Afghanistan Cabinet Formation in Final Stage

KABUL - Amid repeated delay in introducing minister-designates to Wazir Jaza, or the Lower House of parliament for approval to form the cabinet, presidential spokesman Nasibulah Salarzai has said that the cabinet would be formed within the time set by the president.

President Mohammed Ashraf Ghani, who assumed office in late September promised in his maiden speech to form the cabinet within 45 days, a deadline he failed... (More on Pg.2)

ISIS Trying to Seize Parts of Afghanistan: Putin

MOSCOW - Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of Russia, has expressed his concern regarding the security situation in Afghanistan.

He said in his new remarks in Kazan that Islamic States (DAISH) is trying to make inroads in Afghanistan and occupy parts of the country. He said some of the provinces of Afghanistan are facing serious threat from DAISH.

Although no one in Afghanistan has announced support in DAISH, but previous reports indicate the existence of their supporters in the country.

However, in the neighboring Pakistan months ago some of the key commanders of the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan announced... (More on Pg.6)

Afghan Forces to Face Tough Challenges in 2015: US

WASHINGTON - Afghan security forces face a tough challenge in 2015, a senior Obama administration official said on Tuesday, because they would secure the country after the US war in Afghanistan comes to an end on December 31. "They learn... (More on Pg.3)

Iran Resolved to Boost Border Markets’ Role in Trade with Afghanistan

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official said Tehran is aware of border markets’ significant role in the enhancement of its trade interactions with the neighboring countries and informed that a new market of this kind is to be established near Nishabur town at the border with Afghanistan... (More on Pg.6)

Concerns over Cabinet Delay Inflated: Feldman

KABUL - The US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan has said concerns over delay in cabinet formation by the Ashraf Ghani administration are inflated.

Daniel Feldman said in an interview late on Tuesday that President Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah had assured him the inflationary issues would be reviewed soon.

Speaking to the Voice of America’s Pashto Service, he said he saw little need for the resignation of cabinet members.

Although some of Ghani’s top officials were appointed so far, the new Afghan government’s performance has been effective over the last three months," he remarked.

The security agreements... (More on Pg.6)

Illegal Armed Groups Not Acceptable: President

KAREL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday warned illegal armed groups of dire consequences if they challenged the government’s writ.

He said this during a video conference with newly appointed officials of northern Kunduz province, including Governor Mohammad Umar Sarh, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

Said badeh the president on the security situation of Kunduz and informed about problems and challenges being faced by people there.

President Ghani said ensuring good governance was his government’s top priority and encouraged Kunduz officials to serve the people at all cost. (More on Pg.6)

New Mission to Start in 4 Days: NATO

KABUL - NATO announced on Wednesday its new mission’s "Resiliency Support" — aimed at training and advising Afghan security forces — would start in four days.

Deputy Commander of NATO Lt. Gen. Carsten Jacobsen told journalists in Kabul NATO was satisfied with its achievements in the last 13 years and the new mission would also focus on Afghan forces.

He lauded the ability of ANSF saying they were able to take the lead in combatting terrorism.

"After this we will remain in the war zone but not on a war mission."

Afghan Carpets Win 1st Position in UAE Show

KABUL - Afghan carpets got first position in an exhibition held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Tamoor Investments chairman said on Wednesday.

Dead Jalalabad told Pakistan, News around 100 companies from the Middle East, Central and South Asia countries took part in the exhibition. He reported separately by Afghan women were showcased at the show and they secured the first... (More on Pg.6)

Govt. Has No Will to Name Cabinet: MPs

KABUL - Wibli Jaga members on Wednesday lambasted the unity government lacked the political will and determination to introduce a new cabinet involving committed and qualified individuals.

After being sworn in on Sept 29, both President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah had promised they would secure the cabinet within 45 days, a deadline they failed to meet.

Lawmaker member from Kabul told Tameka told a general session the people... (More on Pg.6)

Japan Pledges $20m in Aid to Afghanistan

KABUL - In response to an urgent request from Kabul, Japan on Wednesday pledged to provide approximately $20 million or $14 million under the Non-Project Grant Aid. A statement from the Embassy of Japan said Wednesday that the exchange of note for this Non-Project Grant Aid signed between Haruko Takahashi, ambassador of Japan to Afghanistan, and Atiqullah Azizi, acting minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan.

The amount which provided through this Aid would contribute to ease the governmental financial gap, currently the balance between revenue and its expenditure... (More on Pg.6)

UN Worried About Afghan Children After 2014

KARUL - In a statement released this week, the United Nations (UN) voiced concerns about the conditions facing Afghan children in 2014, highlighting research that shows a quarter of all Afghan children face malnutrition and many suffer extreme violence spilled-over from fighting between the Afghan government and military groups.

"2014 was devoting year for millions of children," UNICEF Spokesperson Christoph Bouillon said. More Afghan children than in any other year were said to have been affected by poverty and violence.

"Their future in the region is under threat and they suffered serious injuries," another UN spokesman said. Naz Trisolini said.

Beyond security concerns, the UN has taken issue with children’s health and living conditions, especially among child laborers. Many children in Afghanistan are breadwinners for their home and are forced to do physical labor. Factions is a 14 years... (More on Pg.6)

Further reading...