

(1) Senate Supports...

he said that holding Wolesi Jirga elections together with presidential and district council elections in Ghazni province would create troubles as the IEC was unable to manage two polls on a single day. Zalmay Zabuli, a senator from Zabul province, talking about the IEC election plan, said, "We have no problem about the schedule of the elections, what is important for us is transparency in elections, I don't think the IEC would be able to hold different elections simultaneously,"

Mohammad Asif Sediqi, second deputy chairman of the senate, also backed the IEC plan for the separate conduct of presidential and provincial council elections and asked the political parties and civil society activist to support the election body strategy.

Meanwhile, some political parties and election watchdogs termed the separate conduct of presidential and provincial council elections a move against the law and an attempt to derail the arrangement of Loy Jirga in which the constitution could be amended. (Pajhwok)

(2) Rigging Claims...

such ballot boxes if the IEC and IECC did not convince with the first time inspection.

He said some powerful individuals in some districts of the province had been trying to interference in the election process but security forces prevented them.

According to him, electoral materials from all northern provinces would be dispatched to capital Kabul in upcoming two days.

Meanwhile, the IECC office in Balkh province said it has registered 804 complaints which would all be addressed.

Shugofa Behishti, IECC head for Balkh, told Pajhwok they started a review of the suspicious ballot boxes following complaints and objections regarding alleged fraud and rigging

She assured all complaints would be addressed and their results would be shared with the people gradually.

Mohammad Ibrahim Khir Andish, a Wolesi Jirga candidate from Balkh, told Pajhwok the election commissions should separate fake and real votes.

He said rigging had taken place widely in the recently Wolesi Jirga elections in the province and they had shared evidence in this regard with the IECC.

Khir Andish said the rigging took place in forms of fake ID cards, fake stickers and distribution of cash to voters by some candidates and interference by powerful individuals. In Balkh, 224,000 people cast their votes (56 percent women and 46 percent men) in the Oct 20 and 21 parliamentary elections. (Pajhwok)

(3) President Ghani...

and Ghazi Mir Bacha Khan High State Medals on 29 officials and personnel of the National Defense and Security Institutions, while 72 security personnel also received High State Medals for their services in maintaining security and thwarting the enemy plots during parliamentary elections.

In the meantime, the Senior Deputy Interior Minister for Security Akhtar Mohammad Ibrahim was promoted to Lieutenant General and Deputy National Security Adviser in Commander-in-Chief Affairs and the Information and Co-ordination Chief of the National Security Council Office Major General Bahadur Shah Ahmadi was promoted to Lieutenant General.

In his speech during the ceremony, President Ghani thanked the security personnel for their bravery and

said the alertness of the national defense and security forces proved that Afghanistan will remain a free and democratic country.

President Ghani further added that the national defense and security forces are being supported by the nation more than any other time as he emphasized that the brave Afghan forces have gained the independence of the country with the campaign, their blood, and bravery. He also added that the government is responsible to respect the bravery of the Afghan forces and respond to the needs of their families, insisting that the national defense and security forces have proven that they did not hesitate to lay their lives for the defense and survival of the country.

According to President Ghani, the Brussels Summit is a good example of respect being given to the Afghan forces, during which the participants spoke of the bravery of the Afghan forces. (KP)

(4) Taliban 'Sold' Each...

that the helicopter was overloaded and that it was the main reason behind the incident. He said apart from having 27 people on board, the chopper was carrying five bodies of military forces and election materials as well as some other heavy equipment.

"What you will do with the dead bodies? How long you will keep it? they are no longer alive, what are you doing? you think you are Muslim? And this is your humanity?," Abdul Khaliq Amini, a family member of the victims said, referring to the Taliban.

The helicopter crashed about a week ago in Anar Dara district of Farah province. According to officials, at least 27 people were on board at the time of the crash including Farah provincial council members and Zafar Military Corps officials. (ATN)

(5) Security Forces...

the list of voters should be prepared in cooperation with the Population Registration Department (PRD) and by using original identity cards of people. The list of voters should also be posted at polling stations.

