KABUL - Mohammad Naeem Nazari, the head of the Afghan Civil Society Rights Network (CSRN), on Thursday called for urgent election reforms in Afghanistan. The network declared the on going delay of parliamentary and district council elections a violation of democratic values.

“We demand the implementation of systematic reforms, but this does not mean the reform and election process should be postponed or delayed,” said Nazari. Joining Nazari, meanwhile, the former chief of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) Hafiz Ahmad Manawi said to hold elections this year, government needs to accelerate efforts for reforms. “Until now we had expectations that there would be the necessary reforms in place and major progress would have taken place in the commission, unfortunately it has not happened so far,” said Manawi. Along with other challenges regarding elections, government’s plan to implement a single-winner electoral constituency has also attracted criticism from many activity sectors and election experts. Civil society leader Nadjmi Zazi meanwhile implied that many people would be de tained from voting if it was a single-winner constituency system.

“This is not practical in Afgh anistan,” said Zazi. “If the elections are not held on time, then going to the ballot boxes and democracy...” (More on P4)