



Twenty Fourth Note

Haqiqat/The Truth 24 includes more news on elections and negotiations with the insurgents. There was no news published about transitional justice in past 15 days in the Kabul Dailies. In addition we have an interview with Mr. Nasrullah Stanekzai, professor of law and political science at Kabul University and Sayed Masood, professor of economics at Kabul University.

Elections Transparency:

In this issue the elections result is

the major topic of discussion. The declaration of final results in general and Ghazni province in particular caused intense debates. The IEC said that due to technical reasons the elections result of Ghazni province was delayed however the reports, analyses and news in the Afghan print media shows something else. The debate between the Attorney General's Office and the IEC is still ongoing.

Reconciliation with the Taliban:

The meeting of Afghan president, Hamid Karzai with the fake Taliban leader Mollah Mansour who was supposedly a high ranking Taliban

leader and the statements of former Afghan National Security Chief about this meeting where the government denies any meetings with this person are the news published in Afghan print media for the past two weeks about reconciliation and talks with the Taliban.

Corruption:

The burning issue in the state corruption was the documents released by Wiki leaks about the involvement of Ahmadzia Masood, former vice president of Afghanistan who allegedly carried millions of dollars out of country.

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Strategy and Feasibility of Talks with the Insurgents: Views from Kabul University

- ▶ **Stanackzai:** In order to achieve peace the criminals should be tried and the government must start the process from within. There are many criminals in important posts inside the government.
- ▶ **Massoud:** The insurgents cannot be attracted by financial means because they earn millions of dollars through cultivation and trafficking of narcotics. This is an old fashioned way of negotiation with the anti-government forces. **Page 14**



The Truth is a bi-weekly publication of the Afghanistan Watch supported by the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). It is intended to provide a snapshot of how the Afghan media debate and approach these key issues facing the country: transitional justice, corruption, elections transparency and negotiations with the armed insurgents.

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Negotiation with Armed Anti-Government Groups

Head of High Council for Peace visited Iran

Rah e Nejat daily, No 1571, Page 1, November 21, 2010

Borhanuddin Rabbani, the head of High Council for Peace visited Iran and met with Iran's national security secretariat on Nov 20. Rabbani demanded for additional assistance by Iran in bringing stability and development in Afghanistan. Iran's national Security Council secretariat, Saeed Jalili, said: "Iran supports the process of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan backed by the government and the people of Afghanistan."

Jalalabad attack shows Taliban's continuous defiance of peace process

Sam daily, No 1014, Page 4, 14 Nov 2010

While the High Council for Peace is trying to find ways for peace talks with Taliban leaders and high ranking members of this group, the Taliban denied the efforts by carrying out an organized attack on the Jalalabad airport and the military areas around the airport.

This organized attack by the Taliban in Jalalabad airport takes place one day after the suicide attack in Kabul. A suicide bomber targeted a vehicle of foreign troops in Kabul city. Carrying out such attacks by the Taliban, show that the Taliban leaders are focused more on suicidal wars and explosions.

Many political experts believe that the government of Afghanistan must also focus on war as the Taliban continue to embark violence.

Although the government officials try to mark some achievements in their peace efforts by campaigning the surrender of some Taliban leaders, the fact is that the Taliban leadership never showed any interest in the peace process. On the other hand, the security agencies of country claim that the operations in the northern areas of country have weakened the Taliban movements in those areas.

Hezb-e Islami conditionally accepts ceasefire

Afghanistan Daily, No 1248, Page 8 20 Nov 2010

Hezb e Islami, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has expressed their willingness to accept a ceasefire on condition that the foreign military presence in Afghanistan is limited to their original bases. Habib Ur Rahman, the son of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has said that there have been negotiations between the Afghan government, Hezb e Islami and the Americans before. Meanwhile, Taliban rejects any kind of peace talks and the son of Hezb e Islami leader says that his father wants an end to the Afghan war. He adds that if foreign forces stay in their camps,

the Hezb e Islami affiliated groups will stop attacking them. Hekmatyar's son says that the presence of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan is not the issue. He says that it was Afghans who continued war in Afghanistan and there is no Arab amongst them. The Al-Qaida fighters fled to Iraq.

He rejected Pakistan's involvement in supporting the insurgent groups inside Afghanistan and said that Pakistan has been a helping hand for coalition forces in arresting the Mujahideens.

Earlier Mullah Omar, the Taliban leader had said that there is no prospect of peace between insurgents and the government of Afghanistan and the Western powers spread these rumors to hide their defeat.

20 insurgents joined the government in Baghlan province

Bakhtar daily, 361, Page 7, 23 Nov 2010

"We cooperated with the armed Taliban in the past and now we want to join the peace process and take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan" said Muhammd Gul Nouri, the commander of 19 people who joined the peace process.

The Baghlan security chief, Rahman Rahimi says that the country will move towards stability as the people join the peace process and efforts are underway to bring more people to peace.

Women demand more presence in the High Peace Council

Afghanistan Daily, No 1252, Page 7, 24 Nov 2010

Some Afghan women, related to government agencies and NGOs called for greater participation of women in the High Peace Council.

In a meeting commemorating the tenth anniversary of the 1325 Resolution of UN Security Council, the participatory women asked the government to allocate 30 percent of the High Peace Council's place for women.

Although the Afghan government officials had promised that the presence of women in the High Peace Council will be obvious but there are only 7 women from 70 members of the council.

More than 160 rebels joined the peace process

Rah e Nejat daily, No 1575, 25 Nov 2010

Several famous commanders of the rebel groups with their subordinates surrendered to Pamir 303 brigade in north and joined the peace process.

Lieutenant General Mohammad Dawood Dawood, the command-in-chief of 303 Pamir brigade in north of the country says that more than 160 armed Taliban with their commanders joined the process of peace. He added: some of the famous Taliban leaders including Mohammad Dawood Dawood, Mohammad Alam and Mohammad Hashim are in this group.

Petraeus:

The negotiating Taliban leader might be a fake

Rah e nejat daily, No. 1575, first page, 25 Nov 2010

"There is nothing to be surprised about" said NATO's Chief Commander in Afghanistan about the fake Taliban leader who would negotiate on peace talks.

Although President Karzai denied the presence of the Taliban leader called "Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour," in the peace talks, the press support center at Bagram Airbase quoting Gen. David Petraeus, commander of foreign troops in the country, says that there is nothing to be surprised about these reports and we have always had doubts about them. Western media reported that a person named Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour was moved from Pakistan by NATO forces to attend the peace talks with Hamid Karzai. However, Mr. Karzai rejects the reports and urges not to accept such reports by western media because it is a lie and propaganda.

National Security Department rejected talks with fake Taliban leader

Afghanistan Daily, No 1255, Page 8, 28 Nov 2010

The Afghan National Security Department rejected any talks with the fake Taliban leader Mullah Mansoor.

