

### (1) Dual Citizenship...

documents have been returned to the Presidential palace for having dual citizenship are Ay Sultan Khairee, Ahmad Sayer Mahjur, Shah Zaman Maiwandi and Faiz Mohammad Kakar.

Abdul Rawouf Inami, a parliament member told Khaama Press that after enough proof that cabinet nominees have cancelled their dual citizenship the House of Representatives should not have issues with them.

However, he said that there are political hands behind the nomination of these seven cabinet nominees and would probably try to make problems for them.

In the meantime, Shukria Barakzai a member of the parliament in an interview with Khaama Press condemned the decision of the House of Representatives (Wolesi Jirga) for not considering cabinet members for confident vote with dual citizenship.

She said it is against articles 33, 64 and 72 of the law, adding that according to the law a citizen of Afghanistan is not obliged to give up his or her dual citizenship for becoming a cabinet member.

She also said that there are political hands behind these nominees and are trying to bring their people in the circle after removing them from the list. (KP)

### (2) Parliamentary ...

transparent Parliamentary election was linked to political will of the government and international community.

"If the coming elections are to be held with the same classic system, definitely we will face new crises," Barmak said, warning if the government is not serious in bringing reforms, the international community will no longer provide financial aids and support the security forces.

Meanwhile, the former IEC chief, Fazl Ahmad Manawi, warned that holding of parliamentary elections before necessary reforms would be a political suicide.

"I don't believe holding of elections could be possible without reforms," Manawi said, warning that the IEC officials would likely create chaos in order to retain their seats.

According to election monitoring bodies, if necessary reforms were not brought into the electoral system, neither the international community will support the elections, nor the people will participate in the elections.

The MPs have proposed amendments in more than 30 articles of the election law; however the changes are yet to be finalized and approved by the Parliament. But the legal and judicial commission of the House of Representatives says the amended election law will be finalized after the winter recess of the MPs.

After the National Unity Government (NUG) was formed following the longest Presidential Election in Afghanistan's history which was marred by massive frauds, both the NUG leaders, President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah, promised the nation to bring necessary reforms in the electoral system to avoid reoccurrence of crises. (Tolonews)

### (3) Terror Safe ...

guest at India's Republic Day Parade, said: "As president, I have made sure that the US has been unrelenting in its fight against terrorist groups -- a fight in which Indians and Americans are united." While it was true that progress had not always come as fast as the US and India would have liked, they had been able to deepen their relationship across the board, he added.

Given India's strategic location, he remarked: "We can advance our shared security and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific. When India and the US work together, both our countries, and the world, are more secure and prosperous." (Pajhwok)

### (4) MoTT is to...

The Ministry of Telecommunication and Technology aims to create online marketing which engages mostly the youths, he added.

The nominated minister for Ministry of Communication and Technology says that the new government must assign particu-

lar quota for those women who due to financial shortcomings cannot continue their higher education, providing them scholarships for IT.

The Ministry of Communication is prepared to hire youth employees. The youths can play an active role in technology. If the youths are educated we can progress and even contest with regional countries, Karimi said. "If IT is developed, we can create more job opportunities for women and youth", Borna Added.

Pointing to the recent success Afghanistan has achieved in the region, Karimi said there are troubles that should be addressed. "Afghanistan must invest more on IT", he stated.

Meanwhile, numbers of young activists who have been interviewed by Markazi Press said that they will support Borna Karimi. Borna Karimi is the nominated minister for Ministry of Communication and Technology. (Markazi Press)

### (5) DAB Governor...

departments are to explain their future programmes to the lower house.

Ministers-designate of energy and water and finance, as well as DAB head Khalil Siddique appeared before the assembly to outline their plans.

Siddique faced a hostile reaction from some lawmakers on the dual-nationality issue. Some of Wolesi Jirga members tried to prevent him from speaking.

The administrative head said the dual-nationality law applied to ministers-designate only, not to independent department heads. But the MPs insisted independent organ heads being part of the cabinet should neither be treated differently nor permitted to spell out their views.

The issue led to a physical fight between female lawmakers Shakhiba Hashimi and Lailuma Wali Hakimi, who were later taken out of the session by security guards.

