

CEO Dr. Abdullah

More Cabinet Picks to be Referred to Wolesi Jirga Soon

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Monday said remaining ministers-designate would be introduced to the Wolesi Jirga for vote of confidence in coming weeks.

Speaking at a ceremony here, the CEO thanked President Ashraf Ghani and the lower house for reposing trust in Salahuddin Rabbani as foreign minister. He hailed Rabbani as a qualified man, with a robust reputation.



For his part, the minister promised a proactive foreign policy would be framed based on discussions with intellectuals, members of parliament, political parties and technocrats.

He said he would be trying to place a balanced foreign policy, supported by the people of Afghanistan, before public representatives for approval. Rabbani vowed to serve all Afghans, not a specific group, and that he would ...*(More on P4)...*(1)

Faryab Clashes Displace Hundreds of Families

MAIMANA - Nearly 1,000 families fled homes after one civilian was killed and 20 others were wounded during ongoing clashes in the Qaisar district of northwestern Faryab province, officials said on Monday.

Launched four days ago, an operation by Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel had so far resulted in several clashes with insurgents, the district chief, Abdul Jamil Sadiqi, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Civilians suffered casualties after heavy weapons hit their houses during clashes. He said more than 800 families had moved to Qaisar and Almar district centres and some to Maimana, the provincial capital.

However, provincial council head Syed Abdul Baqi Hashimi ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

8 Cabinet Ministers, Spymaster Formally Embark on Work

KABUL - Eight ministers of the national unity government, who won votes of confidence from Wolesi Jirga, formally began work on Monday.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani administered oath to the eight ministers and the spymaster on Sunday during a ceremony at the Presidential Palace.

On Wednesday, the lower house approved Ghani's picks for the nine key slots, including the National Directorate of Security (NDS) head. ...*(More on P4)...*(2)



Australia Warns ISIS May Expand into Afghanistan

At security summit between Australia and UK, assessments shared on possible ISIS spread into Taliban elements.

KABUL - Australia's foreign minister said Monday there is a danger of Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists expanding operations to Afghanistan, even though there is little

evidence of a presence there now.

Julie Bishop, hosting Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and Defense Secretary Michael Fallon for

annual security talks, said she was made aware of "some evidence of a connection" between ISIS and elements of the Taliban on a recent visit to Afghanistan. "But there ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

Farah, Badghis PCs Also Join Protest against WJ

FARAH CITY/QALA-I-NAW - Protest rallies were staged on Monday in western Farah and northwestern Badghis provinces against Wolesi Jirga's decision barring provincial councils from overseeing the performance of provincial entities. On Wednesday, the lower house amended the law on provincial councils by a majority vote, barring PCs from evaluating and overseeing the performance of local government departments.

The decision sparked protests by PC members in several provinces and they closed their offices to put pressure on the lower house to reverse its decision.

Nearly 200 people, some coming from nearby districts, ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

AHRDO Calls for Action on the Rise of Female Harassment



KABUL - Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO), a non-governmental organization, has expressed great concern in their recent report titled "Women in the Perspective of Men" on the growing culture of female discrimination and harassment in every aspect of life. According to the report, the method of preaching pursued by imams throughout the regions without government control has strengthened the idea of male domination, which has caused the deprivation of women of their basic humanitarian rights and raised violence against them.

"Our findings indicate that in remote areas where the government has ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

German Issues 15 Master Degree Scholarships to Afghans

German Embassy in Kabul issued 15 Master Degree scholarships to Afghans.



KABUL - As per the information provided by the German Embassy, these qualified scholars include lecturers from Kabul Polytechnic University, Kabul University, Balkh University, Banyan University, Sheberghan University and staff of the Afghan Ministry of Mines and Petroleum. They will study a two years Master Degree in geosciences at the Technical ...*(More on P4)...*(7)

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