Germany, US Stress Sweeping Electoral Reforms

KABUL - The US and German special representatives for Afghanistan and Pakistan have convened the talks in Kabul without further delay. Speaking at a joint conference after the Afghanistan Contact Group (ACG) meeting, Daniel Fried, the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, stressed it was necessary that the elections were acceptable to everybody in Afghanistan. “We all want elections in the country but the elections must be established and start work soon.”

Mohammad Khan

Lack of Political will Behind Electoral Reform Impasse

KABUL - With still no progress on electoral reform, and no date yet set for parliamentary elections, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah’s First Deputy, Mohammad Khan, spoke out on Friday to criticise what he sees as a lack of political will among the country’s leaders. Implementation of fundamental reforms in Afghanistan’s electoral system was one of the central tenets of the national unity government agreement, which brought President Hamid Karzai and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah under the same roof. However, with eight months passed, the leaders have reached an impasse over the formation of a committee to oversee the reform agenda. Highlights their lack of common ground.

Computerized System Introduced for Revenue Collection: MoF

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Saturday established a computerized revenue collection system for revenue collection of customs and revenue departments of the country. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed on Saturday between Ms. Gul Murtadza, secretary of customs and revenue department, and Esha Khanzada, deputy director of the Afghan Central Bank. Najibullah Wardak, director of the customs and revenue department.

Rula Ghani to Oversee RS Gender Integration Projects, Expenditure

KABUL - Rula Ghani, First Lady of Afghanistan, was named honorary chair of a high-level advisory committee established to oversee the Resident Support (RS) Gender Office’s priorities, during a meeting at Resi dent Support Headquarters in Kabul.

Karzai, Modi Discuss Issues of Mutual Interest

KABUL - During his stopover in New Delhi, former president Hamid Karzai on Saturday held a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed with him issues of mutual interest. Following discussion of the government, the former president left for Beijing on Saturday morning. A statement from the office of former president said that Karzai left for China on an official visit.

Indian Consortium Scraps Gigantic Afghan Project

KABUL - After developing cold feet over the proposed $13 billion steel project on an Afghan site, the SAIL-led consortium of Indian steelmakers has now decided to scrap the project altogether. India’s media reports that a multi-ministerial group is learnt to have come to the conclusion at its latest meeting that it would be prudent not to pursue the project.

Though some perceive Afghan president Mohammad Ghani’s pro-Pakistan leanings could... (More on P4-5)

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