



Experts Question IEC's Progress on Electoral Reforms

KABUL - Critics have meanwhile blasted the IEC commissioners over their failure to publicize their working agendas - even after two months of being in office. Questions have been raised over the slow pace at which electoral reforms are taking place, with some people saying this could undermine the timeline for the next elections. The former head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) Fazel Ahmad Manavi on Sunday blasted IEC officials and said no systematic efforts have been made so far in terms of bringing about electoral reforms. He urged the IEC to step up efforts and prioritize its working agendas. Election observers have also urged the IEC to take steps to



remove the ongoing confusion over what the election commission is actually doing. Observers have called for more robust action to be taken in order to regain the

levels of trust in the electoral system that was damaged following the 2014 elections. "No preliminary work so far has been taken for election reforms and no systematic reforms have been put in place;

I think if the presidential and parliamentary elections are held in 2019, this would be a success, but I don't think that the elections will be held on time," said Manavi. Up to seventy candidates so

far have filed nomination papers for the position of head of the IEC secretariat. According to IEC officials, thirty candidates will be shortlisted and then three of them will be dispatched to the president for final approval. Election monitoring groups have urged President Ashraf Ghani to pick the most qualified and professional candidate as the new head of the IEC secretariat and to ensure that the person has no political affiliation. Critics have meanwhile blasted the IEC commissioners over their failure to publicize their working agendas - even after two months of being in office. "With the passage of time, people's faith continues to decline, ... (More on P4)...(8)

Afghan Army Cadets Graduate from Military Academy



KABUL - Twelve hundred cadets graduated from Kabul Military Training Academy on Sunday after a ten-month training program. Speaking after their graduation ceremony, the soldiers

said they were committed to serving the country no matter what the circumstances. Ministry of Defense (MoD) officials ... (More on P4)...(9)

15 NATO Soldiers Killed in Afghanistan in 2016

KABUL - Fifteen NATO soldiers, most of them Americans, were killed in the Afghanistan conflict in 2016, a spokesman for the alliance said on Sunday. "The number of casualties declined because the alliance is performing a non-combat role of training, advise and assisting Afghan forces," said Charlie Cleveland. He, however, did not comment about wounded NATO

soldiers and civilians last year. November was the deadliest month for NATO forces in Afghanistan last year, when four foreign soldiers and civil contractors were killed and 15 others wounded in a suicide bomb attack in the Bagram airbase. According to Operation Enduring Freedom, 16 NATO forces were killed in 2016, including ... (More on P4)...(10)

Students Complain of Strangers Living in MoE Hostels

KABUL - Students from outside Kabul living in the Ministry of Education's (MoE) Vocational and Professional Training Hostel in the city on Sunday complained that some rooms are being used by members of the public who are not students. MoE hostels are only meant to house students from other provinces who are attending academic and vocational schools in Kabul. Schools closed a month ago for the winter holidays but legitimate hostel residents at this hostel say rooms are still being occupied by non-students. TOLONews spoke to some of the students who asked that their identities be withheld. The names used are not their real names. "Believe me there is no difference between students and other people. We are afraid that these unknown guys may carry out terrorist activities. Nearly 60 to 80 new people have come here and they are using the services that are provided for students," said Ahmad, one student. The students also complained that the newcomers use drugs and play loud music well into the night. "When we walk around, we can smell hashish. They do things that a student never does," said Rahman, another student. However, some sources have said that members of parliament have placed these newcomers in the hostel and that the MoE is not able to evict them. The students said they have complained to ministry officials, but nothing has been done to resolve the problem. "One day when we were in line to get food, I asked one of them for his student ID card. He said he had a letter from a minister or MP and that the dormitory principle could not stop them," said Mohammad, another student. The MoE has however said they will address the issue in the near future. "According to regulations, only students from remote provinces are allowed to live in the hostel. We will investigate ... (More on P4)...(14)

