16 Cabinet Ministers Sworn in

KARUL - Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday declared the morning in ceremony of 16 new cabinet ministers who recently won votes of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament. Senior officials including 3rd Vice-President General Abdul Salam Durrani, 3rd Vice-President Mohammad Sarwar Danesh, Government Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and 1st Deputy Chief Executive Engineer Mohammad Khan were present. The ceremony held on the Presidential Palace. The following ministers were sworn in:

- Farah Customs Revenue Down 8pc: Official
- Farah GTY, Western Farah province’s overall revenues from customs and commercial taxes reached 2.6 billion afghani last solar year, but showed an eight percent decrease compared to 2017 returns, an official said on Tuesday.
- Faisal Customs Department head Aqe Khan Aqhnaz told Pajhwok Afghan News through customs revenue declined in 2018, but income from domestic taxation increased against 2017.
- He said the customs revenue stood at 2.6 billion afghani in 2013, exceeding the target set by the government.

KARUL - Chief Executive Of- fice (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah said on Tuesday that investigations into Nangarhar massacre were underway and provincial authorities were directed to bolster security. He said this while inquir- ing about the health of those wounded at Sarwar Dostmal Khan Hospital in Kabul, a press release from CEO’s office stated. He condemned the suicide attack and passed their sympathy towards the victims.

Ulumi Orders Police to Take Tackling Corruption

KARUL - Minister Interior Noor-uz-Haq Ulumi has called all police personnel to begin tackling corruption within their own ranks. He said the police’s actions will hopefully lift the pressure to other ministries and government institutions, he said.

It’s a conference on Tuesday in Kabul on combating corruption. Ulumi urged the police to ensure they enforce the law and that they prevent people from breaking the country’s laws.

KARUL - The Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) gained the unity government for in- duction of four women as vice-ministers and hoped that women would play significant role to tackle challenges being confronted by the country.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the AWN said that through consistent advocacy cam- paigns in the first and second rounds of presi- dential elections the network had been calling for representation of women in the cabinet. Meanwhile, the AWN recently conducted coordination meeting between the four nomi- nated women ministers, former female minis- ters, female members of both upper and lower houses of parliament.

KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Af- fairs MoFA on Tuesday said tangible progress had been achieved in talks with Pakistan about peace process and it was high time to take practical steps for durable peace in Afghanistan.

Addressing his press con- ference, MoFA spokesman MoHd.

Shekib suggested taking Afghanistan into SCO

ASTANA - Afghanistan should be taken into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) help the country with anti-drug production, Pakistan-based head of the Federal Drug Control Service of Russia, suggested on Tuesday. EIA News reported.

“Consider us in real representation of the views of the ministers to apply to the heads of the SCO member states with the initiative to accede Afghanistan as a full member of the SCO due to the importance of its closer integration in the economic process of the SCO for alternative development and elimination of drug production,” said V. Ivanov at the meeting of heads of the SCO anti-drug agencies.

According to the head of Federal Drug Control Service of Russia, the SCO member states “are objectively interested, firstly, in ensuring regional security; and, secondly, in acquiring the role of a reconciler and successful envoy by Afghanistan.”

However, some senior officials within the government expressed pessimism about success of the talks and alleged the neighboring country a non-serious approach.

KARUL - National Unity Govern- ment (NUG) leaders have agreed on Abdullah Hadi as their nominee for lead- ership of the Ministry of Defense, the Lower House’s Second Dep- uty Mohammad Yac- ber Ahmadzai said on Monday.

Habibi who is from Kus- naz province and has an MA in Military Affairs, is expected to be introduced in Parliament in a vote of conference soon.

The Ministry of Defense position is one of the last gaps in the NUG’s cabinet, which has taken over six months to form and sparked doubts about the coalition government’s competen- cy.

A 19 abducted Deminers in Pakista Released

GARZEE - The 19 deminers who were abducted by militiants three days ago were released on Tuesday, officials said.

Zalmah Geryabad, Pakista police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the deminers were released after government officials and local elders’ efforts.

The deminers were employees of Sharmin Demining Afghanis (SDA), and were kidnapped in the vicinity of Garzee.

Based on local sources, a large number of packages of C-4 had been taken from the area.

According to officials, the 19 deminers were busy working in Swat Valley and when the gunmen arrived, some of them managed to escape (Pajhwok).