KABUL - In a new survey conducted by Democracy International, almost 92 percent of Afghans said electoral reforms should be implemented in the next phase of the parliamentary elections scheduled to take place before the end of the year. When asked if they trusted the credibility of the national elections commission, just 19 percent of respondents said they did.

The survey results also indicate that corruption, insecurity and weak governance were considered the biggest problem areas in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, educational opportunities, partial security and road construction were recognized as major achievements among respondents. However, still 65 percent of Afghans said electoral reforms are necessary to improve the living standard.

Afghan Delegation in Islamabad for Talks on Refugees

KABUL - An Afghan delegation led by Minister for Refugees and Repatriation arrived in Islamabad to hold wide-ranging talks with Pakistani officials on the issue of Afghan refugees, an official said on Monday.

Ali Ahmad Mansoori, deputy chief of the aid office of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, shared their problems.

In addition to their meetings with Pakistani officials, the delegation was scheduled to discuss the issues with officials of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

KABUL - A meeting of the Wolesi Jirga's Secretary and vice-president, President Ashaf Ghani said that they were provided with the little security of their demands were ignored.

They warned that if their demands were not fulfilled, they would call a strike.

President Suspends Top Sports Official

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has suspended Sports Director Mansour Mansoori for the ambitious project are at the final stage, Oil India may become a reality soon as negotiations on one of the biggest projects in the country are underway.

The president through a decree No 881 issued late on March 9, 2014.

KABUL - A distinguished jury of nine, including the ambassadors of France in Kabul awarded the Franco-German Award for the Afghan Woman of the Year to Atifa Mansoori for her achievements in the fields of business and economics.

The Franco-German Award was established in 2004 to honor the women of Afghanistan who have contributed in their country’s development and strengthening women in the professional fields. Atifa Mansoori was recognized for her ability as a leading businesswoman and female role model promoting Afghan women through capacity building, providing an opportunity for work and leadership.

She is the director of Adilat Modern Company, which was established in 2011, that aims at importing and exporting materials such as saffron to Dubai, India, and Iran. Her company also exports hand-knotted and carpet woven by Afghani women to other countries.

The German Embassy hosted Sunday a special ceremony for the presentation of the award.

Atifa Mansoori Receives Franco-German Award

A Butterfly Effect

A giant political figure who played greater role for unity and national tension.

KABUL - Marking the first death anniversary of Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim, his father, government official, former interior minister Nehal Karzai, said Fahim was a famous commander of Jamiat-e-Islami during Jihad against Russia.

After the fall of Dr. Najib’s rule, he had served as national security advisor, peace envoy, defense minister, deputy for transition administration and vice-president.

Afghan Oleh Haq Safdarhi

PESHAWAR - Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Vice-Chairman Ali Pak Afghanistan Customs Agents Association, Ziaul Haq Safdarhi on Monday met with Director Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and approved him regarding the problems faced by stakeholders of Pak-Afghan trade.

Ziaul Haq Safdarhi said that Export Development Fund has enough money to utilize for up-gradation of Peshawar dry port adding the exporters are facing difficulties due to unavailability of dry-port. He said that the exporters are now using a Karachi, dry-port which is very far away and it takes much time to load and unload the goods.

He also assured to review the new agreement of Afghan Transit Trade and urged the TDAP to play a role in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, TDAP Director Nauzim Ali assured the exporters to remove the concerns and reservations highlighted by Ziaul Haq Safdarhi. (Peshawar)