Bamyan Film Festival to Help Promote Tourism: Governor

BAMYAN CITY - The first Bamyan Film Festival has been put on display in central Bamyan province in which these films out of many considered top one. Historical and selective films had been displayed in the festival which was held on Wednesday evening. Civil society activists, Bamyan governor, secretary information and cultural affairs were present on the occasion.

Khanfar, Alireza, the initiator of the Bamyan film idea, told Fajr: "The purpose of the event was to help the youth to display the hidden talent of this area in picture." "Forty one. (More on P6-D)"

IEC Chief Warns to Refrain from Interferences

KABUL - Independent Electoral Candidates Commission (IECC) warned that he will step down from his post within a month if the electoral bodies do not stop.

"Those who are involved in electoral fraud in the past are still presenting their own candidates. We are not involved in the same commission. How can we move forward in their presence?" Anyone asked.

Meanwhile, Naem Ayubzada, head of the Independent Election Foundation of Afghanistan, who presented a report on election on Thursday, blamed government for "alleged" interference in the electoral process.

"The election has now changed into a political battle of Afghani- 
sta's stability. It means that any kind of interference is great danger.

RS Launches Anti-Corruption Symposium in Herat

KABUL - NATO’s Resolute Support (RS) mission in Afghanistan launched an anti-corruption symposium in Herat province on Friday.

At a ceremony in the province, the Afghan and foreign officials called on the international community to support the Afghan government in its campaign against the endemic corruption in public offices.

Resolute Support commander Massimo Bagneri said at the event that "they have continued to move forward along the path that today they have launched the symposium to achieve that common goal.

UNITED NATIONS - Describing the United Nations reform process as a complex endeavor, Jorge Manrique Kies of Guatemala said changes were required at all levels of the Secretariat and in the Organization’s funds, programs, agencies, regional commissions and country teams.

All such efforts should be underpinned by the aim of reorganiz-
ing the organization and enabling it to become more cohesive and effective, he added.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday in his message to the Alliance for Peace building 2017 Annual Conference that prevention must involve all stake-
holders: peacekeeping, development, justice, human rights and humanitarian activities, to quickly address grievances long be-
fore they escalate into a crisis.

Pert V. Iliichev of Russia said the reform efforts must hone United Nations’ skills to effectively meet the challenges.

KABUL - Election watchdogs Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) on Thursday said the Independent Election Commission (IEC) lacked professional workers and the problem might face the IEC in the upcoming elections.

TEFA head, Naem Ayubzada, addressing a press conference here, said their findings showed the IEC was struggling with the shortage of professional officers. He said the upcoming elections might face crisis considering the mentioned problem in the IEC.

"The IEC has set 559 officers out of 484 and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) employed 115 of its 334 officers, he said.

“The vacant posts in the two commissions are technical and very important, so qualified individuals should be employed to these posts as soon as possible,” Ayubzada said.

Calling the usage of new technology in the election process as important, he said the said the Presidential Palace had suggested not implementable. “The IEC itself should take a step for proposing new technology in polls,”

Najibullah Ahmadzai, IEC chief who was present in the meet-
ing, said civil society institutes, political parties and media could play important role in observing the commission’s per-
f ormance. (More on P6-D)

UN Urged to be More Effective in Peace and Development

UN delegates voiced their concerns here on Thursday that reform efforts must hone United Nations’ skills to effectively meet peacekeeping and development challenges.

"Forty one. (More on P6-D)

IEC Lacks Professional Workers: TEFA Chief

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f ormance. (More on P6-D)

India Meets SCO Partners in Moscow to Discuss Afghanistan

INDIA - India meets with the SCO partners in Moscow in a meeting held yesterday.

"Forty one. (More on P6-D)

NEW DELHI - The meeting comes close on the heels of the US-backed Indo-Afghan truce and investment show in the Indian capital. New Delhi has been playing a pivotal role in Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts and its role in the region as a whole has come to be better acknowledged after it took a firm stand against China in the Doklam crisis.

"Foreign policy is as much about perception as it is about reality. During the Doklam standoff, the message was clear that India can take a stand against China while many other powers, in the South China Sea [issue], just gave in to their demands, the US's stand for Bhutan con-

UN delegates voiced their concerns here on Thursday that reform efforts must hone United Nations’ skills to effectively meet peacekeeping and development challenges.

KABUL - The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) on Thursday said non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were playing an "effective" role in offering quality education to children in far-flung areas of the country.

The independent Afghan body presented a two-
year performance report of the activities of NGOs working in the education sector at a press confer-
ence here.

The NGOs also included the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (OCA), the Norwegian Afghan-
istan Council (NAC), Tuoi Dao Education Organization, and Nan-Asia Association.

Foria Gul, ACBAR director, told the conference that 45 NGOs were operational in the education sector of Afghanistan and they run various edu-
cational programs and initiatives in far away and deprived areas of the country. (More on P6-D)

Corruption a Serious Threat for Security Agencies

KABUL - The National Security Advisor Moham-
ned Hanif Atmar said corruption is a serious threat for security agencies in the country, adding that there is a need for a strong campaign against the menace.

He said the generals in the Ministry of Interior should move forward to overcome corruption in the institution.

"As you (Afghan forces) bravely fight against ter-
molecular, India will support you," he said.

"Forty one. (More on P6-D)

Iran’s Defense Minister Invites Afghan Counterpart to Visit Tehran

KABUL - Iran’s Ambassador to Kabul Mohammad Reza Bahrami in a meeting with acting De-
finite Minister of Afghanistan Tariq Shah Bahrami on Thursday submitted invitation letter of Iran’s Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami to him.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interests. (More on P6-D)