

### (1) Afghanistan ...

concerned about the lack of security, up from 34.1 percent last year and at its highest level since 2007. The poll had a 1.6 percent margin of error. This year, Afghanistan is facing major political and security challenges after the withdrawal of international combat troops at the end of 2014. Also, President Ashraf Ghani has been faced with a stepped-up war by the Taliban seeking to topple the government. The poll found that more than two-thirds, or 67.4 percent of Afghans, report that they "always, often or sometimes fear for their safety" - the highest rate since 2006, according to previous foundation surveys. Abdullah Ahmadzai, the Asia Foundation's representative in Afghanistan, said he hoped both the Afghan government and the international community can benefit from the finds of the survey. (AP)

### (2) Telecom Tax...

ecommunication services in the country, Afghanistan will change into an information transition hub in the region. "According to our long-term plans, Afghanistan should change into a big information center in the region," he said. "We have started work for this plan all over the country in all provinces," the minister added. The telecommunication sector has grown significantly since the fall of the Taliban in 2001 and is considered as one of the biggest achievements by the private sector. At least 90 percent of urban areas and an overall 80 percent of the entire population is said to be benefiting from the services; however, within the first 10 days of the decree being issued, about 80 million Afs was collected in tax on recharge scratch cards. (Tolonews)

### (3) Ghani Launches...

plight of people living in poverty is being tackled. He stated that China has promised to help finance 10,000 apartments in Kabul and that studies have been launched to find ways to generate more electricity. Already, plans are under way to build 17 new dams in the country to help generate power, he added. In conclusion, Ghani said Afghanistan can no longer be dependent on foreign aid and that it is time for the country to stand on its own two feet. (Tolonews)

### (4) Refugees in...

the integrity of the asylum system under the 1951 Refugee Convention. Effective reception, registration and screening mechanisms have been encouraged by UNHCR from the beginning, according to Fleming. Relocation programmes which can improve the management and stabilisation of refugee flows on European soil are also supported by the agency. "We are concerned about reactions by some states to end the programmes being put in place, backtracking from commitments made to manage the refugee crisis (i.e. relocation), or proposing the erection of more barriers," Fleming noted. She also highlighted the danger of using language demonizing refugees as a group, as this will only contribute to xenophobia and fear which may be used to the advantage of extremist groups in the future. (Xinhua)

### (5) Afghan Refugees ...

keep up with the pace of change. Thirty-year-old lawyer Anya Patel set up a makeshift legal center across the road from the protests in Berlin and is well aware of the concerns of the asylum seekers. "They are also asking 'is it possible to bring my family?'. And they are very concerned it won't be possible in a couple of months or even a couple of weeks any more," said Patel.

Their fears aren't unfounded - Denmark says refugees will now have to wait three years before they can bring their families. Germany is tightening rules too. The Interior Ministry says only those who've already registered for asylum in another European country will be sent home. Otherwise, they won't be stopped from entering and won't be prevented from passing through. Germany's Interior Minister Thomas De Maizieres has come under fire with colleagues accusing him of acting unilaterally. Some even believe he has acted without approval from Chancellor Angela Merkel. As G20 leaders met in Turkey on Sunday and Monday, dealing with the refugee crisis will remain a top priority. (Tolonews)

### (6) MoAL Calls ...

80% of the Afghan population lives in rural areas and 58% of the GDP is generated by, agriculture and rural development. After more than 3 decades of wars in Afghanistan devastated agricultural production and rural infrastructure. (ATN)

### (7) Troop Numbers...

the recent clashes in Helmand shows that security forces also lack military equipment and struggle to cope without coordinated support which often leads to soldiers facing unnecessary challenges on the battle fields. An ALP commander Mohammad Nabi in Marja district in Helmand said: "When we call for help, no help arrives and we continue fighting. When we run out of arms and ammunition we are compelled to either sacrifice our lives or retreat from our posts. This is when our posts fall to the Taliban."

In addition the lack of good governance in parts of Helmand has resulted in insecurity in the province for many years.

However, the Ministry of Defense rejects these claims but the Interior Ministry confirms that 30 percent of the ALP and 10 percent of the ANP are not on active duty.

Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said: "Sometimes the numbers decrease because either they resign, go absent without leave or are killed or injured but we always fill these posts and there is no shortage in the ranks."

Deputy spokesman of the Ministry of Interior Najib Danish said: "The number of ALP force members especially drop as they are sometimes assigned to other departments but some take leave and don't return."

Helmand has experienced years of war despite ongoing military action. In 2010 a massive military operation was carried out by U.S and Afghan troops in Marja district but after clearing the district insurgents returned. (Tolonews)

### (8) Taliban Plunders ...

brought to trial," civil right activist Munizha Behzad said. Amid mounting criticism, local security officials reported Monday that 34 individuals allegedly involved in the murder have been identified. However, officials maintained that criminals were deployed in insurgent controlled areas. Rukhshana's family has since sought refuge at the house of a relative in Feroz Koh city to escape the alleged Taliban attacks. (Tolonews)

### (9) Girls Struggle ...

\* In 2012, 553 schools (almost 10 percent) with 275,000 students were closed due to insecurity. \* Militants opposed to girls' education continue to target schoolgirls, carrying out mass poisoning and acid attacks. \* Around 60 percent of schools lack sanitation. Lack of sanitation means older girls often miss school during their periods or drop out altogether. (Reuters)

### (10) 27 Students...

who were detained are the master-mind of the protest and currently investigations are underway. Babrak Miakhail, the dean of the Nangarhar University confirmed the detention of 27 students by Afghan security forces said.

According to the reports Afghan President has ordered this operation after the National Security Council held on Monday. (ATN)

### (11) Paris Attacks ...

allowed by existing law and policy" over a range of shared challenges, said Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook. Many European countries immediately announced tighter border controls after Friday's attacks in Paris. The moves by the United States, which has been reluctant to take Syrian refugees, sent another negative signal over the deteriorating refugee crisis. (Xinhua)

### (12) EU Finalizes ...

Ukraine without import duties, as Kiev and Moscow have preferential trade relations. The next trilateral consultations between Ukraine, Russia and the EU concerning the establishment of the free trade area between Kiev and the 28-member bloc are slated for Dec.1 in Brussels. (Xinhua)

### (13) US, Turkey ...

and its coffers boosted by illicit trade. Under a long-discussed joint U.S.-Turkish plan, moderate Syrian rebels, trained by the U.S. army, would be expected to fight Islamic State on the ground and help coordinate air strikes by the U.S. coalition, launched from Turkish air bases, under the strategy drawn up by Washington and Ankara.

Diplomats familiar with the plans have said cutting off one of Islamic State's lifelines could be a game-changer in that corner of Syria's complex war. The core of the rebels, who number less than 60, would be highly equipped and be able to call in close air support when needed, they say. (Reuters)

### (14) EU backs ...

today the whole of Europe replied in unison 'yes'," Mogherini told a joint press conference with French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. "It is an article that has never been used before in the history of our union." The EU's Article 42-7 is similar to NATO's article five which the United States activated after the September 11, 2001 attacks and triggered the US-led alliance's intervention in Afghanistan.

The French minister said Paris would now have talks with individual EU nations to see what help they could offer.

"I felt a lot of emotion from my colleagues" over the Paris attacks claimed by the Islamic State group which left 129 people dead, Le Drian said, adding that many of his counterparts had addressed him personally in French to pay their respects. (AFP)

### (15) Palestine...

Ministry said in statement that the Israeli plans come within ideas to impose a temporal and spatial division at al-Aqsa mosque compound and annexing large parts of Palestinian lands in the occupied West Bank. (Xinhua)

### (16) Turkey and...

regular telephone discussions about issues including migration and Turkey's bid to join the European Union. They last spoke after Turkey's Nov. 1 election when Tsipras called Davutoglu to congratulate him on his AK Party's victory, officials in Davutoglu's office said.