Earlier the president's head office had supposedly said that this person had been in contact with the government from Taliban side. A communiqué released by the government says that this person was identified prior to stepping inside the country and was prevented from talks with Afghan authorities.

Mike Mullen:

Karzai did not talk with fake Taliban representative

Afghanistan daily, No. 1255, Page Eight, November 28, 2010

Admiral Mike Mollen, the US Joint Chief of Staff does not believe that this fake Taliban leader would have talked with Hamid Karzai.

Mike Mollen also says that there were suspicions and doubts from the beginning. In a very short time he was identified that who he was. In reality, he was known as the person who called himself Taliban leader and joined the negotiation process. He was a crook. Regarding the developments in peace talks also Mr. Mollen said that there have been no real developments yet in the negotiation process.

President Karzai's office:

Britain responsible for negotiating with the fake Taliban Commander

Afghanistan Daily, No. 1255, first page, November 28, 2010

Mohammad Omar Dawoodzai, the president head office says the British brought Mollah Mohammad Akhtar in July or August of this year, who introduced himself as Taliban leader, to meet Hamid Karzai. Mollah Akhtar mansoor is said to be the second man in the Taliban leadership.

However sources inside British government say that he was introduced by the Afghan intelligence officials to British government to talk with the authorities in Afghan government.

It is said that the man has disappeared after receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Afghan president said in a news conference that there have been no talks with Mullah Mansur and asked people not to believe on the reports by the New York Times.

Peace with an unknown enemy

Daily 8 am, Issue 1022, editorial, November 28, 2010

The truth about the Mollah Akhtar Mansoor a Taliban negotiator with Karzai reveals the fact that no one is seriously pursuing the process of peace talks with the Taliban and how incapable the authorities are. Mollah Akhtar Mansoor is revealed to be a Pakistani businessman. It shows that our authorities do not know their enemies but still emphasize on peace process and negotiation. Worse than that are the comments by the British that say that he was introduced by the Afghan security officials and the UK only helped to pave the way for his meeting with Hamid Karzai.

When the Afghan government officials are incapable of recognizing this man then the members of High Peace Council are weaker to identify the unknown Taliban members.

The Afghan Peace and the people who want war

Rah e nejat Daily, No. 1578, Page three, November 29, 2010

The Afghan peace talks apparently going well confronted a sudden and strange bump. The man who was supposedly Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, the second man in the Taliban leadership is not a Talib but a shopkeeper in Peshawar.

It is said that the British government has created this problem in front of peace process.

Najib Mahmud, law professor at Kabul University says that if it is the British government behind this game then they should make it clear that why they did this work and it should be clarified whether they are pursuing the process of peace in Afghanistan in reality or not?

He added: "I believe the British government is directly involved in this issue along with some other people who want to disrupt

Afghanistan's relations with the international community or create hurdles in the process of peace."

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Amrullah Saleh:

No one listened to me about Mullah Akhtar

8am daily, No 1024, Page 5, 30 Nov 2010

Amrullah Saleh, the former head of National Directorate of Security says that his administration rejected the man in 2008 that claimed to be Mullah Akhtar Mohammad a senior Taliban leader, but failed to prove his identity. Saleh said the Afghan President, Hamid Karzai and senior officials of afghan government were trying to find a way of talks with the Taliban. He added:" It shows the extent of illiteracy and negligence to the realities of the ground by the Afghan leadership about such a sensitive issue.

As a sign of good will a huge amount of money is paid to this fake Taliban leader and he has talked three times with the president himself. Mr. Saleh met this person before knowing whether he was a fraud and says that it was a big mistake to take him to the president and I think it shows that how incapable are the elements gathered around the president.

Elections Transparency

20 winning candidates to be eliminated

Daily 8 am, Issue 1016, Page 1, November 21, 2010

Ahmad Zia Rafat, spokesman and member of the Electoral Complaints Commission said: "20 winning candidates in the early results are expected to be removed from final list as their fraudulent votes are declared invalid." He stressed that as the results are finalized after assessing the highly sensitive electoral complaints the pressures is reducing on ECC to change the final election results.

Electoral Complaints Commission officials insist that after the final official result is announced then it will be proved how the IEC dealt with powerful and fraudulent candidates.



Rafiai: People's participation is overstated in elections

Afghanistan Daily, No 1250, Page 8, 22 Nov 2010

Aziz Rafia, the head of Afghan civil society organizations in a conference with two angry candidates said: "The level of participation in the elections is exaggerated and the electoral process and announcement of its results failed to meet adequate standards of transparency."

The Afghan civil society organizations believe that elections should be legitimate; socially and nationally. According to him, "Some candidates have used power and resources to keep their names in the early results of elections list and it is a matter of concern for Afghan civil society organizations."

Nineteen winning candidates were excluded from the elections list

Cheragh Daily, No 215, Page one, 22 Nov 2010

By Zafar Shah Roye

Afghanistan's Electoral Complaints Commission has excluded the names of nineteen candidates from early elections results and the commission has declared that there has been widespread frauds in the votes they earned.

These candidates are from different provinces of the country. However, many of them (5 candidates) are from Heart province. Ahmadzia Rafat, the spokesperson for ECC says that the assessment of complaints has put a significant impact on the final result of elections.

IEC is accused of favoritism

Daily 8 am, No. 1017, 22 Nov 2010

By Zafarshah Royee

A number of candidates for parliamentary elections, protesting

on early elections results, accused the independent election commissions and electoral complaints commission of favoritism and violating the elections law. They called the elections non-transparent and say that the ECC acts in the favor of powerful people and they don't do their responsibilities well.

Asadullah wilwaji says that his votes in Takhar province remained uncounted due to fraud and manipulations of other candidates. He stressed that some of the IEC workers received money from some candidates to make them victorious. He adds that we are the victim of conspiracy.

21 eliminated candidates do not have the right to appeal

Afghanistan Daily, No 1251, Page one, 23 November 2010

Electoral Complaints Commission says that the 21 candidates eliminated from the final round have no right to appeal. Earlier, the IEC had given the candidates the right to appeal. The IEC spokesperson called it final decision and added: "They have assessed all the complaints and cases of these candidates."

Ahmadzia Rafat said: this is the final decision and after this no candidate will be eliminated from the early list of ECC. He added that all 2500 complaints in A-group which were effective on the final result are being prosecuted and these decisions are sent to the IEC.

Yonus Qanooni regretted elimination of 19 candidates

Daily 8 am, No 1018, Page One, 23 Nov 2010

Yonus Qanooni, the head of parliament regretted about the elimination of 19 candidates who were winner until the early elections result. Seven current members of the parliament whose names were in the early results of 18 Sep elections are also included in the list of those 19 candidates who are eliminated.

Mr. Qanooni said that there are candidates included in the list of eliminated people who are not seem to have a single sign of fraud, deception and violation of laws and they needn't to cheat in the elections.

Qanooni added: "If there have been acts of favoritism by the IEC then it is a mistake and it is wrong. According to the elections law these candidates should come to agreement."

