

### (1) Afghan Leaders Say...

ability to provide security across the country, were expected to be released on November 10 at the earliest. Final results will likely be out sometime in December, an election commission spokesman has said.

Originally scheduled for 2015, the vote was delayed for three years amid disputes over electoral reforms and because of the instability following NATO's handover of security responsibilities to Afghan forces at the end of 2014.

"The Afghan people want a system based on the people's vote, and in fact, we have witnessed a historical moment," said Abdullah, who also admitted there were shortcomings during the vote.

Voting was extended to a second day on October 21 after hundreds of polling stations were closed on the first day of voting due to technical and security issues.

But only 253 of the 401 polling centers that were scheduled to be open on October 21 were operational, with the remainder closed for security reasons, election authorities said. At some of the centers that opened for voting, there were insufficient ballot papers and voter rolls were "either incomplete or nonexistent," Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) spokesman Ali Reza Rohani said, adding, "most of the problems we had.

The ECC said it had received more than 5,000 complaints of irregularities from voters and candidates, and the Interior Ministry said 44 people had been charged with "illegal interference in the election and fraud."

However, President Ashraf Ghani said in a televised address to the nation after polls closed on October 21 that the election turnout showed that voters "have the power and will to defeat their enemies."

Ghani also challenged the Taliban to "show if your way or the way of democracy is preferred by the people."

In a tweet on October 21, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg commended "the millions of Afghan men & women who have exercised their democratic right to vote & the Afghan security forces who have provided security for the elections despite great challenges."

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a statement released on October 20 that it was "encouraged by the high numbers" of Afghans who braved security threats and waited long hours to cast their votes.

UNAMA said the elections, which it described as "the first completely run by Afghan authorities since 2001," were an "important milestone in Afghanistan's transition to self-reliance." (RFE/RL)

### (2) Candidates...

another Wolesi Jirga candidate from Kabul, said 12 members of her family polled votes for him on Saturday in Herati Mosque in Shahr-i-Naw area of Kabul, but the next day only three votes were found in the same polling station. "I do not know what they did with our other nine votes or for which candidate my votes were used, I will register complaint right now and will tell them the polls were not transparent," she said.

Zahir Ahmad, a resident of Deh Afghan area of Kabul, also made similar claims and said they waited for more than one hour to vote, but their votes were stolen and used for another candidate.

He added two other people in their area also suspected IEC workers rigged the election. Ahmad said it was his first time voting and would not vote again in future.

Atiqullah, a resident of Bagrami district, said he cast his vote on Saturday, but his vote was not counted for the candidate of his choice in the result list.

"I waited for at least two hours and finally I was able to cast my vote to the candidate of my choice," he said.

"I could say with full confidence that my vote was stolen and used in the benefit of another candidate," he claimed.

Ahmad Shoiab, one of the observers, said: "Last night we waited until 12:00am when the voting process concluded and our candidate secured 13 votes in Sufi Islam Amin polling station but in the morning when we returned, only three votes were available in all centres."

Fatema, an observer of Ghulam Ali Parsa, said: "Our candidate received more than 15 votes and we took snapshot from the list but today only one vote was shown on the list and the remaining 14 votes were missing."

She asked the IECC to strictly investigate the rigging and save people's votes from going in vain.

Attaullah, a resident of Ahmad Shah Baba Mena who also served as observer on Election Day, said he and his family polled 12 votes to a candidate of their choice in the Musa Shafiq polling station.

"But early in the morning, zero was written in front of the candidate's name in the results list, to whom we voted."

Merza Mohammad Haqqarast, deputy spokesman of the IEC, said the results without signatures of observers were not acceptable to the IEC and such votes would be reexamined.

He said if voters and candidates had complaints, they should register them with the IECC in order to be redressed. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Around 4 Million...

punish perpetrators involved in violations on the day of elections. The commission will also probe fraud and claims of vote-rigging. The election commission is also working with electoral complaints commission about fraud and violations and necessary measures will be taken in line with the law," added Sayyad.

On the claims of incompetency by the IEC during the day of elections, the IEC chief said: "the elections had been a success and "we wrapped up a great mission in little time."

He said this had been a learning curve for the commission for future elections.

