(1) Acting Minister...

Commenting on the matter Sadat said: "We assessed the short-term staff (based on contracts) and recruited new youths and announced the vacant positions in Kabul and the provinces,"

According to the Caretaker Law, acting ministers have limited authorities. Sadat, however, has taken steps that only a permanent minis ter has legal the authority to do.

The documents show that Sadat, on 11th of January 2017, sent out an order to the ministry's sub-offices in Kabul and provinces. After to some complaints, the recruitment process was stopped until the next order. But on 27th and 30th of February

2017, Sadat himself recruited Faridullah, Aimal, Sadeya and Munir Zadran as his advisers.

Sadat claims that he recruited these people based on their merits and professionalism. The documents, however, contradict his claim.

"I have all the authority to appoint someone or to fire someone according to law," he said.

The documents show that Sadat had ordered the Balkh directorate of Information and Culture to recruit a man graduated from Economic Faculty in archeology department.

Although his order led to adverse reactions, he insisted the man should be appointed in the department.

"An acting minister has more limited authority than a minister. In appointing and firing, the civil services law has explained everything, but we have seen that the acting ministers overrule the law," said Fawzia Kofi, MP.

A document of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) also show that MoFA had requested MoCI to send an authorized female representative of the ministry to the 61th Commission Meeting on Women Status that will be held in New York city in March. (Tolonews)

(2) Pakistan-...

"We can either be collectively secure or collectively insecure."

Using a Frankenstein monster against another country was foolish as it would come back to haunt its master, Atmar remarked.

He said: "We do not have empirical evidence that Daesh and Taliban are enemies today. These terrorist outfits are mutating. Our regional response thus far has been inadequate..."

The terrorist groups based in Pakistan were threatening Afghanistan and other countries in the region, he claimed, saying: "Daesh is an enemy and a threat to all of us."

Atmar estimated up to 45000 terrorists were currently operating in Afghanistan. "Associating Islam with terrorism is unhelpful.'

The narrative of good and bad terrorists needed to be discouraged and stopped. Atmar stressed. Violence in Afghanistan was not a civil war, it was terrorism and extremism at its worst, he said

"Separating economic objectives from political objectives of terrorist groups in Afghanistan is difficult," he added. The outfits also needed relationships with rogue state elements that provided them sanctu-

"We are no longer talking of a lone group. There is a symbiotic relation between the economics and geopolitics of the region," the advisor continued.

The NSA made clear success against terrorism in Afghanistan was vitally important for the stability of the region and the world.

He said 20 out of 98 terrorist outfits were operating within the Afghan region. He also hailed India's assistance worth a billion dollars to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(3) Ghani Warns...

our message for them is clear --- we have strong intention to win the

The president said he was happy that the public representatives were back from the winter recess with new ideas and plans. He asked the lawmakers to share their new strategies and plans with him and other government officials.

The president said during the two and a half years of his government, he consulted lawmakers from both houses of the parliament and discussions with the legislators took place 32 times during the period.

He said it was his constitutional duty to maintain balance between the three pillars of the state and facilitate cooperation among them.

The president said elections were one of the basic principles of democracy and it was necessary that Afghanistan have free, fair and transparent elections.

He warned all departments against interference in the election process and stressed over a transparent conduct of the democratic exercise.

"From this house of the people, I want to announce that neither I have any intension to interfere in election nor anyone else would be allowed to interfere."

About the future presidential election, the president said future election would be conducted in its due time and further delay in holding the Wolesi Jirga polls would not be allowed.

Article 83 of the Constitution states: "The constitutionally mandated tenure of the house of people shall terminate after the disclosure of the results of the election, on the 1st of Saratan (22 June), and the new parliament shall commence work."

However, the Presidential Palace on June 2015 announced the Wolesi Jirga would continue its duty until the announcement of next parliamentary elections. The parliamentary elections are yet to be conducted.

Ghani said holding of parliamentary and district council elections next year would be an important step towards addressing the country's challenges.

"Our main goal is to put an end to crisis and the important document we follow for that is our Constitution," he said, adding 20 terrorist groups facilitated by the Taliban were operating in Afghanistan.

He said there was no difference among militant groups as all were responsible for people's miseries.

The president said Afghanistan found access to enough resources for improving its security after achievements in the Warsaw and Brussels summits. It was the responsibility of the political lot to defend law enforcement, support national unity and back the society in fighting against terrorism.

"Fortunately the definition of enemy and friend is clear to the nation and the government. Besides Daesh and other foreign terrorist groups who want to use Afghanistan's land, the Taliban militants who continue to kill our people are also our enemy, our security forces would seriously stand against them," he added.

The president promised peaceful livelihood opportunities to the youth who had been deceived by propagandas of foreign intelligence agents if they stopped fighting.