Protest by the angry candidates

Daily 8 am, No 1018, Page Two, 23 November 2010

Dozens of angry parliamentary candidates and hundreds of their supporters demonstrated on Nov 22 in Kabul.

The demonstrators warned that if the government ignores their demands they will expand their demonstration all over the country. Meanwhile, the Electoral Complaints Commission on Nov 20 eliminated the names of 19 candidates for parliamentary elections from the early results list.

Final elections results will be announced today

Rah e Nejat Daily, No. 1574, Page One, 24 November 2010

After 67 days, the result of parliamentary elections held on Sep 18 is expected to be announced today, Nov 24. Noor Mohammad Noor, the spokesman for the Independent Election Commission on Tuesday (Nov 23) said that the result will be announced on Nov 24 during a news conference. It is not clear yet; the names of how many nominees will be eliminated from final list due to frauds that were present in the early elections results.

The success of nominees decided in Sarai Shahzada and Dubai

Daily 8 am, Issue 1019, First Page, 24 November 2010

The attorney general's office says that there are evidences and proofs that the success of parliamentary nominees is decided in Soray Shahzada (Exchange Market)and Dubai. The attorney general added that two employees of ECC and IEC are declared suspended by the attorney general's office and he did not mention their names. Sayed Morad Sharifi, head of ECC also said that they have acted according to the law.

Officials involved in fraud are not introduced to Complaints Commission

Afghanistan Daily, No 1252, Page One, 24 Nov 2010

Electoral Complaints Commission says that no fraudulent employee of IEC is introduced to them. Noor Mohammad Noor, spokesman for the Independent Election Commission said earlier that more than one thousand temporary IEC employees, who were accused of frauds and manipulations in the elections, are introduced to Electoral Complaints Commission.

However, Ahmadzia Rafat, spokesman for the Electoral Complaints Commission rejected the claims and says that no one is yet introduced to the IEC in charges of frauds and manipulations in the elections.

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FEFA:

the process of reform in electoral system must begin immediately

Rah e Nejat Daily, No 1575, Page One, 25 Nov 2010

Free & Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA), hours after the announcement of final elections results, in a communiqué said: the announcement of 2010 final elections result is a good opportunity for the involved institutions to bring reforms in the electoral system of the country.

In its communiqué released, FEFA writes that from the beginning of parliamentary elections of 2010, as they monitored the process of registration to assessment of complaints and finally the declaration of elections results, there were many irregularities. They have sent their reports to the affiliated organizations.

FEFA asks for reforms in the areas like increased "transparency", better assessment of complaints- particularly those candidates who are linked with illegal armed groups- and poor management of elections process and professionalism of electoral institutions.

The candidate's representatives and supervisors have limited access to the process of elections, FEFA further argues.

Final elections results announced

Daily 8 am, No 1020, Page 2, 25 Nov 2010

The Independent Elections Commission of Afghanistan (IEC) announced the final list of winner parliamentary elections candidates, held on Sep 18 of this year.

The IEC eliminated 27 candidates who were winners in the early elections results after their votes were declared invalid by the Electoral Complaints Commission due to frauds.

IEC declared the elections results of 33 provinces except Ghazni, including Kuchis polling centers.

Fazl Ahmad Manavi announced the elections results on Nov 24 and said that the ECC's decision is final according to the

elections law and IEC declared the result after ECC implemented every measure.

Manavi said: "whatever Electoral Complaints Commission has done, like the elimination of candidates and invalidation of votes is according to the law and we are compelled to announce the results based on the decisions of ECC. We don't have the right to appeal, recount the votes or violate the laws. The decision of ECC is final and we have to accept it and declare the results."

Meanwhile, the UN representative office in Kabul welcomed the announcement of final elections result and the communiqué released by this organization writes that the election institutions of Afghanistan, after months of hard work, finally declared the results.



The of elections enigma in Ghazni

Daily 8 am, No 1020, Page Four, Nov 25, 2010

Fazl Ahmad Manavi, the head of IEC called technical problems as an important factor behind delays in the announcement of the elections results in Ghazni.

According to the experts, the elections in Ghazni has been the subject of ethnic rivalries of some obvious people in the government than any technical problem. Based on the findings of IEC, the elections transparency in Ghazni is better than any other province. Only weeks before the elections one of the government officials that has strong hand in dismissal and appointment of governors went to Ghazni province and handed over a handsome amount of money with a list in the house of former Ghazni governor Haji Allah yar.

According to a reliable source this government figure wants the deputy of Ghazni governor to try his best to make the following candidates victorious: Khial Mohammad Hosaini, Niaz Mohammad Amiri, Dr. Jamal, Fatima Moshtaq and Dr. Ghani. However the elections result in Ghazni turned out the opposite.

A current member of parliament says that president Karzai has promised the Pashtuns of Ghazni province four seats in the parliament.

Probably the final result of Ghazni elections, which is no more in the control of IEC but the presidential palace, will be decided today in the meeting of political and ethnic leaders.

According to Mr. Manavi, the results of Ghazni province is delayed due to technical reasons and it will be announced in the coming weeks.

The non-declaration of elections result in Ghazni province shows that the government is involved in intervening in the IEC works. Abdullah Abdullah the leader of opposition party condemned this act and called the government responsible for not declaring the result of Ghazni province. Based on the early elections results, the Hazara nominees have won all eleven seats in Ghazni province and president Karzai expressed his concerns that national unity is not heeded in this province so the IEC must take some measures.

Protests against the final elections results

Cheragh daily, No 218, First Page, 25 November 2010

While the final results of the parliamentary elections was declared by the IEC, demonstrations were called in different provinces of Afghanistan including Kabul. Some of the current MPs were also present among the protestors. Noorulhaq Ulomi the MP from Kandahar, Dawood Sultanzoi and Sardar Oghli were also seen amongst the protestors accusing the government of frauds and manipulations.

Meanwhile, in some of the northern provinces of the country also people launched demonstrations condemning frauds in the Sep 18 elections.

Ghazni elections caught up in technical or political crises?

Afghanistan Daily, No 1253, Page 4, 25 Nov 2010

Finally after two months of assessment and counting, the controversial results of parliamentary elections were released. But, the results of Ghazni province are remained undeclared as an exception. This is the province where government tried to intervene in the elections results that provoked reactions from within the people. Fazl Ahmad Manavi, the head of IEC with the announcement of elections results said that there will be no re-elections.

Zia Rafat:

the assessment of attorney general's office has no impact on election results

Afghanistan Daily, No 1254, Page Eight, 27 Nov 2010

Electoral Complaints Commission says that the assessment of attorney general's office has no impact on the results of elections. Ahmadzia Rafat, member and spokesperson for ECC says that attorney general's office is the institution that has the right to pursue the criminal cases that occurred in the polling stations and those people that

carried out these criminal acts. Rafat said that the only area where IEC cannot interfere is the irregularities and elections frauds. He added: assessment of electoral complaints is the job of ECC and the implementation of decisions and declarations of results is the job of Independent Elections Commissions.

