Afghans Ask Government to Prevent Fraud in the Election

KABUL - Afghans who cast their votes in Saturday’s presidential election demand that every possible action be taken to prevent fraud and create transparency in the counting process. I voted in the election...our demand for the IEC is that someone who really has the majority of the votes should be elected as the country’s new leader,” said a Kabul city resident.

“We ask the government to prevent fraud because people are tired of the fraud,” said another Afghan in Kabul, adding that Afghans have voted for a peaceful and secure future because they are tired of war and bloodshed in the country.

“We voted for peace and security in our country and to get rid of this war and killing,” another resident said.

Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah in a statement on Monday said “In order to protect the pure votes of the people, leaders of Stability and Convergence election campaign support not giving credit to non-biometric votes to ensure the credibility and transparency of the election” reads a statement by Abdullah Abdullah’s campaign.

The IEC has less than three weeks to announce the final results.

If no presidential candidate wins a majority of votes (over 50 percent), the second round of the election will be held between the top two candidates. At the same time, the Council of Presidential Candidates on Sunday released a statement expressing serious concerns about the problems and shortcomings in the election process. The election process has faced serious shortcomings in Afghanistan since the beginning, said the council in a statement, “although the election is a turning point for democracy and the only way out of the current crisis.”

Members of the presidential candidates’ council now await the announcement of the final results of the election, in which they will respond.

Afghan Election Security Impressive, Peace Deal Required

Gen. Miller commended coordination between Afghan military and civilian organizations during the election.

KABUL - The US commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Austin Scott Miller, in an interview on Monday credited the coordination across Afghan civilian and military leadership with the relative security success of the September 28 presidential elections. Miller’s overall assessment was that “the security forces performed very, very well” and he congratulated Afghans who “under the threat of violence came out and voted.”

He said such coordination between the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and the...more on P4...

KABUL - The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) has received 2,569 complaints related to the presidential elections that took place on September 28. Speaking at a press conference in Kabul, the Chief of IECZ, Zahira Bayat said that the majority of these complaints are filed in the Kabul, Herat and Janganese provinces.

According to the officials, nearly one thousand complaints are filed in the capital Kabul. Most of the complaints are from the malfunctioning of biometric devices, votes lost, and impossibility of voter’s registration at the polling stations.

In addition, IEC officials called on candidates to refrain from...more on P4.

Protection Body Prevents Illegal Mining at 2,200 Sites

KABUL - The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) said the Mines Protection Committee (MPC) has been able to prevent illegal extractions of natural resources at 2,200 sites during the last two years in the country.

MPC is formed of representatives from MoMP, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, National Directorate of Security (NDS), Wolesi Jirga, Environment and Natural Resources Committee, National Environment Protection Authority and Natural Resources Council.

Akhil Qadir Mithu, MoMP spokesman, told Panjshir Afghan News that the protection committee’s task was to prevent illegal mining, banning routes on which minerals were smuggled and identifying and capturing smugglers.

He said the MPC had been able to prevent illegal mining in 2,250 areas in nine provinces of the country in the last two years.

“This committee stopped illegal extraction of mines in Kabul, Panjshir, Kunar, Parwan, Laghman, Kapisa...more on P4...