"Our message for those who have no will for peace is clear and that is we have the will for victory in fighting and would not allow them to threaten our nation," he said.

Ghani also planted a sapling in the parliament's compound in presence of parliament members and prayed for future of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(4) Police Surrender ...

in the area, said the three policemen had recently joined the force. They took away three weapons and a walkie-talkie.

The strategic valley was also surrendered to the Taliban a month back. (Pajhwok)

(5) Meshrano Jirga ...

elected as first deputy of senate. Mohammad Asif Rahimi obtained 34 votes and nominated as second deputy of senate.

"We commit to conduct our duties transparently, said second deputy of senate Mohammad Asif Sediqqi, referring to the vote of confidence by the senators.

"I promise to use all my energy to serve the senate and the senators in the next one year," said deputy of senate speaker Mohammad Faisal Sami who obtained 34 votes.

None of the candidates succeed to gain the votes necessary for the position of senate secretary. (Tolonews)

(6) 8 Police Defect ...

weapons", Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesperson, tweed. He said the surrendering police also brought with them one ranger pickup vehicle, four motorcycles and ammunitions. (Pajhwok)

(7) Kabul Hosts ...

to revive the love and sentiments we have lost through political relations," said writer Ghafoor Laiwal. Participants at the festival also stressed the need for further development of cultural relations to promote peace and stability in the

"We must use the art for ethics and strengthening human thought. Such thoughts could help to promote tolerance, love and affection," said Afghan film maker Roya Sadaat.

Singers from the three countries, including Pakistan's famous singer Zaib Khan, performed their traditional songs and traditional Afghan classical music. (Tolonews)

(8) Kandahar:

She asked the central government to pay more attention to the prob-

lem and increase the number of female workers the judicial organs. As many as 23 women are currently imprisoned in the province.

They are in jail for different crimes such as murder, elopement, kidnapping, robberies, etc. The director said 210 cases of violence against women, including beatings, denial of rights, child marriages and elopement, were filed this solar year.

These complicated cases needed investigations by professional female prosecutors and judges, she said, adding a number of female workers in Kandahar lived in Kabul, a problem the government should resolve. Achakzai also blamed families for not allowing girls to choose what they wanted to study. "Many girls who want to continue professional studies are prevented by their families and that is why the number of female workers is limited.'

Kandahar civil society's female activists said men and women were equal members of society and both should have an equal share in serving people and having access to facilities.

Shahida, a civil society activist, said harassment and torture of women by males and decisions on such incidents by men were against all principles of justice.

When a woman needed a female doctor, they similarly needed female workers in judicial organs to address their cases, she argued.

The government could resolve the problem and employ women to the justice sector on reasonable salaries, she believed.

Pajhwok tried to to the only female prosecutor in Kandahar on the issue, but she declined commenting due to security problems.

The governor's spokesman, Samim Khpalwak, acknowledged judicial organs were not alone having fewer women workers. There is a similar situation other government organs. "Unfortunately the number of women workers in Kandahar is three percents. The problem is rooted in medieval traditions," he added.

Khpalwak said some women were working in a few departments such as education, public health and labour and social affairs. (Pajhwok)

(9) NPC Approves...

process of CASA-1000 project. The NPC discussed technical study and designing of Ghodar Dam in central Daikundi province, Gazak Dam in Bamyan, Dahna Ghor Bandak Dam in Parwan, Paltoyee Dam in Paktia, Dwamand Dam in Khost, Alingar Dam in Laghman, Tirpul Dam in Herat and some other dams.

The meeting decided to hold a special meeting under the leadership of the president on effective implementation of important national and infrastructure projects in the coun-

About feasibility study of the projects, President Ghani said he would personally review their documents. He said an economic analysis was needed about the efficiency of projects against their costs.

The NPC meeting was participated by the commission officials, observers from SIGAR, Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus (PACC) and NATO's RS mission. (Pajhwok)

(10) Jobless Kunduz ...

challenge to youth in recent years. In 2001 in the presence of international forces, hundreds of organisations and military or other companies started functioning in Afghanistan. Thousands of Afghan youth were employed then on high salaries.

But with the pullout of foreign forces in 2014, the employment situation worsened as thousands lost their jobs and it was difficult for them to find other openings having the same privileges.

Sher Aghan, another younger person, also grumbled about unemployment. There were many educated youth in the province, but no work opportunities existed there, he charged.

He expressed concern over the lack of job opportunities and administrative corruption, particularly in the appointment of youth. "If a post is announced or a test conducted, the whole process is cosmetic. An individual is already selected.

"People who don't have money or the right connections in an organisation, they always remain unemployed. It is a very big challenge to youth," he said.

He asked government leaders to create jobs for youth, otherwise they would be obliged either to leave the country or join the militants.