Rafat said that all complaints in the top Group A that could affect the elections results are assessed and the invalidation of hundreds of votes and elimination of some candidates were as a result of those assessments.

He said that Electoral Complaints Commission welcomes the assessments of attorney general's office that could lead to the identification of criminals.

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Karzai:

discontented candidates should go the courts

Afghanistan Daily, No. 1254, Page Eight, 27 Nov 2010

The President asked the angry candidates to avoid any irregularities and refer their complaints to the judicial institutions.

This was stated in the communiqué released by the presidential palace.

Mr. Karzai welcomes the participation of people in the elections and regards it as an important national process.

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Fight over election results has increased

Afghanistan Daily, No 1254, First Page, 27 Nov 2010

The attorney general's office has asked the Kabul Police chief to summon four members of IEC and ECC to their office.

Noor Mohammad Noor, spokesman for election commission and Ahmad Zia Rafat, the spokesman for the ECC are the people who are summoned to the attorney general's office.

Chief information technology and head of complaints investigation department are also summoned to the attorney general's office.

Rahmatullah Nazari, deputy of attorney general's office has accused these people of fraud, abuse of authority, corruption and violation of law.

However, Mr Rafat and Noor have stressed that if the attorney general wants to interfere in election affairs; they will not go to their office and will not let any institution to interfere in the elections affairs.

Noor Mohammad Noor, accused attorney general office of playing politics, while Rafat says that due to pressures by some nominees they have taken this step.

While officials in attorney general's office say that they have sent the summon letter to IEC, the commission members rejects the claim and say that they have not received any summon letter.

Hazara society figures addressing the IEC: Prevent a national crisis from happening

Rah e Nejat Daily, No 1576, First Page, 27 Nov 2010

In response to the delay in the announcement of Ghazni elections result the prominent figures of Hazara society including the religious figures, jhadi Leaders, MPs in the parliament, members of Mishrano Jirga (Upper House), ministers and heads of various government institutions, advisors to the president and other intellectuals discussed the delay in elections result of Ghazni province and the reason behind it. In an open letter to the Independent Elections Commission they asked for immediate announcement of elections result and avoid any unreasonable delay and a national crisis.

In a declaration issued in this meeting they warned that, any illegal modification in the elections result will cause a severe reaction by the people of the province.

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American Embassy in Kabul:

Election commissions brought credibility to the electoral process

Rah e Nejat Daily, No 1576, Page two, 27 Nov 2010

The US Embassy in Kabul in a communique welcomed the final elections results by IEC. The American embassy has said that there were cases of frauds and irregularities in the elections, but the IEC has done its job well and accredited the elections process.

This communiqué praised the works of both IEC and ECC and calls it a major step towards independent and strong Afghan electoral process.

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Five people arrested for alleged electoral fraud

8am Daily, No 1021, Page One, 27 Nov 2010

Following the claims of fraud in the parliament elections the attorney general's office informed that five people were arrested who are accused of receiving a handsome amount of money for modifying the elections results.

Rahmatullah Nazari, the deputy of attorney general's office says that three of the arrested people introduced themselves as the European Union elections observers and received money from some parliamentarian nominees.

The two other people are money launderers who were involved in taking bribery. The total money they received is more than 100 thousand dollars.

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A reliable source:

British Embassy and the presidential palace prevented Ghazni's elections result

Daily 8 am, No. 1021, Page 2, 27 Nov 2010

A reliable source told the 8am daily that the Independent Electoral Commission was getting ready to declare the election

results of Ghazni province, but the intervention of the British embassy and the presidential palace delayed it. The source adds that the British ambassador started consultations with the political and tribal leaders about the Ghazni elections results and asked for their opinion. The source says that Mr. Manavi was unaware of the delay until the night he would declare the results tomorrow.

The delay in announcing the elections results of the Ghazni province has questioned every effort of IEC, their independence, integrity and good work. The main question is that Mr. Karzai deems himself as the guardian of law then how can he permit a foreign embassy and himself to violate the law?

The Complaints Commission of Mishrano Jirga called elections results unacceptable

Afghanistan daily, No 1255, Page Eight, 28 Nov 2010

The Complaints Commission of Mishrano Jirga (Upper House) called the final elections results unacceptable. Dr. Zalmay Zabuli, head of this commission in a conference yesterday asked the attorney general's office to seriously peruse the allegedly fraud cases in the elections. He said that as long as the fraud cases are not assessed the elections results will remain unacceptable for them.

While the Election Commission has called the Sep 18 elections legitimate, the attorney general's office has summoned some of the employees of the ECC for allegedly fraud cases.

Spokesman for the Electoral Complaints Commission: The attorney general' office tries to defame people

Mandegar Daily, No 457, First Page, 28 Nov 2010

Electoral Complaints Commission officials accuse attorney general's office of defaming people and stress that they will not allow them to intervene in the affairs of IEC out of their authority.

Ahmadzia Rafat, the member and the Electoral Complaints Commission spokesman said: election law emphasizes that the ECC has the authority to assess the complaints and irregularities of elections. Therefore, neither the attorney general's office nor any other person has the right to interfere in the affairs of ECC.

Complaints Commission spokesman says that they have not received any official summon letter from attorney general's office. He says that they welcome the efforts of attorney general's office but when they move out of their authority then that is questionable and it shows that there are pressures from outside on them.

Final Elections result of Ghazni, start of new crisis

Daily 8 am, No 1022, Page 4, 28 Nov 2010

By Zafarshah Royee

Dozens of MPs, independent political figures and political

parties declared their serious concerns over the delay in final results of Ghazni elections and warned that it will create serious national crises in the country. These people and the political parties formed a commission called "Protection of Ghzani votes" yesterday and declared in news conference that the delay in the announcement of Ghazni elections result has no legal bases and IEC must declare it without any modifications in the results.

Last Thursday President Karzai called a meeting with political leaders and ethnic elders to find a solution for Ghazni elections because there is no Pashtun MP from this province this time. However, the media reported that president Karzai has not been able to find a solution in this meeting. Meantime, Ahmad Behzad, an MP from Heart province and a member of government's opposition party led by Dr. Abdullah Abdullah says that the president has ignited national crises in the parliament elections which is against the election law.

Behzad said that how a Hazara cannot represent Pashtuns and other citizens of Ghazni province? If we talk in Karzai's terms that a Hazara cannot be a representative of Pashtuns or other citizens of Ghazni province then Mr. Karzai, a tribal Pashtun, cannot be the president of the people of Afghanistan- in particular, the non-Pashtun citizens.

Electoral Complaints Commission is ready to respond to attorney general's office

Daily 8 am, No 1022, Page 3, 28 Nov 2010

The authorities in Electoral Complaints Commission say that the agency is ready to respond to the questions about criminal charges against it.

Ahmad Zia Rafat the member of Electoral Complaints Commission yesterday said that the attorney general's office has not yet send any official letter describing any crime related acts against the employees of ECC.

