

WJ Set to Endorse or Reject Ministers-Designate

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga will vote today (Wednesday) on the fate of the ministers-designate who have explained their programmes to lawmakers, a legislator said on Tuesday.

The two new nominees, who were introduced today, would not receive any vote if their documents did not reach the lower house by the ballot time, said a member of the joint parliamentary panel.

Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News, Abdul Qadir Zazai said a cabinet pick could not be voted for or against in the absence of his/her educational transcripts and experience certificates.

President Ashraf Ghani introduced 24-member Council of Ministers and heads of two independent departments last Tuesday to parliament for a ...*(More on P4)...*(1)



USAID Suspends IRD Operation

KABUL - The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced on Monday the suspension of one of its largest non-profit contractors, International Relief and Development (IRD), after the agency's investigations found misconduct and mismanagement of taxpayer money.

IRD known for its humanitarian projects in the world's most dangerous places has been under investigation by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) and the FBI for allegedly mischarging millions of dollars in overhead costs, according to a report



written by The Washington Post.

"The Agency's review revealed serious misconduct in IRD's performance, management, internal controls and present responsibility," USAID said in a statement. "USAID ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

President Introduces 2 New Nominees for Cabinet Slots



KABUL - The Presidential Palace on Tuesday introduced new ministers-designate of information and culture and justice after the rejection of the earlier nominees by the Wolesi Jirga on the dual-nationality issue.

Second Vice-President ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

Ghani Vows to Reform IEC

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday pledged to reform the Independent Election Commission (IEC) in a suitable time. The presidential palace said.

During a meeting with IEC delegation headed by its chief Ahmad Yousef Nuristani the president said that IEC should preserve its independent status in the country to gain public and civil society confidence.

Nuristani informed



President Ghani over multiple IEC related issues including the upcoming parliamentary election and challenges faced by the IEC, the

presidential statement said.

The sources said that president and IEC officials discussed technical, security and

administrative issues within the commission, adding that both sides stressed the need for free, fair and balanced ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

Foreign Minister-Designate to Review Policy Goals

KABUL - The foreign minister-designate on Tuesday told lawmakers if endorsed, he would review principles of foreign policy and ensure sending it to parliament for approval.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani introduced 24-member council of minister and heads of two independent departments last Tuesday to parliament for a vote of trust.



Earlier, Salahuddin Rabbani's nomination was rejected by a parliamentary panel for dual citizenship. But he was allowed to explain his

programmes after it he gave up his British nationality.

Rabbani said a document had been drafted over the last few years in the ministry outlining the country's foreign policy and it would be his priority to review it for further improvement.

"I think we should pursue three goals in our foreign policy: national ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

Ulumi to Focus on Enforcing Law, Ensuring Stability



KABUL - The minister-designate of interior on Tuesday said he would take effective measures for maintaining security and enforcing law

in collaboration with relevant organs if he was given a vote of confidence. Noorul Haq Ulumi was ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

Australia FM Meets Ghani

KABUL - Australia Foreign Minister (FM) Julie Bishop has made a surprise visit to Afghanistan to meet with Australian military personnel and president Ashraf Ghani.

In a statement, Ms Bishop said she visited Afghanistan on Australia Day to thank Australian Defence Force personnel "for their outstanding service to our contribution to peace and security efforts".

"I also met with representatives of the newly formed Afghan government in Kabul to reiterate Aus-

tralia's commitment to Afghanistan as the government enters a transition phase to take responsibility for security across the country," Ms Bishop said.

She said she also congratulated Mr Ghani, who was elected president in September 2014, on successfully forming a unified national government and reiterated Australia's support to the country. Four hundred Australians are serving in Afghanistan as part of NATO's Resolute Support mission which started in January. Ms ...*(More on P4)...*(7)

ANSF to Take Control of Kandahar Airport Installations



KANDAHAR CITY - NATO commander Gen. Campbell on Tuesday announced handing over Kandahar airport installations to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). Spread on a 10 kilometres square area, the security installations included a warehouse, a mechanical complex and cold storage, said

Samim Khaalwak, the governor's spokesman. He said Governor Torryali Weesa a long with foreign affairs director Abdul Nafi Sana and Gen. Campbell visited the site. Campbell said the installations would be given soon to the Afghan forces. He added after the pull out of foreign troops dozens of ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

Helmandis Take to Streets Against Graft, Insecurity

LASHKARGAH - Hundreds of enraged protesters took to the streets in southern Helmand province on Tuesday against rampant administrative corruption and insecurity. The rally was

headed by former Jihadi commanders and tribal elders, who asked the national unity government to the improve law and order situation and counter graft. Former ...*(More on P4)...*(9)

70 Taliban Insurgents Killed

KUNDUZ CITY - In the past five days, at least 70 Taliban insurgents were killed in an Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) clearing operation in northern Kunduz province, local officials said.

Sixty-five other insurgents were injured during the operations. The operation was launched in Imam Sahib district of the province where more than 30 villages have been cleared of insurgents, spokesman for the Provincial ...*(More on P4)...*(10)

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