Asghari said preparing voter lists for the presidential election was a difficult job in winter which was approaching.

Naim Ayubzada, TEFA head, said the IEC should prepare real voter lists for the presidential election in cooperation with the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) and by considering problems in the Wolesi Jirga polls.

He said the voter registration process for the presidential ballot should be started earlier in order most of the people could participate.

"The IEC is responsible to announce the Wolesi Jirga elections results on schedule besides defining dates for district council, provincial council elections and Wolesi Jirga polls in Ghazni province, he added.

"The IEC makes decisions based on politics, it is a political issue when elections are delayed. The commission is responsible to act according to the law, the government has no will for holding a Loya Jirga from the past, and that's why it delayed the district council polls, the IEC also ignored the district council elections and it now wants to delay the provincial council polls too," he said.

Habibullah Shinwari, ETWA head, said that IEC workers needed serious professional training and education. He also said rules and procedures must be observed during elections.

Roshan Chiran, head of Law Edu-

cational Center, said that security forces should be informed about the role of election observers in elections and they should be told to avoid interference in polls.

In a joint statement, the oversight institutes said people participated in great numbers in the Wolesi Jirga elections but the election process faced with some failures. They blamed most of the problems and challenges on the lack of coordination and poor performance of the IEC.

"Our observations and reports from our observers indicate that there have been many problems and challenges during the parliamentary elections," the statement added.

Some main problems occurred on the Election Day are as following: Lack of coordination and poor management in controlling polling centers by the Independent Election Commission that caused late opening of many polling centers.

Problems caused by voter lists including lack of the lists in a notable number of centers, sending lists to wrong polling stations, missing of names and starting with certain letters such as k, g, a and so on in the lists.

The problems caused by biometric devices due to inadequate training and lack of familiarity of the commission staff with correct use of the devices, their failure and lack of effective technical support to quickly resolve the issues.

Violation of the Election Law by extending the voting to the second day.

Misconduct and violation of electoral law and regulations by some representatives of parties and candidates such as electoral campaigns and forcing and bribing voters to vote in their favor; Suggestions and recommendations for different stakeholders

Respecting the law, regulations and procedures for making important decisions such as the extension of the election for the second day and considering the opinions of all stakeholders in such cases; Paying attention to professional training of IEC staff and their fundamental role in voting process and preventing waste of time;

Establishing an effective communication system between observers, monitors and IEC staff at different levels;

Revising the delegation of duties and use of teachers as temporary staff of the IEC;

Learning from lessons of implementing voter lists and biometric in the future elections.

On-time announcement of the primary and final results

To the voters: Proper use of their right to vote as a powerful tool in securing their social and citizenship rights and the fundamental duty of each voter.

To the security forces:

Maintaining impartiality in elections process and refrain from working in favor of any candidate; Providing security for monitors and observers as one of the key levers in the electoral process; Training of security forces on the roles, duties and responsibilities of all stakeholders in the election, including observers, monitors, candidates, political parties, and others involved.

To the International Community: Continuing cooperation and financial and technical support to electoral reforms and elections process.

To the political parties, candidates, and their agents:

Coordination and cooperation with other observer groups; Training delegates and observers about their responsibilities, rights

and authorities;

Respecting the elections law and regulations and avoiding violation of them.

To the Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC):

The ECC has a final and critical role in the elections process and its credibility. Taking into consideration the experience of the last elections and the elections day management shortcomings, we strongly recommend that ECC shall:

Observe and make any decision based and in line with the electoral approved law, regulations and procedures;

Ensure transparency and information sharing to public on its procedures and day to day achievements; establish the right and trustful circle to seek advice and consultation if cases of conflict arises; and

Share no sensitive information or decision before the final approval that can become the bases of propaganda.

To the future parliamentary representatives: Revising and amendment of the election law and regulations in light of the amassed experiences. (Pajhwok)

(6) Taliban Kill More...

seven soldiers and six policemen were killed in Monday's attack on the checkpoint, and four soldiers were wounded.

