

### (1) Management of...

Mohammad Noorover the past 10 years.

Noor asked the president to equip police personnel, construct a new building for Balkh central jail and a boundary wall around the airport.

The governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, told Pajhwok Afghan News President Ghani would travel to Kabul after the meeting. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Senate Criticizes...

Mustafazada, also criticized the increase in fuel prices and said some mafia members wanted to play with people's fate. She said mafia groups manipulated prices of essential items including fuel.

About electricity distribution in Kabul, she said no balance was observed in electricity supply to Kabul residents.

A number of other lawmakers also complained about high fuel prices and imbalanced electricity distribution in Kabul.

Second deputy chairman, Eng. Hasebullah Kalimzai, said the government should have taken measures for controlling the prices of essential items.

"Had the government taken measures to check the market, the prices of fuel would not have gone high in winter," he said.

At the end, all senators agreed to summoning the commerce minister, DABS head and head of petroleum and gas enterprise to brief the house about the issues discussed.

The upper house also criticized the attorney general and decided to summon him in near future.

A senator from Zabul province, Zalmai Zabulai, said the attorney general office was accountable to the parliament, but the attorney general was not appearing before the parliament and even had directed his prosecutors not participate parliament sessions.

He said the attorney general office had previously announced referring 55 major corruption cases to the anti-corruption justice center, but the center followed very trivial cases.

The upper house at the end decided to summon the attorney general and officials of the anti-corruption justice center to its next meeting on Wednesday.

Attorney general office spokesman, Jamshi Rasouli, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the attorney general, Farid Hamidi, was on an official trip to a foreign country and would be unable to attend the parliament. (Pajhwok)

### (3) 1 Mln People...

biometric data collection of returnees in its transit center in the Afghan city of Torkham to ensure that the beneficiaries get necessary aid. Through November 28, the organization provided help for 46,640 undocumented returnees, 67,990 internally displaced people and 39,330 refugees. World Food Programme is UN's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Afghanistan has been mired in the conflict for almost 35 years. The country's population suffers from poverty and the lack of basic needs. (Sputnik)

### (4) EU-funded...

trade and regional economic cooperation at the heart of its development strategy. Its first action after acceding to the WTO was to ratify the body's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

EU's Ambassador Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin said: "The EU is determined to ensure that Afghanistan can benefit from the opportunities arising from greater participation in international trade and enhanced regional economic integration." The project would help boost Kabul's capacity to design and implement a coherent export strategy and help develop a regulatory framework guiding the reform agenda of the government to improve trade links, the diplomat hoped.

Humayoon Rasaw, minister of commerce and industries, said: "International trade is a crucial tool to ensure economic

growth and job creation. Trade is a means for Afghanistan's to move away from dependency on aid to a path towards a future built on engagement with other countries..."

ITC Executive Director Arancha González said: "Situated at heart of the old Silk Road, Afghanistan is a country shaped by trade. It is a country with huge untapped resources and, by putting in place the right policies and mechanisms, we aim to build a better and more stable Afghanistan that once again finds its place in the global trading system." (Pajhwok)

### (5) Ministry of Refugees ...

concerned, as such individuals were caught in difficult conditions.

He said 794 people have been killed and 1,487 wounded during recent incidents of violence in the country. In addition, 296 schools, 47 health centres, 72 mosques, 6,394 homes, 1,500 shops, 17 bridges and 12 kilometres of road had been destroyed by the conflict. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Funding Requested...

for 30 additional armed MD-530 attack helicopters, six A-29 fixed wing close attack aircraft and five AC-208 aircraft for the Afghan air force.

The decision to replace Russian helicopters with Blackhawks was made following efforts by U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT), and U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT).

"This long overdue step - which I repeatedly advocated - will rightly provide the Afghan military with American helicopters from Sikorsky rather than lesser quality Russian products," Blumenthal said. "It's good news for Connecticut's economy and jobs, and equally good for our national security. Millions of American dollars should never have gone to Russia for Mi-17 helicopters instead of Sikorsky Blackhawks - a travesty that will now be stopped." (KP)

meantime, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, said Tuesday that negotiations are underway for the facilitation of mortgage to enable the citizens of the country to purchase property on long-term loans. The Minister of Urban Development and Housing Syed Sadat Mansoor Naderi met with the representatives of the Central Bank and National Bank of Afghanistan to discuss ways for the facilitation of mortgage.

