

(1) ANSF Create...

Afghan forces. He named the security personnel as heroes and lions of the country and said it was his duty to invest on the Special Forces, security and defence personnel, the statement added.

"I proudly talk with the presidents of the world due to you. If you were not successful in the war field, I could not represent you in politics," he said.

"We fight for stability of the region and the world because terrorism is threat to the region and the world. You are bravely fighting against the international threat," Ghani addressed the Special Forces.

"The next generations would have peaceful and prosperous life due to your sacrifices and struggle and the history would be written with your sacrifices," he said.

He said the New Year was the year of movement, decision and action, directing the chief of army staff and the defence minister to wisely use the force for suppressing the enemies.

"War is imposed on us, but you foiled the plots of the enemies. This year is the year of change, take the initiative to act and don't let the enemy and remove them from the holy soil," he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) NPC Saves...

1394 solar year. The statement has no further details.

The NPC was created in late 1393 solar year under the leadership of President Ashraf Ghani. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a number of ministers are members of the commission.

The statement said a contract worth 39 million afghanis had been approved by the NPC during its first meeting in the new solar year at the presidential palace last evening. It said two contracts were rejected and five more returned for a review.

The statement said extension of contracts on food and fuel supplies and maintenance works at the Ministry of Interior for the next four months were not approved due to being in conflict with the relevant law.

The source said the President, dissatisfied with the Interior Ministry's procurement process, ordered the commission to completely audit contracts of the ministry.

The meeting also decided to work on a framework for the usage of contracts of the Ministry of Interior, the source said.

A joint commission of the ministries of public health, finance, justice, economy, defense, interior and the NPC would work on the framework and would provide suggestions to the High Economic Council during the next two months, the statement added. (Pajhwok)

(3) JICA Delegation...

Understand and share the progress of KNC project as a whole and onsite construction activities of phase one, this included commencement of onsite work for construction of typical housing units in parcel 2.2, completion of concept for development of industrial park in Barikab Agriculture Economic Zone (BAEZ) and its approval by High Economic Council, completion of Real Estate Market Survey, revision of KNC development policy and discussion with H.E. the president on legal framework of DCDA accordingly," a statement by the board said.

The statement further added "Likewise, following activities made for Kabul Metropolitan Area development; just as the concept for Qargha as a Recreational Economic Zone, concept for development of Central Business Districts (CBD) for existing Kabul and many other improvements were explained by Mr. Hotaki respectively."

"JICA delegations appreciated the efforts of DCDA team and discussed about development of temporary water resources pipeline from Pul-e-charkhi area to KNC phase one for commencement of the onsite work. Finally, delegations ensured DCDA for cooperation and support of JICA's Head Quarter in this regard," the statement added.

DCDA officials had earlier announced that the construction of Kabul New City is ready to kick off, pending an approval from the Presidential Palace to start the construction work.

The officials further added that DCDA-KNC has signed five agreements with the companies to construct 55,000 residential houses,

and the companies are prepared to start their work.

Kabul New City is almost two times bigger than the current city of Kabul, where 600,000 residential houses would be built which would be completed in two phases and in 15 years period.

According to DCDA officials, residential houses would be built for 1.5 million in the first phase of the construction work of Kabul New City, while further houses would be built for another 1 million people in the second phase, with the construction work estimated to cost round \$80 billion, where the private sector would have a major role in terms of financing the construction work.

The construction design of Kabul New City was completed around 8 years ago where local and international experts contributed in preparing the master plan of the city which would be built in Dehsabz area of Kabul. (KP)

(4) 3 Million ...

for drug trafficking," said Ahmad Khalid Moahid, spokesman for the CNJC.

A number of people believe that government does not have the will to fight the drug scourge.

"Drug trafficking has increased in Afghanistan, particularly in northern provinces. Factories have been established. Drug trafficking and production is growing," said Gulalai Akbari, a senator.

Afghanistan is one of the top producers of drugs and smugglers are moving their supplies to global markets.

Over the past two years, 16 of king pin drug traffickers have been arrested - all believed to have smuggled tons of drugs to other countries. (Tolonews)

(5) 3 Million,...

province shortly after the growing rift led to a bloody encounter last week.

The supporters of the two prominent political parties reinstalled the removed pictures belonging to Gen. Dostum, Ahmad Shah Massoud and Burhnuddin Rabbani in this province.

Faryab governor Syed Anwar Sadat said the reconciliation was achieved following a meeting attended by the representatives of the two prominent political parties in the provincial government office.

The officials of the two political parties said they hope to continue standing side by side with each other and support the Afghan security forces in a sensitive moment the country is going.