According to Noori, six insurgents were killed and more than 10 others were wounded during the ensuing three-hour battle with Afghan forces. Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the Ghazni and Kandahar attack. The joint army-police checkpoint was set up just two days ago in a strategic area to cut off a key supply route for the Taliban but was now completely burned down and destroyed, Noori said.

"Reinforcements were rushed to assist the forces under attack but they were ambushed by other Taliban fighters at least four times while on their way to the checkpoint," said Noori.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks in volatile Ghazni, and in August overran parts of the provincial capital, also called Ghazni. At the time, hundreds of people fled the city amid intense fighting between Afghan forces and the Taliban that killed about 120 members of the security forces and civilians. According to Afghan authorities, nearly 200 insurgents, many of them foreign fighters, were also killed.

Ghazni is the only one out of 34 Afghan provinces where the country's October parliamentary elections could not take place for security reasons. Voting there has been postponed for a year.

In the Kandahar attack on Sunday night, along with the four policemen killed, the Taliban also wounded two others, according to Aziz Ahmad Azizi, the provincial governor's spokesman. He said six insurgents were also killed, and seven were wounded in Khakrez district, where a checkpoint was also attacked. He said the Taliban fled the area after their attack was repelled.

Elections were delayed for a week in Kandahar after an attack by an elite Afghan guard killed two top government officials, including a powerful provincial police chief. (AP)

(7) ICRC Provides...

months. "I was also wounded in a battle between pro-government forces and the Taliban. My two friends were martyred."

Abdul Haq, who was walking with an artificial leg with the help of iron bars, said his family thought he is

no longer alive after being wounded in a roadside mine explosion.

"I wish was dead so that I could not face the hardship in my life. I feel like be a burden to others," Haq said who was being under treatment at the ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Center in Kabul.

Abdullah, a staff member of ICRC who was paralyzed and was moving around with the help of a wheelchair at the center said: "It is hard to say. The world is meaningless when you lose part of your body." (ATN)

(8) Ongoing Clashes...

and we left behind everything we had, the government provided them with tents, rice and cooking oil."

A number of other displaced families had expressed similar views and urged the government to help them.

Mohammad Yaseen Labib, director of refugee and repatriation department, told Pajhwok some 1,500 families had been displaced due continued clashes in four districts of the province.

He pledged to provide necessary assistance to the internally displaced families. (Pajhwok)

(9) Polio Vaccination...

prevented through the vaccine.

The Ministry of Public Health says Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only countries where the disease has not been eradicated so far.

At the same time the polio campaign also started in Zabul province.

Local officials said that during their five day campaign about 150,000 children under five years old will be vaccinated. (Tolonews)

(10) Samiul Haq...

Maulana Samiul Haq who headed the Jamiat Ulema Islam-F told the Taliban: "You will be perished whenever you have decided to stop fighting, they misused Islam and Jihad and we should be careful."

He said Samiul Haq assured the Americans to encourage the Taliban to reconcile therefore he was killed, he said. (Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban's Military...

including Taliban militants have not commented regarding the report so far.

Faryab is among the relatively volatile provinces in North of Afghanistan where the Taliban militants are active in some of its districts and often carry out terrorist related activities. (Tolo news)

(12) 12 Newborns Die...

babies belonged to Parwan, three to Kapisa and four to Panjsher provinces.

He also said the reason behind the mysterious deaths was not yet known but investigation was underway in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(13) Anti-Taliban...

forces stay in the area.

Situated three kilometers from Pul-i-Khumri, Dand-i-Ghori is a stronghold of the Taliban and is considered one of the insecure areas in Baghlan. (Pajhwok)

(14) Unpaid IEC...

name registration employee at Maghokhel polling station in Mohammad Agha district, warned they would close the IEC's regional office if their salaries were not released.

He said they had many time complained about non-payment of their salaries but no one paid attention.

Adalat Abdurahimzai, deputy head of the Provincial Council, also confirmed receiving complaints in this regard. He told Pajhwok they had shared the issue with the IEC.

A number of others contractors expressed similar views and urged the IEC to pay them their salaries as soon as possible. (Pajhwok)