### (7) Efforts Underway...

According to a statement by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, the representatives of the two banks welcomed the proposal for the facilitation of mortgage for the citizens of the country. The ministry further added that the mortgage facility will help the citizens of the country to borrow funds from the two banks and refund the loans on a long term basis agreement which would help them to purchase properties and houses, including the properties being offered as part of the affordable housing scheme. (KP)

### (8) People on...

speakers, Mr. Spanta, has organized the commemoration ceremony of Khan Abdul Ghani Khan," said Saleh. Some former Pakistani politicians and former Afghan president Hamid Karzai also attended the gathering where they highlighted Khan's vision and ideas.

Speaking to the participants, Karzai described Khan as an enlightened revolutionary and cultural figure of classic Pashto literature. "Our poets like Ghani Khan are international poets, they can't be limited to the region, they by using their talent and skills gained international reputation," said Karzai.

Born on January 11, 1917, in Utmanzai, in Charsadda district near Peshawar, Khan Abdul Wali Khan received his early education at the Islamia High School in Peshawar. Khan wrote the famous couplet

'Kaliat-e-Ghani' and several other works. (Tolonews)

### (9) Afghan Taliban ...

Taliban also mentioned the \$10-billion Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) gas pipeline project and a regional electricity generation project linking Central Asia and South Asia, known as CASA-1000.

The statement came a day after the official launch of a railway link with neighbouring Turkmenistan.

A spokesman at the presidential palace declined to comment on the militants' offer.

The vulnerability of Afghanistan's infrastructure was underlined this year when power lines supplying the capital, Kabul, were cut, causing weeks of blackouts. (Reuters)

### (10) Army General ...

accompanying Gen. Ghorri were injured.

Radmanish said the commander was visiting an army base in Bala Murghab district when the incident occurred. He denied any insurgency or hostile attack had caused the crash.

Haji Mujadi, the spokesman for Badghis' governor, said the provincial council head and the chief of provincial intelligence were among those wounded. (AP)

### (11) Balkhab Road ...

roads and said: "We have repeatedly complained the ALP, supported by local officials, do not allow people to travel that route. But no one listens to us." Meanwhile, public works officials promised the roads blocked by snowfall in Balkhab would be cleared soon with the arrival of the required machinery. (Pajhwok)

### (12) AAF Maintainers ...

C-27s, or helicopters. Combined, they have decades of experience to bring to the A-29 program.

"It's this experience which has enabled them to rapidly learn the advanced systems, and in turn, impart that knowledge to their peers in their own language," said Capt. Andrew Johnson, 440th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron, fixed wing operations officer. "This feat is impressive since it's done under a high ops-tempo generating combat missions, both here and at forward operating locations."

AAF Brig. Gen. Shafi Noori, Kabul Air Wing Maintenance Group commander, was at the engine run to congratulate his maintainers' efforts.

"You've worked tirelessly learning a lot of information and your ability to complete this inspection means today is a very special day for us," said Shafi through an interpreter.

The Afghan maintainers will continue working with their contractor trainers and Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air (TAAC-Air) advisors with the goal of sustaining the A-29 fleet independently.

"Our mission under TAAC-Air is to train, advise, and assist in order to help build a professional, capable, and sustainable Afghan Air Force," said Maj. Elbert M. Waters IV, 440th AEAS commander. "The commitment of the Afghans working with the A-29s is a testament to how far they have come, and how far they will go. Understanding that air worthiness cannot be achieved and maintained without dedicated preventative maintenance is key. This historical moment identifies that these maintainers get it...and are all in...in this fight against the insurgency and in the fight to build a stronger Afghanistan."