They also insisted on resolving any issue they may come across in the future through negotiations and understandings.

The supporters of General Abdul Rashid Dostum and Ata Mohammad Noor engaged in a clash last Thursday in northern Faryab province of Afghanistan, leaving one dead and five others wounded.

This comes as the former Afghan Intelligence - National Directorate of Security (NDS) Chief Rahmatullah Nabil has warned regarding ongoing attempts to create ethnic divisions among the Afghan people.

Nabil issued an online statement amid intensifying tensions among the supporters of top political figures, General Abdul Rashid Dostum and Ata Mohammad Noor. The supporters of Gen. Dostum and Ata Mohammad Noor staged mass protests following a rift created over the removal of Gen. Dostum's pictures from Mazar-e-Sharif city on the occasion of Nowruz celebrations.

Amid fears that the protests would trigger chaos and riots in the north, Noor issued a statement on Monday immediately after the removal of Gen. Dostum's pictures spark furor among is supporters.

Noor warned regarding any provocative acts in reaction to the removal of the picture and urged the people to refrain from chaos and moves that lead to disorders in the city. (KP)

(6) Acting Interior ...

at assessing and improving the situation of prisons in the country.

"If I get a vote from parliament, hopefully, assessing the situation and problems of prisoners will be my top priority," he said.

Meanwhile, some MPs present at the gathering criticized the lack of proper buildings for the country's prisons.

"At least 14 prisons and detention centers in provinces have no buildings. This is a serious problem and we hope that the Interior and Finance ministries and aid organ-

izations take this issue into consideration," said MP Mirdad Khan Nijrabi.

Heads of prisons from provinces meanwhile vowed to bring reforms in their relevant provinces.

"We will implement what we have learned and directed in such sessions. We will try to overcome challenges and problems in prisons," said head of Herat prison, Abdullah Azizi. (Tolonews)

(7) Govt. Urge...

registered since the beginning of the year 1395 - during the past week. It said that the local office of Arakozia Radio was set on fire in eastern Nangarhar province and a journalist was attacked by unidentified men in Kabul.

"If the government is not committed to ensuring the safety of journalists and create a safe environment for journalists and media organizations, media's activities will be unstable," said Hamed Poya, head of Media Bazar.

Unidentified men attacked Ahmad Omed Poya on his way to office last week. Ahmad Omed Poya is a journalist who has been working in the field of media for the past three years and is currently a news presenter at Negah TV.

He sustained injuries to his eye and head.

"[The unknown men] were telling me not to work in TV and media. They were beating me on my head and face and were telling me they will kill me next time, if I didn't leave my work with media. I am concerned about my personal safety," said Ahmad Omed Poya.

This comes after an Arakozia office was set on fire in Ghanikhel district of eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday.

Media support organizations urged government to bring perpetrators of attacks on media and journalists to justice. (Tolonews)

(8) CEO Appoints...

document, the CEO office states to the Ministry of Commerce and Industries that Mohammad Azim Azimi has been appointed as the head of fuel section at the Herat dry port.

On Jan 02, 2016, the Wolesi Jirga approved a presidential decree authorizing the officials concerned to make appointments in first and second ranks.

Earlier a joint commission of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission would recommend officials for such positions to the president for approval.

"Those appointments took place based on the political agreement, not on the basis of law and regulations," Wolesi Jirga secretary Abdul Rauf Inaami said.

"The activities of the unity government should not be in conflict with the Constitution," a legal expert, Ajmal Hodman, said, calling such appointments against the Constitution and the law on civil services. He said such appointments were the main cause of corruption in the country and government officials were obliged to bring reforms in accordance with the Constitution.

This reporter tried to contact the CEO office, but failed. However, the spokesman for the Balkh governor, Munir Farhad, said "we proposed the (two) officials to the Ministry of Commerce who dispatched a copy of the suggested correspondence to the Presidential Palace and the presidential palace approved them."

The appointment of Ahmad Masoud Qayumi has been approved and he would be sent to his duty station in a couple of days, he said, adding the local administration has the authority to suggest experts and capable people to the related ministries for approval.

While responding a query whether the CEO office has approved the positions, he said "not the CEO office, but the Presidential Palace has approved the officials."

However, Syed Aqa Fazil Sancharaki, CEO's advisor, told reporters that the president was yet to give such an authority to Dr. Abdullah, but he has been using his position in the current political system.

"As I know the authority of appointments has not been given to Dr. Abdullah, but he has been using his influence and position for appointments," he said. (Pajhwok)

(9) Sherpao...

Development of the region was closely linked to peace and stability, said the former interior minister, who believed the involvement of all stakeholders would help improve the current situation.

