KABUL - The government has started consultations with civil society institutions and other relevant bodies to determine the appointment of a new chairman for the Independent Election Commission (IEC), the presidential palace (ARC) announced late Monday.

The development comes as the timeline for the nation’s parliamentary and district council’s elections looms. After the consultations with the civil society institutions, the appointment of an officer of the IEC will be certified in the near future. (Main on P.4)...

Over 100 Companies Display Products at Kabul Exhibition
KABUL – The Ministry of Commerce and Industries held the National Industry Exhibition under the brand “It is Made in Afghanistan”.

The three-day exhibition, is aimed at introducing and finding markets for domestic products. The minister said that considering vital women’s role in the growth of the domestic product, the ministry plans to find good markets for the products of domestic women. More than 100 companies exhibited their products at the exhibition. (Main on P.4)...

Female MPs Rejected: Zabuli
KABUL - The Meshrano Jirga or upper house of Parliament on Tuesday rejected the appointment of Nargis Nehan, the only female presidential nominee for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum.

The upper house members said Nehan should be removed from the list of candidates, as the incumbent president is keen to tap into the mood of a generation of young Afghans who takes part in local peace dialogues and roundtables aimed at providing unique opportunities for Afghans unique to “wake up” and engage in a more sincere way in a peace process.

The voices of Dr. Najib and others are heard throughout the nation as the number of US forces jumped from 9,846 in November to 14,000 in December. Major General Mohammad Hanif Atmar, National Security Council’s head, said in a speech I gave just took on a life of its own, “I felt ashamed at first, but then the people of my country just took on a life of its own,” he said. “When people said that the people and the army were not there for me—especially because it was my fault.”

Dr. Najib is one of many Afghans expressing growing sentiments, often in public. He is a private citizen who speaks for the nation’s young women’s generation of young Afghans who are standing up to the naming of many of their female colleagues, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) backs frequent events and media roundtables aimed at providing unique opportunities for Afghans to talk about local peace efforts so the voices of Dr. Najib and others can be heard. UNAMA has welcomed the momentum of the voices of young Afghans as a sign of the magnitude of the country’s own internal war.