Election Commission of Afghanistan

KABUL - At least 10,000 adhesive and inkjet printers were recovered from the Independent Election Commission (IEC) offices in Kabul during the 2014 elections, the Independent Election Commissions (IEC) acknowledged on Sunday.

A fact-finding committee had evaluated all anomalies and frauds that took place during the elections and decisions had been taken against those involved in fraud.

IEC spokesperson Nadir Mohammadi told Journalists in Kabul that the fact-finding committee had evaluated all anomalies and frauds that took place during the elections and decisions had been taken against those involved in fraud.

IEC - A week has gone by since the kidnapping of 30 Hazara passengers traveling on the Kabul-Kandahar highway and their destiny is still unknown. In protest of the delayed rescue, the 30 Hazara passengers have called on the government to release the passengers without "conditions.

"We demand the release of the kidnapped individuals in any conditions," said local resident Shahrizad, adding that the government cannot negotiate with terrorists.

Local officials of Kabul said that the order is not new and is in line with the anti-terrorism agreement signed in 2018 of Afghanistan.

Election Commission of Afghanistan

Ghani Pledges Relief Fund for Avalanche Affected Families

IRAN - Reiterates Support for Establishment of Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan

But the government cannot be relied on to provide aid for the victims of the avalanche.

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said that a relief fund would be set up for the victims and affected families of the avalanche, which killed 30 people dead and hundreds of families displaced.

The death toll in a series of avalanches and flash floods rose to 260 on Friday, with the bulk of deaths coming from central Panjsher province, where 150 have been reported so far.

The government cabinet announced a three-day national mourning to express solidarity with families who lost their beloved ones in avalanches in several parts of the country, a statement from the Presidential Palace said on Sunday.

In his televised address to the nation the president said: "The natural disaster caused devastation for more than two months ago in Hazarajat Province of the south and also in other areas.

MOFA Summons Pakistan Envoy over Diplomatic "Harassment"

Three days after the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) called in the Pakistani ambassador to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in Kabul on Sunday in connection with the "arrest and harassment" of four Afghan Consulate General (CGG) diplomats in Peshawar by police.

A statement from the MoFA said that Deputy Foreign Minister and current interim head Khilzooi Karzai expressed the Afghan government's strong protest and concern to Pakistan's ambassador over the arrest of Afghan diplomats by the Pakistani police.

Karzai termed it "as blatant violation of the principle of diplomatic relations" and asked the ambassador to share the details of the incident with his country's authorities and ask them to thoroughly investigate the matter.

The death toll from a series of avalanches and flash floods rose to 260 on Thursday as the victims of the disaster continued to be buried in snow. More than 150 people are believed to be buried in avalanches in different parts of Afghanistan.

A flood in the central province of Panjsher has also left 19 people dead and displaced over 10,000 people.

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Outlook

Photojournalist among Pul-Pul-Charki Prisoners

RABIL - A court in El-Ghorino District has sentenced a well-known Afghan photojournalist, Najibullah Musaferi, to six months imprisonment for alleged membership of the organization that defends the rights of the journalists in Afghanistan. Najibullah is now imprisoned in his native province of El-Ghorino. The sentence of the court was passed on the basis of false allegations and restrictions on the freedom of the press. Najibullah denied the charges and appealed against the sentence. Najibullah was arrested two weeks before the Pul-Pul-Charki prison after a court annulled his six months imprisonment. His trial has been prolonged and he is still behind bars. Najibullah is a renowned journalist and a member of the Afghan Journalists Association. He has been covering the war and conflict in Afghanistan for many years.

Mosque, Quran Burning Spark Outrage in Ghazni

GHANZI CITY - Dozens of protesters in southern Ghazni province went on Sunday to half-burn the holy book of the Quran in protest against the violent attack on a mosque in the city. The protest was organized by the Islamic Society of Ghazni. The protesters burned a copy of the Quran in front of the mosque and chanted slogans against the attack on the mosque in the city. They also demanded the government to take action to ensure the safety of mosques and Muslims.

2 Afghan Cops Shot Dead in Balochistan

QUETTA: Two Afghan policemen were killed and five others wounded in an attack that took place in Chaman, Balochistan. The policemen were on duty while carrying Afghan flags in a parade. The attack was carried out by unknown gunmen using rockets and machine guns.

Two Afghan soldiers were killed and five others wounded in an attack that took place in Chaman, Balochistan. The policemen were on duty while carrying Afghan flags in a parade. The attack was carried out by unknown gunmen using rockets and machine guns.

Nawroz Festival to Celebrate with Enthusiasm: PC Members

MAZHAR-LAHOREF-The Provincial Council (PC) Chairman, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali, on Saturday said that the upcoming Nawroz Festival should be celebrated with enthusiasm. He said that the Nawroz Festival is an opportunity to promote peace and harmony in the country. He also expressed hope that the Nawroz Festival would bring peace and prosperity to the country.

