ERC Recommends Short-Term Electoral Reforms to Expedite Process

KABUL - The Electoral Reform Commission (ERC) on Monday recommended that the National Unity Government consider implementing a number of near-term electoral reforms in the next month or so, a move that would expedite a process that has until recently been marred by gridlock and delays.

According to ERC members, the short-term reforms should be pushed ahead through a legislative order by President Ashraf Ghani, given that Parliament is currently on its summer recess. Even if the legislature is in session, however, the TAL says lawmakers would not have the authority to vote on the reforms because their constitutionally mandated terms have already expired. "If we are not able to go through with the recommendations in the period mentioned, in that case, we will need six months, and the Independent Election Commission will also need the same time period, which will delay the parliamentary elections for another two years," ERC member Safinat Safi told on Monday. "Consulting such a..." [more on P.1-D]

Haleem Sworn in as Chief Justice

KARL - President Ashraf Ghani on Monday officially introduced the appointment of Yousaf Hameen as the Chief Justice of Afghanistan after legislation endorsed his appointment by casting a vote of confidence for him a few weeks back. The oath-taking ceremony was conducted at the Presidential Palace on Monday and was attended by a number of senior officials from the National Unity Government (NUG) including Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish, Justice Abdul Rashid Raufi, former acting chief justice Madni Rot, members of the High Court and members of the High Council of the Supreme Court. Speaking at the ceremony... [more on P.1-D]

Saudi Arabia Hosts Clandestine Taliban-Govt Talks

JALALABAD - The governors of eastern Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar provinces have said they have improved coordination among local departments to eliminate threats posed from the border areas. Lack of security personnel, border protection, insecurity on highways, occasionally power lines cut and need for reforms in the local government was major issues in the eastern provinces. A coordinated meeting was attended by the governors of the eastern four and 20th Shahid Military Corps commanders and other security officials was held in Jalalabad city, the capital of Nangarhar. Today, Nangarhar today to discuss current situation of the eastern zone. The meeting stressed on [more on P.1-D]

Governors Urged to Increase Strength of Border Police

Dr. Abdullah

Salma Dam Vital to Agro, Energy Sectors

KARL - The Afghan High Peace Council on Monday said that details surrounding the second round of peace talks, scheduled for Friday between the government and the Taliban, are still not clear but that Pakistan was eager to host the initiative. The HPC said that it is possible that the second round of talks will be held in Pakistan, adding that the issue of a ceasefire was an essential part of the talks. The council said that Pakistan was adamant it wants the talks to be held in their country. The HPC adviser for international affairs, Mohammad Afzal Qandiyar said negotiations are underway for sovereign delegation... [more on P.1-D]

Details Surrounding Peace Talks Still Sketchy

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Poor Medical Facilities Lead to Increase in Mortality Rate

MEHFAR LAM - Seven-year-old Ahmad Ahmad was brought to hospital on Monday by his family after suffering from recurrent fever, cough, and severe abdominal pain for a week. According to the doctor, the boy died in the hospital on Tuesday morning due to complications from his illness. This incident highlights the need for better medical facilities in the province to provide quality care for patients.

Pakistanis Military Fires Rockets into PakhtoKAR - A Pakistani military operation in the North-West Frontier Province has brought in a huge number of civilians from the tribal areas. The military has been scaling up its operations in the region, and the number of civilians being displaced is increasing. The situation is expected to worsen as the winter season approaches.

Helmand Farmers Now Mostly Rely on Rice

AARSHAFABAD - Farmers in southern Helmand province have switched to rice production this year. According to officials, rice is being grown on 500 hectares of land, mostly in the Helmand valley. The shift to rice production is due to the higher profitability and better market demand for rice compared to other crops.

Farah Expulsion Leaves Police Commander Dead

FARAHI CITY - An Afghan local police commander was killed along with his bodyguard in a bomb blast in the village of Rasht district of Farah province on Saturday night. The incident occurred in the village of Rasht, and it is reported that the commander was on his way home when the bomb was detonated.

Invitation for Bids (FBB)

Water Supply Network Project in center of Barnin Province, Sonannah Village


The Procurement Directorate of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) invites to apply part of its budget towards the cost of Water Supply Network Project in center of Barnin Province, Sonannah Village. Intends to apply part of the proceeds of this allotment to pay under the contract Water Supply Network Project in center of Barnin Province, Sonannah Village.

The Procurement Directorate of MRRD now invites for sealed bids from eligible bidders for Provision of Water Supply Network Project in center of Barnin Province, Sonannah Village. The tender document is available for sale to eligible bidders who are interested in participating in the tender process.

1. The delivery/execution period is 6 months effective from issuance of letter of intent of the work.
2. Preliminary meeting will be at August 15, 2015, signified at 12:00 am.
3. Bids must be delivered to the address below: Department of Works, Procurement Directorate of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), P.O. Box 4731, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Cheuing Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You may be coaxed about a new project today. You are too busy with your own life, and you don’t have a plan in place yet. However, you may change your mind. Look at the things around you. If you want to change, you need to develop a strategy. A new opportunity may come your way. Keep your eyes open to change and make the most of it.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

It might sound too good to be true, but chasing your creative whites leads to sweet rewards. Releasing your inner child is just what the doctor ordered. What did you love most as a child? You will feel like you’re living in your youth.

