President Ashraf Ghani

Parliamentary Elections a Serious Challenge for the Government

KABUL - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani told delegates attending an International Contact Group meeting at the Presidential Palace early Thursday that the task of holding parliamentary elections was a serious challenge for the National Unity Government (NUG) and that government needed time in which to bring about electoral reforms.

The commitment to Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah’s Over 4,000 Hindus and Sikhs Granted Indian Citizenship

NEPB JAKARTA: The past one year, for the Indonesia Malek had government has granted Indian citizenship to over 4,000 Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan and Afghanistan which is nearly four times the number of the preceding five years.

Figures at the end of April 2013 showed that the RPJ government approved citizenship for 2,933 Hindus and Sikhs from the two countries who have sought refuge in India. This was in stark contrast to the 1,035 granted by the Congress-led UPA II. RPJ had declared its aim of positioning India as a refuge for Hindu fleeing persecution anywhere in the world and the increase in those granted seem to fall in line with these aims.

In a written statement for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the RPJ had declared India as a “natural home for persecuted Hindus” who “shall be welcome to seek refuge.”

The numbers of these granted citizenship are not accurate as compared to the country’s population. Government officials and activists talk a resolve the problem being faced by people of Indian origin who anyway were staying in the country under a type of a temporary ministry-sponsored status.

As a result, the government is stepping up efforts to expedite long-term solutions. (More on Pp.6)

Salauddin Rabbani

Afghanistan Still Faces Daunting Challenges

KABUL - Minister of Foreign Affairs on Thursday said security challenges had overshadowed all major achievements.

Passing through a critical juncture in history and many challenges had successfully been completed amid insecurity and democratic power transfer. Rabbani said Afghanistan had many achievements in the last decade in education, economy, healthcare, human rights, improvement of women’s situation and governance. But it was the challenge of insecurity that mattered.

(China on Pp.5)

President Ghani Calls for Regional Cooperation

Focusing around the security theme of the meeting, Ghani expressed confidence that no province or districts in Afghanistan would collapse into the hands of Daesh affiliates. “Dengh is come out with a strategy with all Que- da. However both groups are determined to conti

Whereabouts of 12 Remaining Hostages Still Unclear

KABUL - The whereabouts of the 12 remaining hostages kidnapped almost three months ago while traveling along a Kandahar-Pakistan highway is still unknown.

NUG agreement was the condition of fundamental reforms in the electoral system.

However, Ghani said, “This is a must. We have a consensus on it. It can be fairly certain the 2013 presidential elections would meet all the critical requirements on transparency and accountability.”

Parliamentary elections are a very... (More on Pp.5)

GHANI NAMES STANECKAZI AS DEFENCE MINISTER NOMINEE

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday announced his nomination for the post of Minister of Defence - Mohammad Humayoon Stanekzai. Speaking at the opening of the International Contact Group meeting at the Presidential Palace early Thursday, Ghani also spoke about the importance of appointing provincial governors but said appointing the right people was critical to this... (More on Pp.5)

KARUL - A senior government official on Thursday said Afghanistan had not signed any agreement with Pakistan in area of intelligence but the draft of such a deal had been prepared.

Vice-chairman of WFP, President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday called for cooperative efforts to combat threats emerging from Daesh militants in various parts of the country. In the same turn, however, the president sought to assure the gathering that Afghanistan would not deviate into a conflict of the kind seen in Iraq and Syria.

(China on Pp.5)

No Intelligence Deal Signed with Pakistan

Nangarhar Residents Voice Concerns over Security Issues

JALALABAD - A Nangarhar province resident, Sediq Shamsani said on Thursday evening that most of the people in the province support Daesh control and government as being ignorant of the problem. In addition, a number of security clothes have been seized by the security forces for at least a month and that out of 22 districts, only five or six cases are under government control. The rest are now controlled by Daesh.

This gives people an opportunity to act as Daesh affiliates. “Daesh is coming out with a strategy with all-Qaeda. However both groups are determined to continue instability in the world,” Ghani told the assembled crowd of ambassadors and... (More on Pp.5)

Activist and Qazi Ismail Ahmad, another civil society activist.

All four accused complained that Daesh had exposed the province as the strongest insurgent group in the province. However, contradicted statements emerged from Ismaili saying that Daesh infiltrates the Ismailis and kidnaps them but Shamsani disputed that saying that Daesh is actually terrorizing the people.

When asked about the situation, Shamsani, Daesh has told the locals that they will deal with any government employer or civilians but only Pakistanis are not to be targeted.

Shamsani said and because of this, no Afghan government official has the power to... (More on Pp.5)