After the rowdy scene, Siddique also left the house in compliance with Speaker Abdur Rauf Ibrahim's ruling. The incident came as the question of dual nationality caused differences among the MPs.

At least 13 of the cabinet candidates have dual nationality and lawmakers have already rejected seven of them. They have vowed not to vote for such cabinet choices. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Afghan Leaders ...

Muslim countries, particularly Afghanistan, Abdullah said. Meanwhile, former president Hamid Karzai appreciated Abdullah's services to the Islamic world, especially his efforts for peace in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Parliamentary ...

grade certificate, Sayed Hussain Alami Balkhi's bachelor degree had been approved.

"Moments ago, I spoke to acting education minister Asif Nang. He said Balkhi did not have any documents of the 12th class," the MP added.

Furthermore, Mehdawi said Balkhi had received his bachelor degree from Iran in 1991, but 14 years later, he completed his 14th class in Kabul.

But education commission head Kamal Naser Usooli said in line with the law they were only evaluating the nominees' higher education documents.

The Ministry of Higher Education has also verified Balkhi's documents. "I cannot say that a nominee's documents have issues only because of someone else's wishes."

Deputy Speaker Sediq Ahmad Osmani, who chaired the session, said only the education commission's findings were acceptable to the house and Balkhi could speak about his programmes. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Hakimi to Fix ...

be introducing a standard tax collection system, economic development, a balanced budget, a determined campaign against graft and promoting the culture of merit.

Delay in funding development projects, he said, had caused an economic downturn and would exhaust current year's budget.

He pledged a thorough evaluation and updating the economic policy.

Hakimi said the development budget would be increased substantially. "If endorsed, I will be a fair finance minister and with the experience I have gained from working from various national and international agencies, I will improve the current status of our budget."

Hakimi is a son of Abdul Wakil Hakimi and was born in Kabul. He has an engineering degree from Kabul's Polytechnic University and obtained education in the US.

Hakimi has worked as deputy foreign minister for political affairs, and Afghanistan's ambassador to various countries, including the US. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Salahi Pledges...

countries by resolving disputes over irrigation and improving relevant departments.

He also plans creating a master plan for nationwide water management, launching a variety projects.

Eight million hectares of land in the country can be made arable but due to lack of a proper irrigation system, only two million hectares are under cultivation. He would increase the area under cultivation to 2.8 million hectares.

The projects will generate job opportunities for 700,000 Afghans and give three million people access to clean drinking water.

By exploiting its water, Afghanistan can produce up to 23,000 megawatts of electricity -- solar and wind. He promised to convert the energy-deficient country into a power-exporting nation.

"Power production would be increased from 1,385 to 2,700 megawatts and increase access to electricity from nine percent to 50pc in remote areas," Salahi continued.

He will also jack up electricity supply to industrial units from 40 percent to 80pc. Completing ongoing projects and cementing cooperation with neighbouring countries are among his primary goals.

Salahi is a son of Abdul Baqi and was born in 1957 in Herat province. He received his master's degree in road construction from Polytechnic University in Kabul. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Militants Still ...

Dangam had ended with the killing and injuring of 408 militants.

He said security forces, who also suffered casualties, had been able to clear a large number of areas from insurgents.

Kunar police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Habib Syedkhal on Saturday told Pajhwok Afghan News that the military offensive in Dangam had come to an end.

He said government forces had overrun key areas and points from insurgents like Kanartu Sar, Ayub Banda, Zaman Banda and some other areas, where they had established security posts.

He said security forces were stationed in the town with full might after clearing the said areas from militants.

But one of the uprising leaders, Haji Muzamil, told Pajhwok Afghan News that insurgents remained in control of areas where residents spearheaded an uprising against them.

"Homes of residents in the district's Shinkai, Sawon, Sur Kamar and Kachli areas have been torched and the families displaced. Militants still exist in these areas," he said.

He said security forces had set up their posts in nearby areas, but problems of local residents had not been resolved.

A resident of Sawon area, Mir Habib, said their homes had been torched and they fled homes empty-handed. He urged the government to assist them in rebuilding their homes.

He claimed security forces had established their posts within few kilometers of the district centre, while insurgents were based in villages and enjoyed free movement.

