

# Cabinet Announcement Likely on Wednesday

KABUL - The new cabinet of the Government of National Unity is likely to be introduced by the Presidential Palace on coming Wednesday. Sources privy of the development have told Radio Free Europe that the issue was discussed during a meeting in the palace today. The sources have further added that President Ghani is expected to hold talks with the nominees on coming Monday and Tuesday. This comes as President Ghani promised on Wednesday to introduce the cabinet of the Government of National Unity in less than one week. During a meeting with a dele-



gation of the Afghan lawmakers led by house speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, President Ghani said the majority of issues for the formation of the new cabinet have resolved and the nominees would be introduced in the near future. The cabinet of the Government of National Unity has not been announced despite three months have passed since the formation of the new government. President Ghani and chief executive officer Dr. Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in on Monday 29th September 2014 after the two leaders agreed to form a Government of National ... (More on P4)...(1)

## 5,000 Mines Defused in Maiwand District: Officials



KANDAHAR - More than 5,000 mines planted by insurgents in various areas of Maiwand district in southern Kandahar province have been defused by the police, officials said Sunday. Jan Agha, the district police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News insurgents were more active in this district comparatively. He said a major challenge to the lives of civilians

and security forces were land mines and roadside bombs that were indiscriminately planted by rebels in civilian areas. "Before, the explosives used to be brought from the other side of the border but now they are being made here. For example, making an anti-armored bomb just costs 1,000 afis to 1,200 afis. But transferring explosives from ... (More on P4)...(2)

## MPs Want Wedding Deaths Deeply Probed



KABUL - The Meshrano Jirga on Sunday called for a thoroughgoing investigation into Wednesday's shelling on a wedding party in Helmand province and giving harsher punishment to the perpetrators. Several mortar rounds blamed on Afghan military hit a wedding party in the Sangin district, killing 21 guests, including the bride, and injuring another more than 50, mostly women and children. Six Afghan National Army soldiers manning the posts from where the shells were fired have been arrested and two of them are being court marshaled. Senators discussed the tragic incident during Sunday's general session and strongly condemned it. Senator Sher Mohammad Akhonzada from Helmand said he along with a number of colleagues had visited families of the victims in Sangin. "The marriage participants said they had informed the army that they were holding a wedding party tonight and there should no firing. But it was in the afternoon, when the troops fired mortars from three posts, killing and wounding a number of people, a majority of them women and children." Akhonzada said the military officials told him they fired at the wedding because a militant had hidden among the guests. He said Sangin residents had called for dismissal of the town's administration officials and a harsher punishment to those involved in the shelling. His colleague from southern Zabul province, Mohammad Daud Asas, said the Sangin incident was highly condemnable and the responsible ones should ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Azizullah Ludin Passes Away



KABUL - Azizullah Ludin, ex-chairman High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption, died on Sunday morning in a US hospital after suffering a heart attack, a relative said. Mohammad Ismail told Pajhwok Afghan News Ludin was flown to the US for treatment last Sunday and was due to undergo a heart operation on Monday, but he died of a heart attack on Sunday. Ludin had served as Wolesi Jirga secretary in 2005 before being appointed as head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC). His last assignment was the chairmanship of High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption. He was a candidate in the 2014 presidential election. (Pajhwok)

## Govt. Revenue Down 8pc in 2014



### Ministry of Finance Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

KABUL - The government's revenue reached 109 billion afghanis in 2014, showing an eight percent dip, an official said on Sunday. The target for revenue collection in 2014 had been set 132 billion afghanis, but it

could not be achieved due to some problems, the Finance Ministry said. The government revenue experiences decline at a time when foreign aid makes up 70 percent of the country's annual

budget. Finance Ministry's spokesman Abdul Qadir Jilani said 44.8 billion afghanis of the revenue had come from customs offices and the rest from private sector entrepreneurs and other sources. He ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Iran Planning to Enhance Exports to Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Deputy Governor-General of Khorasan Razavi Province Reza Jamshidi said that Afghanistan's large market and its common borders with Khorasan Razavi are good opportunities that are to be seized more seriously than before to expand exports to the neighboring country. "Iran is set to increase the value of its exports to Af-



ghanistan to \$2.5bln by the mid-March 2015," Jamshidi said on Saturday. ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Crime Ratio Declined in Capital Kabul: Police Chief



KABUL - Kabul police on Sunday claimed arresting 139 criminals, seizing 134 weapons of different brands and recovering 89 kilograms of narcotics in the last couple of weeks in the capital city. Police Chief Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi said the individuals had been detained from different areas of the city wanted to the police in criminal cases, including robbery, vehicles thefts and other cases. He said a group of criminals wanted in jewelry theft case from a shop at the Licy Maryam bazaar was also busted. He said 89 kilograms of opium had been recovered and eight alleged smugglers detained, including three women and two children. Referring to latest figures, he noted 16 percent decline in the crime rate in the capital Kabul. (Pajhwok)

## Paktika Customs Officials Accused of Bribery

GARDEZ - Provincial council members of southeastern Paktika province on Sunday accused local customs officials of involvement in massive corruption and demanded action against them. But officials said the increase in revenue of the Customs Department was a proof of transparency in its affairs.

Mohammad Rahman Qadari, the provincial council secretary, said a majority of trucks loaded with goods were allowed to proceed without paying customs duty. He said the truckers paid hefty bribes to customs officials instead of taxes. Qadari said they would form a committee to investigate the alleged corruption at the customs department. Taj Mohammad, another provincial council member, said they were concerned about the increasing graft in the customs department. He said customs officials used tricks how to prevent trucks from paying taxes and pocketing the money themselves, a practice usually done during night time. He said thousands of afghanis ended up in pockets of the officials on a daily basis. Some journalists visited the customs office and found that tax on seven to 10 tonnes of goods was received ... (More on P4)...(5)

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