

Freedom is one of the deepest and noblest aspirations of the human spirit. Ronald Reagan

Electoral Reform Commission

Reforms for Parliamentary Vote Expected Within Two Months

KABUL - The Electoral Reform Commission (ERC) on Sunday announced that preliminary reforms needed to pave the way for a new round of parliamentary elections will be in place within two months.



months by President Ashraf Ghani to get reforms in place. "If this timeline is extended, naturally we will work on three programs; a short term program for holding the parliamentary elections, a medium term program for holding the presidential elections and a long term program for future elections in Afghanistan," ERC Deputy Chair Sediqullah Tawhidi said on Sunday.

Taliban Set Free 120 Policemen in Badakhshan



FAIZABAD - Taliban on Sunday said they have set free 120 policemen they detained in Warduj district of northeastern Badakhshan province. Security forces and Taliban had heavy clashes in Tirgran locality of the district for four days and finally the military post in the locality fell to insurgents with more than 100 security forces held cap-

ALP, Border Police Blamed for Deal with Taliban



FAIZABAD - Police Chief of northeastern Badakhshan province on Saturday accused Afghan Local Police (ALP) and border police for their alleged surrender to Taliban in Warduj district. Gen. Baba Jan absolved police and blamed on Nazirullah Shah, a senior border police official in the north and ALP for reaching a shameful deal with the enemy and handing them over a strategically important base in the north.

India to Donate 1,000 Buses as Kabul Public Transport Falter

KABUL - The Afghan Milli Bus Enterprise - the national state-run bus service - is expected to receive a donation of about 1,000 transport buses from India, despite the fact that 700 buses donated over the past decade have gone largely unused due to maintenance issues.

Source Next Round of Peace Talks Scheduled for Pakistan Not China

KABUL - A senior Pakistani security official has said that the next round of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban will be held on July 31 in Pakistan. The source dismissed reports that China will be the venue for the second round of talks.



in China. The Pakistan source meanwhile dismissed these claims. "I can confirm the second round of the Afghan peace talks will be held in Pakistan," the ... (More on P4)...(4)

MoIC to Add New Chapter on Social Media to Mass Media Law

KABUL - The Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) plans to amend the Mass Media Law in order to address the growth of social media in Afghanistan and in hopes of better "systematizing" it, Deputy Minister Syeda Muzghan Mustafavi announced on Sunday.

of social media week in Kabul. "Social media has had scattered activities," she said. "We want to systematize the activities of these medias, and that doesn't mean imposing limitations on them."



porting free media in Afghanistan) has warned that any steps taken to structure or regulate social media activity must not censor or impose limitations on users. Based on estimates, there are thought to be more than 1.3 million social users in Afghanistan. Many, particularly in civil society, believe that social media has played ... (More on P4)...(5)

Salma Dam Expected to be Completed by Mid-2016: India

HERAT CITY - The Consulate General of India in western Herat province announced that Salma Dam project passed a critical stage on Sunday with closure of Diversion Tunnel Gate and start of filling of dam reservoir.

ment said that from the filling of 20 kilometers long and 3.7 kilometers wide dam reservoir with storage capacity of 640 million m3 would take nine to 12 months. Salma Dam is a \$ 300 million hydroelectric and irrigation project being ... (More on P4)...(7)

Taliban Take Military Base Control in Badakhshan



FAIZABAD - Security officials on Sunday said Taliban took control of a military base of Afghan security forces and captured 100 security personnel in Warduj district of northeastern Badakhshan province. A military base in Tirgran locality of the district was under constant attacks of militants for the last four days and the facility finally fell to Taliban on Sunday night.

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