Sangin, Marja Towns under Taliban Attack

LASHKARGAH - One Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier was killed and three others, including a district official, were wounded as clashes entered a second day on Sunday in southern Helmand province. Haji Baz Gul, the administrative chief of Marja district, said militants were attacking the district centre and police station since Sunday night, killing and wounding some security officials. He said residents were worried about the situation. He asked the government to send helicopters to Helmand



to evacuate the injured to hospital. Gul said no part of the district had fallen to Taliban in the ongoing fighting, but reinforcements were immediate-

ly required to push back the rebels. The troops engaged in the clashes had not visited their families in the past six months. Brg. Gen. Wali Mohammad

Ahmadzai, commander for 2015th Maiwand Military Corps, said one ANA soldier was killed and two others wounded in the fresh clashes. He said security forces were being assisted at the battleground. Haji Marjan, head of the local council in Sangin district, said heavy clashes and attacks on the district centre and police station were underway over the past two days. He said new weapons had been seen with Taliban in the district, which would complicate the conflict. A government official ... (More on P4)...(11)

HIA Commander Accused of Grabbing, Selling State Land

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Security officials and several tribal elders on Sunday accused a Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) commander of grabbing dozens acres of government-owned land in northern Baghlan province over the past one month and sold it to people. They expressed concern over the illegal usurpation of land

by HIA affiliates in the province, stressing the government should prevent such arbitrary and bullying usurpers at the earliest possible. Khair Mohammad, a tribal elder in Baghlan-i-Markazi district said, Mirwais, a HIA commander, had been selling state lands to people in Cham Qala locality of the district over ... (More on P4)...(12)

Taliban Kidnap Afghan Army and Police Officers



KABUL - The Taliban militants have kidnapped two officers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces and Afghan National Police (ANP) forces in western Herat province. According to the local government officials, the two officers were kidnapped as they were travelling in a vehicle in Chesht district. Provincial governor's spokesman Jilani Farhad confirmed that the two officers were travelling in a private vehicle and were stopped by the Taliban insurgents as they were on their way to Herat city. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding ... (More on P4)...(13)

Police Beat up Local TV Chief Editor in Herat

HEART CITY - A local television channel official was beaten up by police and traffic officers in western Herat province, an official said on Sunday. Aziz Ahmad Sadiqi, editor in chief of Taban local television channel, who was trying to resolve a dispute between two drivers was beaten up and insulted by traffic police and security police officers in Mastufiat Square in Herat city on Saturday evening. The provincial police chief, Gen. Ayub Ansari, told Pajhwok Afghan News they have not yet received a formal complaint about the issue. The issue would be seriously investigated if any complaint about the incident shared with police headquarters, he added. Meanwhile, Hamayon Nazari, Journalists Protection Association head in the west, said the issue was ... (More on P4)...(15)

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

National Procurement Authority (NPA) on behalf of Ministry of Finance (MOF) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Procurement of Smart system for Custom ports & Custom Directorates including 3 lots against IFB No. NPA/MoF/95/ICB/G-1477. Re-bid Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Afghanistan procurement law.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders by downloading the same from the NPA website www.npa.gov.af. In case of problem in downloading from website, interested bidders may contact to: National Procurement Authority, 5th Floor, Administrative Office of President, Pashtonistan Watt, Kabul, Afghanistan

Mobile: +93 (020)214 7453

Email: nizamuddin.bakhshi@aop.gov.af copy to helaiy.nasiri@aop.gov.af

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security (Bank Guarantee) mentioned against each lot as below in USD or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency

Lot No.	Description	Quantity	Bid Security amount (USD) or an equivalent amount in freely convertible currency
Lot 1	Surveillance System for Custom Office	17	35,000
Lot 3	Digital Scales for Cargo Vehicles	13	35400
Lot 4	Digital scales for cargo Vehicles Solar UPS system and solar LED light.	4	13130
Total			83530 USD

Pre- Bid meeting shall be held at 10.00 Hrs. on 11 to 15 January 2017 at Ministry of Finance for three days in (MoF) Kabul, Afghanistan.

Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before 10.00 Hrs (local time) on 15th February 2017. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids is not be opened immediately after the deadline of bid submission at the same place of bid submission, in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person.