

# UNAMA Welcomes IEC Launch of National Electoral Forum

KABUL - The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) welcomes Wednesday's launch of the National Electoral Forum by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) as an important step towards elections seen as credible, transparent, and inclusive in the eyes of the Afghan people.

The forum is intended as a series of regular and meaningful consultations to build consensus on the way forward for elections. Today's event in Kabul brought together electoral commissioners with political stakeholders, civil society and others.

"A credible election is not simply a technically well-organized election, but one in which citizens have confidence that the results represent their will," Pernille Kardel, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan, said in opening remarks at the forum. "Broad consultations, transparency, and electoral authorities seen ... (More on P4)...(17)



## Kunduz: Taliban Ban Telecom Services at Nighttime

KUNDUZ CITY - The Taliban have forced telecom companies into suspending their services at nighttime in northern Kunduz province, local officials said on Wednesday.

The Taliban also confirmed the ban on telecom services at night. A security official in the province, wishing anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban issued the order telecommunication companies two days back.

He said telecom networks did not work from 6pm in the evening till 6am in the morning, creating serious problems for local residents. "The Taliban did this because of nighttime security operations." Kunduz residents confirmed the issue. Shirin Agha, a resident of Kunduz city, the provincial capital: "My mobile SIM card automatically deactivates in night, and then I am unable to contact anyone. This is a big problem."

However, another resident of the city, Ghulam Sidiq, said except Salaam Network, the rest of telecom networks didn't work in night. "The government should resolve the issue at the earliest."

Meanwhile, provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Hamid Hamidi confirmed the issue but he didn't know if the ... (More on P4)...(19)

## Kabul Gets 121 Cold Storage Units for Onions



KABUL - Over 100 cold storage units have been established in five districts of Kabul for onions, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) said on Wednesday. According to Assadullah Zamir, minister of agriculture, irrigation and livestock, 121 units have ... (More on P4)...(20)

## Customs Issues Plague Importers as Containers Held for Months

KABUL - Kandahar businessmen claim customs officers have failed to clear at least 5,000 containers coming in to Afghanistan from neighboring countries.

A number of businessmen from Kandahar province said the failure by customs officials to clear thousands of containers of imported goods through Spin Boldak from Pakistan, and Herat port from Iran, has had a severe impact on their businesses.

The investors said 'convoluted' processes in the customs offices have resulted in a loss of up to 70 percent in trade turnover for them as almost 5,000 containers have not been cleared through Herat and Spin Boldak customs offices in the past three months.

"We call on the Afghan government to resolve the problem of the containers which have been stopped for the past three months; they carry goods belonging to local investors. The investors are faced with a big problem in this respect," said Abdul Baqi, one businessman in Kandahar. The importers who gathered ... (More on P4)...(21)

## US Military Surgeons in Afghanistan Treat Civilian Injuries

KABUL - At U.S. military facilities in Afghanistan, roughly half of the surgeries done for local civilians during more than a decade of war have been for non-combat injuries and health problems, a recent study suggests.

From January 2002 through March 2013, a total of 5,786 local civilians underwent 9,428 surgical procedures at U.S. military treatment centers in Afghanistan, accounting for 37,121 inpatient hospital days, researchers report in JAMA Surgery.

Overall, 2,853 of these patients, or 49 percent, were treated for conditions that weren't directly related to the war, the study found. "We knew from personal experiences, shared anecdotes, and surveys of deployed personnel that a substantial amount of humanitarian care was being performed," said senior study author Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Peter Learn, a researcher at Walter Reed National ... (More on P4)...(22)

## District Intelligence Chief Gunned Down in Takhar

TALOQAN - Unidentified gunmen have shot dead the intelligence chief for the Warsaj district of northeastern Takhar province, officials said on Wednesday.

Police spokesman Maj. Abdul Khalil Aseer told Pajhwok Afghan News that the intelligence officer, Ghulam Rabbani, was gunned down in front of his house in Trasth area on Tuesday night.

Warsaj district chief Abdul Rashad said two accused had been arrested in connection with the murder. However he said Rabbani was killed due to personal enmity.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident. There was no immediate claim of responsibility by any militant group. (Pajhwok)

## Daesh Rebels Kill Brothers over Spying Charges in Kunar



ASADABAD - Daesh militants have killed two brothers over having links with government and gunmen have killed a couple in eastern Kunar province, an official said on Wednesday.

Police Chief Maj. Gen. Jumma Gul Hemat told Pajhwok Afghan News rebels kidnapped the two brothers from the Shatan district and killed them on Tuesday evening.

He said the slain brothers were common people and had no links with the government. It is pertinent to mention that Daesh rebels last week killed a civilian over spying charges.

Separately, gunmen have killed a couple and their driver in the Chapai Dari district. The couple had just returned from Hajj. Two persons had been arrested in connection to the ... (More on P4)...(18)

## 9 Militants Killed in Laghman-Nangarhar Offensives



JALALABAD - At least nine Daesh (Islamic State) and Taliban insurgents have been killed and four others arrested during air-and-operations in eastern Laghman and Nangarhar provinces, officials said on Wednesday.

