

# A Glance at the Backgrounds of the 16 Cabinet Nominees

KABUL - The new list of cabinet nominees announced by President Ashraf Ghani just before his departure for the United States consists of almost entirely of individuals who have never served in senior government positions before. The announcement of the names of the new nominees comes after months of criticism against the national unity government for failing to put together its cabinet sooner. With over six months gone by, the government in Kabul has seen more than half of its first year in power without appointing



its own leaders in key ministries, which has caused immense problems in rule of law and service provision around the country. Chief Executive Abdullah

Abdullah's deputy spokesman, Asef Ashna, assured that the new nominees would be brought to Parliament soon to receive votes of confidence. "These cabinet nominees will soon be introduced by the First Vice-President to the House of Representatives," Ashna said on Sunday. The following are short background profiles on the 16 new cabinet nominees: Abdul Bary Jahani - Nominated for the Ministry of Information and Culture, he is a poet and among the most famous literary ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## 3 Police Killed in Predawn Firefight with Taliban

SHIBRGHAN - Three Afghan National Police (ANP) personnel and a militant were killed in a predawn clash in the Aqcha district of northern Jawzjan province, an official said Monday. The firefight was triggered by a militant attack on a security post at midnight, provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said three policemen and a rebel were killed during the clash. The attackers...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## 400 Projects to be Executed



KHOST CITY - The governor's house on Monday said 400 reconstruction projects would be executed in 203 villages of various districts of southeastern Khost province this solar year. A statement from the governor's house said the projects had been approved under the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) as a result of untiring efforts by the provincial administration. Baryalai Rawan, the provincial government's spokesman, said the projects would be implemented as per local people's wishes in Sabari, Yaqub, Bak, Tarzai, Alisher, Musakhel, Nadir Shahkot, Gurbaz and Tani districts. Rawan said the projects had been estimated to cost about 391 million afghanis and the schemes would be implemented in areas of transport, agriculture and local reconstruction. Without providing further details about the projects, the statement said...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Efforts Ongoing to Reopen Closed Schools

QALAT - Education officials say efforts would be made throughout the new academic year to reopen schools which had been closed due to insecurity in southern Zabul province. They hope many such schools will be reopened. These views were expressed at a gathering marking the start of the new academic year at Sheikh Mati High School in Qalat, the provincial capital. Provincial education officials promised they would reopen closed schools and resolve problems in functional schools in-time. Education Director Rahimullah Lodin told Pa-



jhwok Afghan News only 90 of 238 schools had been operational last academic year. He said 40000 to 50000 boys and girls remained deprived of education in Zabul and the reason was insecurity. He said they had been holding meetings with tribal elders over the past

three months to seek their support in reopening schools. The elders had promised complete cooperation, he added. The education director said they planned to reopen 10 closed schools during the first week of the new academic year. On the other hand, students...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Paktika Schools, Seminaries to Get New Buildings

SHARAN - The education department of southeastern Paktika province on Monday announced 11 madaris and 12 schools would get new buildings, while 43 other schools would be rehabilitated in the ongoing year. Education Director Kochai Zazai said funds for the rehabilitation and construction of schools would be pro-



vided by the ministry concerned and UNICEF.

In addition, the department plans to build 54 local education centres, 10 kindergartens and playgrounds at different schools with the financial assistance of World Bank (WB). Zazai noted lack of professional teachers, long distance between schools and residential areas. According to information from his department, currently 155,000 students, including 26,000 girls, are enrolled in 353 schools across the province. Speaking on the occasion, a UNICEF representative pledged to extend all-out support for promoting education in Paktika. Tribal Elder Badshah acknowledged education standards had improved, as people had started understanding its value. But he complained of the late delivery of books to schools. *(Pajhwok)*

## Taliban, Illegal Gunmen Terrorising Residents

KUNDUZ CITY - Some residents of northern Kunduz province on Monday complained of a heavy presence of militants and an armed group, saying official had failed to disarm them. The groups often resorted to infighting, they said, adding common people had become victims of clashes. Around 9,000 armed men, included militants, are said to be active in the province. Syed Attaullah, a resident of Khanabad district, said armed men in special uniforms established checkpoints after evening. They snatch watches, mobile phones, cash and other valuables from residents. Each group is a menace to bother people, according...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Pakistanis among 13 Fighters Dead

LASHKARGAH - More than a dozen insurgents have been killed in an ongoing clearing operation in southern Helmand province, an official said on Monday. The fighters suffered the fatalities in Joshali locality, where security forces defused 16 landmines and seized a walkie-talkie and hundreds Kalashnikov bullets. Lt. Col. Mohammad Rasoul Zazai, spokesman for the 215th Maiwand Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News the dead included 10 men from Pakistan's tribal region of Waziristan. Zazai said the operation had been extended to Sangin district, with security forces launching an all-out push to protect the areas cleared of militants. Meanwhile...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## Haqqani Network Weapon Depots Seized

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency - has seized two depots belonging to the terrorist Haqqani Network. A statement issued by the NDS on Monday states that one depot was seized in Paktoon Abad area of the provincial capital while the other one was seized in Chahardiwal area of Andar District. The statement adds that both depots belong to Mawlawee Ismail, a commander of Haqqani terrorist network. The statement further adds that there were eight different types of heavy