Tsipras' visit will be an opportunity to "reinvigorate" the relationship between the two countries, especially in the face of the widening refugee crisis that has seen 650,000 people cross the border from Turkey

into EU member Greece in recent months, Tsipras wrote in the Daily Sabah newspaper. "We need to talk more about how to fight trafficking networks ... and how to coordinate and cooperate on the level of migration, police and coast guard authorities," he wrote. Tsipras also urged a "just and viable" solution to the Cyprus issue based on United Nations' decisions. Cyprus has been split along ethnic lines since a Turkish invasion in 1974 triggered by a brief Greek inspired coup. (Reuters)

### (17) Singapore, ...

Affandi bin Raja Mohamed Noor, attended the closing ceremony of Exercise Semangat Bersatu.

Conducted in Singapore from Nov. 3 to Tuesday, this year's exercise is the 21st edition in the series, involving around 575 personnel from both the 3rd Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, and the 10th Royal Malay Regiment, said MINDEF.

The exercise included professional exchanges and culminated in a combined battalion field exercise.

Brigadier-General Ong said in his closing speech that the participants for building the "professionalism, friendship and good spirit of the soldiers from both countries."

Ong highlighted that "the mutual understanding among commanders and soldiers will strengthen our bilateral defence relationship," adding SAF is looking forward to the next exercise in Malaysia next year.

First held in 1989, Exercise Semangat Bersatu provides an excellent opportunity for both armies to strengthen their professional interactions and underscores the warm and long-standing defence relations between Singapore and Malaysia. (Xinhua)

## Britain to Build National Museum to Tell Story of Migration, new World Settlers

LONDON - Britain is to build its first national museum covering early human migration, it was announced Tuesday. The new museum is to be created in Liverpool, the departure point for millions of migrating Europeans heading to the Americas. The museum also will tell the story of how Europe's first Chinatown was created in Liverpool, and how thousands of Irish people arrived in the city to escape the great potato famine in Ireland of the 1840s which led to more than a million people dying of starvation. Local officials are describing the proposed national museum as Britain's own Ellis Island, the museum created in New York to tell its story of immigration.

In the 1800s, Liverpool was the main port in Europe for transatlantic sailing ships, and it was from the River Mersey that 9 million people left in search of new lives in the so-called "New World." Most headed to North America, and others to Australia and New Zealand.

The ambitious plan was unveiled Tuesday in a joint statement by the Treasury and the Liverpool City Region combined authority as part of a deal to create an elected metro mayor.

The proposed cultural package was welcomed by Liverpool's director of culture Claire McColgan, one of the key figures behind Liverpool's year in 2008 as European Capital of Culture. "There has been talk for some time about a National Migration Museum, and it is great the government recognizes Liverpool as the natural home for such a museum.

The story needs to be told of how important Liverpool has been in the migration of so many people," said McColgan. (Xinhua)

## PNA, Egypt Agree to Facilitate Opening Rafah Border

GAZA - A Fatah official said on Tuesday that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) reached a deal with Egypt to facilitate the opening of Rafah crossing with the Gaza Strip. Fatah Central Committee member Azzam al-Ahmad told Xinhua that the agreement was made to open the crossing "to the maximum possible extent to allow entry for individuals and necessary goods to Gaza."

Al-Ahmad didn't state details of the agreement, but said it was signed during the last visit of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Ababs to Cairo last week.

He noted that the agreement includes measures to "ease the suffering of Gazans, particularly after the Egyptian actions taken in the Rafah area as a result of the military operations in northern Sinai." He expressed hope that the agreement would be implemented soon, adding that a lasting solution to the crossing can only be made with ending the internal Palestinian division. Al-Ahmad refused to comment on remarks by Hamas movement who controls the Gaza Strip, that it wasn't notified of the agreement, stating that the agreement is limited to the PNA presence. Rafah crossing point is the only window to the outside world for Gaza Strip populations, after Israel imposed a tight blockade on the coastal enclave in 2007.

The crossing has been completely closed down since the ouster of former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in 2013. (Xinhua)

## DPRK Still Mulling Ban's Visit to Pyongyang

PYONGYANG - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's visit to Pyongyang is still under consideration and has not been confirmed, the official KCNA news agency said Tuesday. The state-run news agency told Xinhua that the visit of the UN chief is still being confirmed and no more details are available as of now, but it did not deny Ban's likely trip to Pyongyang. South Korean media said Ban in late September expressed his readiness to pay a visit to the north to the DPRK's Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong, who was then in New York attending the 70th UN General Assembly. It has been over 20 years since former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali visited the DPRK in 1993, if Ban's visit materializes.