He said the government should

drive insurgents from areas, where residents had revolted against them. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Irrigation Tools ...

The free tools were distributed to farmers who irrigated their high-altitude orchards by using electricity or fuel. Such sets would be distributed to orchard owners, with the beneficiaries contributing only 25 percent of the cost, he said, informing farmers were being trained on how to use the tools.

Farmers, who received the materials, expressed happiness and said the tools would enable them to irrigate their orchards with much ease.

Hamidullah, a grower in Kunduz, said he would face numerous problems during summer while irrigating his orchards. The tools would help him overcome water scarcity without further cost.

Funded by the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), the NHLP project has been launched nationwide to strengthen irrigation by building water reservoirs and improving women's economy through building greenhouses for them. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Ghani off to...

tradition. Dignitaries and leaders from around the world were to arrive in Saudi Arabia Saturday to offer their condolences.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, Prince Charles and French President Francois Hollande were among the first leaders expected while US Vice-President Joe Biden was due to visit in the coming days.

Gulf rulers and leaders including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif were among those who attended Abdullah's simple funeral at Riyadh's Imam Turki bin Abdullah mosque on Friday. Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas and Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak arrived later to deliver condolences.

In the evening, hundreds of Saudis queued to enter a royal palace where they rubbed cheeks and kissed the hands of their new leaders, in a symbolic pledge of allegiance.

Officials did not disclose the cause of Abdullah's death, but the long-ailing ruler had been hospitalised in December with pneumonia. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Pakistan Duping...

was a project for which Pakistan had received \$750 million from the international community.

He opposed the trench when Pakistan first started digging it and the opposition led to a skirmish as well, but later Afghan and the Pakistani governments agreed on the trench to be located 400 metres from the border.

The police chief accused Pakistan of deceiving the international community that the trench would help prevent militants from going between the two countries.

He said the trench would not stop militants from crossing into Afghanistan because they passed through Pakistani check-posts reaching Afghan territory.

Gen. Raziq revealed joint sittings with Pakistani security officials had resumed and he attended a meeting with Balochistan security officials last week. He said the joint meeting was the third of its kind taking place in Kandahar province.

Earlier such meetings would take place at Torkham border crossing in eastern Nangarhar province, said Raziq, who added the joint meetings resumed after a halt lasting four years following President Ghani's visit to Islamabad.

Without providing details of the meeting with Pakistani security officials, the police chief hoped such meetings with neighbours would prove beneficial in enabling them to prevent militant activities by sharing intelligence information and extending cooperation.

About the new emerging threat from the Islamic State, Gen. Raziq said no such group existed in Kandahar and it emergence was only a false propaganda.

"It is the handiwork of regional intelligence agencies, who have

been fighting in this country for the last 20 years in the name of Taliban. Now they want to replace the Taliban's white flags with black and give it the name of IS."

He claimed the IS recruits received training and funding from the same old source and were being used for the same cause to destabilise Afghanistan.

Gen. Raziq also spoke about the security situation in Kandahar and said the situation in some other provinces was worrisome, but in Kandahar it was different. He explained security forces had complete coordination in Kandahar and had the ability to defend the soil and the people.

About the full transfer of security responsibilities to Afghan forces from their foreign counterparts, the police chief said the transition had been completed in Kandahar in 2012, when Afghan forces independently provided security in much of the province. He said Afghan forces would effectively maintain security in areas under their control.

The police also hinted at some security threats entering Kandahar from neighbouring Zabul and Helmand provinces and said they were planning to do away with the threats.

He said a massive security operation jointly with forces in Helmand would be launched soon in the two provinces to clear them from militants.

Gen. Raziq warned if poppy cultivation was not effectively prevented, the fighting would rage next Afghan year. He said they were seriously preventing poppy cultivation and drug smuggling this year because insurgents reimbursed their 70 percent of military costs through poppy cultivation.

"The conflict has been prolonged by narcotics. In Kandahar, we have started working in this regard right away. Even we have detained local police officers who failed to prevent poppy cultivation in Zheri and Maiwand districts."