This article was originally published by the US Air Forces Central Command by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Marino, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing (KP)

### (13) ANA Soldiers...

a resident of the area, told Pajhwok Afghan News the soldiers sprayed bullets at the motorcyclists who were on their way to volleyball ground in Shahabuddin locality.

The dead were identified as Nasibullah, 22, and Mohammad

Nabi. According to Hotak, Nabi had covert links with militants. Abdul Rahman Mangal, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the motorcyclists were civilians. He quoted the victims' families as accusing security forces of killing them in cold blood. But the ANA denied involvement in the killings. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Taliban ...

gunmen who were riding a motorcycle in western Herat province of Afghanistan around two weeks ago.

The officials said the main motive behind the murder is not clear and search operation is underway to arrest the perpetrators.

Earlier, a woman shot by her in-law's family after she attempted to elope with her love in Ghor province of Afghanistan. Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

### (15) Trump Meets...

upcoming Trump administration.

Trump will meet with Romney for a second session on Tuesday, according to Trump aides. (Xinhua)

### (16) Syrian Troops ...

contested by the Syrian army and the rebels due to its strategic location.

By retaking Aleppo, the Syrian government forces will have a clear upper hand in dealing with rebel fighters elsewhere in the country, analysts have said. (Xinhua)

### (17) Nearly 4,700...

Mediterranean passage linking North Africa with Italy has claimed the lives of 4,199 people since the beginning of the year. A further 429 individuals have perished on the eastern Mediterranean route separating Turkey and Greece, while 62 have died on western Mediterranean passages. (Xinhua)

### (18) Challenger to...

The lead claimant in the case against the government is investment fund manager Gina Miller, who has insisted that she took the case to court because she believes it should be the parliament that triggers Article 50. "Our expectations are that the Supreme Court will provide legal clarity about what consulting the parliament means," said Ivo Ilic Gabara, advisor to Gina Miller, adding that "we anticipate a ruling in early 2017." (Xinhua)

### (19) UN Chief ...

the secretary-general noted in a statement issued here by his spokesman.

"Many of the victims are reportedly civilians," the statement said. "A large number appear to have been targeted based on their ethnicity."

The secretary-general recalled that the recent Brussels conference on CAR underlined the willingness of the international community to support the country on its path towards recovery and stability, said the statement. "For this to happen it is important that the right circumstances prevail," the statement said. "Accordingly, he calls for the armed groups to immediately stop the violence and genuinely commit to ongoing efforts to address the root causes of the conflict including through the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme recently approved in Bangui." (Xinhua)

### (20) With 500,000...

executive director. "Children are being killed and injured, too afraid to go to school or even play, surviving with little food and hardly any medicine," Lake said. "This is no way to live - and too many are dying."

Some communities have received little to no aid in nearly two years. In eastern Aleppo alone, UNICEF estimates that 100,000 children are living under siege. (Xinhua)

### (21) China, Neighbors ...

tip-off from Thai intelligence officers. It was the biggest ever ice trafficking case in Myanmar.

The 5,000-km waterways of the Lancang and Mekong rivers, crossing the territories of the six nations, were notorious for drug trafficking due to lax law enforcement, spawning many armed-drug syndicates. Since 2013, joint patrols by Lancang-Mekong countries have become commonplace, putting checks on drug crimes.

Liu Yuejin, deputy director of China's National Narcotics Control Commission, said the nations will step up joint campaigns, and work closely on investigation, evidence gathering and exchange, joint trials, and the transfer of suspects, as the cooperation continues. (Xinhua)

### (22) General Bajwa ...

never forget the sacrifices of those who lost their lives... Our journey towards peace is still underway. Our destination is not far." (Monitoring Desk)

### (23) Iran, Russia...

Damascus blames on some Western countries and their regional allies since March 2011.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura have put the death toll from the conflict at more than 300,000 and 400,000, respectively. This is while the UN has stopped its official casualty count in the Arab country, citing its inability to verify the figures it receives from various sources. (Presstv)

### (24) Kazakhstan...

in the gas industry, transboundary water management. Mamin thanked the Turkmen side for participation in the forthcoming international exhibition EXPO-2017 "Energy of the Future." (AKIpress)

### (25) Election Campaign ...

holding the election. In particular, the concept of the election campaign was disclosed in details, deadlines, as well as procedure of early voting, were determined, according to the mission. Voters have all the conditions to become familiar with the programs of the candidates, as well as conditions for the free voting and the use of their rights, the report noted.

