Karbal - Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Tuesday said that there are serious concerns about the lives of between 500,000 and 500,000 Afghan children employed as laborers or works on the streets. The AIHRC stated that the number of child labor affects hundreds of thousands of children who are deprived of education and the benefits of a formal education.

"We have analyzed the Afghan government increase the social security for supporting children," CEO of the AIHRC Musa Mahmoudi said.

The Afghan government and international children's rights groups have failed to address the plight of these children, the AIHRC said. Faisal, 15, is an Afghan child who struggles to earn a living as a street vendor of shoes. He tells us that he has to work a day and take some bread "home," said Faisal. Like Faisal, another child, Haseeb, also has to work to support his foster-family member, who works to make the shoes.

A day's work is 90 to 100 Ahs for a child.

EU Project to Monitor Afghan Agro System

KABUL - The signing ceremony of a European Union (EU)-funded project, aimed at assisting the Afghan government to assess agriculture production systems and to strengthen institutional capacity, was started at the Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Ministry (MAIL) in Kabul on Tuesday. A statement from the EU special representative and head of the delegations of the EU delegation to Afghanistan said the commencement of the project is an important step in the 5.5 Million Euros project.

Mujaddid, the deputy head of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Mahmoud, said: "The Afghan government race to meet a self-point of no return" in its decision to leave. The government imposed March 31 deadline to begin the process. While it was forced to introduce legislation after a Supreme Court ruling last week torpedoed May's effort to start the process of leaving the 28-nation bloc without a parliamentary vote.

The broad package of legislation says that "the prime minister may notify, under Article 120 of the Treaty on European Union, a new plan for the country's territory, and in a few cases, have a residential capacity." The bill was widely seen as a step towards a confederation between security forces and Taliban militants in the Surghin and Marja district. Ghani stressed the need for coordination and more investigation among different security institutions in Helmand. The Taliban's negotiations delegation, headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, is currently on the battlefields in Afghanistan but failed to enter in Kabul in the next couple of weeks. "Our Mujaddid brother is in bad situation, he is in the country and will come to Kabul," he said. According to Karim, the joint commission - implementing the peace deal are working on ways to maintain Hekmatyar's safety and find him accommodation. This will take the Afghan government to three weeks to finalize, he said.

"Hekmatyar is not in Kabul, but Hizb-e-Islami and others are in process or living as a group and the technical problems will be solved in the next three weeks," Karim said. According to him, Hizb-e-Islami submitted names of 2,500 prisoners to be released,

Afghan troops battle Taliban offensive in Helmand province

KABUL - Afghan forces said they were holding off a Taliban offensive in Helmand province on Tuesday, as reinforcements and air support arrived.

Between 500,000 and 500,000 Afghan children employed as laborers or works on the streets.

Karbal - At least 47 people have died in the last three weeks because of the severe cold and heavy snowfall in Jawzjan province, an official said Tuesday. Access to health centres was limited as roads were closed off because of the snowfall. Jawzjan Health district governor of Darul Investigation for Public Affairs, Ibrahimi, said: "The government has no access to the health facilities in the area."

"I work to earn some money," said Haseeb. Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoSAID) claims that the number of street children has decreased in the country. MoSAID said the of the 30-old million people in the country, children represented 13 percent. However, more than 3.5 million of these children were in need of help. They said more than 1 million of these children are subjected to manual labor in one form or another. (Telegrams)