2 Employees of a Development Project Dead in Blast

TARKHIKOT: Two employees of a development project were killed in a roadside blast in central Ziarat district on Sunday. According to the local police, the blast occurred near the road-side where the employees were working on a development project. The blast was caused by a petrol tanker that exploded near the employees. The employees were working on an irrigation project.

Two ANA Soldiers Killed in Roadside Mine Blast

DODAB - At least 11 Taliban insurgents were killed in a roadside mine explosion in the western Herat province on Saturday. According to the local police, the mine was placed by the Taliban on the road-side where the soldiers were working on an irrigation project. The blast was caused by a mine that was placed by the Taliban.

11 Taliban Insurgents Killed

SAILAB: At least 11 Taliban insurgents were killed in an Afghan Air Force operation in southern Zabul province on Sunday. According to the local police, the operation was carried out by the Afghan Air Force in response to a request from the local authorities.

Outlook

Horoscope

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19)

You are courageous and ambitious, but you can also be stubborn at times. You are very independent and prefer to work on your own. You are very practical and enjoy planning and organizing things. You are very analytical and enjoy working with numbers.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You are very sociable and enjoy meeting new people. You are very charming and have a good sense of humor. You are very relaxed and enjoy spending time with friends and family.

Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)

You are very practical and enjoy working with numbers. You are very patient and enjoy taking your time to complete tasks. You are very decisive and enjoy making plans.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec. 21)

You are very adventurous and enjoy exploring new places. You are very independent and enjoy working on your own. You are very practical and enjoy planning and organizing things.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov. 21)

You are very ambitious and enjoy working towards your goals. You are very independent and enjoy working on your own. You are very practical and enjoy planning and organizing things.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

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Cancer (Jun 21-Jul. 22)

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Virgo (Aug 23-Sep. 22)

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Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may not be able to avoid the public eye today, but you could be the one to look the other way. You may be making sacrifices that are not in your best interest.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov. 21)

It's time to let go of the past and move on to the future. You may be feeling stuck in the past and unable to move forward.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec. 21)

Although it's always wise to decide on your priorities, it's important to also consider your agenda as new year's resolutions can sometimes overshadow your true desires.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may not be as open to new ideas today, but you may feel more confident in your ability. You may feel more in control of your life.

Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)

You may feel more relaxed today, but you may also feel more vulnerable. You may feel more in control of your life.

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Afganistan is engaged in the present crucial world of more than 40 percent of its population living below or slightly above the line of poverty. The problem is even more acute in relatively remote rural areas where the situation has been deteriorating. Every day, the case of Afghan women and children is the same, facing a host of problems and difficulties. The nation is struggling to maintain a balance between development and poverty, and the situation is further complicated by the ongoing war and political instability. The situation is dire, but there is hope as the government is taking steps to address these challenges.
1) Thousands of permanent officials across Afghanistan have moved to the provinces to avoid further measures against them. The cabinet said that the move was a gesture to work at the grassroots level and that it was a sign of the government's commitment to service delivery.

2) Agha Niazi to the president: "We are waiting for the president's decision to the cabinet's recommendation on the situation of women in Afghanistan."

3) Olga Popova: "We support the measures taken by the government against the Taliban."

4) MoA Officials: "There is a need to ensure the full implementation of the agreements reached with the Taliban."
Ukraine Military Says Rebels Using Truce to Regroup

KEY - Ukraine's military said on Sunday a ceasefire that had been fully observed by separatist leaders on the front line, and rejection by rebels of a truce in the main front line, and the establishment of a new rebel headquarters in Mariupol, Ukraine, could lead to civil war in the east.

The Ukrainian military said the truce had been broken and that the rebels were using it to regroup for a new attack on government positions. A drop in violence and measures by both sides to withdraw from the front line added to the impression that the ceasefire was being observed, particularly by Ukraine's forces, it said.

Ukraine's forces had left their positions on the front line, it said, and the rebels had started to return to their positions.

U.S. Deserves 'Benefit of the Doubt' on Getting Iran Nuclear Deal: Kerry

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sec- retary of State John Kerry said on Sunday the United States deserved the "benefit of the doubt" to see if a nuclear deal with Iran that would prevent Iran from reaching a nuclear weapon could be reached.

Kerry also said he hoped that the United States could reach a deal with Iran and that a "no" vote in Congress would not turn into "just political football.

U.S. and international partner- ners have been pushing for a deal with Iran over curbing its nuclear program, but the U.S. military has been concerned about the possibility of a nuclear weapon being developed.

Israeli PM Heads for U.S. Congress Speech and Criticism

JERUSALEM, Israel - Prime Min- ister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that he would visit the U.S. to address Congress on the subject of Iran's nuclear program.

Pro-Russian Rebels Remove Heavy Weapons From Front in Eastern Ukraine

In a move that could signal their strengthening of the separatist movement in eastern Ukraine, pro-Russian rebels have removed heavy weapons from the front line in the region.

The rebels have been in control of the region since 2014, and their power has been growing.

