

Senators Ask President, CEO to Resign

KABUL - Some Meshrano Jirga members on Tuesday said the president and the chief executive officer (CEO) should resign for their failure to form cabinet in three months. President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah promised they would form cabinet in 45 days soon after they were inaugurated on Sept. 29, but failed to do so during that period. Currently, all the ministries, independent directorates and provincial administrations are run by acting heads. Some analysts say the issue of acting heads has resulted in increased insecurity, administrative corruption and other problems. Senate member from southern Zabul province, Mohammad



Daud Asas, told the general session that the security and economic situation was deteriorating with each passing day due to the acting officials. Lashing out at the government for the delay in cabinet formation, he said: "They could not form cabinet in 100 days. On behalf of the Afghanistan people, I request them (the president and the CEO) to stand down." His colleague from eastern Kunar province, Mohammad Amin Safi, held a similar view. He said the president and the CEO had been unable to choose 30 persons from the country's 30 million populations in three months. "The government should not have... (More on P4)...(1)

Russia to Complete Afghan Projects: Envoy



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani, who met on Monday with the new Russian ambassador to Kabul, stressed enhanced bilateral relations between the two countries. Ghani received Alexander Mantytskiy at the Presidential Palace and discussed with him issues concerning bilateral relations, economy, trade and efforts at countering narcotics, a statement from the palace said. The Russian ambassador, who presented his credentials to the president, assured of his country's support to the Afghan unity government. He said he would try to further promote Russia's relations with Afghanistan during his stay in Kabul. The envoy said Russia was eager to complete construction projects his country had left unfinished in Afghanistan. Afghan deputy foreign minister Atiqullah Atifmal also held a separate... (More on P4)...(2)

228 Paktika Schools Have No Buildings: Officials



SHARAN - Of 358 educational institutions, at least 228 schools have no buildings in this southeastern Paktika province, officials and residents said Tuesday. Another challenge of serious nature is that the province is facing with acute shortage of professional and trained teachers, which has badly affected the vital sector. The residents and officials demanded the government adopt a comprehensive strategy to remove obstacles in the way of education sector. Masoom Khan, education officer of Yousafkhel district, told Pajhwok Afghan News of 12 functional educational institutions, five schools have no proper buildings in his district. Students are forced to sit under makeshift tents in the institutions having no buildings, he said, adding that steps should be taken to bolster the educational ratio in this remote province. Ahmad Jan, education officer of Matta Khan district, said that education in his district was in shambles because most of the schools had no buildings. "Children are being taught in the tents and the teachers have to send children their homes when... (More on P4)...(4)

SIGAR Calls for Assistance in Retrieving Wasted Funds



KABUL - Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) who is seeking to retrieve the United States wasted or stolen funds in Afghanistan has called for assistance. SIGAR says anyone who has information of US funds being stolen, wasted or abused which was allocated for Afghanistan's reconstruction, is requested to assist retrieve it. SIGAR says information of individuals providing information will be kept confidential. Reports have been published in the past that some US funds as well as the fund provided by other donor countries have been wrongly used. (KP)

Civil Society Wants All Seminaries Registered

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Civil society activists and university students in northern Balkh province on Monday asked the government to register and legalise all religious seminaries in the country. Syed Muhammad Yazdan Parast, the Omid and Hamzisty Cultural Centre head, said students of a seminary had allegedly killed an Afghan soldier in northern Badghis province few days ago. Speaking at a gathering held at the provincial Education Department, the civil society activist said the soldier had entered the seminary to perform ablution for prayers, but he was killed by the students. ... (More on P4)...(8)

Obama Urged to Replace its Calendar Driven Draw Down

WASHINGTON - Top Republican Senator John McCain on Monday urged the Obama Administration to replace its calendar-based draw-down of troops from Afghanistan with a plan based on conditions on the ground. "The Administration must replace its calendar-driven draw-down of U.S. forces with a plan based on conditions on the ground. If this is not done, and if the Administration insists on pulling all U.S. forces out of the country for political reasons, Afghanistan will deteriorate just as Iraq



has since 2011," McCain warned in a statement. He warned that "that would not just be a tragedy for the Afghan people; it would put the American people in far greater danger." No one should mis-

take the Administration's declared end of combat operations in Afghanistan with an end of the mission there, he noted. "While our troops and civilians are making steady... (More on P4)...(3)

