No Cabinet Until Standards Met: Ghani Aide

KABUL - A presidential spokesman on Thursday said the cabinet’s formation had reached the final stage, but a final decision was yet to be taken on pending standards set for nomination.

Nasibullah Sail said that following the announcement of a cabinet until the president’s nominees were not fully satisfied, no final decision was reached.

He also said that the president’s nominees had yet to be announced in some ministries, due to potential reasons.

India Pledges Support in Developing Textile Industry

KABUL - The government of India has vowed to assist in developing the textile industry of Afghanistan as part of New Delhi’s reconstruction efforts and help assist the Afghan economy.

The commitment was during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Commerce and Industries of Afghanistan and Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India on Wednesday.

Acting Minister of Commerce and Industries, Masael Shinwari and Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Ansar Saeed signed the MoU, which would focus on expanding cooperation and business cooperation in the field of textiles and clothing.

As per MoU, both sides agreed to cooperate in developing closer economic relations and bilateral cooperation at the field of textile, clothing, cotton, raw materials, fiber and handloom, as a result of the agreement signed by the Indian Embassy in Kabul. (Mirror Press)

Govt. Approves Special Military Operations against Insurgents

KABUL - The government of Afghanistan approved special military operations on Wednesday to tackle the terrorist activities by anti-government armed groups.

Following a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC), chaired by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, the special military raids were approved after incorporating new changes, the presidential palace said.

India Rejects Report Offering Ministries to Taliban Leaders

KARJIL - Presidential spokesman Nasibullah Sailzad on Tuesday rejected reports as conceding that the government of national unity had offered three ministries to former Taliban leaders in the new cabinet.

Earlier, media reports and President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani offered Taliban with three ministries including energy, urban development, and religious affairs and border affairs. Sources said Taliban leaders who were considered to be adjusted in the new setup included Wali Mullah, former Taliban interior minister, Murtah Zafar, former Taliban’s ambassador to Pakistan and Ghazi. (Mirror Press)

Pakistan Role to Combat Terror Vital: CEO

KARJIL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abbasi, Abbasi, and Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, who is the commander of US-European Command and NATO Allied Command Operations, issued a statement on Tuesday after the meeting between Pakistan’s senior officials and the US military.

The statement said that Pakistan’s senior officials and the US military endorsed the importance of national leadership in the fight against terrorism and extremists.

Pakistan Not Extending Deadline for Refugees Return

KARJIL – A meeting on Thursday renewed the agreement that the registration of Afghan refugees would be extended for another two months after December 31, 2015.

A statement from the CEO said that US Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, who is the commander of the US-European Command and NATO Allied Command Operations, discussed a number of issues in the meeting.

NATO’s commander for Afghanistan Gen. John F. Campbell confirmed that the deadline would be extended until February 28, 2016.

Abdullah, UN Envoy Discuss Cabinet, Reforms

KABUL – Security general and special representative in Afghanistan, Mohammad Abdullah, on Thursday called on the unity government to become its progress by introducing an honest cabinet, reports said.

Abdullah discussed the delayed cabinet and reforms in the electoral system, according to the UN’s special representative.

The UN envoy briefed the unity government’s efforts at forming the new cabinet and said all people were waiting the government to implement its pledge on a professional and honest cabinet.

Abdullah told the UN envoy that the cabinet would be introduced once they had promised and respected the council. (Mirror Press)

IEC Influence in Parliament Prevents Amendment in Election Law

KABUL - Refusal in the election law, part of campaign promise of unity government, has been challenged after the influential political blocs refused the amendment in the draft of the law in the Parliament.

The opposition leader, Mohammad Shahab, claimed on Saturday that the independent ministers, National Elections Commission (NEC) officials have proposed the lawmakers to declare them successful, next year’s parliamentary election if they disagree the proposed amendment to the electoral law.

After the longest Parliamentary session ended, scores of demand for better election law, the IEC opposed the amendments proposed a number of Parliament.

The government source told the Associated Press that the IEC refused the change something, Abdullah’s government has proposed the amendment in the Parliament.

“Both the electoral bodies have reached a common ground that lawmakers to avoid changes in the law,” Abdullah’s government source said.

The election officials.” (Mirror Press)

Millions of Dollars in Aid to ANA Embezzled: SIGAR

KARJIL - The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) in its report revealed that millions of dollars had been embezzled in the construction of a facility for the Afghan National Army’s (ANA) Camp Commando.

In a statement, SIGAR noted that the facility cost the US a total of $273.5 million. It also stated that the contractor had not yet received the money and the SIGAR audit had shown that the contractor had not been paid.

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