

**(1) Concerns Raised ....**

addition to the arrest of a number of senior MoI officials on corruption charges, the cases of three former MoI deputies - Jamil Junbishi, Mujtaba Patang and Jamalnasir Seddiqi - are under investigation by the Attorney General's Office, reports say.

Meanwhile, MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqi said replacing former officials with new officials in the ministry is part of their efforts to reform the security agency.

"Corruption is undeniable, but part of the MoI leadership is fighting corruption and bringing reform in police," he said.

This comes after the head of one of Kabul's police headquarters was arrested last week on charges of accepting at least \$30,000 USD as a bribe. (Tolonews)

**(2) MRRD Signs...**

hundreds of jobs opportunities in short and long term, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development by launching projects created mid and short term jobs opportunities for 65000,0 person and for 22000 others long term jobs in the year of 1395. Chairman of the Worker National Union Marouf Qadiri said, "It's required to create such kind of jobs opportunities, this will pave the way for long term and permanent jobs in the country."

Officials in Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development have signed 61 projects costing more than 1 billion Afghan with private construction companies and rural development councils since the fiscal year of 1396. (Agencies)

**(3) ISIL Actively...**

that the terror group still pose serious threats to Afghanistan despite their hardly suppressed in counter-terrorism operations.

The ministry's spokesman Sediq Sediqi told reporters in Kabul that the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) continue to maintain pressure on the loyalists of the terror group in East of Afghanistan.

Sediqi further added that ISIL loyalists have managed to harm the residents of Nangarhar province and more operations have been conducted to prevent ISIL loyalists expand foothold in Nangarhar districts and other provinces. (Press TV)

**(4) Report Indicates...**

stated that early reports indicate that maternal mortality rates have also risen in Afghanistan. With about 40 percent of the country's population out of reach of the national health service.

According to him, this Humanitarian Response Plan is focused on meeting immediate life-saving needs: providing relief to Afghans affected by natural disaster and Conflict; trauma care for war wounded patients; treatment to children with acute malnutrition; access to skilled birth attendance and maternal and new-born care in conflict stricken and hard to access districts; and ensuring the safety and security of families fleeing violence.

The changing nature of internal displacement has also necessitated a greater focus on meeting the needs of those people facing more prolonged and protracted displacement who now live in semi-permanent crisis.

Speaking at the launch, Bowden said: "Increased assistance (is) needed to ensure lives of many Afghans are not endangered."

Meanwhile, CEO Abdullah Abdullah said at the launch that \$550 million USD is needed this year to help with humanitarian assistance.

Abdullah said of this, \$240 million USD will be used for return refugees and emergency situations.

But Swedish Ambassador Anders Sjöberg said the long-lasting conflict in Afghanistan is at the core of the humanitarian crisis. (Tolonews)

**(5) US, UK,....**

and offered condolences to his family.

Also the UK diplomatic mission said: "Desperately sad to hear this news. A great Afghan leader - I have been privileged to know for 20 years. May he rest in peace." (Pajhwok)

**(6) Municipality...**

thwarted 450 ghost employees in the past four months.

Lack of standard canalization is another problem in the city, he noted.

Although, the municipality initiated different steps to solve the problem of pollution and sanitation but these efforts failed to produce results due to lack of staff and modern machinery.

By handing over the responsibility of sanitation and cleaning of Kabul city to private sector all challenges will be addressed, he underlined. (Monitoring Desk)

**(7) 30,000 Afghans ....**

the Hajj had begun two weeks ago. In the past, each person would pay \$1,000 to register but now the amount has been reduced to \$500.

Last year, 24,000 pilgrims traveled to Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage, with each paying \$2,550 to the government. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Salt Mine ....**

estimated 26.6 million Afs a year, which has not been included in the projected national income.

"Mines are not in our control. They are under the control of militants, who extract it and take it to Chatral of Pakistan. However, we [Afghan government] are doing nothing and we are waiting for the extraction of the mine," said Khanjan Alokozay, deputy head of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries. "Better management of mines adds more and more income to the national revenue (coffers)," Finance Ministry spokesman Ajmal Hamid said.