Thousands Insurgents to Join Peace Soon: Dostum

KABUL - Looking more committed to bringing peace since assumed office as the First Vice President, Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum hoped thousands of armed insurgents would renounce violence and join the peace process in next 20 days. His optimistic remarks came after 200 armed insurgents including their commander, Mawlawi Nematullah, laid down their weapons in Darzab district of northern Jawzjan, the home province for



Dostum. Dostum, who is travelling to the northern provinces, said on Tuesday that he has started fresh efforts to bring the northern insurgents to peace process. "Let's get together to check whether we can defend our country by our own," Dostum said while... (More on P4)...(5)

Poppy Growth Rises, Drug Seizures Decline

KABUL - Senior Counternarcotics Officials On Tuesday Said Poppy Cultivation And Drug Smuggling Continued To increase in the country and the level of drugs seized had declined. Deputy Counternarcotics Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Azhar told a gathering in Kabul that narcotics were not only injurious to health, but they propelled insecurity. "Therefore, it must be fought seriously." He said there had been a persistent rise in drugs production since 2001, harming every segment of the society from good governance to security and development. Azhar said countering narcotics was not just related to his ministry, but public was also responsible to prevent poppy from being cultivated. He promised continued efforts at eradicating the menace of drugs despite less equipment and facilities at hand. A UN survey shows poppy cultivation increased by 7 percent and hashish by 17 percent in Afghanistan last season. Haroon Rashid Shirzad, deputy minister for policy and coordination at the Ministry of Counternarcotics, said the level of seizing drugs had gradually declined and dealers... (More on P4)...(6)

1,200 ANA Officers Graduate, Prepare for Deployment

KABUL - The Kabul Military Training Center graduated 1,200 new Afghan National Army (ANA) officers on Tuesday at a ceremony attended by top Defense Ministry officials. The new officers join a growing military force that has taken the reigns from foreign troops and claimed a readiness to either make peace with the Taliban, or defeat them on the battlefield. Major General Mohammed Habib Hesari, General Commander of Education and Training for the Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD), spoke to the ANA graduates on Tuesday. The newly graduated officers are expected to utilize their particular skills and training focuses pursued at the capital's Military Training Center against the armed insurgents and help restore security and stability to Afghanistan. General Hesari called on the graduates to carry out their duties bearing the principles of honesty, patriotism and faithfulness. "You should not be distressed about anything and do not think on any issue; you should only think about one issue, and that is how to eliminate the enemy and where," he said. According... (More on P4)...(7)



German Army Contributed to NATO 'Hit List' in Afghanistan



BERLIN - German opposition lawmakers called Tuesday for an investigation into reports that the country's army and foreign intelligence agency contributed to a NATO list of Taliban targets in Afghanistan, some of whom were killed. Citing NATO documents, German newspapers Der Spiegel and Bild have

reported that Germany was among the countries that added names of insurgents to the alliance's Joint Prioritized Effects List, or JPTEL. Germany had the third-largest contingent of troops participating in NATO's International Security Assistance Force for Afghanistan, which ended... (More on P4)...(9)

Decision Taken Only on Two Cabinet Ministers: Dr. Abdullah

KABUL - The Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah has said that the Government of National Unity has taken decision on the appointment of two cabinet ministers so far. In a meeting with the parliament house speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim and lawmakers on Monday, Dr. Abdullah said President Ghani has not taken a final decision regarding the remaining cabinet ministers. Ibrahim met with the Dr. Abdullah on Monday to find out regarding the delays by the Government of National Unity to introduce the new cabinet. This comes as earlier reports suggested that President Ghani and CEO Ab-



dullah are still at odds on the introduction of the cabinet. A presidential palace official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, had confirmed that the two leaders are still have some differences on the introduction of the new cabinet. The Government of National Unity has not introduced the new cabinet despite three months have passed since the formation of the government. The Afghan lawmakers also warned last week to summon President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani if the new cabinet was not introduced. (KP)