Candidates Demand Alliance of Protesting Totions.

The Grand Alliance of Protestations, a coalition of opposition parties, has called for a new recount of the October 20 elections, which they say were marred by fraud and corruption. They have also demanded the closure of Independent Election Commission offices in Kabul and provinces if fraud and corruption continue.

Khawaja Mohammad Shafiq Alvi, head of the grand alliance, said: “We will not accept the results of the elections as they are. We demand the fresh recount of all votes, invalidation of non-biometric votes, and the release of transparent votes not separated.”

Rogul Kherzad, another candidate during recent elections, said: “We have gathered here under the umbrella of a national alliance and made our demands from the government, Independent Election Commission and international partners.”

Tens of protesting candidates gathered here under the umbrella of the national alliance and made their demands from the government, Independent Election Commission and international partners. They said: “We are not demanding any apology from anyone, but we are demanding justice and fairness in the elections.”

The protesters said that they would continue their protests until their demands are met. They also called for international support to ensure that the elections are conducted fairly.

Struggling With Life, Herat IDPs Forced to Sell Children

HERAT CITY - A number of internally-displaced persons (IDPs) in western Herat province say no one including the government has helped them and they are forced to sell their children for survival. Sahib Dad, a resident of Muqor district of Badghis who has been displaced to Shalasheen area of Herat City along with other people, is currently living in a tent. He told Pajhwok Afghan News that his 21 children but recently he sold his little daughter against 50,000 afghanis.

While asking for hope for future, Sahib Dad, who looked sad said: “I sold my daughter because I am sick and I had no money to fetch food for my family. If anyone is interested, I will sell my other children too.”

Karul - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will return if NATO leaves, Stoltenberg Warns

WASHINGTON - NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg said if NATO leaves Afghanistan, the cost of staying would be higher than the cost of leaving. He also stated that the challenge remains great in Afghanistan.

Speaking at a pre-ministerial meeting in NATO, Stoltenberg stated that the challenge remains great in Afghanistan, adding that the cost of leaving is bigger than the cost of staying.

Karul - The MoF spokesman Sharmar Khan Majedi said that the government has managed to increase 174 Taliban Afghans from domestic revenue which also surpasses the previous year’s target.

Majedi said that along with an increase in budget, the government has been working to increase revenue collections from domestic resources by 18 percent compared to a year before. “This year IMF (International Monetary Fund) has given 73.50 billion Afghanis for target by the end of the year, development budget spending will reach at least 80 percent. We have managed to increase 174 Taliban Afghans from domestic revenue which also surpasses the previous year’s target.”

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Ahmad Shabibi, has been working to increase revenue collections from domestic resources by 18 percent compared to a year before. “This year IMF has given 73.50 billion Afghanis for target by the end of the year, development budget spending will reach at least 80 percent.”

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Japan Donates Over $9m to Support Children, Mother’s Health

Japan has donated ¥9.1 billion in support of UNICEF’s drive to provide life-saving interventions with the collaboration of JCA, addressing urgent needs and rights of Afghanistan’s children and women, according to a statement on Monday.

This grant would enable UNICEF and its partners to vaccinate more than 3.4 million infants as part of the expanded program on immunization (EPI), protect more than 10 million children under five years, and provide more than 2.8 million women of childbearing age with tetanus toxoid vaccine.

Meanwhile, this grant would contribute to the sustainable development goal 3 (SDG), to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all children at all ages. Importantly, it will contribute to the global drive to eradicate polio, especially in Afghanistan, which is one of only three countries globally that has yet to stop polio.

At the signing ceremony, Public Health Minister Ferozuddin FEROZ said, “Afghanistan has made tremendous progress towards reducing Under-Five Mortality Rate, from 199 to 55 per 1000 live births from 2011-15. Most of the deaths in the first five years of life are preventable and provision of quality vaccines to all eligible children in one of the most cost-effective means for averting this preventable mortality. For many more than ten years, the Government of Japan has been a strong partner to the Government of Afghanistan, ensuring the availability of necessary vaccines for both routine immunization and catch-up campaigns.”

Ms. Adele Khodr, UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan said: “We salute the People and Government of Japan for their deep and sincere commitment to improving the lives of the most vulnerable children in Afghanistan. We are extremely grateful for Japan’s enduring commitment and generous support which will not only save children’s lives, but will also protect them.”