Sayyad also said: "The commission will soon start preparing for presidential elections."

On vote-rigging claims, the IEC chief called on those people, who have credible evidence to back up their claims of vote-rigging, to contact the complaints commission.

He also said the commission would meet to discuss reports that biometric devices were not used in some areas.

He said that women's participation in elections had been around 33 percent.

5,333 Complaints Lodged  
Figures by the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) show that 5,333 complaints were lodged with the commission on the first day of parliamentary elections.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, the IECC spokesman Ali Reza Rouhani said 1,700 complaints have been lodged in Kabul - which had the highest number so far but said many of these are not necessarily complaints but rather reports of problems experienced.

According to him, 15 complaints were lodged in Khost - which had the lowest number of complaints compared with other provinces.

He acknowledged that there are technical problems relating to the elections but said that the participation of women in the elections was very high.

The IECC spokesman said a number of biometric devices are not working at some centers in Kabul and in other provinces, including a center in the west of Kabul.

He said people have 48 hours to send their complaints to the commission on the electoral process. (Tolo news)

### (4) Taliban Failed...

shortcomings during parliamentary elections and the IEC also admitted that and apologized for the problems.

"The people's demand from these commissions is that their complaints should be addressed and the shortcomings that have taken place should be resolved and people have the right for their complaints to be addressed," Abdullah said.

Abdullah also said that the use of biometrics was good, but there were still some inadequacies in using it.

Meanwhile, Abdullah rejected rumors that former Kandahar police chief General Abdul Raziq was killed by Resolute Support.

There are rumors that the Kandahar incident is linked to Resolute Support. These rumors have been launched by the enemies of the Afghan people and their regional supporters, he said.

"Those who create these rumors justify the crimes of the enemies of the people. The justification for the Taliban's crimes is hostility to the Afghan people

"The rumors that the action (attack on Raziq) was done by Resolute Support is just helping the enemy," Abdullah said.

The feelings of our youth should not be influenced by the enemy, Abdullah added. (Tolo news)

### (5) NATO, India...

contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions and deepen inclusive democratic system in Afghanistan."

India supported the people of Afghanistan in their efforts to build a peaceful, stable, united, inclusive and prosperous nation. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Raziq's Killer...

Support commander Gen. Austin Scott Miller.

Hassainkhail was also killed in the shooting and the governor was wounded. Miller escaped unharmed.

The NDS chief said when the bodyguard opened fire on the officials, foreign troops with Miller also shot back.

According to Stanekzai, the meeting between the leaders lasted half an hour but no discussions were held on the Durand Line or on peace talks.

He also said at least 15 people have been arrested in connection with the assassination of Raziq but that investigations continue.

Earlier Monday, CEO Abdullah Abdullah dispelled rumors as being untrue that Resolute Support had been behind the incident.

Speaking at the Council of Ministers Meeting, he said these rumors were simply helping the enemy.

On Friday, Miller told TOLONews in an interview that he had not been the of Thursday's attack in Kandahar.

"What happened in Kandahar was an attack on the security forces," he said.

"My assessment is that I was not the target. It was a very close confined space. But I don't assess that I was the target," he said.

The American general said he had visited Kandahar residents before the attack and that they showed their desire for peace and unity.

"Prior to the attack down in Kandahar, we were talking to the Kandahar people, and the messages we had from the Kandahar people were unity, and peace, and confidence in the security forces, very specifically in preparation for the upcoming elections, the confidence in the security forces and our support as required," he said. (Tolo news)

### (7) Review of Upcoming...

against the \$15.2 billion committed by the international community for Afghanistan in 2016.

Expected Outcomes of The Summit

1. A joint communiqué.

2. The Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework (GMAF).

3. For the Government of Afghanistan: Gain the continued confidence and support of the international community and of the Afghan people by: presenting progress and continued commitment to reform, democratic processes and development for the people of Afghanistan.

4. For the United Nations: Demonstrate unflinching support and commitment to the development of Afghanistan, as a key contribution for peace and security.

5. For the international partners: Showcase solidarity with Afghanistan and demonstrate to respective domestic audiences that support is leading to results in Afghanistan.

Back in August, the World Bank said that the Geneva conference on Afghanistan in November will be important for the country so as to ensure continued support by the international community towards Afghanistan in years to come.

