IQUE OF THE DAY
A good plan, violently executed now, is better than a perfect plan next.
—George S. Patton

KABUL - The newly established Electoral Reform Commission (ERC) kicked off its initial agenda this week by engaging members of the international community, human rights advocacy groups and other civil society institutions in hopes of calling feedback on the most pressing issues facing Afghanistan’s electoral system.

Since its formation last week, the ERC has held its first meeting, seeking to make up for lost time after years of delays caused by disagreements between top national unity government leaders over the composition of the commission. The scheduling of Parliamentary elections is largely dependent on how and when the ERC gets reform implemented.

Peace Talks a Moment of Opportunity for Taliban: US

WASHINGTON - The pace talks are a moment of opportunity for the Taliban, the US said yesterday.

"Without being able to par- ticipate in the peace talks, the Taliban are clearly a moment of opportunity and we would encourage the Taliban to use this time of opportunity to have a dialogue with the Afghan government and to rebuild their lives in peace in Afghanistan," the State Department spokesperson, said.

They could accept the government of Afghanistan’s invitation to join the peace process and ultimately become part of the legitimate political system of a sovereign, united Afghanistan supported by the international community, they could choose to continue fighting against the government of their own country, he said.

"The message is clear: if you join the peace process and work towards a political solution, you will have a greater chance of success than if you continue fighting," he added.

KARUL - The round of talks between Afghan officials and Taliban is expected to be continued on Monday when US official has agreed to meet with Daniel R. Fried, the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, said.

He could not tell about the exact date of peace talks but assured that the country that demands by Pakistan and Afghanistan will attend the talks as observers.

The special representative who visited Pakistan earlier reached Kabul on Thursday and that he had detailed (On Page 5).

China to Back Pakistan, Others for Peace

KABUL. — China expressed its backing for Pakistan and others for peace and reconciliation in the country and promised to support the women and their role in the govern-
ment of national unity, (On Page 6)

Gen. Campbell Meets Sayyaf over Afghanistan’s Situation

KABUL - The Resolute Support Mission (RSM) Commander, General John F. Campbell, has reportedly met with a former leader of the Ministry of Defence, Abdul Rashid Sayyaf, over the security situation of Afghanistan.

Campbell is seen meeting with Sayyaf in pictures published on his Facebook page attributed to Sayyaf. The meeting appeared cordial.

In addition, a source who attended the meeting said, "He was cordial and seemed to acknowledge that government of Afghanistan is doing their best.

KABUL - The Ministry of Defence’s Director General Amin Aslan said on Thursday that due to the deteriora- tion of the ministry and the threats of the Taliban to the collapse of 21 districts in Afghanistan in the past four months. Army had been spending a lot of money and resources to keep the districts in the hands of the government.

According to the report, the Taliban had been trying to collapse the districts in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence has been working towards improving the security situation and trying to keep the districts in the hands of the government.