Iran, India and Afghanistan need Regional Transit Union

The managing director of the Ports and Maritime Organization has considered it necessary to form a regional transport and transit union between the three countries of Iran, India and Afghanistan to implement Chabahar agreement, saying that this will create the basis for the development of multimodal transit in the region.

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission (IEC) said they will start counting votes from this weekend’s parliamentary elections on Today in Kabul.

On Tuesday, election commission officials said all election materials, including the preliminary results, have been transferred from polling centers to the provincial capitals. IEC spokesman Sayed Habibullah Hashemi said they will start counting votes, from all polling centers around the country, in Kabul on Wednesday.

"Vote counting has been finished at polling stations and polling centers. Tomorrow vote counting will start," said Hashemi. Hashemi also said the election commission will inaugurate an information gathering center on Wednesday (today). "All political parties and media can come," he added.

Nearly 500 Uplift Projects Implement Nation-Wide

KABUL - Minister of Rural Development and Rehabilitation Mujiburrahman Karimi on Tuesday said 498 development projects worth $225 million were being implemented so far.

The projects in the field of drinking water, irrigation and infrastructure problems in the three countries.

The Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development added that the use of transit capacities of the region along the northern corridor and the facilitation of transit by all countries of the region will be very effective in removing the obstacles and infrastructure problems in the area.

"Secure and easy access to transit routes by all countries in the region and the provision of mutual support services in the three countries will be very important aspects of the implementation of Chabahar agreement," he said. (More on P4, 40)

IEC to Start Counting Votes Today

taliban Kidnap 125 Teachers, Education Staff in Ghazni

GHAZNI CITY - The Taliban have kidnapped 125 teachers and administrative staff of the Education Department in Ghir district of southern Ghazni province, local residents claimed on Tuesday.

Nader Khan Giruwal, a resident of southern Ghazni province, told local residents claimed on Tuesday.

The Taliban had many times told teachers not to get their salaries through the bank and instead receive their pay manually from a cashier at school so that the Taliban kidnap teachers and education staff members of the district.

"The Taliban had many times told teachers not to get their salaries through the bank and instead receive their pay manually from a cashier at school so that the Taliban also get their share, but the teachers did not accept their demands and as a result, they were kidnapped," he said.

Deputy Provincial Council head Amanullah Kamrani acknowledged teachers and education staff of the district were missing for the last two days.