**Govt. Seeks Alternate for Electoral Reforms Amid Setbacks**

KABUL - The Afghan government is likely to announce an alternate to implementing electoral reforms after the Wolesi Jirga’s (Lower House of Parliament) recent rejection of the government’s proposals. According to officials, the government is expected to announce a second option for election reforms by the end of this week.

Election monitoring groups have warned that domestic and international criticism against government is likely to grow if the so-called new option for election reforms again hits a deadlock.

“Election reforms constitute one of the key promises of government which also motivated us to consult the House of Representatives for...” (More on P4, 8)

**Afghan IS Linked to Main Group: Gen. Nicholson**

HERAT CITY - The government of Afghanistan and Iran border provinces held a “productive” meeting on boosting economic, social and cultural cooperation and reducing security challenges, an official said on Wednesday. This was the first meeting between border officials of the two countries that started on Monday and concluded Wednesday. Herat governor’s spokesman, Ismail Farhad, told Pajhwok Afghan News both the sides agreed to decisively follow decisions made at the meeting. He said Iran’s Foreign Minister Dr. Rahman... (More on P4, 9)

Afghan IS is directly linked to the parent organization in Iraq and Syria, the US army general in charge of American and NATO troops in Afghanistan said on Wednesday. Gen. John Nicholson, speaking to The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday, says IS affiliates in Afghanistan have financial, communications and strategic connections with the main IS leadership based in a self-declared caliphate in Iraq and Syria. “This franchise of Daesh is connected to the parent organization,” he said, using a common alternative acronym for... (More on P4, 10)

Kot Residents Call for Post-Operation Security

JALALABAD - Kot residents have called on government to take steps to secure their area in the eastern province of Nangarhar once it has been cleared of Daesh insurgents. Residents have asked that all government institutions step up their efforts to provide security in order to prevent insurgents from returning. This comes amid ongoing military operation which has seen security forces eliminate Daesh fighters in many parts of Kot in the past two days. A month ago, Daesh reportedly killed a number of civilians and forcing dozens of families to flee the area. Residents claim Daesh has occupied the area since the attack. The issue of little security in areas that have... (More on P4, 11)

**Afghan, Iran Border Governors’ First Meeting Ends**

KABUL - In a tripartite session, Afghanistan, NATO and Pakistan have agreed to launch serious combat on removing Daesh and other militancy groups. Officials in Ministry of Defense have stated if Pakistan doesn’t fulfill its commitments the following country will experience problems coming from the international community.

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**13 Irrigation Canals in Baghlan, Kabul Being Rebuilt**

KABUL - The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) on Wednesday said 13 irrigation canals would be reconstructed in northern Baghlan province and capital Kabul until the end of current year. Contracts for the canals’ reconstruction projects were signed on Wednesday between the MAIL minister and a number of domestic construction companies. Minister Asadullah Zamir said 10 canals would be reconstructed in Baghlan-Jalalabad district of Baghlan and its provincial capital, Pul-i-Khumri. Five other canals... (More on P4, 12)

**Pakistanis Ambassador Calls on Karzai in Kabul**

KABUL - Pakistan’s ambassador in Kabul Syed Brar Hussain on Wednesday called on former president Hamid Karzai and both discussed various topics of mutual interests, the Karzai office said. A statement from Hamid Karzai’s office said the Pakistani envoy along with a delegation met with the former president in Kabul.

It said they discussed the current situation of Afghanistan and Pakistan and talked about strengthening good ties between the two friendly nations. There were... (More on P4, 13)

**Senators Condemn Kabul Rally Attack, Urge Early Probe Result**

KABUL - The lower house of parliament or Meshrano Jirga on Wednesday condemned Saturday’s twin suicide attacks on protestors in Kabul and asked the government-appointed delegation to find out how the incident occurred and report back to the people as soon as possible. At least 230 wounded when twin suicide explosions ripped... (More on P4, 15)

**Back Page July 28, 2016**

**Pakistan Agree on Combating Daesh**

KABUL - Pakistan ambassador in Kabul Abdullah Abdullah said in a statement on Wednesday, the Office of the National Unity Government Afghanistan, NATO and Pakistan have agreed on launching serious combat on removing Daesh and other militancy groups in the region Afghanistan, NATO, Afghanistan, Iran Border Governors’ First Meeting Ends