There was strong optimism about progress when Ashraf Ghani

took over as president, but later mistrust returned to plague Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, added the ex-chief minister.

He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa residents had immensely suffered in the war against terrorism and the province deserved more attention to remove the sense of deprivation among its people. (Pajhwok)

(10) 53 Including...

commander Noor Mohammad Khan, and 43 Taliban rebels, four commanders of them, have renounced violence and joined the peace process," he added.

Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi told Pajhwok Afghan News the surrender of the militants would help improve the security situation.

"Those who encourage you to fight are your enemies. Don't harm your families and other people; quit fighting and join the peace process," Kunduzi urged the militants.

Noor Mohammad Khan, one of the former rebels, said: "I am commander of 10 Daesh rebels, whom I joined a few months ago. We received training in the Tor Dara area of Pakistan."

He said that they were told by Pakistanis that jihad was due in Afghanistan. "My supporters and I have shunned the insurgency. Now we would up take up arms against Afghanistan's enemies," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(11) Security ...

claiming the Taliban were on the run. At least 25 fighters were killed and wounded. The security forces are still searching for militants.

Abdul Jabbar Qahraman, President Ashraf Ghani's special representative for the security of Helmand, confirmed the recapture of the district and said at least three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were wounded.

Qahraman said: "The operation is not restricted to Khanshin. It will spread to Deshu district as well." Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior also confirmed the district had been retaken. The Taliban have said nothing so far regarding the district changing hands.

The Taliban overran the Khanshin on March 15. Currently the Deshu, Baghlan, Nawzad and Musa Qala districts are being controlled by the militants. (Pajhwok)

(12) Afghanistan ...

warned that they were not going to let up against Afghanistan.

But their run chase got off to a shaky start, with opener Evin Lewis dismissed for a duck, and some excellent Afghanistan spin bowling led by 17-year-old Rashid Khan (2-26) meant the wickets kept falling.

With the West Indies needing 10 runs from the final over, Najibullah sprinted several metres along the boundary to take a spectacular, tumbling catch and claim Carlos Braithwaite for 13, just when he looked like bringing the West Indies home, as he had done against South Africa on Friday.

Samuel Badree and an injured Andre Fletcher could only manage to push the total to 117 in the three remaining deliveries.

Despite the loss, the West Indies still finish top of Group One, and will play either Australia or India, who clash later Sunday in Group Two, in the semi-finals.

After being sent in to bat, Najibullah top scored for Afghanistan, striking four fours and one six in his 40-ball knock to bring cheers from the small but vocal crowd.

Afghanistan had lost all of their previous Super 10 matches, but they have won new admirers in India with their aggressive and carefree brand of cricket that has caused some anxious moments for their opponents.

Opener Mohammad Shahzad made a confident 24, but was caught off leg-spinner Badree, trying to heave over the infield, just as he was looking exciting.

Asghar Stanikzai also made a handy 16. The skipper shuffled down the wicket to smash a six over long on, but was caught the next ball by Dwayne Bravo off Badree attempting the same shot.

As the wickets started to tumble thanks to some strong fielding, 23-year-old Najibullah held his nerve, guiding Afghanistan past the 120 mark and to what proved a winning total. (AFP)

(13) Daikundi ...

the director of labour, social affairs, martyrs and disabled, acknowledged physically challenged people had been deprived of basic services.

He said some activities for the disabled depended on cooperation of other entities as the department of labour, social affairs alone could not do that.

"Up to 2,150 disabled and 1413 families of martyrs are registered with us and we have provided them financial support. We are trying to provide better services to them," he said. (Pajhwok)

(14) Taliban Gun...

rights commissioner whose appointment has to be approved by parliament.

President Ashraf Ghani has struggled to fill key security posts, with ministers of defense and interior acting in their positions. (AP)

(15) Huge Weapons...

SamadZalmi, said the security forces had received information about the arms depot in Taglar village ahead of Nawroz. No one has been arrested yet. (Pajhwok)

(16) Taliban Accused ...

concern at the decision of the Taliban court without any proof, saying the victim's husband had not referred the case to a government court.

He asked the security organs to look into the murder and arrest the killers forthwith.

However, Taliban spokesman-ZabihullahMujahid denied they had killed the woman. He said the woman's husband had complained to them regarding her immoral behaviour.

"The woman was shot dead by her husband and the Taliban were not involved in the murder," Mujahid concluded. (Pajhwok)

(17) 9 Insurgents, ...

hmadi saying the fighters had so far overrun 10 security posts.

At least seven policemen were killed and several others wounded in the clash, he said, adding the fighters had also seized weapons and ammunition. (Pajhwok)

(18) 4-Day Defense...

