)

Majority of Russians Want Putin to be President After 2018: Survey

MOSCOW - The majority Russians want Vladimir Putin to continue to be their president after 2018, according to a poll by the Moscow-based Levada-Center.

About 63 percent of interviewees answered positively to the question "Do you want Putin to head Russia after 2018," 19 percent responded negatively, and 19 percent couldn't decide. According to the survey, only 26 percent of the respondents believe a new leader will arise in Russia to replace Putin as president in 2018, while 49 percent think otherwise. The survey was conducted from October 21 to 24 among 1,600 Russians aged 18 years and older in 48 regions of the Russian Federation. (Xinhua)