Meanwhile, officials at the Ministry of Mines said the ministry does not have the authority to award a contract on its own.

"Documents of the contract have been sent to the National Procurement Authority after a review by the ministry. We will sign it with a company whenever we are told to do so," said Zabihullah Sarwari, spokesman for the Ministry of Mines. (Tolonews)

**(9) Germany Must ...**

country to leave the European Union and with threats to impose high tariffs on imports from China and Mexico. Their response after he took office on Friday has been mixed.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, who attended the opening of a museum outside Berlin as Trump was being sworn in on Friday, has said she would seek compromises with Trump on issues like trade and military spending and that she would work on preserving the important relationship between Europe and the United States.

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel said on Friday Germany should prepare for a rough ride under the new U.S. president and that Europe would have to craft a new economic policy geared toward China should Trump pursue protectionism. (Reuters)

**(10) NDS Personnel ...**

planned to attack check-posts in Dand, Arghandab, Daman and Shawalikot districts.

Militants have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

**(11) 41 Militants ....**

during the raids launched in Kapisa, Uruzgan, Kandahar,

Kunduz and Helmand provinces, the statement added.

In addition, four militants were killed after the suicide vest they were building exploded accidentally in a village in Dasht-e-Archi District, northern Kunduz province late on Saturday, Mahfozullah Akbari, police spokesman in northern zone, told Xinhua earlier on Sunday.

The Taliban militant group has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

**(12) Shahzad Breaks...**

Shahzad helped the Afghan team to win the Desert T20 Challenge with his four 50s in the tournament.

Kohli had set the record ICC World Twenty20 which was held in India last year.

Afghanistan played the semi-final match against Oman on Friday and defeated them 8 wickets where Shahzad scored 80 runs.

The final match of the tournament was held hours after the Afghan team defeated Oman where Shahzad scored 52 runs and helped defeat Ireland by 10 wickets.

The final match victory was Afghanistan's fifth consecutive win in the tournament following back to back wins in group matches against Ireland, United Arab Emirates, and Namibia.

The final match of the tournament was played at Dubai International cricket stadium. The Afghanistan is currently holding the champion status of the 2016/2017 Desert Twenty20 Challenge. (KP)

**(13) How We can....**

our Children well and what will be the best food to prepare for them?

Most of the Children love soft foods like Shorba (soup), Aash (noodles, Maggie) and sweet foods like cookies, Halwa and Porridge.

We can prepare food from inexpensive, high energetic and Halal Materials.

Soybean and soy products can help us to defeat malnutrition as a rich protein source.

Soybean is a nutrient plant and it is consumed in different countries since 5000 years. This plant is now cultivated in 31 provinces of Afghanistan and six thousand metric tons of soybean produced this year in overall Afghanistan.

We have protein source from beef and lamb but consuming these food frequently is impossible due to economic problems in Afghanistan.

Due to the fact everyone can find soybean in Afghanistan's markets therefore consuming soybean plant as a rich source of protein can defeat protein deficiency and malnutrition. Also Soybean is more inexpensive than other sources of protein.

**(14) Daesh Hostage...**

released. According to Bismillah, they were also tortured while being held hostage. Recently, Daesh reportedly burned down over 200 houses in the district and have beheaded 42 civilians so far, officials said.

Nangarhar police chief meanwhile said 50 percent of Daesh militants are Pakistani and the group is a big threat for the security of the province. (Tolonews)

**(15) Female Herat ....**

she said.

Most of the inmates opted for learning carpet weaving, embroidery, tailoring and other similar skills, she said.

Meanwhile, Herat jail officials said various learning opportunities had been made available to prisoners inside the jail.

Abdullah Azizi, provincial detention centers' general director, said many facilities had been provided to the inmates, particularly to female prisoners.

