

# The Taxation System is to Digitalized: Zaki

KABUL - Faizullah Zaki, the nominated minister for Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation opened his syllabus on Monday 26 Jan to parliament. Pointing to the current situation of transportation, Zaki said there have been numerous changes carried out in transportation affairs, yet the transportation system of Afghanistan confronts many shortcomings. If got voted, Zaki said he would get the charge of airports from NATO within the specific duration of time implementing all requirements according to international standards of aviation. "I will work together with rest of private airlines in Afghanistan" he added. The nominated minister for Ministry of Transport and Civil ... (More on P4)...(1)



## Kabul, Islamabad Confer on Durand Line Security



KABUL - A high-level delegation Afghan Border Police (ABP) team on Monday visited the General Headquarters and held talks with Chief of General Staff (CGS) Lt. Gen. Ishfaq Nadeem Ahmad. The Pakistan military said matters related to border security and measures to enhance the existing coordination mechanism were discussed. The visit is part of a series of meetings planned on both

sides of the border. The 10-member delegation, headed by Afghan Border Police Commander Lt. General Shafiq Fazli, is currently in Pakistan on a five-day visit for forging coordination against terrorism. Accompanied by his deputy Maj. Gen. Shahryar, Gen. Fazli told Pajhwok Afghan News the delegation had arrived in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on ... (More on P4)...(2)

## Afghanistan Launches Poppy Eradication Campaign



KANDAHAR - A top Afghan provincial official has said thousands of poppy plants have been destroyed in some 20,000 acres in Zhari district of the southern Kandahar province. In a recent interview, district governor Jamal Agha told Xinhua that Zhari, a former Taliban stronghold, was known for its massive cultivation of poppy. Kandahar province, with Kandahar city as its capital, used to be under Taliban control. Kandahar and its neighboring Helmand and Zabul provinces, where Taliban militants remain active, are the major producers of opium poppy in Afghanistan. Afghanistan supplies some 90 percent of the main raw material for the manufacture of heroin in the world market. "We continue to destroy poppy fields and encourage farmers to replace poppy with legal crops such as wheat, rice, corn and etc.," Agha said. Observers here said the success of the government's drive against poppy cultivation in Zhari would enable local authorities to initiate anti-poppy campaign in ... (More on P4)...(4)

## US, India Renew Support for Afghan Peace Drive

NEW DELHI - US President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have reiterated their strong commitment to supporting Afghanistan's economy and peace initiative. After their first round of talks on issues of bilateral and regional importance, Obama told reporters in New Delhi on Sunday: "I thank the prime minister for India's strong counter-terror



ism cooperation. "And we have, even as America's combat op-

eration is over in Afghanistan, are going to continue to be strong

partners for the Afghan people who have benefitted from India's generous assistance over many years." Flanking the American leader, Modi also mentioned Afghanistan as part of his talk with Obama. Later, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Sujatha Singh told journalists that the two leaders had discussed Afghanistan. "The situation ... (More on P4)...(3)

## India Embassy in Kabul Celebrates 66th Republic Day

KABUL - The Embassy of India in Kabul celebrated the 66th Republic Day of India amid a colourful function on Monday held in the newly constructed Indian Embassy complex here on Monday. A statement from the Indian Embassy said that ambassador of India, Amar Sinha, hoisted the Indian national flag during a function attended by local In-

dian community and Afghans of Indian origin which turned out in large numbers to mark the anniversary of India becoming a Republic on 26th January, 1950. A few Afghan friends had also joined the function. Sinha read the Republic Day speech of the president of the Republic of India and also recalled that ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Signs of Discord over Electoral Reform

KABUL - After months of negotiations between national unity government leaders over the formation of the new cabinet, sources close to the President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah have indicated that the two men may be at odds with one another again, this time over reforming the election commissions. Following this year's troubled election pro-

cess, which saw Abdullah launch major allegations of fraud against his then opponent Ghani as well as the election authorities, calls for reform were resounding. Across the board, government leaders seemed to agree that major legislative reform needed to be enacted to address the duties and responsibilities of the election ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Basir Plans to Convert Afghanistan into Transit Hub



