OIC Supports Afghan Peace Process, Presidential Poll

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) secretary-general has expressed the organization’s support for the Afghanistan peace process and next month’s presidential election.

KABUL - SC Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen made the assurance during a meeting with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in Kabul said.

Besides discussed terrorism, joint fight against extremism, intra-Afghan talks, and transparent conduct of presidential election and establishment of the Islamic University in Afghanistan, the OIC SG extended his condolences over a recent deadly suicide attack inside a wedding hall in Kabul and called on the Taliban to reverse such kind of violence and arrive at negotiating table with the Afghan government.

However, Daesh or Islamic State (IS) had claimed credit for the suicide attack that targeted the wedding party and the Taliban denied had involvement, denouncing it as brutal.

The Presidential Palace said Othaimen vowed to support the peace process and next month’s presidential election in which 200 films from around the world will be screened in local cinemas halls.

Thirty-three films from Afghanistan will compete in the festival. Forty movies which were nominated for Oscar will also be screened.

The festival will showcase an unequal world, a world which is still not ready for justice and equality," Afghan filmmaker Roya Sadat told reporters at a ceremony in Kabul on Saturday. Afghan filmmakers welcomed the move and said it will help improve the film industry in Afghanistan.

“Any positive step is for improvement of the culture,” said Afghan film producer Armin Aman. "We are making meaningful films. It means that we accept meaningful films and keep a little distance from commercial movies," former head of Afghan Film Lotf Ali Abadi said. (Tolo news)

Khalil - The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced Sunday that it has terminated the contracts of its 43 employees.

According to a statement released by ACB, the leadership of ACB decided to terminate the contracts of 43 employees of the board in a bid to split the working quality considering the budgetary shortage.

The statement further added that the Cricket Board leader and Human Resources Department of ACB decided to review the contracts of all employees of the board. Furthermore, the Afghanistan (in) the board (on P4).

Kabul to Host Fifth Int'l Film Festival

KARUL - Kabul will host the Fifth International Women’s Film Festival – Fleet in which 200 films from around the world will be screened in local cinemas halls.

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Khorost City – The Women Affairs Department has organized a women’s handicraft exhibition in southeastern Khost province to find market for their products. Kamila Alikht, women’s rights advocate, said handicrafts were women’s best source of income.

This women’s handicraft exhibition could help expand market for women’s made handicrafts and create jobs for women.

Women Affairs Director Shafiee Noori said the purpose of the exhibition was to promote women’s handicraft products and improve their livelihood.

She said the event would encourage other women to get involved in making handicrafts to support their families economically.

“The organization of exhibitions (in) Khost (on P4).”

Presidential Poll: Half of Balkh Polling Stations to Stay Shut

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MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Independent Election Commission (IEC) officials say half of the polling stations in northern Balkh province would stay shut on Election Day due to security problems.

Mohammad Aneel Bayat, IEC head for Balkh, told Panjshir Afghan News that all preparations had been made for holding the September 28 presidential election in the province.

He said the commission had launched a public awareness campaign over last two weeks to encourage people to participate in the election.

He said they were trying to extend the awareness campaign to districts besides Mazar-e-Sharif, the provincial capital.

However, Bayat said security problems in some areas of the province was an obstacle to the campaign drive. “There are a total of 315 polling stations in Balkh,” he said.

“Unfortunately more than half of our polling stations are currently fully or partially closed or are under high security threats, as half of our polling stations would be shut on the Election Day in Balkh,” he said.

Afghan forces have assured they would assure security in some of those areas (in) Balkh (on P4)."