He said the inmates could receive education and learn vocational skills such as carpet weaving, embroidery, tailoring and others.

Azizi said 175 female inmates

were held at the jail's female section. Currently a total of 2,600 prisoners, including women, are imprisoned at the facility.

After Kabul, the women's prison in Herat is the second largest on national level. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Stray Dogs...**

lives to dog bites in the capital annually.

Vaccinating the so many dogs was costly but people bitten by dogs could lose lives if not transferred to hospital, he said.

Abdul Jalil Mohammadzai, Mayhew Animal Home official, said the program would take a long time to be implemented.

"Dog itself is not dangerous but rabies is dangerous," he said, adding that the program was aimed at decreasing the mortality rate caused by such infections.

Mayor Abdullah Habibzai said the municipality had formed investigation teams that would fine people throwing garbage into the Kabul River.

Such violators would be fined and even sent to jail, the mayor said. About "ghost workers in the municipality, he said that more than 450 such workers were recently identified.

"These imaginary workers appear only to pocket salaries," he said.

Habibzai said there were around 8,000 workers in the municipality and efforts were underway to identify ghost workers among them. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Suicide Attack ...**

during the recent years.

Taliban is also facing threats from the loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group who are mainly based in Achin, Kot, Haska Mina and some other remote districts of Nangarhar. (KP)

**(18) Over one....**

President Trump." Cynthia Stern, middle aged woman, said "I'm not accepting the things I cannot change, I'm changing the things I cannot accept. Protest has changed many many things (in U.S. history), including women's rights to vote by the civil rights movement in the 60s." (Xinhua)

**(19) Erdogan Says....**

Turkey regards the YPG and the PYD as terrorist organizations due to their links to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

In the meantime, Russia and Turkey brokered a nationwide truce in war-torn Syria from Dec. 30, but it does not apply to the IS and other terrorist groups. (Xinhua)

**(20) Libya's...**

border security and agreed to hold their 11th meeting in Algeria, but the date has not yet been decided.

Shoukry stressed in his speech at the 10th ministerial meeting of Libya's neighboring countries that Egypt is committed to Libya's sovereignty and will always support its legitimate institutions and reject any interference in the country's affairs.

He explained that a political solution is the only way to resolve the Libyan crisis and that Libya's neighbors are exerting efforts to bring Libyan leaders together for a direct dialogue to build mutual confidence and understanding. "The Skhirat Agreement is the perfect solution to the Libyan crisis. The agreement guarantees effective participation of all Libyan parties with the aim to put an end to the current crisis," Shoukry said.

After the ouster and killing of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libyan factions engaged in a state of civil war that escalated in 2014 and resulted in splitting power between two rival governments in Tripoli and Tubruk. (Xinhua)

**(21) Russia PM ...**

European Union imposed sanctions on Russia in 2014 over Moscow's annexation of Crimea and support for rebels in eastern Ukraine. (AP)

**(22) Kenya to...**

that teachers will be trained in the exercise which is open to pre-school children.

"Pre-school children who are able to come for the drugs will not be sent back. There will be provision for them but their guardians will have to bring them over to schools where we will be conducting the exercise," he said.

The campaign will be carried out in two phases. The first phase will commence on February 28 in 19 counties.

Matendechero explained that the campaign aims at improving the performance of school going children and school attendance and reduce general worm load in the community since school-age children form approximately 25 percent of the population. (Xinhua)

**(23) Iran Consults...**

was then negotiated by Russia and Turkey for the city, and, as the agreement held, the two brokered a countrywide truce. (Presstv)

**(24) Fight Against...**

agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue in July 2015 that puts Tehran on the path of sanctions relief but more strict limits on its nuclear program. (Xinhua)

**(25) Turkmenistan...**

efficient use, as well as the installation of meters for measuring the volume of consumed gas were noted during the meeting.

It was previously reported that about 200 oil and gas fields were opened in Turkmenistan. Potential hydrocarbon resources of the country are estimated at 71.2 billion tons of oil equivalent, 53 billion tons of which account for onshore and 18.2 billion tons - for offshore areas.

