KABUL - The government on Sunday amended a controversial article of the draft census law by adding two words ‘nationality’ and ‘tribe’ to the competing national identity cards, said the office of the second vice-president.

The Article 6 of the census law was amended during a meeting of the law committee of the Cabinet ministers chaired by second VP Sarwar Danish, and the electronic ID cards project would be started after its approval by the parliament, Danish’s office said a statement.

Serial number, name, last name, father’s name, grandfather’s name, date of birth, place of birth, current address, permanent address, location, photo and signature in national ID card are required in the Article 6.

Criticism on the article has halted issuance of the ID cards and implementation of the law. So the government consulted with different social, civil and political groups to resolve the issue and enforce the law,” Danish was quoted in the statement as commenting on the amendment. He said mentioning the two words ‘nationality and tribe’ in the cards came in response to the widespread criticism by different segments of the society on the draft census law.

He said the law was amended in order to end the dispute and the process of issuing new E-NICs would be started after the amended law was approved by the parliament. The ministries of interior and telecommunications said they were ready for the issuance of the new ID cards. (Pajhwok)

Herat-Torghundi Railroad: Technical Study Contract Inked

KABUL - A contract for the technical study of a 260-kilometer railway line between Torghundi and Herat City was signed between Afghanistan and Canada Rail on Monday.

Kandahar University Expansion Hamstrung by Lack of Funds

KANDAHAR CITY - Plans to add new facilities to the Kandahar University, where thousands of students are studying from different provinces, have been hamstrung by a shortage of resources, officials said.

The university has 12 faculties, including medical, engineering, agriculture, education, Sharia Law, political science, administration and management and policy, literature, journalism, economy, computer science and information.

Vice-Chancellor of Kandahar University Ahmad Shah Subz said the lack of funds had halted the expansion of the university.

Faryab Residents Protest Against District Police Chief

MAIMANA - A number of residents in northwestern province of Faryab on Monday rallied against the Dashtabul district police chief.

Sherpao Wants QCG to Facilitate Afghan Peace Talks

PESHAWAR - A senior Pakistani politician has called on international and regional powers to intensify efforts for bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan. Addressing a news conference on Sunday, the Quaumi Watan Party (QWP) chief asked the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) to facilitate dialogues between the Afghan government and Taliban.

Peshawar hopes that these talks aren’t being held in a vacuum, said a QWP statement. The talks are expected to begin this week in Doha, Qatar. Taliban leader Mullah Baradar and the US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad had held a two-day meeting in Doha.

A QCG spokesman said bringing the two sides to the negotiating table is the Taliban’s priority. He said the Taliban have released the names of their negotiators and they are ready to negotiate with the government.

The Taliban have also proposed to work on the QCG’s proposals about bringing the two sides to the negotiating table for the first time in the Pashto language. The Taliban have also asked the US to play a positive role in the process.

A QCG statement said the QCG is ready to facilitate the talks and work for the peace and security in Afghanistan. The QCG has also called on the governments of the four countries to support the talks.

Camplified of the United States, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the group has held several meetings in Islamabad and Kabul on how to pave the ground for peace negotiations. Despite the US efforts to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table, the Taliban have so far refused to talk to the Afghan government as long as their demands were not met. (Pajhwok)