About targeted killings in Kandahar, Gen. Raziq said Taliban militants traditionally intensified their attacks in districts in summer, but they changed tactics in winter and opted to targeted killings and hit-and-run attacks. He alleged militants were being trained on how to carry out targeted killings across the border, where they were given suppressed pistols.

He said victims of such attacks happened to be police and half a dozen such incidents occurred last month and two suspects had been detained.

He said they were preventing all forms of violence from insurgents with full might. Gen. Raziq also rejected reports of some Kabul-based media outlets that he and some other officials were involved in mysterious killings.

"Such statements are being made by former government officials and some Wolesi Jirga members, who previously ran private jails in Kandahar to kill their opponents. With this impression, they want to spoil people's minds. We are not going to return to 2001, we are advancing, they must stop dreaming for a repetition of the past."

Gen. Raziq claimed a majority of Taliban militants battling Afghan forces had joined the revolt due to actions of the individuals, who forced many Taliban fighters to join hands with Pakistan's intelligence agencies.

The police chief said security forces were in serious in their actions against insurgents because it was mandatory in Islam to protect people.

Raziq said if someone's had a complaint that he was involved in mysterious killings or jailing innocent people, the elders and youth could drag him to a court of law. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Turkmen Aid...

a child training centre, a mosque in Jawzjan and a trade centre in Balkh province. The projects, when completed, will strengthen economic ties between the neighbours.

The consul general said Afghan and Turkmen presidents agreed on the swift completion of the projects during their recent meet-

ing. Bhai Mirad, acting governor of Jawzjan, thanked the government of Turkmenistan for its support to the natural disaster-hit people. He said the people of Jawzjan were in dire need of development projects and Turkmenistan's support manifested the brotherly and close ties between the two countries. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Thousands of...

document. Near the Torkham border, two Afghan minors, one-year-old Zarmina and five-month-old Farmina, froze to death due to severe cold in the Shagai area of Jamrud sub-district.

The victims' family was travelling from Azad Kashmir to Torkham in a tractor trolley. When they reached Torkham at night, the border gate was locked and authorities did not allow the Afghans to cross into their country. (Pajhwok)

### (16) UNSC Stresses...

was established in 2007 in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. It assists and supports the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in finding solutions to emerging problems and eliminating potential threats. The statement followed a briefing on Wednesday by the secretary-general's special representative and head of UNRCCA, Miroslav Jenca, on the work of the center over the past seven months.

"The members of the Security Council reaffirmed the importance of conflict prevention tools in contributing effectively to the maintenance of international peace and security, including through early-warning mechanisms and engaging in preventive diplomacy, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations," the statement said.

UNRCCA's recent efforts aimed at engaging the media in the fight against terrorism, raising awareness, capacity building and promoting information sharing were also commended.

Recognizing the threat posed by illicit drug production, trade and trafficking to international peace and stability in the region, the council also emphasized the importance of close coordination between Afghanistan and its neighbors, in particular the Central Asian states, in combating drug trafficking.

The council acknowledged the impact of the situation in Afghanistan on the Central Asian states and commended the center's role in cooperating with the UN mission in the country and in facilitating the bilateral and multilateral engagement of the Central Asian states with Afghanistan. It encouraged enhanced cooperation and coordination between them. (Xinhua)

### (17) New Australian...

Afghanistan in terms of development and stability, the president said while appreciating the sacrifices of Australian troops. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Kabul's ...

and are in need of repair.

Muhammad Nowroz Hedayati, the tank commander for the 111th Battalion, told TOLONews that new equipment would be helpful, but is not necessary for them to be effective in the immediate term. "The army forces must be equipped with modern technology, but for now, we see the current warfare as sufficient," he said. Mubarak Shah, a tank operator in the 111th, said when he is in the field he relies on the infantry for direction. "When we go to battle, we are under the command of foot forces," he said. "I assure that our forces are honestly defending our country against threats." (Tolonews)

### (19) Concerns over...

spokesman for the Herat Police Chief, Abdul Raouf Ahmadi has confirmed the news and said that they have ordered the police forces not to stomp on the civil liberties of people. "No one has the right to create problems for families when the proper documentation is not in hand," Ahmadi said. It said that dozens of women have been jailed in Herat on adultery allegations. (Tolonews)