**Quote of the Day**

"However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the result."  
Sir Winston Churchill

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**IEC Determined to Hold Elections on Time**

The Independent Election Commission is committed to holding parliamentary and district council elections on time, in July next year, the IEC chief Najibullah Ahmadzai told a press conference on Wednesday.  

IEC urges stakeholders to avoid irresponsible statements

KABUL - Breaking its silence about recent criticism by political parties, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) on Wednesday said some elements were trying to defame the electoral body to serve their personal interests.  

On Saturday, the Afghanistan Political Council (APC) unveiled the electoral commission’s “a corrupt and dependent organ,” calling for immediate halt to purchase of elections-related machinery and equipment.

Addressing reporters here, members of the council said elections would be acceptable to people when their trust in the electoral bodies was restored and drastic changes brought to the electoral machinery.  

Mohammad Safiuddin Patman, a member of APC, and head of Jalal-Abad’s true Afghan, said elections remained a major issue during the past 15 years. “It remains a huge challenge due to loss of trust and non-implementation of the law,” he said.

But IEC chief Najibullah Ahmadzai told a press conference said the recent statements of APC were “untrue and baseless.”

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**Women Among 13 Inmates Freed from Badakshan Jail**

FAIZABAD - Thirteen prison inmates, including four women, have been released from the northeastern Badakshan provincial jail in compliance with presidential decree issued on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, an official said on Wednesday.

Najibullah, in charge of order and security in the jail, said the prisoner building was over 100 years old and there was no suitable environment for inmates in the jail. (Pajhwok)

**Hakimi, DLA Piper**

Hakimi, an Afghan lawyer, is an expert in tax and business law.

**KABUL** - Afghanistan’s independent election commission has been criticized as heading to the exit by the Taliban, who have been gaining territory in recent years through a violent insurgent campaign.  

But it was not clear if Afghan Taliban representatives would join the talks. Taliban sources said they had not yet received an invitation and plan to skip Monday’s discussion in Moscow, saying doubts on efforts to revive long-stalled negotiations.

The Taliban, ousted in a U.S.-led military intervention in 2001, has been gaining territory in recent years through a violent insurgent campaign.  

The four-nation Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG), comprising Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States, has been trying to ease the way to direct talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, with little success.

The Taliban, ousted in a U.S.-led military intervention in 2001, has been gaining territory in recent years through a violent insurgent campaign.  

However, the Taliban’s growing power and influence has made peace talks increasingly unlikely.  

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**Construction of Two China-Aided Buildings Start in Kabul University**

Construction of the two China-aided buildings will start in Kabul University.

The Chinese government is likely to finance 40 percent of the costs of the buildings with the Afghan government covering the remaining 60 percent, sources said.

**New Afghan Peace Talks Expected in Oman**

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**Quotable of the Day**

"Investment in higher education in a society means focusing on safe future and welfare of next generation of the society. And Afghan government welcomed today’s launch of construction of two key facilities in Kabul University, that will be built by China," Abdull said the audience.

He also said the new buildings would provide more facilities for teachers and students in coming years.

Abdullah also expressed gratitude to China for its cooperation with the government and the people of Afghanistan particularly in the field of education.

**Wolesi Jirga Suspends Collection of Mobile Phone Tax**

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga -- lower house of parliament -- has suspended the 10 percent tax imposed on mobile phone users until a transparent system for revenue collection is put in place.

Based on a presidential decree, also endorsed by the Cabinet when the parliament was on its summer recess, the government imposed the 10 percent tax on all telecommunication service users.

The levy took effect on September 25, 2013. The IEC recently issued a notice to the telecommunication commission to hold an emergency meeting of the House to investigate complaints about lack of transparency in the collection of the tax.

Quazi Hassan, head of the telecommunication commission, told today’s session of the Wolesi Jirga that the 10 percent tax collection process was not transparent.

Most of the money landed in pockets of certain individuals, he alleged.

**Quote of the Day**

"It must be clarified that who has taken bribes," said Deputy. (More on P4).

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