WJ Set to Endorse or Reject Ministers-Designate

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga will vote today (Wednesday) on the fate of the ministers-designate who have explained their programs to lawmakers ahead of today's vote. The two nominees, who were introduced today, would not receive any vote if their documents did not reach the lower house by the ballot time, said a member of the joint parliamentary panel.

Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News, Abdul Ghani Zada said that a cabinet post could not be voted for or against in the absence of his/her educational transcripts and experience certificates.

President Ashraf Ghani introduced two nominees to the Council of Ministers and heads of two independent departments last Tuesday for parliament to vote on. (More on P4.1)

President Introduces 2 New Nominees for Cabinet Slots

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday pledged to reform the Independent Election Commission (IEC) in a suitable time. The presidential palace said.

During a meeting with IEC delegation headed by its chief Ahmad Yousuf Nuristani, the president said that IEC should preserve its independence status in the country and have public and civil society confidence.

Nuristani informed President Ghani over multiple IEC related issues including the upcoming parliamentary election and challenges faced by the IEC, the presidential statement said.

The sources said that President Ghani, officials discussed technical, security and administrative issues within the commission, adding that both sides stressed the need for free, fair and balanced elections. (More on P4.4)

Foreign Minister-Designate to Review Policy Goals

KABUL - The foreign minister-designate on Tuesday told lawmakers if elected, he would review the principles of foreign policy and ensure sending it to parliament for approval. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani introduced 34-member council of ministers and heads of two independent departments last Tuesday for parliament to vote on. (More on P4.6)

Early Saturday, Rahmatullah Raeesi’s nomination was rejected by a parliamentary panel for dual citizenship. But he was allowed to explain his program after he gave up his British nationality. Rahmati said a document had been handed over the last few years in the ministry including the country’s foreign policy and it would be his priority to review it for further improvement.

“I think we should pursue three goals in our foreign policy: national interest, security and ensuring law in collaboration with relevant organs if he was given a vote of confidence.”

Uumi to Focus on Enforcing Law, Ensuring Stability

KABUL - The minister-designate of interior on Tuesday and he would take effective measures for maintaining security and ensuring law and order. (More on P4.8)

Australia FM Meets Ghani

KABUL - Australia's Foreign Minister (FoM) Julie Bishop has made a surprise visit to Afghanistan to meet with Afghan military personnel and presidential advisor Asad Ahmad. In a statement, Mr. Bishop said that Afghanistan is the focus of attention of Australia Day to thank Australian forces for their crucial and ongoing assistance to our civilian and military personnel. “I also met with representatives of the newly formed Afghan government in Kabul to reiterate Australia’s commitment to Afghanistan in the near future. We also had a transition phase to take responsibility for the security across the country.” Ms. Bishop said.

Asaf Khan, the cabinet foM of Afghanistan, who was elected president in September 2014, has successfully formed a united national government and will broaden a much-needed support to the country. Our allies in Australia are serving in Afghanistan as part of NATO’s Resolute Support mission which started in January 2014. (More on P6.7)

ANSF to Take Control of Kandahar Airport Installations

KANDAHAR CITY - NAlinewidth Commander Gen. Campbell on Tuesday announced handing over Kandahar airport installations to the Afghans National Security Forces (ANSF). “Spend on a 300,000 square meter area, the security installations included a warehouse, a mechanic complex and cold storage, said the ANSF。”

70 Taliban Insurgents Killed

KUNDUZ CITY - In the past five days, at least 70 Taliban insurgents were killed in an Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) clearing operation in northern Kunduz province, local officials said. (More on P6.9)

Helmundis Take to Streets Against Graffiti, Insecurity

LAIKARGAH - Many residents of Lai Kargah district of Lab-i Sarhad held a protest rally against the Lendo family. The tribal leaders held an anti-govt rally in Lab-i Sarhad. The tribal leaders, known as the Lendo family, are accused of exploiting the Afghan people, especially the Hazaras. (More on P6.10)