Development Organisation (DRDO) will display state-of-the-art military systems and technologies at the expo.

Airborne early warning and control system, light combat aircraft Tejas, wheeled armoured platform, Akash air defense system and Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers will be on display, sources said.

"Defexpo India is clearly steering the path of steady growth and has been receiving overwhelming and unprecedented international response with each edition," the Indian Defense Ministry has said. (Xinhua)

(19) Sudan, UN ...

Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)/northern sector at South Kordofan and Blue Nile states since 2011.

It has also been battling a group of armed movements in the Darfur region since 2003.

According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), there are around 10,000 children associated with the Sudanese armed forces and armed groups, most of them in Darfur.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Sudan's Minister of Welfare and Social Security Mashair Al-Dawalab reiterated the government commitment to protect children at the armed conflict zones and prevent their recruitment or exposure to physical or psychological violations.

"Preparation of this joint Action Plan has taken a long time that extended for about four years to ensure reaching a realistic working plan that would not be just ink on paper," she noted.

Ibrahim Ghandour, Sudan's Foreign Minister, for his part, said that "protection of children is a moral, national and religious responsibility that is governed by the constitution and the laws of the Sudanese Armed Forces, police and the National Intelligence and Security Service. (Xinhua)

(20) Opposition...

as the party's policy chief.

During the inauguration, Okada noted that the Japanese public's basic rights are threatened and the country's pacifism endangered under the Abe administration, saying the new party aims at stopping the current government's "runaway" policy and eventually toppling the Abe-led ruling camp. Prior to the merge, together with the Japan Communist Party and Social Democratic Party, the DPJ had filed bills to the parliament demanding the retraction

of the controversial security laws which will take effect on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

(21) 4 Killed, ...

been shifted to Sheikh Zaid hospital where several of them are said to be in critical condition.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

Police has cordoned off the area for investigations. (Xinhua)

(22) IS's Defeat ...

city under the heavy attack and shelling by the Syrian army.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the IS militants pulled out toward the town of Sukhneh, east of the central province of Homs. (Xinhua)

(23) Finland, Russia ...

arrangement will limit the use of the two northernmost crossing points to Finnish, Russian and Belorussian citizens only during the next 180 days.

Over the winter, some 2,000 self-claimed refugees arrived in Finland via the two northern crossings. There are several more southernly crossings, but they were not affected by unauthorized entries.

Commenting on the results, Markku Kangaspuro, research director in the Aleksanteri Institute of the University of Helsinki, said to national broadcaster Yle that Russia was not acting out of "sheer good will" in helping Finland but out of view that "cooperation is needed."

Kangaspuro said that both countries now look for new ways of cooperation that take into account the vision that the European Union sanctions would remain for "a good time." He told Yle that the meeting and its results indicate the relations between Finland and Russia have warmed up from the coldest point.

Teija Tiilikainen, director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, underlined that the basic problem associated with Russian actions in Ukraine is still there. "But under these circumstances, of course, it must be possible to discuss joint interests," she said. (Xinhua)

(24) Nigerian Air...

the state that the Air Force is exploring the possibility of expanding the Air Force group in the North-East to ensure the total restoration of peace is achieved in the shortest time possible.

Abubakar said with the planned expansions more personnel will be deployed and more platforms created to widen the operations toward timely and speedy response in counter-insurgency campaigns.

"We are already widening the roles of our regiments as special combat forces to secure and protect key points after successful operations," he added.

Abubakar who commended the military in the ongoing campaign against terrorists, said the citizens have a lot of roles to play. (Xinhua)

(25) U.S. Drone...

Qaida training camp in Mahfad. The Yemen-based al-Qaida branch group has yet to make comments. Yemen, an impoverished Arab country, has been gripped by one of the most active regional al-Qaida insurgencies in the Middle East.

The AQAP, also known locally as Ansar al-Sharia, emerged in January 2009. It had claimed responsibility for a number of attacks on Yemen's army and government institutions. (Xinhua)

(26) China Calls...

and technology associations nationwide. The document urged science and technology associations to uphold CPC's leadership in the reforms, and called for closer connections to scientific and technological workers and people as well as better management of societies and administrative organs under the associations. (Xinhua)

(27) Israeli PM ...

the Israeli Prime Minister said. On Thursday, a volunteer for the B'tselem organization, an Israeli organization advocating for human rights in the occupied territories, captured footage of an Israeli soldier shooting a Palestinian attacker in the head after an attack in Hebron.

The graphic footage shows the soldier shooting the Palestinian at point blank while he is lying on the ground injured and unarmed. The IDF has suspended the soldier and said he would be facing murder charges amid a military police investigation. (Xinhua)