KABUL - The public works minister-designate on Monday pledged to work out plans for infrastructure development and spreading a network of roads. Seeking a vote of confidence from the Wolessi Jirga members, Ghulam Abbas Basir said he would convert at least 20 provinces of the country into transit centres. "I will also convert Af-

ghanistan into a bridge connecting regional countries," he promised, hinting at evolving a master plan for building roads and railway lines within one year. Basir believed Afghanistan needed 100,000 kilometres of asphalted roads and 580,000 kilometres of railroads. The proposed projects will require \$30 billion. "If granted the trust vote, ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Shinwari Promises Reaching out to Tribes Across Border



KABUL - The minister of border and tribal affairs-designate on Monday said eliminating border violations and promoting national reconciliation would be his priority. Explaining his programmes, Qamaruddin Shinwari, told lawmakers, if endorsed, he would develop inclusive strategic plans for stability and ensure enhanced relations with tribes across the Durand

Line. It was important, he said, to attract tribal support for a speedy peace process and fight illicit drug production. Jirgas would be extensively used for national reconciliation, Shinwari added. He acknowledged it was important to have ulama, tribal elders and other personalities on board in order to prevent troubles. ... (More on P4)...(8)

## 3 More Cabinet Picks Have Dual Nationality: MP

KABUL - Wolessi Jirga member Shukria Barakzai said on Monday the lower house received dual nationality complaints about three more ministers-designate. Barakzai told journalists ministers-designate of foreign affairs Salahuddin Rabbani, interior affairs Noor-ul-Haq Ulumi, public works Sadat Naderi, urban development Shah Zaman Maiwandi and information



Sultan Khairi have already given up their dual nationality rights. "The embassies of the countries concerned have made clear that ministers-designate have to travel abroad on Afghan passports after surrendering their dual nationality rights," she noted. In addition, she said, a number of Wolessi Jirga ... (More on P4)...(9)

## Australia Pledges \$300 Million to Afghanistan



KABUL - The government of Australia on Monday pledged an additional aid of \$300 million to Afghanistan which would be spent on civilian projects in the next two years. The latest commitment was made during Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop's visit to Kabul. Speaking during a press conference with CEO Dr. Abdullah Abdullah Bishop said the funds would be spent on private sector with an aim to boost economic opportunities in the country. She said the government of Australia spent around \$1 billion in civilian sector in the past

Australia was also one of the main contributors to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan. Around 1,600 Australian troops were serving under the NATO-led ISAF mission who were mainly stationed in central Uruzgan province of Afghanistan. According to reports Australia has deployed around 400 troops in Afghanistan who are operating under the new NATO non-combat mission - Resolute Support ... (More on P4)...(11)

## High Tariffs in Iran, Pakistan Discourage Afghan Iron Producers

TEHRAN - Iron producers in Afghanistan have complained of exorbitant tariff rates they face when exporting their goods to neighboring Iran and Pakistan. They argued that the tariffs should be reconsidered as Afghanistan's steel mills grow and the country's beleaguered economy seeks to industrialize, the Pakistani Nation newspaper reported Jan. 26.



According to a number of steel mill owners, up to 90 percent tariffs are imposed on all iron products exported to Iran and Pakistan, while Afghanistan only imposes a 10 percent tariff on iron imported from abroad. The disparity in duties has made it impossible to compete with foreign companies, the Afghan iron producers maintain. The ... (More on P4)...(10)

## Civil Society Frustrated over Electoral Reforms Delay

KABUL - Election monitoring groups on Monday lambasted the government for delaying the establishment of an Electoral Reforms Commission and blamed leaders being indifferent to need for reform in the electoral system. Just the day before, on Sunday, sources close

to President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah indicated there were divisions between the men over whether dramatic electoral reform was necessary before the next round of parliamentary elections. "Bringing reforms to the ... (More on P4)...(12)