Sarhadi Zwak, the Laghman governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Afghan Air Force carried out operation against militants in Panje Payee area of ... (More on P4)...(23)

### Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



**Aries** You want everything to be easy in a relationship today, but your goals might clash with someone who is holding all the cards. You plan on doing a good job so your coworkers and boss are pleased, but their notion of success is different from yours. No amount of discussion will make this conflict disappear now.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



**Taurus** You won't alter your long-term goals for the sake of convenience today. Nevertheless, you might need to make some adjustments to your calendar to manage the changing circumstances at work. You aren't happy about the current situation, but you're willing to graciously adapt as long as you can keep your original destination in mind.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



**Gemini** A family member or friend might make unexpected demands of your time today, placing you in an uncomfortable position. You already have plans and aren't thrilled about canceling them just to accommodate someone else. Nevertheless, you are devoted to keeping the peace now, and will find a way to graciously handle the situation without giving away your power.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



**Cancer** Thankfully, the emotional storms are beginning to quiet down, but you might catch a subtle disturbance on your radar screen today. Practical considerations hijack your agenda, leaving you little time to address issues of your heart. Obviously, you need to attend to your mundane obligations to keep your life in order.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



**Leo** Thankfully, the emotional storms are beginning to quiet down, but you might catch a subtle disturbance on your radar screen today. Practical considerations hijack your agenda, leaving you little time to address issues of your heart. Obviously, you need to attend to your mundane obligations to keep your life in order.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept 22)



**Virgo** You know what you want but you may be so preoccupied with creating a successful plan that you lose sight of your original intentions. Someone or something appears to be impeding your spontaneity now, requiring you to work harder to reach satisfaction. Removing the blockage would be an easy task today, if you only knew what it was. Tapping into your inner resources empowers you to repel any self-doubt and improves your chances of finding the key to the puzzle.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



**Libra** You feel exposed today because your emotions are so close to the surface. Normally, you wear your heart on your sleeve when the evocative Moon makes her monthly visit to your sign. However, you don't want your shadow side to be seen now, preferring to hide your internal process from the judgment of others.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



**Scorpio** You wish to deepen the emotional bonds with your closest friends and associates, but you might quickly cool off if they don't show up authentically. Granted, your standards are extremely high and your judgment is often unforgiving, but your need for building a strong foundation with honest communication is non-negotiable.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



**Sagittarius** Your primary focus is to distinguish yourself in the professional arena or within your community now. However, you might not want to make all of the social sacrifices necessary to achieve your desired status. You wish you could enjoy the camaraderie of just hanging out with your friends today, but must stay relentlessly focused on your goals instead.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



**Capricorn** The good news is your restlessness at work is not about dissatisfaction with your job. The truth is you've been thinking about taking a vacation to an exotic destination and can't get the vision out of your mind. Although packing your suitcase and heading to the airport sounds like a perfect idea today, previous obligations make recreational travel unlikely.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



**Aquarius** You intrinsically know the value of deep emotional connections and are willing to step into unfamiliar territory if you have reason enough to make the journey. Unfortunately, you might encounter unexpected negativity from an opponent, an ally or even yourself. Although you cannot avoid running into the darker side of passion now, you can choose how to respond to it.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



**Pisces** You're quite particular about who you associate with these days. However, you're enticed by the prospect of conversing with interesting people today. Unfortunately, everyone seems to have a pet subject to discuss that keeps you in your head rather than in your heart. You enjoy expanding your horizons mentally but also crave a spiritual connection.

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**Across**

1. Rant, 5. A deep ravine, 10. Squad, 14. Nile bird, 15. A kind of macaw, 16. Hindu princess, 17. Plant food, 19. Egg-shaped, 20. Grippe 21. Lollapalooza, 22. Brandish 23. Conference, 25. A sharp curve, 27. A parcel of land, 28. Bullfighter, 31. Nonsense, 34. Narcotics, 35. Ribonucleic acid, 36. Away from the wind, 37. Itty-bitty, 38. French for "Wolf", 39. Coniferous tree, 40. Asphalted, 41. Expire, 42. A baroque musical composition, 44. Ambition, 45. Stops, 46. Demesnes, 50. Discrimination against the elderly, 52. High armor, 54. Lyric poem, 55. Stink, 56. Germs in the blood, 58. Not in danger, 59. Community spirit, 60. Mobile phone, 61. At one time (archaic), 62. Oceans

**Down**

1. Jazz ostinatos, 2. Poplar tree, 3. Infectious agent, 4. Eastern Standard Time, 5. Stumblebum, 6. Heavenly hunter, 7. Tease, 8. A racing dog, 9. Hearing organ, 10. Group of three, 11. Listen in, 12. A Freudian stage, 13. Gentle 18. Manner of speaking, 22. Troubles, 24. Swing around, 26. Unrestrained revelry, 28. Tall woody plants 29. Burden, 30. Sexual assault, 31. Dagger handle, 32. Hodgepodge, 33. Scarves, 34. Cause extensive destruction, 37. Light bulb unit, 38. Tibetan monk 40. Inside of your hand, 41. About a US quart, 43. Coffin, 44. Judge, 46. Prevent legally, 47. Volumes, 48. Ancient Roman magistrate, 49. Aquatic mammals, 50. Backside, 51. Equipment, 53. Throb, 56. What we sleep on, 57. Euro forerunner

**Yesterday's Solution**

E	R	G	O	V	A	M	P	S	F	A	N	S
G	U	R	U	I	N	G	R	E	A	N	O	A
A	B	E	T	R	E	G	A	R	D	L	E	S
D	E	W	G	L	A	W	M	E	A	S	L	E
R	I	G										
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I	N	T	E	R	L	O	P	E	R	A	R	I
T	O	E										
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alive, arrive, average, bigger, carpet, casino, circulate, class, close, conference, crept, dare enter, fare, flaunt, floral, flower, halibut, hedge, hitch, local, ornate, party, plate radio ready, recede, role

L O C A L M R H E D G E M  
C C L O S E D E C E R O T  
O A A Z S L A N T T R B A  
F P S S H A R E T N I W C  
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Y T A T N T T G V T C R  
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B R T T P T A R A R P T L  
I I P I S Y D A E R A F A  
L V E O K N I H T B O C T  
A E R N F L O W E R O L E  
H E C N E R E F N O C S F