Civilians Killed in an Airstrike in Warduj, Badakhshan

BADAKHSHAN - Local officials said that two Taliban members were killed, at least two civilians were wounded, and six others were wounded, in an airstrike in Warduj district of Badakhshan province on Sunday afternoon, local officials confirmed on Monday. The airstrike took place in Zehr village of Warduj on Sunday and targeted Atialal, a Taliban commander in the district, according to local officials.

But residents claimed that at least 15 people were killed, including children, and 15 others--also including children--were wounded in the airstrike. "We summons village and there is plane came and started bombing," said Rahimullah, a resident of Warduj, adding that his "nephew was wounded, and we took him to a government hospital in Faizabad for treatment." More on P4.

US Envoy in Afghanistan Supports IEC’s Decision to Count Only Biometrically Verified Votes

US Ambassador to Afghanistan, John Bass, on Monday voiced support for the decision of the country’s elections authorities to count only biometrically verified votes.

"I believe in the importance of clarifying for the Afghan people how many polling centers and polling stations were closed and where they were located so that as biometric process goes forward people have confidence that the electronic results verified physical results. Strengthening on integrity of the election, the envoy said that it was important that people have confidence in the vote rather than trying to meet an artificial deadline.

According to…(More on P4)(D)

MPs Attendance Too Low to Pass Laws

According to IEC’s latest report, a total of 1,737,078 million votes were recorded using biometric verification machines in 85 percent of polling stations in Afghanistan, data from the country’s election commission suggests.

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission has previously said that 2.7 million votes were recorded in the September 28 presidential election. It has said that as biometric process goes forward people have confidence that the electronic results verified physical results.

KABUL - A finding of the Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan reveals that the parliament achieved quorum—obtained the minimum number of lawmakers required to pass legislation—only a handful of times over the past six months. "Unfortunately, we had a complete quorum for only four or five sessions within the 40 sessions that the parliament convened," said Haseeb Mazari, a member of FEFA.

According to FEFA, over the past six months only 20 percent of lawmakers attended the parliamentary sessions. "The problem with our parliament is the lack of respect for the integrity of the law and democracy," said Noorallah Su-nai, a FEFA member. Based…(More on P6)(D)

INSTITUTE FOUNDED BY PRESIDENT GHANI MAKES SIGNIFICANT PROFIT FROM GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

According to reports, Qayoumi received $105,000 in the year 2016 from the Institute for State Effectiveness and $250,000 in 2017. Meanwhile, former lawmaker Haji Nesar Ahmad Faizi said the procurement law and procedures is a total scam. "In the institute we have 250 employees and our general director is not a professional lawyer or employee including their close family members can obtain projects from the government," Faizi added.

KABUL - The Institute for State Effectiveness was established in October 2003 by then President Hamid Karzai.

KABUL - A call comes after US President Donald Trump halted talks with the Taliban last month after it carried out a bomb attack in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier. "We would welcome the resumption of the talks but then Taliban must show willingness to make real compromises at the negotiating table," Stoltenberg said at a session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in London. "Fortunately, we have some sense at the moment in that the Taliban are escalating violence, not ending it," he said. "And it provokes the fear of a civil and middle-eastern guarantees for any future peace," be added. Stoltenberg reminded NATO’s commitment to Afghan-istan and renewed the country never becomes a safe haven for international terrorism. According to Stoltenberg, the 9/11 attack on US was an attack against freedom and democracy everywhere.

"This is why NATO Alliance partners continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in Afghanistan, to make the Afghan security forces stronger, so that they can fight international terrorism, and create the conditions for lasting peace," Stoltenberg said. (ITV News)