The world's second biggest gas field, Galkynysh, is located in the eastern part of Turkmenistan. According to the audit held by the UK's Gaffney, Cline & Associates, reserves of the Galkynysh, together with reserves of the Yashlar field, are estimated at 26.2 trillion cubic meters of gas and reaches 27.4 trillion cubic meters - together with reserves of the reopened Garakel field.

Currently, Turkmenistan delivers gas to Iran and China. The country also continues the construction of the Turkmen part of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. (Trend)

**(26) EU Interested...**

with other international partners, including the EU.

Burian also held talks with the first Deputy Chairman of the Uzbek Senate Sadiq Safoyev. The sides mulled the prospects of further development of the inter-parliamentary dialogue and bilateral relations in trade and investment. (Monitoring Desk)

## Iraq Thanks Lebanon for its Support, Calling for Unity

BEIRUT - Visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari thanked Saturday Lebanon's support for Iraq in regional and international arenas, pointing that his country "has no desire to interfere in the local affairs of any Arab country." "We reached an understanding on the need to maintain the Arab League as a form of unity between Arabs. We don't dismiss the existence of division, as there are various regimes and backgrounds, but what unites us is more than what divides us," Jaafari told reporters at the Baabda Palace following meeting with President Michel Aoun. For his part, Aoun stressed that "combating terrorism is not the

responsibility of one state but requires collaboration and coordination between all countries". The president expressed hope that the upcoming Arab summit, which will be held in Jordan in March, would be able to "represent the much-needed Arab solidarity to fend off the circumstances that all Arab countries are passing through."

Jaafari handed Aoun a letter from his Iraqi counterpart President Fouad Masoum, congratulating Aoun on his election and the desire to promote bilateral ties between the two countries and invited him to visit Baghdad.

A statement issued by Prime Minister Saad Hariri's office said the meeting with Jaafari discussed ways to boost bilateral ties between the two countries in all sectors.

He also invited Hariri to visit Baghdad. (Xinhua)

## Deputy FMs of SCO Member States Mull Co-Op Issues

TASHKENT - Deputy foreign ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan discussed practical issues of cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the context of the organization's upcoming expansion, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry's press service said.

Before the meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with heads of delegations.

Discussions were held on priorities and practical measures on development of cooperation within the SCO in the political, security, economic and humanitarian spheres. The commitment of the SCO member states to enhance joint efforts in order to support peace and security, ensure welfare and prosperity in the SCO area was unanimously confirmed.

The sides stated that the successful expansion process of the organization, primarily, the upcoming acceptance of India and Pakistan as the SCO full members will further enrich the multifaceted potential of equal cooperation, enhance the international role and authority of the SCO. (Trend)

## Australia Sticks to TPP Despite Trump's Abandonment: Minister

CANBERRA - The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is an agreement of unprecedented scope and ambition, which the Australian government will continue to advocate strongly, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Steven Ciobo said on Sunday.

"TPP promises new export opportunities for our farmers, services suppliers and goods exporters. It promises to support the growth of trade in our region, contributing to economic growth and new jobs," Ciobo said.

"(U.S.) President (Donald) Trump's decision not to ratify the TPP at this time is disappointing, although not unexpected," he said, referring to the White House's statement soon after Trump's inauguration that its trade strategy to protect American jobs will start with withdrawal from the 12-nation trade pact.

"The TPP is too important as a driver of the creation of more Australian jobs not to do all we can to see the agreement enter into force," Ciobo said. "The Turnbull government does not shy away from standing up for what is in our national interest - continuing our strong advocacy on the benefits of the TPP is no different."

Ciobo said he had taken time to talk with his TPP counterparts on ways to lock in the benefits from the TPP, without the United States if need be.

"This week at the World Economic Forum I met with Japan, Canada, Mexico, Singapore, New Zealand and Malaysia to discuss alternatives." (Xinhua)