 Gemini (May 21-Jun.20)

Shooting a blank is the worst day of the week for everyone, but not for you! You are a pdp and a do gooder at heart. You have your moments of satisfaction, but you are also dealing with the ups and downs of life.

Cancer (Jun.21-Jul.20)

Shooting your plans with a close friend today. It can be a productive day. You are very active and energetic. You are able to get things done.

Leo (Jul.21-Aug.21)

Your mind may be on your money, but there’s an emotional side to you. If you’re concerned about your financial situation, try to stay connected with your emotions. You are very intuitive and can sense when something is not right.

Virgo (Sep.22-Oct.22)

Connecting with others seems effortless as you build on your relationships. You are more confident today. Even if your natural tendency is to hang back and keep your guard up, you’re feeling confident now, making this a great time to push your limits. Remember your past and also your future.

Libra (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might let out an audible sigh or roll your eyes at someone’s irrational fears. This is a stressful day for you, and you want to avoid any unnecessary conflicts. Try to keep your cool and not get flustered.

Scorpio (Nov.23-Dec.21)

You are still struggling with the same issues as always. However, you are more open to new experiences today. It’s a good day to try something new and different.

Sagittarius (Dec.22-Jan.21)

You are all set to be a go-getter today. You are full of energy and determination. You are ready to take on any challenge that comes your way.

Capricorn (Jan.20-Feb.18)

You are willing to negotiate with a friend or partner today but only if it benefits you. However, you are not ready to make any big decisions right now. You need some time to think things through.

Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18)

You have a strong sense of the past, but you are ready to move forward. You are open to new experiences and opportunities.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

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**Outlook Horoscope**

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Wrestling with Instability

By Hujjatullah Zia

The rise in civilian casualties has been attributed to a surge in battles between the Taliban and government forces, particularly in cities and areas that have recently been secured. In recent months, both sides have reported significant gains, leading to increased fighting and civilian displacement.

According to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), a total of 50 civilians were killed and 120 were wounded in the first six months of 2023 alone. The Afghan government has accused the Taliban of using civilians as “human shields,” while the Taliban have denied any such tactic.

The situation has become particularly dire in the outskirts of Kabul, where the Taliban have launched several attacks on government positions. The Afghan government has responded with airstrikes, which have caused civilian casualties.

The United Nations has called for an immediate ceasefire and a peaceful resolution to the conflict. However, both sides have rejected the proposal.

The situation in Afghanistan is complex, and it requires a nuanced approach to address the underlying causes of the conflict. The international community must work together to provide a conducive environment for peace talks to commence.

Tackling the Tenacious Insurgency

By Ewaz Ali Bahrami

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has reported that the security situation in the country remains grim. The nation faces a range of challenges, including government instability, corruption, and external pressures.

The Afghan government has been working to strengthen its security forces and implement reform measures. However, these efforts have been met with resistance from some factions.

The United Nations has called for an inclusive and comprehensive approach to address the challenges facing Afghanistan. This requires a commitment from all stakeholders to work together towards a peaceful and stable future for the country.

The Afghan government must continue to engage with the international community to secure the necessary support for its efforts. The international community must also provide assistance to help stabilize the situation and support the Afghan government in its efforts to achieve lasting peace and security.

The Afghan government and the international community must work together to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. This requires a commitment to dialogue, reconciliation, and a willingness to compromise.

The Afghan government must also address the underlying causes of the conflict, including poverty, unemployment, and political instability. This will require a long-term commitment to investing in education, health care, and infrastructure.

The international community must continue to provide support to the Afghan government and its people. This includes providing assistance to those affected by the conflict and supporting efforts to promote stability and development.

Finally, the Afghan government must work to build trust and confidence among its people. This will require a commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance.

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British PM Starts Asia Trip with Big Loan Offer to Indonesia

ACARIA - British Prime Minister Alasdar Maclean has said on Monday he is ready to make big loans and investment deals to Indonesia. His visit to the country comes at a time when the United States is also considering major aid packages.

The loans will be used to build roads and other infrastructure projects, which is expected to boost Indonesia's economy. The Prime Minister also announced that the United Kingdom will provide a further $500 million in aid to help Indonesia recover from the recent volcanic eruption.

International

Neighbour News

Iran FM in Baghdad for Talks with Iraqi Leaders

BAGHDAD - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is in Baghdad on a visit to strengthen ties with Iraq, after previous disagreements over the oil issue.

Zarif was welcomed at the airport by Iraqi Foreign Minister Faisal Al-Moussawi, who praised the visit as an important step towards further cooperation between the two countries.

The visit comes at a time when Iraq and Iran are working towards re-establishing relations after decades of tension.