Waheeduallah Rahmani, Kunduz peace council secretary, agreed unemployment had become a serious issue as the fighters exploiting the situation by luring them into their ranks. "The government should do something in this regard.'

Youth affairs officials at the information and culture department verified BA degree-holders had joined the Taliban to support their families due to growing unemployment.

Abdul Ghafoor Hotak, youth affairs director, said: "Unfortunately, unemployment is increasing day by day; there is insecurity in Kunduz and the Taliban are hiring most of our youth."

He said unemployment and issues stemmed from it had caused some youth to suffer from psychological and mental illness. "If the government doesn't pay serious heed to the problem, more of youth will join insurgents."

Currently 750 jobless educated youth, including 12th grade graduates and those with bachelor and master degrees and PhDs, were registered with them, he revealed Hotak explained the figures did not cover unemployed young people who had not been registered yet (Pajhwok)

(11) Low Wages...

returned from Pakistan with his family of 13 members. He now works for 12 hours a day in Kabul's industrial park and the company pays him only 5500 Afs a month.

Abdul Rahman, currently he lives in a relative's house because of financial difficulties.

"There are some factories who hardly manage to hire laborers. Some workers are hired for less money. Up to fifteen people ask us for work in a week, but we are unable to hire all of them," said Sherzad Yousufzai, a factory owner in Kabul's industrial

"I came here for work from Nangarhar, but now I am compelled to work for a low wage despite doing heavy duty work. I work twelve hours a day and stay here day and night," said labor Ziaullah.

In the view of current unemployment in the country, labor unions have blasted the government for not implementing the labor law to protect the rights of the workers in the country.

Labor unions say employers are exploiting the legal gaps at the expense of the rights of their laborers. (Tolonews)

(12) Trump ...

US and Afghanistan were discussed at the meeting.

"Ms. Miller assured of cooperation and support of the US new administration for the National Unity Government and stressed that his country would continue to work with Afghanistan in all areas to bring security, peace and stability in Afghanistan," the statement added.

Appreciating the US constant cooperation, the Chief Executive emphasized on the principle of close cooperation between Afghanistan and the US and assured of implementation of the political agreement for building peace and stability in the country. (KP)

(13) Afghanistan ...

dividing river flow between the two countries, and hammered out the

treaty in 1973. However, political events such as a 1973 coup in Afghanistan, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, and subsequent civil war and Taliban rule had a damaging impact on the

fate of the Hamoon wetlands. In the last two decades, the fertile wetlands have substantially dried up. The Taliban government closed the sluices to the Kajaki dam on Hirmand until 2002. This compounded the impact of the worst drought the region has experienced in many decades, caused in part by climate change and warming temperatures. (Ifpnews)

(14) Pakistan Summons ...

emphasized that cooperation from Afghan side for effective border management was important for preventing cross-border movement of terrorists and militants."Pakistan summons Afghan diplomat over cross-border attack (Xinhua)

(15) Drug Addicts...

begging to bring money for bread and powder," she added. Hundreds of addicts are living un-

der the bridge. Another man who has a bachelor degree in foreign languages was also admitted to Phoenix camp but escaped after spending some time

"I pursued education for sixteen years to serve my country but now I am here," said the addicted man. There are some addicts who live under the bridge alongside their children. Experts say that such an existence will devastate the lives of their children unless the government

takes step and rescue them.

Based on statistics, there are around ten female addicts who live alongside male addicts under the Pul-e-Sukhta bridge.

Zainab 14 is of the female addicts who have been living under the bridge alongside her two brothers, mother and father over the past several months.

Based on the international statistics, the number of children and women using drugs in Afghanistan is estimated to be one million. Drug smuggling and production in

Afghanistan has been one of the major concerns among the international community.

Over the past decades, Afghanistan and international community have spent millions of dollars to wipe out drug smuggling and production in the country. These efforts not yielded positive outcomes and Afghanistan is still the world's largest producer of opium. (Tolonews)

(16) Taliban

A walkie-talkie, laptop, recruitment list, remote control and some weapons had been recovered during the raid.

Civilians could not be reached for comments because telecommunication networks remained off in the district. (Pajhwok)

(17) U.S. Judge ...

the matter, which was set for a hearing on Monday before U.S. District Judge Josephine Staton in Santa Ana. The judge barred a move by the government on Saturday to separate the family by sending the children and their mother, who cannot speak or read English, to Texas. (Reuters)

(18) 21 Dead,..

Nish district.

Their spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, said the fighters captured 10 security posts, killed 19 police and captured 25 alive.

He said 12 other policemen surrendered to the Taliban during the fight. The fighters had besieged the district building and the police headquarters and clashes were ongoing, Ahmadi said.

