

Biometric Machines in Afghan Vote Improve after Last Year's Glitches



KABUL — Biometric machines aimed at preventing fraud in Afghanistan's presidential election performed better than in a poll last year but still left voters waiting a long time to cast their ballots, election observers said on Saturday. The machines were used for the first time in the October parliamentary poll, when many malfunctioned or failed to work altogether. Chaos during that vote was

blamed on the machines' performance, along with incomplete voting lists and delays in holding the election. The Independent Election Commission (IEC) decided to use the machines during the presidential election but gave staff more training and issued spare batteries for the devices at each of the polling centers in a country with chronic power shortages.

Polling stations, which each had one device, had paper registration forms as backup in case biometric verification failed. "The technology improved a little bit, so it is not as bad as the parliamentary election," said Naem Ayubzada, director of Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan, which observed polls in all 34 provinces. *... (More on P4)... (4)*

Pakistan Keeps Torkham Border Crossing Open

KABUL - Pakistan's border with Afghanistan remains open to let registered Afghans vote in today's presidential election, says the Foreign Office.



On Thursday, the ministry said all crossings points with Afghanistan would stay shut on September 27-28 to help ensure security for the election in the war-torn country. But the decision, taken in response

to President Ghani's call, was reversed late on Friday when the Foreign Office announced Pakistan

had received a new request from the Afghan Ministry of Defence. The Afghan ministry asked "on very short notice" for facilitation and opening of the border crossings during the presidential ballot. "In spite of security issues, Pakistan... (More on P4)... (5)

Security Forces Among 17 Killed in Samangan Attack

AIBAK - Five security personnel and 12 militants have been killed in the Taliban attack on security forces check-posts in northern Samangan province, an official said on Friday.

Governor Abdul Latif Ibrahimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban attacked security forces posts on Thursday night to capture the Dara-i-Suf Paen district which were repulsed successfully. He said the enemy did not have the courage to face security forces and managed to escape from the battle ground.

Taliban Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, however, claimed taking the control of Dara-i-Suf Paen district.

He said tens of security forces killed and 20 others arrested during overnight attacks.

The governor said that out of total 99 polling stations, 80 will remain open on Election Day. (Pajhwok)



Election Violence: Parwan Man Kills Cousin

CHARIKAR - A man shot dead his cousin who refused to vote for the presidential candidate of his choice in Charikar, the capital of central Parwan province, on Saturday morning, an official said.

The voting process for a new president began this morning across the country. At least 14 candidates are contesting the vote. Deputy police chief, Abdul

Wase Gulbahar told Pajhwok Afghan News that two supporters of Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah, clashed in the Deh Qazi area of the provincial capital.

He said the two voters, who were cousins, traded fire after voting for different runners/ One of them was killed in the fire exchange. The assailant managed to escape area. Police are investigating the incident. (Pajhwok)

Would-Be Suicide Bomber Killed in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - A would-be suicide bomber was killed by own explosives before reaching to his target in northern Kunduz province on Saturday, officials said.

Kunduz governor's spokesman, Esmatullah Muradi told Pajhwok Afghan News that the assailant who attached explosives to a bicycle wanted to attack voters, but was blown up before reaching his target. "Fortunately he was killed with his own explosives before arriving to a polling site," he said, adding that no other people were hurt in the incident.

He said that the Taliban fired rockets on Kunduz city, the provincial capital in order to disrupt the election process,



but failed. Taliban did not comment on the incident so far. However, the militant group in a statement said that their fighters carried out 314 attacks on election targets and inflicted casualties to many security forces. Today, September 28 is the presidential Election Day across Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