Rafat, however, confirmed that the attorney general office in several official letters have asked the ECC to explain their decisions about elections which, he believes, is out of their authority and ECC deems it as an interfere in its affairs. He added that ECC will not respond to any question which is out of the authority of the attorney general's office.

New MPs! Collect your certificates

Rah e Nejat Daily, No 1578, first Page, 29 Nov 2010

Based on the communiqué released by IEC, this commission will start distributing certificates of victory to the wining candidates in the parliamentary elections. According to the applicable law of the country, they will start distributing these certificates for the MPs from 34 provinces on Monday 29 Nov.

The communiqué adds that the victorious candidates can collect their certificates from IEC central office or contact Mr. Osman Qane the foreign relations office of IEC.

This step by Independent Electoral Commission is taken while the final election results in Ghazni province is remained undeclared.

The International Community seems silent over the crisis of parliamentary elections

Cheragh Daily, No 220, Page 2, 29 Nov 2010

In the presidential election, Hamid Karzai was confronted with the only opposition group, the political group Dr. Abdullah Abdullah; however, this time he is confronted with a range of tribal leaders and ethnic groups who are protesting about elections in important provinces like Herat, Baghlan and Ghazni.

The post-elections political situation of Afghanistan has become convulsive and the president has asked the angry candidates to avoid violence and irregularities.

What is certain here is that this new crisis is in the favor of Taliban because they had called the elections defeated from beginning. However, the question is that why the international community particularly NATO is silent- that declared its strategy to establish democracy in Afghanistan.

NATO's negligence of electoral violence with any reason behind the scene has kept Karzai alone in the crisis. Therefore some of the observers believe that there is a relation between the silences of international community with the dissatisfaction of Americans from Karzai.

Legal basis of attorney general's position

Mandegar Daily, No 458, Page 8, 29 Nov 2010

After the announcement of parliamentary elections final results by the Independent Electoral Commissions, the conflicts over delay in Ghzani results and the jangles of ECC and attorney general's office still persist.

The Supreme Court has protested against the elections results and says that because some of the winner candidates are not assessed by the attorney general's office so this result is early and not acceptable.

The experts believe that this act of the Supreme Court is engineered by the government to enter their favorite candidates inside the parliament.

Noor Mohammed Noor, the spokesman for election commission says that the election results are the authority of IEC and no institution has the right to intervene.

Mohammad Ja'far Kohistani, professor of law at Kabul University believes that no institution has the right to intervene in the IEC affairs and it is the job of Election Commission to announce the elections results. He adds that the attorney general's office has the right to prosecute the criminal cases of nominees; however, it is IEC that is independent in organizing and announcing the results.

According to Kohistani, the assessment of elections frauds is the job of Electoral Complaints Commissions and attorney general's

office has no right to intervene. However, if the elections results were delayed then attorney general could intervene according to the law.

Rafat: Ambiguity in the summons of attorney general office

Afghanistan daily, Page One, 29 Nov 2010

while the Afghan attorney general's office say that they have officially summoned four members of election commissions for interrogations, the ECC says there are ambiguities with this issue and the IEC says they have not received any such letter.

Ahmad Zia Rafat, a member and spokesman for the Electoral Complaints Commission in a news conference said that there are uncertainties in the summons which are not to be disclosed in the media. But, he asked the attorney general's office to take steps to resolve these ambiguities.

Continuing he said: ECC has received the summon letter but there are ambiguities with it that ECC wants the attorney general's office to explain.

Hafizullah Hafiz the member of Afghanistan attorney general complaints and petitions department says that ECC should come to their office and tell us about the ambiguities. We have evidences and documents that can explain whether there have been frauds and manipulations or not?

Ahmad Zia Rafat, Amanullah Tajali, Noor Mohammad Noor and Shafiq Kohistani are accused of bribery charges and misuse of their authorities.

Some of the candidates demonstrated again in Kabul

Afghanistan Daily, Page Eight, 29 Nov 2010

Some of the failed candidates have again protested in Kabul and accused foreign countries of intervention in the decisions of ECC. These nominees demand for the assessment of IEC activities by the attorney general's office.

The demonstrators who reached almost 300 people including the candidates and their supporters expressed their support with attorney general's office that had said that there has been widespread fraud in the elections and its result is not acceptable. Sultan Dawoodzoi the current MP from Ghazni province says that the votes of people are being invalidated and the president must take measure. Otherwise, there will be massive demonstrations. He accused the foreign countries for interventions in the decisions of IEC.

No institution can change our decision

Daily 8 am, No. 1023, First Page, 29 Nov 2010

The Afghan Electoral Complaints Commission says that no institution can change our decision about the Elections by increasing pressures as the tensions still persists between

electoral institutions and the attorney general's office.

Ahmad Zia Rafat, a member and spokesperson for ECC says that the attorney general's office has brought concerns for the winner candidates and the people with their irresponsible statements. Rafat said that the Electoral Complaints Commission remains faithful to its commitments and strongly supports the elections results including Ghazni results in national and international level. No institution can exert pressure on ECC to change its decision.

◆

**President's spokesman:
President ready to inaugurate
the new parliament**

Daily 8 am, Issue 1024, Page 3, Nov 30 2010

By Qodratollah Javid

The spokesperson for the president informed that president is making preparations for the inauguration of the new parliament. On the other hand tensions still persist between the attorney general's office and the IEC institutions.

President spokesperson, Wahid Omar also emphasized that the President is accountable for the afghan citizens and will not intervene in the affairs of the attorney general and the IEC institutions.

Omar said: "The president's position is that nobody and no one should endanger the rule of law, governance and stability of the country." The president has no other worries in relation to any person, province or institution. Mr. Omar deems the announcement of final elections result is the responsibility and the authority of IEC and denies the president's involvement in the delay of Ghazni results; however, he says that the president is ready to inaugurate the parliament.

Corruption

U.S. officials: Karzai's half brother is corrupt and drug trafficker

Daily 8 am, No 1024, Page One, 30 November 2010

The secret documents recently released by the Wiki Leaks call Ahmad Wali Karzai, the brother of Hamid Karzai corrupt and involved in drug trafficking. Ahmad Wali Karzai is the head of Kandahar Provincial Council.

Wiki Leaks also reveals that Amad Zia Masood, the former first vice president of Afghanistan had transferred 52 million USD to Dubai. According to these confidential documents, Mr. Masood had embedded the money in a box when he visited Dubai. This money was discovered by the anti-narcotics department of UAE but after the interruption of US-Embassy, the money was given back to Mr. Masood.

However, Ahmad Zia Masood rejected the allegation at that time.

Articles & Interviews

Strategy and Feasibility of Talks with the Insurgents: Views from Kabul University

In the following you read the opinions and views of the two Kabul University lecturers Mr. Nasrullah Stanekzai, professor of law and political science at Kabul University and Sayed Masood, professor of Economics at Kabul University about the reconciliation and talks with the anti-government forces. Their viewpoints are placed together about the two same questions.



