

**ISIS Start Operations in Helmand, Residents Claim**



LASHKARGAH - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), also known as Daesh, has started operations in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan.

According to the local residents of Sangin district, a group of insurgents in black uniforms have started movements in the district carrying black flags and vehicles.

They are saying that the group is led by a local commander identified as Abdul Rauf are operating in Zamin Dawar area of Sangin and also parts of Kajaki district.

In the meantime, a local government official has confirmed that a gun battle broke out between the Taliban militants and a newly formed group recently which left at least 20 people dead.

The official speaking on the condition of anonymity said the group has so far been operating secretly in the two districts.

The reports of ISIS operations in Helmand province comes as President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani expressed concerns last week regarding potential threats by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to Afghanistan.

The Islamic State group is not believed to have operations in Afghanistan and the reports have not been independently confirmed by security institutions. ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

**183 Insurgent Killed in Dangam**



KABUL - At least 183 insurgents have been killed and 122 others injured so far in the fighting with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) continued for more than a month in Dangam district of eastern Kunar, said Abdul Habib Syedkhili, the provincial police chief.

The large-scale ANSF operations began in Dangam after hundreds of armed insurgents, reportedly most of them Pakistani Taliban, attacked the district in the borders with Pakistan. According to Syedkhili, over 80 percent of the area is now under control of ANSF as most of villages have been cleared of militants.

"The situation is getting improved now but the only problem to security forces are the landmines placed by ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

**Cabinet to be Named Today: Mohammadi**

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's Legal Advisor Abdul Ali Mohammad on Sunday said the new cabinet would be announced Today (Monday).

He told reporters in Kabul that some people wanted to impose the nomination of unqualified individuals as cabinet members on the president, who stoutly resisted such moves.

Mohammadi said selection of qualified and talented individuals as ministers was in line with the constitution. The basic law would be violated if qualified people were not included in the cabinet, he explained.

So far Ghani had been under immense pressure from different quarters to include certain individuals in the Council of Ministers, the advisor admitted. The president ...*(More on P4)...*(1)



**MPs to Rise for Recess if Cabinet Not Named Till Monday**



KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga -- or lower house of parliament -- will start its winter break if new cabinet picks are not introduced on Monday for a vote of confidence, an official said on Sunday.

After taking oath on September 29, both President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah had promised unveiling the cabinet within 45 days -- a deadline they have failed to meet. Earlier, the lower house had given the government one week's time to introduce the cabinet. The president had also promised during the oath-taking ceremony for 34 newly-elected senators the cabinet would be named soon.

Wolesi Jirga Deputy Secretary Irfanullah Irfan told Pajhwok Afghan News: "As of 12.30pm on Sunday, we haven't received any list of ministers-designate." The house will rise for its 45-day winter vacation on Jan 20.

Under the jirga rules of business, documents of the ministers-designate are scrutinised in four days and the cabinet picks also need a few days to spell out their priorities before the assembly hand their votes of confidence.

"If the government doesn't refer the cabinet choices to the house for trust vote in a day or two, we will be left with no time to vote for or against them. We will embark on our winter break," the deputy secretary explained. ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

**Ghani, ISI Chief for Joint Steps to**

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Sunday met Pakistan's spymaster and both sides underlined the need to enhance cooperation against the scourge of terrorism.

Ghani and Rizwan Akhtar, director general of Pakistan's premier intelligence agency ISI, held detailed agreed on joining hands to combat terror and ensure peace in Pakistan and Afghanistan. A statement from the Presidential Palace said the two leaders discussed regional security during their meeting. Akhtar was appointed chief of the spy network four months back. (Pajhwok)

**President Promised Cabinet Announcement Today: Ibrahim**

KABUL - While President Ashraf Ghani has only promised an announcement of the new cabinet within the coming days, Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, the Chair of the House of Representatives, said the president has committed to naming the cabinet on Monday (today).



The cabinet impasse has lasted over 100 days into the first term of the national unity government. President Ghani has pleaded for patience from the public, citing his desire to choose the most qualified individuals for leadership positions as the reason for the delay.

"Cabinet will be announced to you, patience has results," Ghani said

at a Senate confirmation hearing on Saturday. "Inshallah, everything will be fine, if you put pressure and I tolerate, it will not result ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

**CEO Wants USAID Funds Spent on Girls' College**

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Sunday suggested part of \$216 million allocated for women's empowerment by the US should be spent on the construction of a girls' college.



The USAID-funded programme was launched

on Nov 9, 2014 by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani at a ceremony attended by high-ranking government officials and foreign diplomats.

Via the project called Promote, the USAID is supporting 75,000 young Afghan women and girls by strengthening rights ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

**1,600 ANA Soldiers Complete Training**



KABUL - As many as 1,600 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers, including 200 lieutenants, completed their training at the Military Academy in Kabul on Sunday.

Brig. Gen. Aminullah Patyani, the academy commander, said the six months training was led and supervised by Afghan trainers. Earlier, foreigners trained ANA soldiers and officers at the academy. He added after getting

professional training, the ANA officers would be stationed in different parts of the country to ensure security. He called the army an apolitical institution that was capable of deterring all kinds of threats.

Maj. Gen. Mohammad Habib Asghari, director general for training, said ANA had emerged as a strong force and would never accept defeat. He called upon the people to support their armed forces. (Pajhwok)

**Authorized Afghan Immigrants to Get Work Permit**



TEHRAN - Authorized Afghan immigrants will get work permit after changing their status, Iranian Director General for foreign nationals employment at Ministry of Labor, Cooperatives and social welfare said on Sunday.

According to IRNA correspondent at the Ministry, Ali Eqbali

said that upon article 122 of Labor law, his office is to issue work permit for authorized foreign nationals, especially the Afghans after changing their status. He said that authorized foreign nationals employment offices in 14 provinces are ready to issue work permit upon their requests. (IRNA)

MAKE IT POSSIBLE | 4G

**HUAWEI**

**HUAWEI Ascend Mate7**

Live Once, Live Life

Ultra-thin bordered design with polished metallic feel, specially for your unique style.

1 YEAR WARRANTY

+93(0)786 131415 info@khalidlemar.com

FB.com/Huawei.khalidlemar www.khalidlemar.com

Official Distributor

D-100 -116, 4th Floor, Gul Bahar Center, Malik Asghar Square, Kabul, Afghanistan