Ban served as South Korea's minister of foreign affairs and trade before he started working as the UN head in 2007. Analysts say his tour to the DPRK, which is expected to include a meeting with top leader Kim Jong Un, will offer a boost to inter-Korean reconciliation and peace on the Korean Peninsula. The issue of nuclear weapons might also be discussed during the visit. The two Koreas pledged to improve ties in a six-point agreement concluded after marathon negotiations following a military standoff in late August. South Korean media also stirred up speculation that Ban's visit indicates part of his efforts to prepare for South Korea's presidential campaign in 2017. Ban planned in May to visit Kaesong Industrial Complex, an industrial zone jointly operated by both Koreas, but the visit was later canceled due to a sudden withdrawal of approval from Pyongyang. (Xinhua)

## Polish Minister Criticizes EU Parliament Head

BUDAPEST - The latest news as hundreds of thousands make their way across Europe in search of safety and a better life. All times local. Poland's new interior minister has lashed out at the head of the European Parliament, calling Martin Schulz's words about Poland's migrant policies "another example of German arrogance." Mariusz Blaszczak, interior minister in the right-wing Law and Justice government that was sworn in Monday, also brought up the

fact that Germany destroyed Warsaw during World War II. Polish rhetoric stressing Poland's historical grievances against Germany became a hallmark of Law and Justice's last government, from 2005 to 2007. It was language that caused political tensions between the two neighbors. Blaszczak spoke on Tuesday in reaction to recent criticism by Schulz, adding he "is detached from reality." Schulz had criticized the wavering resolve of Poland after the Paris attacks to take 7,000 refugees as part of an EU plan. Hungary's justice minister says the country will sue the European Union regarding a mandatory plan to distribute refugees among members of the bloc. Laszlo Trocsanyi said that the lawsuit would be filed in December, after parliament approved a bill Tuesday morning compelling the government to launch the legal challenge. Trocsanyi said the EU quota plan went against the will of the majority of Europe's citizens and violated Hungary's sovereignty because each state should be allowed to decide who it allows into the country. He also expects other countries which oppose the quotas to join Hungary's legal action. (AP)

## Ceasefire in Syria Potentially Weeks Away: Kerry

PARIS - A ceasefire between Syria's government and opposition could be just weeks away from reality, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday as he visited Paris to show solidarity with France after last week's attacks. Speaking to reporters at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to France, Kerry said the ceasefire envisioned by the political process agreed upon in Vienna on Saturday would exponentially help efforts to fight the Islamic State group, which has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks that killed 129 people, as well as end the drawn-out Syrian conflict, which has gone on for over four years. "That's a gigantic step," Kerry said. "If we can get that done, that opens up the aperture for a whole bunch of things. We're weeks away conceivably from the possibility of a big transition for Syria, and I don't think enough people necessarily notice that. But that's the reality." "We are not talking about months, we are talking about weeks hopefully," he said. Saudi Arabia is expected to host a meeting of Syrian opposition figures by mid-December, at which they are to agree on a delegation to send to talks with representatives from President Bashar Assad's government. Once those negotiations begin, a ceasefire is to take effect, according to the agreement reached in Vienna. (AP)

## Romania's Technocrat Cabinet Wins Parliament

BUCHAREST - The Romanian Parliament on Tuesday approved with a comfortable majority the technocrat cabinet headed by independent Dacian Ciolos, former EU agriculture commissioner. The new government, the third technocrat one since 1989 when Romania shifted to the current political system, was validated with 389 votes in favor, 115 against and two abstentions in a joint plenary session of the bicameral legislature, much more than the required half plus one of the total MPs, thus 274 votes in favour.

The cabinet led by Ciolos is composed of two deputy prime ministers, 16 ministers, 3 ministers-delegate and the prime minister's chancellery chief. The two deputy prime ministers also hold the posts of minister of economy, minister of regional development and public administration respectively.

Ciolos, a 46-year-old agronomist, was agriculture minister from 2007 to 2008, and EU agriculture commissioner from 2010 to 2014. In July 2015, he was named by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker as special adviser on international food security. (Xinhua)