Interviewer: Jawad Naji

First question: What are those serious differences between the government and the insurgents that can potentially fail or delay the process of national reconciliation?

Stanackzai: It is natural that there are disagreements on the issues of governance, rule of law and human rights between the government and the anti-government forces. There are two categories of anti-government groups:

1. The ideologist group
2. The traditional group

It is clear that ideological group has its own strong views on governance and human rights issues. This difference of ideology has put both sides in conflict. Negotiation with such a group that has contacts with Al-Qaida and have a particular ideology will never be possible. However negotiation with the second group which is more traditional is possible if the government works hard in that regard. If the Afghan government and its international allies work harder, then this issue will be resolved. It is said that the Afghan constitution will remain unchanged and if talks continue according to constitution then all the anxieties will be over. However, if it is out of the framework of constitution then there will be problems.

The possibility of negotiation depends on the force and power of government. If the Afghan government acts powerfully then we will get closer to peace talks and peace process will be carried out better. If the government's position is weak, there is no possibility of negotiation. Or if the negotiation takes place as such then the anti-government forces will achieve more than the government. The international factor is also important in this regard. How will the international players act in this issue? Do they consider their political interests or the civil and legal-values that Afghan people have achieved during past ten years. In this regard, the deal and the role of West are so important.

Massoud: The Taliban is not an incidental phenomenon but is a group that was formed amongst the mujahedin based on a

specific strategy by world powers in the South Asian region. The government of Afghanistan also did not come out of an incident or the world didn't come to Afghanistan to bring democracy for this people. To the contrary, they (international community) came as a consequence of the 11 September which itself was the result of a big intelligence plan

Stanackzai: In order to achieve peace the criminals should be tried and the government must start the process from within. There are many criminals in important posts inside the government.

Massoud: The insurgents cannot be attracted by financial means because they earn millions of dollars through cultivation and trafficking of narcotics. This is an old fashioned way of negotiation with the anti-government forces.

I think that both sides (government and the opposition) are supported by the international powers and with the support of international and regional powers have recruited men and shown strength. Apparently it looks like there is a serious contradiction in the views of opponents and the government on the human rights, social and political issues. The opponents refer the matters to Islamic and Sharia while their interpretation of Shria is different what we have learnt. Thus, they insist on fighting based on their interpretation of Sharia. For example, what Mrs. Clinton

talks about human rights is based on American feminism than the interpretation of insurgents. I think that these conflicting and different perceptions on human rights issues, governance and international relations exist but these thoughts originate from the same source.

Second question: How is the mechanism considered for reconciliation with the opponents? How is the justice addressed in this mechanism?

Stanackzai: This is not a good way to attract the opponents.

There are some important things to be considered in order to bring peace: First, our statesmen must believe in peace. Second, the public opinion should be ready to embrace peace and third, the neighboring countries particularly those who are involved in the issue of Afghanistan must support the process of peace; otherwise we will reach nowhere. Moreover, we need more social peace than political. The political peace is fragile and can break any time. We must move towards social solutions to the problems. The government should help the civil society and explain the people of Afghanistan that we need peace.

In order to achieve peace the criminals should be tried and the government must start the process from within. There are many criminals in important posts inside the government. Should we send some people to the mountains to take arms against the government under the pretext of establishing justice? While during the civil war in Kabul 65 thousand people were killed and the culprits are sitting in the parliament, embassies and inside the government. Suppose we accept that Taliban beat 65 thousand people with sticks then shouldn't we try those who killed people rather than those who only beat people? Therefore, it is essential to bring about a belief of transitional justice, at first, inside the government institutions and then decide how to deal with them (insurgents).

Massoud: The Taliban have a government project. They have experienced the ruling the country and they claim to make government. They have their own law. They don't want to make a coalition government but they want to make their own government. Economic movements in Afghanistan cannot bring peace but the ideological and intellectual lines are more important. These ideological lines have roots in many counties like Iran and Arabic countries and Al-Qaida leads them. The insurgents cannot be attracted by financial means because they earn millions of dollars through cultivation and trafficking of narcotics. This is an old fashioned way of negotiation with the anti-government forces.

War and conflict in Afghanistan are based on these issues: the first is ideology and thought. The second is regional war. Afghanistan is not in a position to talk with the insurgents; rather it is the regional powers that are fighting in Afghanistan for their interest. Afghanistan is like a dead body that is lying in the battle ground between these powers and can't do anything for itself. Unless there is peace between the regional powers, Afghanistan will not see peace.

Peace in Afghanistan is not a goal for regional powers rather it is a corridor to reach their objectives. Unless the conflicts between world powers are solved, there will be no peaceful solution for Afghanistan. Some activities that the government carries out about peace are only meant to show the people that here exists a government. Otherwise, everything is in the hands of foreigners.

New publications

Caught on Tape, a Snippet of Afghan Voting Fraud

The New York Times/By ROD NORDLAND/November 21, 2010

In an election so riddled with fraud that 1.3 million votes — about a quarter of the total — have been thrown out, the two men's scheme was just a minor fraud. But it speaks volumes about the pervasiveness of the corruption surrounding Afghanistan's elections — and about how little that corruption benefited the powerful, in part because of aggressive policing of the Sept. 18 voting and its aftermath by the Independent Election Commission and the Election Complaints Commission.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/22/world/asia/22afghan.html?_r=1

Afghan withdrawal timeline "irrational": Taliban

Reuters/By Jonathon Burch/November 21, 2010

In a five-point statement released in response to a NATO summit that wrapped up in Lisbon on Saturday, the Taliban said delaying the withdrawal of foreign troops would only lead to more "tragic events and battles."

U.S. President Barack Obama, who is due to review his Afghanistan war strategy next month, has already committed to a gradual drawdown of U.S. troops from July 2011, his counterpart Hamid Karzai saying he wants Afghans in control by 2014

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSSGE6AK01I20101121>

Afghan election panel to unseat candidates

BY CBC NEWS / November 15, 2010

A panel charged with investigating cheating and misconduct from Afghanistan's September parliamentary election expects to unseat a number of candidates who were declared winners in preliminary results - but nowhere near the hundreds some had predicted, officials said.

The panel - which finished its rulings on these potential swing races Monday and plans to report its findings to officials this week - is the final arbiter on fraud in an election that has been mired in accusations of ballot-box stuffing, violence and voter intimidation.

The vote is being closely watched as a measure of whether the Afghan government has really committed to reform its corrupt bureaucracy following a fraud-marred presidential vote last year that sullied the reputation of President Hamid Karzai and prompted many of his international allies to threaten to withdraw troops and funding.

<http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2010/11/15/afghan-fraud.html>

Is A Negotiated Peace Possible In Afghanistan?

Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty / By Akbar Ayazi / November 21, 2010

During a recent trip to Afghanistan, everyone was talking about the government's peace talks with the Taliban and other insurgents. For the past few years, most Afghans have been saying that peace cannot be restored from the barrel of a gun but only by reconciliation with the insurgents and through their reintegration into society. Recently, many NATO politicians and senior generals have been cautiously echoing the same thought. Just this past weekend, the head of the British armed forces, General David Richards, said war with Al-Qaeda is not winnable and the Taliban can be only integrated through education and development.

But this consensus leaves unanswered some crucial questions. Why is now the right time for reconciliation and integration? Who exactly should the government reconcile with? And how can this be achieved?

http://www.rferl.org/content/Is_A_Negotiated_Peace_Possible_In_Afghanistan/2226046.html

US general McChrystal approved peace talks with fake Taliban leader

The Guardian / November 26, 2010

Peace talks conducted with an impostor who posed as a Taliban leader, and which led to a meeting with Hamid Karzai in Kabul and thousands of dollars in "goodwill payments", were started by the Afghan government and approved by the former American commander, Stanley McChrystal, the Guardian has learned.

This account sharply contradicts claims made by the Afghan presidency, which has put the entire blame on Britain, apparently

supported privately by US officials.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/26/us-general-mcchrystal-taliban-impostor>

Fake Taliban, real embarrassment

Foreign Policy / By Joshua Foust / November 23, 2010

Remember last month, when all the news was atwitter about the prospect of meaningful negotiations with the Taliban in Kabul? The story was moderately shocking: a senior Taliban figure was being flown around the region, talking directly with General Petraeus, President Karzai, and other senior figures in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Afghan government. The driving force behind coverage of those negotiations was New York Times reporter Dexter Filkins, who wrote that NATO had provided air transportation and secure road travel for Taliban leaders to visit Kabul for the negotiations.

http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/11/23/fake_taliban_real_embarrassment

Karzai aide blames British for bringing Taliban impostor to talks

The Washington Post / By Joshua Partlow / November 26, 2010

President Hamid Karzai's chief of staff on Thursday said that British authorities were responsible for bringing a Taliban impostor into the presidential palace and that foreigners should stay out of delicate negotiations with the Afghan insurgent group.

In an interview, Mohammad Umer Daudzai said that the British brought a man purporting to be Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, a senior Taliban leader, to meet Karzai in July or August but that an Afghan at the meeting knew "this is not the man."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/25/AR2010112503577.html>

Afghanistan shifts from reconciliation after Taliban impostor revealed

The Christian Science Monitor / By Tom A. Peter / November 23, 2010

After a man some officials believe to be simply a Pakistani shopkeeper duped NATO and members of the Afghan government into thinking he was one a top Taliban leader, the focus in Afghanistan is shifting from reconciliation and back to the mechanics of the war.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday morning, the day news of the Taliban impostor broke, Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai was less interested in talking about meetings with the Taliban and more focused on what the NATO summit in Lisbon meant for his country.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2010/1123/Afghanistan-shifts-from-reconciliation-after-Taliban-impostor-revealed>

Negotiator for Taliban was an impostor, Afghan officials say

The Washington Post / By Joshua Partlow / November 23, 2010

A man purporting to be one of the Taliban's most senior commanders convinced both Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the NATO officials who flew him to Afghanistan's capital for meetings, but two senior Afghan officials now believe the man was a lowly shopkeeper from the Pakistani city of Quetta.

His daring ruse has flummoxed those attempting to start a peace process with a determined Taliban adversary.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/23/AR2010112300075.html>

Afghanistan's election results

The fix is not quite in

The economist/ November 25th 2010

HAMID KARZAI could be forgiven for wishing he had stayed in Lisbon after the NATO conference. His return to Kabul has coincided with a blizzard of bad news.

First there was the humiliating revelation that the president had been duped by an enterprising conman who had come to Kabul posing as a senior Taliban leader keen to engage in peace talks. Mr Karzai and his aides held clandestine talks with a man they believed to be the Taliban's second-most-powerful leader. But their mullah, who at one stage was flown to Kabul on a NATO plane, was an impostor who pocketed the cash he was given. However much Mr Karzai may wish to end the war, the other side is not interested in talking.

http://www.economist.com/node/17583042?story_id=17583042&fsrc=rss

Taliban being driven to negotiating table by precision strikes'

The telegraph/ By Thomas Harding/ 24 Nov 2010

For the last six months in Afghanistan hundreds of raids have been made against all levels of the insurgent leadership as part of a "kill or capture" policy.

But in Helmand, where the insurgency has been most violent, the British regular forces and unmanned drones have been targeting the Taliban forcing them to "examine their options", Brig James Chiswell told The Daily Telegraph.

While high level talks continue between the Afghan government and senior Taliban, those insurgents fighting on the front line are being forced to consider what is called "reintegration" in which they give up arms and return to the local community

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/defence/8158073/Taliban-being-driven-to-negotiating-table-by-precision-strikes.html>

Afghanistan elections thrown into turmoil after illegality claim

The telegraph/ By Ben Famer in Kabul/ 25 Nov 2010

The Afghan electoral body had earlier announced results for 33 of 34 provinces after an acrimonious count which has taken more than two months.

More than 1.3 million votes have been disqualified for fraud and the vote-rigging has been described as worse than in the notorious 2009 presidential poll.

Both Mr Karzai's allies and his opponents have cried foul over the election, which observers say was a chaotic free-for-all decided by the patronage of local warlords or the highest bidder.

One senior Afghan official told The Daily Telegraph the elections had been "a complete disaster" setting back democracy in Afghanistan by years.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/8157790/Afghanistan-elections-thrown-into-turmoil-after-illegality-claim.html>

Afghan Officials Free Top Taliban Fighters: Report

Reuters/ By Emma Graham-Harrison/ 30 November 2010

The practice is so systemic that the Taliban have a committee focussed on getting their fighters out of jail. It undermines the deterrent effect of arrest and the potential of the prisoner population as a card to play in peace talks, analysts say.

The releases, which were confirmed to Reuters by several sources familiar with a range of cases, also raise questions about the capacity and political will of Afghan security forces meant to be taking over from foreign troops starting next year.

U.S. forces will begin drawing down numbers from next July and NATO hopes to meet Karzai's 2014 target for all security to be provided by Afghan police and military.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE6AT2ZQ20101130>

Karzai Seen as "Weak", His Brother as "Corrupt Drug Baron": Leaked Cables

The AFP/By Sardar Ahmad/ Nov 29, 2010

Afghanistan said Monday its relations with the United States would not be affected by leaked cables portraying President Hamid Karzai as weak and paranoid, and his brother as a corrupt drugs baron.

The American diplomatic cables raised the issue of suspected high-level corruption within the Afghan government, long a concern among Western backers who see it as undermining the nine-year war against the Taliban.

Internet whistleblower WikiLeaks has begun releasing a quarter of a million confidential US diplomatic cables, detailing embarrassing and inflammatory episodes in what the White House called a "reckless and dangerous action".

