Ghani’s Assurance over Polls Next Year Sparks Backlash

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission (IEC) on Sunday reported that President Ashraf Ghani has turned down requests that parliamentary elections be held next year, something election observers and monitoring groups believe is impossible.

The election commission has drafted a proposal about elections and will soon share it with government in order to confirm the timeframe for parliamentary elections, said IEC spokesman Gula Jan Abdul Hakimi.

Observers and election monitoring institutions have responded to Ghani’s assurance with disappointment, saying that it would be impossible for the IEC to conduct the poll next year due to technical issues and a slow “working pace”.

“We have disparaged our recommendations to government and they will decide on it and will pick one of the proposals – either on the single-seat constituency system or (they) will make electoral districts a bit smaller (so they) will go with previous electoral districts where provincial borders were the electoral zones,” they will still be able to announce the timeline of elections,” said Hakimi.

Election watchdogs say that the first step to be taken needs to finalize the voter lists, which have a significant impact on the IEC.

The IEC said it needed about 1.2 million dollars to work on how much money they had collected. “Some delegates have agreed to work on how much money they have collected,” said Hakimi.

Millions of Dollars Still Owe to Kabul Bank

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Sunday said that it had authorized special military courts to investigate alleged involvement of military personnel in corruption schemes and financial mismanagement.

The investigations by military attorneys will also take place in violation of professional rules, misconduct, misuse of official authorities and breaches.

Among the number of corruption cases relating to military personnel is estimated to be more than 1,000 cases, said a defense minister spokesman Mohammad Radmanish.

“According to my information, these cases are related to soldiers including generals and the number of those cases are more than one thousand cases, we have achieved progress in terms of fighting corruption,” said Radmanish.

According to MoD, some high [information redacted].

Nangarhar Residents Call on Ghani to Build Airport As Promised

JALAL-ABAD - Nangarhar residents and provincial council members have called on the National Unity Government (NUG) to implement its promise to build an airport in Nangarhar for residents and council members said that the establishment of a civilian airport will not only be beneficial for residents but will also generate revenue for the country.

President Ashraf Ghani has acknowledged the local community’s request but the work on the airport has not started.

“Nangarhar is a populated province and also a community center for residents of three surrounding provinces. Establishment of an airport is needed for all of them and we want the government to take action,” said Wais Karimi a resident.

“An airport in Nangarhar would play a key role in connecting provinces and other countries and will open up shop for investors,” said Noorullah, another resident.

Meanwhile, Nangarhar’s governor, Abdul Aziz said that the establishment of a civilian airport would be started in the near future.

“Last week a delegation from the finance ministry, Pakistan and civil aviation authority came to Nangarhar and the delegation also visited some areas where the airport (could be) built and soon a suitable [information redacted].”

Watchdog Concerned over Violations of the Law by Police

Jalalabad - Afghan security forces backed by US-led NATO forces on Sunday launched a military operation codenamed ‘25’ against Daesh militants in Jalalabad.

The operation in northern Nangarhar province was started from Kot and Haska Mena districts and was started from Kot and Haska Mena districts and was established to clear local people and ensure security.

“The operation continues, we will also establish checkpoints in the area,” said Naval Mashriqiwal, said the spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani.

The second meeting of the Afghan and Taliban representing the groups agreed to sort out the rows. (Pajhwok)