Egypt's Sisi Orders Redraft Electoral Law Article

CAIRO - Egyptian President Al- exander ordered the electoral law article that was passed within one month, state-run Nile TV reported.

Sisi also demanded that "legal measures be considered to avoid delaying the elections," a state- ment from the office.

Earlier in the day, Egypt's Su- preme Constitutional Court ruled that an article in an election-related law of drafting constituencies was unconstitutional, providing a way for a possible delay in the March 20 elections.

The voting began on Tuesday, the head of the Central Constitutional for- mation for the electionsFiles. The government argues that the elections are necessary to provide a new constitution for the country.

Chinese Diplomat Clarifies Policy on Myanmar Conflict

BEIJING - A senior Chi- nese diplomat said on Monday that China's policy on Myanmar's internal conflict is in line with the wishes of all parties and the wishes of the international community.

The diplomat was reacting to a statement by the Myanmar government that it would not accept foreign military intervention in the country. However, the diplomat said that China supports a "positive role" in the conflict.

The diplomat also said that China would support a "peaceful resolution" to the conflict, a statement that was welcomed by Myanmar leaders.

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India Focuses on Afghan Security for Geneva Talks

The Indian government has said it will focus on Afghan security for the upcoming talks at the Geneva peace talks, which begin on Friday.

India's delegation is expected to meet with representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban to discuss a road map for peace in Afghanistan.

International Neighbors

Iran Warns West against Dire Consequences of Arming Terrorist Groups

TEHRAN - Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council (SEC) Ali-Akbar Velayati warned the West that arming the terrorist groups in Syria would lead to dire consequences for global peace and secu- rity.

"This has repeatedly warned of the great consequences of arming the terrorist groups under the pretext of fighting against the legitimate government of Syria," Velayati said in a meeting with the parliament.

"The arms have been sold to the terrorist groups for a reason," Velayati said, adding that the West would face dire consequences if it continues to arm the terrorist groups.

Dialogue between Pakistan and India to Help Reduce Tension on LoC: Sartaj

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will visit Pakistan next week to meet the new king of Jammu and Kashmir. The prime minister will also meet with the leader of the main opposition party, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, on the occasion.

Pakistan and India have been engaged in a dialogue to reduce tension on the Line of Control (LoC), which is the de facto border between the two countries.

Sanctions Serious Hurdle to N. Deal: Iranian FM

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said on Sunday that sanctions imposed by the United States and European Union were a serious hurdle to reaching a nuclear deal with the West.

Zarif said that the sanctions were designed to pressure Iran into making concessions.

Parliamentary Polls Kick Off in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - People began voting on Sunday in Tajikistan's parliamentary elections, which are expected to last four days.

The voting began on Sunday, the head of the Central Electoral Commission for the electionsFiles. The government plans to hold elections every four years to select a new parliament.

The voting is expected to take place on April 29.

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President Empowers PCs to Assess Departments’ Performance

KARUL - Through a decree, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has granted provincial councils the right to oversee performance of local departments, a well-placed source said Sunday.

The decree, the source within the government told Pajhwok-Afghan News, was issued last Saturday. The new powers granted to the provincial councils were different from those they enjoyed in the past.

MoFA Overrun by Officials Appointed on Nepotism Basis

KABUL - The findings by Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN) have revealed that a number of diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) are either family members or relatives of government officials or members of National Assembly, who have been appointed on the basis of nepotism, transparency, established rules, regulations and merit policy.

The findings disclosed that mostly sons and close relatives of government officials and members of parliament appointed to key positions. Afghanistan embassies abroad where most of them sought political asylum. While article 60 of government employment clearly outlines that at least 50% expatriates to live. (More on Pajhwok)

MoD Dispatches Team to Rescue Panjsher Affected Families

KABUL - The Ministry of Defence (MoD) dispatched a team to central Panjsher province, which helped rescue a number of families trapped by avalanches.

Over 260 people were killed and 100 others wounded in the latest waves of blizzards and avalanches in parts of the country, including the worst-hit Panjsher province. The statement said that the ministry had dispatched 24 more flights yesterday to evacuate more people. It said that the rescue team consisted of 171 members.

However, the statement did not share exact figures of those rescued. (More on Pajhwok)

Ministry of Interior

400 Rebels Killed

KABUL - At least 40 insurgent
groups have been killed in the
going offensive in southern

Helmand province, the

spokesman of Ministry of In-

terior (MoI) said on Sunday.

Sadaf Shakilzad told report-

ers in Kabul that the military operation, nicknamed “Za-
higai” was one of the most
successful, anti-terrorist oper-

ations. (More on Pajhwok)

RS Expresses Grief over Loss of Lives in Avalanches

KABUL - US Army Gen.

John Campbell, Command-

er Resolute Support (RS) and

US Forces Afghanistan

expressed grief over the loss of lives and destruction as a result of avalanches in cen-

tral Panjsher province and

the challenges of natural disaster. he said that brave Afghans were rescuing one another and digging out from these awful circum-

stances. (More) we give thanks to bordering nations who've

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