## 2 Civilians Killed in Explosion

KHOST CITY - Two civilians have been killed in an explosion in eastern Khost province. The explosion took place in the city of Khost, locally known as Matun, late yesterday evening which also injured another civilian. The explosive materials were placed in front of a shop. An eyewitness has told reporters that he did not know who the target of the explosion might be but all the victims are civilians. He said that a student...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Taliban Attack on Security Posts Repulsed

HERAT CITY - Security forces have repulsed a major attack by armed militants on three security posts in Shindand district of western Herat province, an official said on Sunday. Najibullah Najibi, a spokesman for the 207th Zafar Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News militants stormed three security posts in Maldar, Zughali



and Paikash areas last night, sparking a gunbattle that lasted several

hours. The Taliban fighters were pushed back...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You really don't want to explain every decision you make today because you believe that logic isn't always the most important factor. Talking about your choices now can actually detract from your experience; you prefer to focus on the present moment and simply follow your intuition. Thankfully, you don't need anyone's approval for what you are feeling.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might have a set plan in mind for how the day should unfold, but you can't expect others to be able to read your thoughts. It makes more sense to climb out on a limb and let someone close to you know what you want now. But even if you share your hopes, you still may be misinterpreted if a friend or relative makes an incorrect assumption about your intentions.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have very specific emotional needs today, yet it's tricky to find the right words to convey them. To complicate matters further, it's all too easy to imagine the worst because your dreams are overflowing into the real world, making it nearly impossible to separate illusion from reality. Thankfully, struggling to discern the truth isn't necessary if you are willing to allow fact and fiction to exist side by side.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your natural sensitivity to the feelings of those around you is a lot to handle today if you get into a disagreement with someone close to you. Your resistance to change only adds to the confusion, especially if you're afraid of losing your sense of identity. Fortunately, you can capitalize on the gentle Mars-Neptune conjunction by consciously softening your stance while still maintaining your current position.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Hiding your emotional intensity isn't usually a viable strategy because feelings gain power when they are suppressed. Nevertheless, the Moon's short-lived conjunction with controlling Pluto may provoke a melodramatic meltdown. However, if you are frustrated by certain people's inability to do their jobs, losing your temper clears the air of pent-up tension.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Don't be so certain that you know what's happening because your reality filter may not be working all that well today. You might have enough stars in your eyes now to prevent you from seeing what's right in front of you. There are specific tasks that need to be done, but your lack of focus makes staying on track nearly impossible.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may feel as if you've stepped into a world of paradox today. The veil between this world and others is thinner than usual, but you're also quite attached to your creature comforts while pleasure-seeking Venus opposes excessive Jupiter. Don't resist the flow of images that arise from your imagination, even if you can't understand what they mean or what action you should take.

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You can tell that your inner landscape is undergoing dramatic psychological change for the better. Although your key planet Pluto is touched by the evocative Moon this morning, other cosmic influences keep the energy steadily moving toward the light. This is an opportunity to step into the shadows, dredge up the past and then let the spiritual process do its magic.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You have an eye on the distant horizon now as you consider the vast array of possibilities ahead. Your current need to redefine your goals intensifies as you learn more about the politics of current events in your life. However, you may be driven more by your fascination with a fantasy today than by a realistic goal.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

There seems to be a lot at stake today and you're tempted to take extreme action to turn the tide in your favor. However, micromanaging emotional tension can backfire if you fall short of keeping up with all the complex interactions. Maintaining control over too many variables is a study in frustration.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You can tell that your inner landscape is undergoing dramatic psychological change for the better. Although your key planet Pluto is touched by the evocative Moon this morning, other cosmic influences keep the energy steadily moving toward the light. This is an opportunity to step into the shadows, dredge up the past and then let the spiritual process do its magic.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You have an eye on the distant horizon now as you consider the vast array of possibilities ahead. Your current need to redefine your goals intensifies as you learn more about the politics of current events in your life. However, you may be driven more by your fascination with a fantasy today than by a realistic goal.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting points for clues.

Across clues: 1. Wise men, 5. Acted gloomily, 10. Welt, 14. Beasts of burden, 15. Alpha's opposite, 16. Burden, 17. Generous slice of the pie, 18. Division, 20. A piece of ground, 22. Perturb, 23. Santa's helper, 24. Go in, 25. They keep dozing off, 32. Grasps, 33. Sea eagles, 34. Paraphernalia, 37. Trees of the genus Quercus, 38. Shot from a bow, 39. Transgressions, 40. N N N N, 41. Implant, 42. Greek letter, 43. Violation, 45. Courtyards, 49. Buffoon, 50. Connotation, 53. Forage plant, 57. Genius, 59. Part of a plant, 60. Feudal worker, 61. Packs to capacity, 62. River of Spain, 63. A musical pause, 64. A common green newt, 65. 500 sheets.

Yesterday's Solution: A grid with words filled in from a previous puzzle.

Word search grid with words hidden horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.