



Hotkhels Stop Candidates from Locking Down IEC Office

KABUL - Residents of Hotkhel area stopped protesting Wolesi Jirga candidates and hundreds of their supporters from closing the Independent Election Commission (IEC)'s office in Kabul on Monday morning.

The Wolesi Jirga elections were held on October 20 and 21 nationwide except Ghazni and Kandahar provinces. The elections in Kandahar were held a week later.

The IEC has so far announced final results from all provinces barring Kabul. Last week, the Wolesi Jirga decided to elect its administrative panel with or without members from Kabul.

But leading Wolesi Jirga candidates from Kabul closed the gate to Parliament during a protest on Saturday, demanding declaration of final results before the election of the administrative board.

In Saturday, the commission said the final results from Kabul would be announced within two days.

However, dozens of protesting candidates from Kabul and hundreds of their supporters tried to close the gate to the IEC office in Kabul. But they were not allowed by the people of Hotkhel to do so.

A verbal clash occurred between the Hotkhels and supporters of the candidates but with the arrival of tge security forces they left the area.

Sharifullah, a supporter of one candidate, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "We had decided to close the IECC office but the Hotkhels did not allow us to do so and thus we left the area."

He warned if the election panels did not address their demands, they would close the entrance to the Presidential Palace.

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No Major Step On Peace Process: Abdullah



KABUL - Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah in the Council of Ministers meeting on Monday said that "no major step has been taken on the peace process so far", referring to recent efforts by the United States and the Afghan government to find a political settlement to the 18-year-old war in the country.

"Unfortunately, the fighting is still ongoing during Ramadhan. We wanted a ceasefire during this

month, but so far it's not agreed," Abdullah said. The Taliban still continues the fighting and so far, no basic step has been taken about the peace process, he reiterated. His remarks come as the Taliban rejected a call by the grand council of 3,200 delegates from around the country who asked the group to agree on a ceasefire with the Afghan government - at least during Ramadhan - to move forward the peace process. The sixth round of the US and Taliban talks

in Doha was wrapped up last week with "steady but slow" progress on key issues under debate, including foreign forces withdrawal and counterterrorism assurances as the US chief negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad put it. However, the Taliban seemed optimistic about the outcome of the sixth round of Qatar talks as they described it in a statement. The group said that the two sides are preparing for the next round of the talks. (Tolo news)

Maruf District Residents Remain Deprived Of Services

KANDAHAR CITY - Residents of Maruf district of southern Kandahar province say they have long been deprived of access to education, health and telecom services.

They say the situation worsened after the Taliban attacked the district headquarters and the government then shifted the district administration to another area.

Abdullah Afghan, a resident of Maruf district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the district was under Taliban's control while government forces were stationed in a few security posts in Salison area of the district on the Durand Line.

The district headquarters, previously located in Yousuf Nika area, were attacked by Taliban militants after a long lasting siege, forcing local officials to move the office to another area.

Afghan said the already limited services were totally stopped after the district headquarters were moved elsewhere. Lack of schools and education programs was one of the major problems of the people here, he said.

He said schools had a symbolic presence in the district from the past and salaries of teachers went to personal pockets.

However, he said the teachers no longer received salaries over the last two years.

"Local people now want real schools in their area and Taliban insurgents have probably no problem with that", he said.

Afghan said the district's clinic building was also destroyed during the Taliban attack and needed reconstruction.

"Chief of Maruf district does not come to the district center and he is working from Spin Boldak district", he said.

Rahmatullah, another resident, said lack of education and health services and blockade of roads were main problems of people.

...(More on P4)...(12)

Religious Scholar Gunned Down in Nangarhar

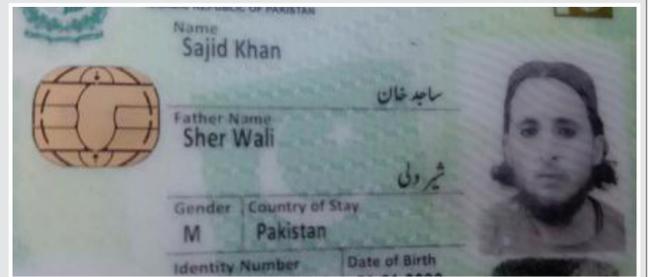


JALALABAD - Unidentified gunmen have shot dead religious scholar Maulvi Hidayatullah in the Rodat district of eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Monday.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident happened at the Hesarak mosque of the district late on Sunday

evening. Police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Raqib Mubariz confirmed to Pajhwok unknown armed men gunned down Hidayatullah Madani and wounded a civilian in the attack. Police were investigating the incident, he added. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack so far. (Pajhwok)

Pakistani Taliban Commander Killed in Ghazni as War Intensifies



KABUL - Local officials in central Ghazni province said that fresh waves of violence have been gripping various regions of the province over the past 24 hours following intense battles between the Afghan forces and the Taliban outfits in the area.

They said that the Afghan Special

Forces have dealt a major blow the Taliban fighters in Asfandah village in the suburb of the city where a key Taliban commander originally from Pakistan was also eliminated during the battles with the Afghan forces.

