Pompeo Hopes There Is a Peace Deal Ahead of Afghan Elections

Pompeo says that the United States is prepared to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

KABUL - The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who arrived in Kabul for an unscheduled visit on Tuesday said that he hopes that Afghanistan will achieve a peace deal ahead of the upcoming Presidential Elections - scheduled for September 28. "I hope we have a peace deal before September 1st. That’s certainly our mission," he said.

In his visit to Kabul, Pompeo held talks with Afghan leaders. He said that in his meetings with President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, they agreed that peace is their highest priority and that Afghanistan must never serve as a platform for international terrorism.

He said that the United States is ready to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan but added that the US has not pre- vided the Taliban with the timeline. "While we have made it clear to the Taliban we are prepared to remove our forces, I want to be clear, we have not agreed on a timeline to do so," he said. (More on P14.)

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdurrahman Abdul Hakim after facing difficulty in finding his name on the voter list at a voter registration center in Kabul on Tuesday asked the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to write the names of previous voters on seals.

A statement from the office of Abdullah motivated by Pajhwok Afghan News said that the CEO visited the vote registration center in Nadera High School in Kabul today.

The CEO looked for his name in the list of voters who cast their votes in October 2018 Wolesi Jirga elections, but he faced with some issues in the process.

Habib Alam Nurtani, IEC chief, when asked about the problem the CEO faced at the voter registration center, said that some issues persisted in the process but the commission was trying to resolve them.

Abdullah said people were yet to be provided adequate assurances regarding the voter registration process. (More on P14.)

Hakimi, Safi, Jaihon New Candidates for Wolesi Jirga Speaker Election

KABUL – Abdul Shakoor Waqif Hakimi, a lawmaker, Ghalib Safi and Mir Afghan Safi from Kabul province have nominated themselves to contest for the Wolesi Jirga Speaker position.

Their candidatures would explain their future plans for the next five minutes and those who would be voting (more on P14.)

On Monday, controversial ballot paper used in the earlier Wolesi Jirga’s speaker election was declared as ‘invalid’. Through voting and now, lawmakers would vote to elect a new speaker candidate.

About one and a half months later, after the inauguration of the Wolesi Jirga, lawmakers Mir Rahmon Rahmani, Mirwais Yasini, Kamal Nayer Ovadi and Omar Nairj contested for the speaker post.

However, none could bag enough votes to become speaker of the house and the ballot went to a second round, which was delayed to May 19. The second round of vote for the two candidates turned controversial and a solution to the impasse is yet to be sought. (More on P14.)

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KABUL - The Global Center for Pluralism (GCP) on Monday announced 10 finalists for the 2019 Global Pluralism Award Award finalists Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) believes that the power of music can contribute to building pluralism and fostering inter-ethnic community building. The Global Center for Pluralism in a speech said.

The ANIM works to empower gifted and promote gender equality, cultural diversity, community outreach and social impact.

These winners will be announced in the fall and honored at a ceremony in Ottawa on November 12.

The Award recognizes the extraordinary achievements of organizations and individuals and govern- ments around the world who exemplify living peacefully and productively with diversity.

It is a time of heightened hatred and escalating tensions in communities. (More on P12.)

Quote of the Day

“From darkness to light.” Allan Bloom

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