Tajikistan MOL in the New World

DUSHANBE - Minister of the Interior, Rahmon Dostum, has announced that Tajikistan will be allowing all foreigners to enter the country without a visa for the first time.

The move is part of the government's efforts to attract more tourists and investors to the country.

China's Contribution to Peacekeeping Shows Its Commitment to World Peace

UNITED NATIONS - China has made significant contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, with more than 100,000 personnel deployed in various missions around the world.

The Chinese government has been a strong supporter of peacekeeping efforts, and has consistently provided financial and logistical support.

Syrian Warplanes Conduct 20 Strikes on Rebels East of Damascus

DAMASCUS - The Syrian air force conducted 20 strikes on rebel-held areas in the eastern countryside of Damascus on Monday.

The strikes targeted rebel-held areas near the city of Jobar, east of Damascus, in an attempt to gain control of the area.

Kurdish Fighters Drive IS out of Key Syrian Town

DAMASCUS: The Syrian government forces, led by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), have expelled the Islamic State group from the town of Al-Khazir.

The Peshmerga forces and the YPG launched an offensive on Sunday to retake the town from the IS, which had been controlling parts of the town since last year.

UN Chief Welcomes Humanitarian Pause in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the humanitarian pause in Yemen, which was agreed by both sides in the conflict.

The pause is expected to last for 72 hours, starting at 6am on Sunday.

Alignment Belt and Road with EAEU to Synergize Eurasia: Russian Expert

MONSWO - The countries of the EAEU and Russia have agreed to cooperate on the Belt and Road Initiative, which is seen as a key element in the region's development.

The agreement was signed during a meeting between Russian and EAEU leaders, who pledged to work together to promote economic growth and stability in the region.

Blas Damage Pro-Ingram German Chancellor's car

BERLIN - German police said on Wednesday that they were investigating an early morning attack in which a car was damaged.

The attack is being linked to the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which has been involved in several recent episodes of violence.
Part of Kohistan District Falls, ALP Men Defect to Taliban

KABUL - A number of Milestone and Development officials and private entrepreneurs who have been influential in the development of the area have announced their defection to the Talibans. A number of the officials and entrepreneurs said that they have joined the Talibans because they believe in the current government's policies and programs.

The defection of these officials and entrepreneurs is a major blow to the government's efforts to stabilize the area and promote economic development. The officials and entrepreneurs have been instrumental in the development of the area, and their defection could potentially hinder future development efforts.

The official defections come as the government continues to grapple with a number of challenges, including security, corruption, and economic instability. The defection of these officials and entrepreneurs highlights the challenges that the government faces in stabilizing the area and promoting economic development.

The defection of these officials and entrepreneurs is a significant development that could have far-reaching implications for the development of the area. The government will need to take steps to address the challenges posed by this defection in order to ensure continued progress in the area.

Thousands of Students to be Enrolled for Higher Education

KABUL - The Afghanistan National Institute of Education (ANIE) has announced plans to enroll thousands of students for higher education in the coming academic year. The announcement comes as the government continues to prioritize education as a key component of its development agenda.

The ANIE has set a target of enrolling 20,000 students in higher education institutions across the country. The target was set in line with the government's commitment to improve access to education for all citizens.

The enrollment drive is expected to provide opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and across different regions of the country. The government is committed to ensuring that all citizens have access to quality education, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Mafia Groups Behind Spying Insecurity in Kunduz: Safi

KUNDuz - The government of the Kunduz province has announced that mafia groups are responsible for construction and security issues in the province. The government has been working to address these issues, but the mafia continue to pose a significant threat.

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80 Prisoners Released from Jail in Herat

HERAT - 80 prisoners, including 74 Hanafis and six Shias, who were convicted of various crimes, were released from the central prison near the city of Herat. The prisoners were released following a decision by the Herat provincial council.

The prisoners were convicted of various crimes, including murder, theft, and drug smuggling. The decision to release them was made in light of the current political situation in Afghanistan.

Mullah Yaquiv Might Be Selected as Talibans Head if Omer's Death is Confirmed

KABUL - Mullah Yaquiv, a graduate of a well-known Mullah Muhammad Yaquiv, is being discussed by the Talibans as a potential successor to Omer. The Talibans have been discussing various options for leadership in the event that Omer's death is confirmed.

Falahat News reports that sources close to the Talibans are saying that Yaquiv is one of the candidates being considered. He is described as a respected figure within the Talibans and as someone who is well-versed in the teachings of their founder, Mullah Omar. Yaquiv is known for his skills in running the parallel government in Faryab, a region in northern Afghanistan, and is seen as a potential successor to Omer.

Yaquiv's selection as the new leader of the Talibans would be a significant development. The Talibans have been in transition since the death of their founder, Mullah Omar, in 2015. The selection of a new leader will be closely watched by the international community and will have implications for the future of the country.

However, it should be noted that the sources close to the Talibans are not speaking on the record, and it remains to be seen whether Yaquiv will be selected as the new leader of the Talibans. The selection process will likely involve a number of negotiations and discussions among the key figures within the group.