Afghan forces said that they had discovered ... (More on P4)...(14)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You could receive some sort of wind-fall today, Aries. Use it wisely. Consider buying some time to figure out what you want to do with your life. It's likely that your career isn't exactly ringing your bells these days. You're ready for new challenges and opportunities. Meditate on what would make you happy and then take a systematic approach to achieving it.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



It's likely that you will succeed at whatever you set out to accomplish today, Taurus. If you've been held back by worries over the integrity of a relationship or the long-term prospects of a partnership, you can dispel concerns by confronting the person directly. You may find he or she has the same feelings about you! Honesty is important today.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Your energy may flag a bit today, Gemini. There's nothing to worry about, though you could take better care of your health. What happened to that exercise regimen you vowed to start? It's never too late to improve your eating habits and begin working out. Even if you only walk three times a week, you will notice a dramatic difference in your appearance and outlook.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Today is meant for socializing and connecting, Cancer. Your creativity is at an all-time high, so also try to work in some quiet time where you can do some writing or painting. If friends invite you out in the evening, by all means, take them up on the offer. You may meet someone who could be pivotal to your career. Be open to all possibilities.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You can't help but notice that your home looks a bit drab, Leo. Today you could plan to do something about it. It won't take much money, just time and a little creativity. Paint some samples on the walls. Your spirits will improve. You can make big changes to the mood of the place simply by introducing more color.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You have a to-do list a mile long today, Virgo. You may spend a lot of your day running errands. It certainly takes a lot to run a household, as you no doubt realize. Try not to get overwhelmed with all that you feel needs to be done. Most of the deadlines are self-imposed. No one will know if you don't meet them.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You're ready for a career change, Libra, or at least a change of venue. Have you considered telecommuting one day per week? That might give you the variety you seek without needing to find a new job. You may meet someone today or in the near future who will have a dramatic influence on your career decisions. Listen carefully.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



What is your dream, Scorpio? Answer that question as specifically as possible today, then set about attaining that goal. All signs indicate that whatever you begin today will pay off big time. Even though you may feel that your dreams are too ambitious, there's no need to feel overwhelmed. Vow to take things one step at a time. Keep in mind the old adage, "Once begun is half done."

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



This may seem odd, Sagittarius, but you may not be the person you think you are. There are indications that you have hidden talents. If they come out today, no one will be more shocked than you! This could take your career in an entirely new direction. Strategize ways to incorporate this talent into your career. Your work will take on a new dynamic, and you will take a major leap forward.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You're about to experience a major change in your life's direction, Capricorn, and it may occur today. Keep your mind open to all sorts of possibilities. You're likely to receive some important information. Of course, you may not realize its importance right away. It's only with the passage of time that you will look back on this event as pivotal. Make sure you don't miss it.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

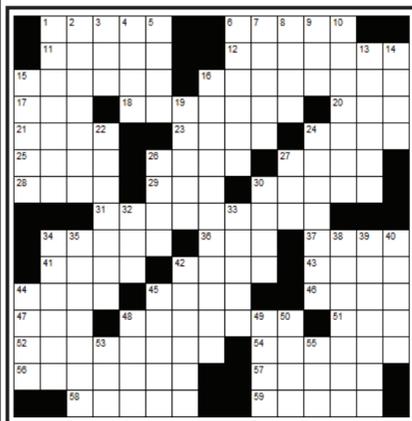


You're unstoppable today, Aquarius. It seems you can do anything. Your confidence and energy are high. There's no question that you're ready to take the world by storm. Is the world ready for you? Think carefully as you formulate plans for your new project. Whatever you do will succeed, but be sure you're doing what you really want to do rather than what others expect of you.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



It's likely that you're being held back by certain traumatic past events. Before you can make further progress in your life, Pisces, you must address these painful memories for the last time. If it feels too frightening to do alone, seek professional help. You will find that mustering the courage to do this difficult, emotional housecleaning is more than half the battle.



Across

- Overweight, 6. Days of the month, 11. Transparent, 12. Ambiguous, 15. China clay, 16. An eating disorder, 17. Historic period, 18. Disappointment, 20. Make lace, 21. Morsels
- Decays, 24. Nets, 25. Afresh, 26. Heap, 27. Sense, 28. Exposed, 29. Barely manage, 30. French for "Queen", 31. Retrieving, 34. Dye with wax, 36. Chief Executive Officer, 37. Significance, 41. Eye layer, 42. Dispatched, 43. Threesome, 44. Blend, 45. Barley beards, 46. Eastern discipline, 47. Estimated time of arrival, 48. Certain arm muscles, 51. Clunker, 52. Regain, 54. Admirers, 56. To frown or wrinkle, 57. Without company, 58. Kingly
- Schoolbooks, , ,

Down

- Egg-shaped instrument, 2. Large fatty herring, 3. Snake-like fish, 4. Travel on water, 5. Sea eagle, 6. Indicate, 7. Declares, 8. Mountain pool, 9. East southeast, 10. One more than fifteen, 13. Feasible, 14. Dines
- Souvlaqi, 16. Teens, 19. 3-wheeled vehicle, 22. Cardigan
- Grievous, 26. Kiss lightly, 27. Bog, 30. Violent disturbance, 32. Spy agency, 33. Feel
- A bread spread, 35. Flyer
- Causing erosion, 39. Numbers, 40. Batrachians, 42. Turn on a pivot, 44. Slave, 45. Betel palm, 48. Bell sound, 49. ___ du jour = Meal of the day, 50. Only
- Regret, 55. ___ populi, ,

Yesterday's Solution



affirm, avowal, brown cavalcade, coach create defer, defile deluge, enigma, esteem favor, , gain, gash hatch hood, lever, liberty, march, medalist, meter opening pander, parking pierce, possible,