In general, the CIS monitoring mission said the election campaign in Uzbekistan is taking place in compliance with the law, equal conditions are created for the presidential candidates to present their programs and meet with the voters. The Central Election Commission of the country effectively uses the potential of the mass media to ensure transparency and openness of the electoral process, says the report.

The mission will publish final conclusions and evaluation after the election.

More than 70 observers representing Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the CIS Executive Committee have been accredited in the CIS monitoring mission. Chairman of the Executive Committee and Executive Secretary of the CIS Sergey Lebedev is the head of the mission. (Trend)

## NATO Launches Project to Enhance Civil Emergency Response in Western Balkans

BRUSSELS - NATO on Monday kicked off a project to improve civil emergency management in response to emergencies in the Western Balkans, the security organization said in a press release.

The project, supported by NATO and the United States, will develop a system in the Western Balkans to enhance situation awareness and help coordinate a response to various emergencies.

Experts and government officials from the U.S., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Macedonia will participate in this project.

The new technology used in this project, namely Next-Generation Incident Command System

(NICS), will allow responders to share all kinds of information about an incident, including the GPS location or images, via mobile devices.

NICS has been used in U.S. in over 400 incidents, including natural disasters, search and rescue operations and large public events, according to the press release.

"It is an excellent example of practical cooperation with tangible results and resonates well with NATO's political agenda," said Sorin Ducaru, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges.

"This project directly supports NATO's strategic objectives and is in line with its efforts to project stability beyond its territory," Ivan Mutavdzic, Deputy Permanent Representative of Croatia to NATO said. (Xinhua)

## Germany Braces for Rough Ride at G20 Helm with Trump on Board

BERLIN - Germany takes over the presidency of the G20 leading economies on Thursday, a platform Chancellor Angela Merkel wants to use to safeguard multilateral cooperation under threat following Donald Trump's U.S. election victory.

With the imminent departure of U.S. President Barack Obama, Merkel, who is seeking a fourth term in office next year, is left as the senior leader anchoring a Western alliance shaken by Trump's election win.

"Shaping an Interconnected World" is Germany's motto for its presidency of the G20, which since the global financial crisis took hold in 2008 has been the leading forum for world leaders to coordinate economic policy.

German officials, while acknowledging privately that they will not have an easy ride next year leading the G20, stress that the motto indicates they want to take globalisation forward through international cooperation rather than roll it back.

They plan to address issues including free trade and climate change on which they may well be at odds with Trump.

"It will certainly be exciting, lively, controversial," said one G20 official.

Trump has said China - a G20 member - is "killing us" on trade and that he would take steps to reduce the large U.S. goods trade deficit with China, including labeling Beijing as a currency manipulator soon after he takes office on Jan. 20. (Reuters)

## Turkish PM Says Finalizing Constitutional Change to Bolster Erdogan Powers

ANKARA - Turkey's ruling AK Party is finalizing plans to formally cement President Tayyip Erdogan's powers by creation of an executive presidency and will meet the nationalist opposition to iron out details, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on Tuesday.

Erdogan has long sought constitutional change to strengthen what had been in the past a largely ceremonial position. Unrivalled in popularity, he has turned the presidency into a powerful vehicle for his ambitions, bolstered since a failed July military coup by imposition of emergency rule. To achieve the majority needed in parliament to trigger a referendum on the issue, the AKP needs the support of the nationalist MHP party.

"We will meet one more time with (MHP leader Devlet) Bahceli and give this (constitutional) change its final shape," Yildirim told a parliamentary meeting of his party.

Earlier, Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Bahceli said "significant progress" had been made in their talks and he believed the bill could be sent to the constitutional commission once "one or two" issues are overcome. (Reuters)