Govt Accused of Not Prioritizing Elections

The Independent Election Commission claims that elections-related activities are not among government’s priorities and that leaders need to take the matter seriously.

Gold, Flour Prices Down in Kabul Markets

KABUL - The prices of gold and flour went down but of other daily-use items stayed stable during the outgoing week in capital Kabul, market sources said on Saturday.

The price of one gram of Arabian gold fell from 2, 400 to 2, 340afs and of the same quantity of the Russian variety from 3, 000 to 2, 850afs, said Haji Farooq Aham Mad Sithali, a dealer in Tumer Sithali area.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News changes in gold prices in Kabul were associated with the trend in global markets.

Fazal Rahman, Food Traders’ Union head, said the rate of a 50-kilogram sack of Karachi flour declined from 3,320 to 3,000 afs. A 49-kg of Pakistani sugar was for 1,100 afs, a 16-liter tin of Khurshid ghee for 10, 20afs and a 24-kg rice bag was for 1,600afs.

Meanwhile, Noor Ahmad Kh said the rate of a 50-kilogram sack of Kazakh flour went down but of other... (More on P4)

Afghan Filmmaker Honored with Alternative Oscar Award

KABUL - The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it was honored to bestow on Roya Sadat the award for her film portraying the plight of Afghan women.

Afghan Filmmaker Roya Sadat received an alternative Oscar award by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday for her outstanding film “A Letter to the President”. Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on its twitter page: “DutchMFA is pleased to award Roya an alternative Oscar for her outstanding film.”

The award was given to Sadat. (More on P6-2)

As Rumored, Mullah Mansour Group Emerges in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Citing the incumbent Taliban leadership, leaflets have been found in a number of Nangarhar districts purportedly distributed by a new Taliban splinter group named after the insurgency slain supreme leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour.

The letters have been found by local residents in Khogyani, Pachirawgam, Chaparhar and other districts and they handed over the leaflets to security officials. (More on P6-8)

Average Rainfall Down by 30% in Afghanistan

KABUL - Residents of Solang district in Parwan said the water level in the Solang River has also dropped considerably.

The Afghanistan Meteorological Department says the average rainfall across the country this year is 30 percent down against previous years.

Although showers are expected through March until April, the department. (More on P6-0)

As much as 39.4% of the total rainfall this year was reported in the month of February. (More on P4)

KABUL - Vinay Kumar has been appointed as India’s new ambassador to Afghanistan, replacing Manipri Vohra, the External Affairs Ministry says.

A senior Foreign Service officer, Kumar is currently serving as joint secretary (south) at the ministry in New Delhi. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

The ministry said in a statement Kumar - a graduate from IIT Kharagpur - has held various positions, including an assignment in India’s permanent mission to the United Nations. An India-Afghanistan relations, have seen a considerable boost over the last five years. New Delhi has given Kabul more than $2 billion in aid and development assistance (Palmock)

Kumar Replaces Vohra as Indian Ambassador in Kabul

KABUL - Indian cricket legend said, "A peaceful Afghanistan was in the greater benefi... (More on P4)