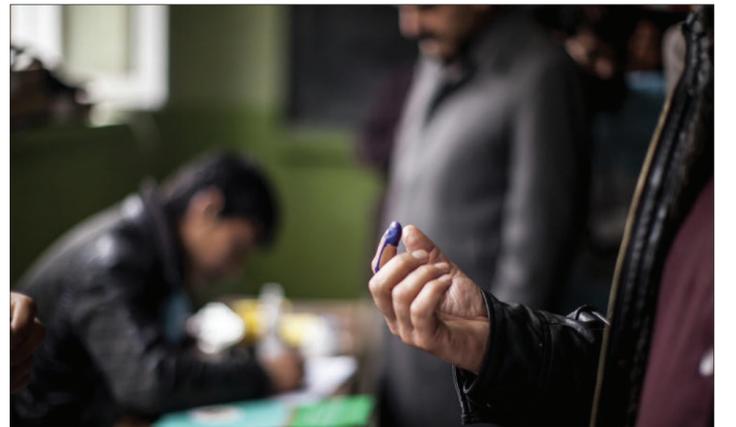
No Major Challenge Reported as Polling Continues: IEC

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission (IEC) on Saturday said that they are currently not experiencing the challenges they faced in last year's parliamentary elections.

"So far we have not faced the challenges we had in the parliamentary elections. We urge the people of Afghanistan to cast their votes and decide their fate. This is a fight for democracy," said Mirza Mohammad Haqparast, spokesman for the IEC.

"Sensitive material was delivered to all 34 provinces. Backup devices and technical experts are available to deal with any possible problem," he said.

Haqparast stated that around 137, 000 observers are observing the election process across the country, and asks for everyone involved in the process to keep



their impartiality and stand alongside the people of Afghanistan.

Tolonews journalists have reported several incidents of technical problems with biometric devices (although backup

plans were in place) as well as complaints by voters who participated in the last parliamentary elections but who are no longer on the registered voter list. (Tolo news)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Sep 29, 2019 - Some unexpected but welcome communications could come your way, probably from a lover or close friend. Planning for a pleasant, exciting journey is indicated. Today you relate well to others, friendships grow closer, romantic relationships become more intimate. Someone close to you could move to your neighborhood. Plan a small gathering for tonight.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Sep 29, 2019 - Experiments combining creativity and technology could lead to opportunities to increase your income. You're receptive to new ideas and willing to make an effort to put them to work for you. You're likely to uncover new talents that you didn't know you had. This is a great day to sign up for a class, attend a lecture, or seek tutoring.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Sep 29, 2019 - Today you might be more attracted to unusual art forms. Perhaps exhibits of local artists have caught your attention, or you may be developing a taste for alternative music. Movies with a lot of special effects could also appeal to you. If you're so inclined, this is a good day to start learning about any of these fields.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Sep 29, 2019 - An old friend you may not have seen for a long time could come to visit today. This should be a surprise, but you'll probably be glad to see this person. You could purchase a new piece of equipment of some kind - a computer or home entertainment center. Your home should be busy, but you'll have fun.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Sep 29, 2019 - An unexpected invitation from a friend could have you taking a short trip, perhaps to visit this person. Conversations with friends should prove interesting and enlightening. A part of you may be forever changed for the better. New interests, perhaps humanitarian, could come your way. It's a busy, satisfying day.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Sep 29, 2019 - New career opportunities appear on the scene to reawaken your ambition. You might come across some unusual possibilities for advancement that you've never considered before. This can be a bit intimidating but also exciting. You're unlikely to pass up any chances until you consider them. Success and good fortune are indicated.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



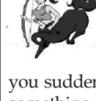
Sep 29, 2019 - Today you may plan a long journey to a place you've never been, probably in the company of a lover or close friend. The excitement of making the arrangements brings you closer, and a great time is promised. Romance looks good, as increased communication between you and your special someone is strongly indicated. The two of you may have an exciting evening out.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Sep 29, 2019 - An unexpected visit from a friend you haven't seen for a while could bring up long-forgotten memories. You could confront hidden psychological and emotional issues. Though it may be tempting, don't try to repress them again. It's important that you face and release these points. Today you should greatly enjoy seeing your friend again.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sep 29, 2019 - Today you may fall in love at first sight. Perhaps with someone you've never met before or an old friend you suddenly see in a new light. You could also learn something wonderful you never knew before about a current partner. However it manifests, today bodes well for romance. Look your best all day. If possible, go out with your partner tonight!