However, local security officials rejected the Taliban claims and said the Afghan forces putting up strong resistance did not let the Taliban capture any area. Some officials, who declined to be

named, said the Taliban staged the attack in Nish district after they were joined by comrades from other districts and Uruzgan and Helmand The roads between Kandahar City

and Khakrez and Shah Walikot dis-

tricts were closed due to the clash in

Nish district. Both the sides are said to suffered heavy casualties. A month back, a clash between militants and police left 12 policemen dead and eight others wounded. Thirty seven militants were also

killed during airstrikes. Local residents have accused the militants of killing 23 civilians dur-

build Afghanistan's first standard

start construction work. Mohammad Ali Klay, the world's boxing myth who passed away few months ago, was one the biggest and well-known supporters of the Stadium. Mr. Mohib, Afghanistan Ambassador to the USA had announced his support and cooperation for this infrastructural project in Afghanistan in a meeting he had

Likewise, Mr. Amin who himself is a businessman, had so far attracted supports and funds from several external trading organizations for the construction of the Stadium. As said, Peroozi Stadium will have the capacity of 35 to 40 thousand spectators and it will be built in a standard way, and a well-equipped hospital may be erected besides the Stadium

Qargha is a good place to host internal and external guests as it has standard roads leading to it and it has good places for sightseeing. (Pa-

(20) Taliban's Key ...

insurgents were launching coordinated attacks based on the information Mulllah Lahore was gathering regarding the military installations,

The intelligence agency also released a video following the arrest of Mullah Lahore purportedly showing several weapons, ammunition, and other necessary military kit recov-

bul and other northern provinces to

the southern and southeastern parts of the country. The Taliban insurgents are actively

operating in this province and often carry out insurgency activities against the security forces and government officials. (KP)

(21) Pakistan deports

deportees, an action that comes as the Afghanistan-Pakistan border remained shut for the 17th day.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the deportation via Torkham. He said the deportees had no documents of travel and residency in Pakistan.

Relations between the neighbours hit a new low after a series of bombings in the neighbouring country. Islamabad closed all crossing points on the Durand Line subsequently. (Pajhwok)

(22) 2 Heroin ...

factories were recovered and destroyed in security forces raid, he added.

2,700 kilograms of morphine, 10 kilograms of heroin, 1,400 litres of opium liquid, 1,000 kilograms of hashish, chemical materials, and two machines were torched at the

There was no comment about causalities and detention of individuals

(23)Russia Expresses...

an annual U.S.-South Korea springtime war game that kicked off on March 1. Pyongyang has denounced it as a dress rehearsal for northward invasion. (Xinhua)

chief of the armed forces, announced the start of an offensive on Feb. 19 to drive extremist militants out of the western side of Mosul, locally known as the right bank of Tigris River, which bisects the city. (Xin-

(25)Turkey's...

(Xinhua)

"Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!" Trump tweeted in a series of five

Trump also compared the alleged wiretapping by Obama to the "Watergate" scandal, which brought down former Republican President Richard Nixon after it was exposed that he ordered wiretapping of the

Trump did not detail how he got the information, nor provide any proof to support his accusation against Obama. (Xinhua)

(27)France Eyes...

the role of Turkmenistan in the peaceful resolution of conflicts and crisis situations, Hollande said in his letter. (Trend)

(28)British Gov't...

'They did not have a vote in the (EU) referendum, but the result has left them living under a cloud of uncertainty. They are understandably concerned about their right to remain, and their future rights to access education and healthcare," said the MP.

"Equally, Brits who live and work on the continent are worried about their right to work and access health-

Nation," allowing him to further solidify his rule.

"Civilian authorities only partially maintained effective control over security forces. Officials in the security services and elsewhere in the government acted with impunity. (AKI)

ing their attacks. (Pajhwok)

(19) 'Peroozi ... Stadium, and she wished to soon

with Mr. Atta Amin.

as well.

jhwok)

NDS said.

ered from the detained militant. Wardak is among the relatively volatile provinces in central Afghanistan which is connecting capital Ka-

Also a statement from the MoI said Special Security Forces conducted operation in Khogyano district last night at around 8:00pm which lasted for five hours.

during the operations. (Pajhwok)

(24)57,000 Civilians..

prominent newspaper Die Welt, Deniz Yucel, became the first German citizen to be arrested last month for what was described as "terrorist propaganda" as part of Erdogan's crackdown in the wake of the failed coup last summer.

The journalist has been accused personally by Erdogan of being a "German agent" and a member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

(26)U.S. President...

Trump openly claimed Obama had his "wires tapped" in Trump Tower in New York before the 2016 Election Day in November.

tweets on Saturday morning.

Democratic Party in the 1970s.

MP Hilary Benn, who chairs the committee, said: "EU citizens who have come to live and work here have contributed enormously to the economic and cultural life of the UK. They have worked hard, paid their taxes, integrated, raised families and put down roots."

care after Brexit." (Xinhua) (29)U.S. State ...