Speaking to TOLONews, World Bank country director for Afghanistan Shubham Chaudhuri said at the time that at the conference, donors will assess the performance of the National Unity Government and its programs in order to boost Afghanistan's economic situation in the future and to improve good governance.

Earlier Tadamichi Yamamoto, the United Nations' Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan called on the national unity government to take solid steps towards fighting corruption, ensure holding transparent elections and finalizing the investment law in the country before the conference.

According to UNAMA, the conference will also be an opportunity to emphasize the importance of the development and reform agenda and the need to advance it as a constructive contribution to peace and security.

The Geneva Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan will be held between two pledging conferences: the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan (2016) and the next pledging conference expected to be held in 2020.

Background on the Geneva Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan

In 2011 at the Bonn conference on Afghanistan, the international community agreed on a "Transformation Decade" for the country. During this period, Afghanistan was promised considerable amounts of international assistance so that the country could achieve self-reliance by 2024. At the Tokyo Conference in 2012 a system of high-level periodic reviews was put in place with ministerial meetings (invitation to Foreign Ministers because of the comprehensive and political nature of the meetings) every two years and senior officials meeting in the intervening years.

The ministerial conferences in 2012 (Tokyo) and 2016 (Brussels) became major pledging conferences obtaining over \$16 billion and \$15 billion respectively for the years that followed. The next major pledging conference is in 2020.

The Tokyo conference (2012) also introduced the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) as a means to provide direction for the development of Afghanistan through mutual commitments between government and the international community. A system of high-level periodic reviews takes place via either the ministerial conference or the senior officials meeting every year.

The senior officials meetings are held in Kabul and the ministerial meetings are held outside Afghanistan in order to garner continued political support from capitals. The London Ministerial of 2014 strongly reaffirmed the continued

support of the international community and continued monitoring of the implementation of commitments by the Afghan Government. The Brussels Ministerial of 2016 was a pledging conference and included political and strategic elements.

The 2018 Geneva Ministerial will not be a pledging conference like those in Tokyo and Brussels, but more focused on policy and strategy. In line with the Security Council mandate for the UN to coordinate international donor assistance to Afghanistan, the UN has been co-chairing ministerial and senior officials meetings. Following the senior officials meeting held in Kabul on 5 October 2017 the Afghan Government (President Ghani and the Minister of Finance) asked the United Nations to hold the ministerial conference of 2018 at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

In July, the international community and the Afghan government convened the 21st Joint Coordination Monitoring Board Meeting (JCMB) to discuss progress, challenges and the way forward in implementing the government's reform agenda, and on the concrete work to be addressed in the run up to the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan, including holding inclusive and credible elections, moving forward on National Priority Programs, and implementing reforms.

The JCMB focused on seven priority reform areas: security sector reforms, aid effectiveness, macro-economic reforms, private sector development, regional partners' engagement, anti-corruption and justice, and implementation of National Priority Programs. Seven moderated panels featured government officials, international partners, and members of civil society and private sector and discussed progress and challenges in each sector in highly interactive manner.

The JCMB is a series of high-level meetings that take place annually. It is a platform for the Afghan government and international partners to discuss issues of mutual importance and provide each other with updates on the progress, challenges and further developments on their reform commitments as Afghanistan works toward self-reliance.

This was the 21st in its series, titled "Towards the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan." The meeting was an opportunity to discuss developments following the Senior Officials Meeting of the National Unity Government and international community and determine the way forward leading to the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan to be held in Geneva in November this year.

The timeline for the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan will come in the wake of Afghanistan's parliamentary elections and ahead of next year's presidential elections. However, there are still some reservations among critics and the Afghan government about the capability of the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC). But on Monday, the IEC dismissed allegations of mismanagement and weakness and said that the commission, by holding successful parliamentary elections showed that it had the capacity to do the job properly.

On the 2019 presidential elections, he stated: "the commission will soon start preparing for presidential elections. (Tolo news)

### (8) U.S. Military Confirms...

The attack came as the war-torn country is preparing for long-delayed elections for Wolesi Jirga, or lower house of the Afghan parliament.

The Afghan government announced on Friday to postpone the elections in the southern Kandahar province. (Xinhua)