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



Sep 29, 2019 - Exciting new developments make you upbeat about your career. Perhaps the Earth-shattering solution you've been searching for suddenly happens, or an enthusiastic potential partner appears on the scene. Either way, you're excited, and you can look forward to interesting projects and possible advancement.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

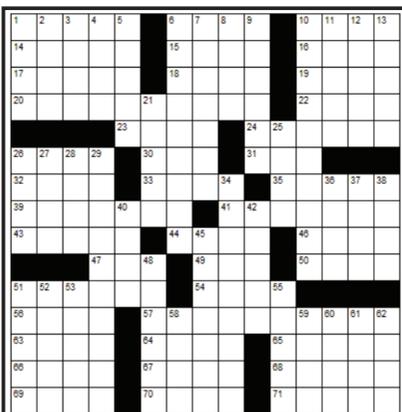


Sep 29, 2019 - Interest in art from distant lands might capture your interest today, possibly through the influence of friends. Your desire to travel may be awakened, and you might toy with the idea of visiting faraway places, perhaps in the company of a lover. If you're serious, start doing research. This is a great day to plan a vacation.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Sep 29, 2019 - Purchases for your home might be one of your projects today. Your aesthetic sense is very high right now and your good taste at a peak. You're likely to be more attracted to the unusual and unconventional than usual. Unexpected but welcome visitors could come to your door, and some fascinating conversations could result. You might even host an impromptu event.



Across

- 1. Stimulate, 6. Competent, 10. Laugh, 14. Treks on foot, 15. Dour, 16. Decorative case 17. Notions, 18. Part in a play, 19. Not legs, 20. Possessing a hard shell, 22. Found on rotary phones, 23. Anagram of "Lyme", 24. Crazy, 26. Young cow, 30. An uncle, 31. Take in slowly, 32. Murres, 33. Relating to aircraft, 35. Baby beds, 39. Distinguish, 41. A four-sided spinning top, 43. Flavorful, 44. You (archaic), 46. Roman emperor, 47. Directed, 49. Evil spirit, 50. A measuring instrument, 51. A person without pigment, 54. P P P P, 56. Religious splinter group, 57. Self-denial, 63. Urine component, 64. Chomp, 65. Smell, 66. Check, 67. Lascivious look, 68. Might, 69. Existence, 70. Makes a mistake, 71. Rise,

Down

- 1. Voucher, 2. Deputy, 3. Hawaiian strings, 4. Chair, 5. An analytic literary composition, 6. Concord, 7. Flower, 8. Humdinger, 9. Vomiting, 10. A stream's source, 11. Courtyards 12. What we are 13. Path, 21. Transparent, 25. Agreeable, 26. Wads, 27. Diva's solo 28. Speech disorder, 29. Help, 34. Mileage meters, 36. Bright thought, 37. Large mass of ice 38. Blackthorn, 40. Biblical garden 42. Indian monetary unit, 45. Flower child (1960s), 48. Achievable, 51. Sharp, 52. Entices, 53. Consecrate, 55. Breaks, 58. Casket 59. Gait faster than a walk, 60. Hawkeye State, 61. Portent, 62. An aromatic ointment,

Yesterday's Solution

LOVE APRON BOBBE
UNIT URINE GRUD
CICATRICLE CARD
ROE ROMEO HUSSY
EMPHARE OPALLS
ASA SKITTERY
TOUGH LIEGE RUE
URNG PTERC SIGN
BEE LONGS LUES
ESTRANGE TAR
HEDGE SHUTTER
JULICW BAKED LAGE
ORCA DEMOISELLE
SEAL ARIAS ROAD
HALL PSALM ANTS

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