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j77luzK9pQGJfNvCxIFUO7kg3Qzw?docId=CNG.a95bb30ea4283751b06342aa399dde9a.bd1>

Canada's handling of young Afghan detainees queried

CBC News/ November 28, 2010

The Canadian Forces have for years arrested children suspected of working with the Taliban and handed them over to an Afghan security unit accused of torture, CBC News has learned.

Allegations that militants captured by Canada were transferred to Afghan forces and later tortured were hotly debated in Parliament last fall.

A document obtained by the CBC's investigative unit shows that Canadian soldiers captured children as well in the fight against the Taliban, and that many of them were transferred to the custody of Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security, or NDS

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/11/26/afghan-child-detainees.html>

Afghan town's despair as Nato eyes endgame

BBC News/ By Quentin Sommerville/ 19 November 2010

Just outside Kabul, the BBC's Quentin Sommerville finds Afghans living under the shadow of Taliban guns, and looking far from ready to manage without foreign help.

It is only an hour's drive from Kabul, but the town of Charikar feels like another world.

People can easily go about their everyday business. The bazaar is busy and there's plenty to buy.

Here they can walk the streets without too much trouble.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11796617>

Taliban impostor reveals perils of negotiation

Washington Post/ By Joshua Partlow and Karen DeYoung/ November 23, 2010

The revelation that the man who was flown by British intelligence officials to Kabul, sat down with President Hamid Karzai and paid for his interest was not Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour but an impostor in an elaborate ruse became an embarrassing episode this week in the United States' nearly decade-long war.

But it has also demonstrated just how hard it will be to end the conflict through a negotiated settlement with an adversary that has shown remarkable resilience on the battlefield and a cool refusal to engage in talks

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/23/AR2010112307752.html>

Karzai pardons criminals, drug dealers: WikiLeaks

THE AFP/ Nov 29, 2010

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has ordered the release of numerous dangerous criminals and drug traffickers detained by US-led coalition forces, leaked American diplomatic cables revealed Tuesday.

American officials said they repeatedly rebuked the president and Afghan attorney general Muhammad Ishaq Alko for authorising the release of detainees over a three-year period.

"Both authorize the release of detainees pre-trial and allow dangerous individuals to go free or re-enter the battlefield without ever facing an Afghan court," said a cable dated August 2009 and classified as "secret" by US deputy ambassador to Afghanistan Francis Ricciardone

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gARTbGF4Epk_zC9VDIV29fjA_VaQ?docId=CNG.3753e0f35fd1c4979022e2347d47d6a9.911

Foreign forces in Afghanistan

THE BBC NEWS/ 18 November 2010

There are currently about 140,000 foreign military personnel in Afghanistan operating under US and Nato command, supporting Kabul's Western-backed government against a Taliban-led insurgency that has gained strength in recent years.

Why did the US decide to send more troops in 2010?

After more than three months of deliberation, US President Barack Obama announced a troop surge on 1 December 2009, to bring the total number of US forces in Afghanistan to more than 100,000 by August 2010.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11371138>

Dari Publications

چرا این همه تأخیر؟

روزنامه افغانستان، حفیظ الله زکی، ۲۱ نوامبر ۲۰۱۰

انتخابات یک پروسه دموکراتیک است که بر مبنای آن نامزدان مختلف برای احراز یک مقام سیاسی و دولتی به رقابت می پردازند. در روند برگزاری انتخابات آنچه از اهمیت برخوردار است، شفاف بودن، عادلانه بودن و سراسری بودن انتخابات است. اگر انتخابات شفاف نباشد و یا قوانین، امکانات و فرصت ها برای همه نامزدان و حامیان آنها مساوی و برابر نباشند و یا این که به دلایل غیر موجه تعدادی از شهروندان عامدانه از حق رای شان محروم گردند و نتوانند فرد و یا افراد مورد نظرشان را برگزینند، این انتخابات مشروع نخواهد بود.

<http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/archive/1249-11-21-2010/newspages/opinion.html#02>

جنگ‌هایی که بوی دالر می‌دهند

روزنامه راه نجات، از رابرت فیسک، ۲۹ نوامبر ۲۰۱۰

فغانستان، عراق و مناقشه صلح فلسطین - اسراییل سه نبردی هستند که این روزها در خاورمیانه جاری هستند. تنش در لبنان هم می‌تواند به نوعی تشنج و نظامی‌گری منتهی شود. در این فضا بد نیست اگر نیم‌نگاهی هم به هزینه جنگ داشته باشیم. قرار نیست نگاه ما بحث تلفات انسانی را شامل شود، تلفاتی مانند هشتاد مرده در یک روز در عراق یا آمار و ارقامی نامشخص در افغانستان و حداقل یک کشته در فلسطین. نگاه ما بر مبنای هزینه‌های مالی متمرکز خواهد بود.

http://www.news.rahenejatdaily.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4973:1389-09-08-09-12-28&catid=67:maqlat-va-tahlilha

فساد سیاسی و امنیت در افغانستان

روزنامه افغانستان، از محمد نوری، ۳۰ نوامبر ۲۰۱۰

فساد سیاسی چیست؟ علت‌ها و زمینه‌های فساد سیاسی کدام‌اند؟ چرا برخی کشورها برای فساد سیاسی مستعد ترند؟ چه رابطه‌ی میان فساد سیاسی و امنیت وجود دارد؟ چه راهکاری برای مبارزه با فساد سیاسی وجود دارد؟ این‌ها پرسش‌های هستند که پاسخ‌های تفصیلی و دقیق می‌خواهند؛ اما در این نوشتار کوتاه تنها به طرح مسئله پردازیم اگر مجالی بود درآینده بیشتر بدان خواهیم پرداخت. در باب تعریف فساد سیاسی اندیشمندان علوم اجتماعی و علوم انسانی بدین باورند که تعریف دقیق از فساد سیاسی دشوار است. مارک فیلیپ می‌گوید: «فساد سیاسی هنگامی روی می‌دهد که یک کارگزار، قانون را به نفع شخصی خودش با قربانی کردن منافع حاصله از یک اصل حقوقی نقض کند.

<http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/archive/1257-11-30-2010/newspages/opinion.html#03>

کارکرد پارلمان اول و اولویت‌های پارلمان دوم

روزنامه ۸ صبح، از ظفر شاه رویی، ۳۰ نوامبر ۲۰۱۰

پس از اعلام شدن نتایج نهایی انتخابات مجلس نمایندگان دور دوم، اکنون زمان کار مجلس اول به پایان رسیده و به زودی مجلس دوم به کارش آغاز خواهد کرد. مجلس اول که پنج سال از مدت کاری‌اش می‌گذرد، می‌گوید که از جمله ۳۲۰ سند تقنینی ارسال شده از حکومت، تاکنون نزدیک به یک‌صد و سی سند تقنینی را تصویب کرده است. با این حال، برخی از کارشناسان می‌گویند با آن که مجلس اول در نظارت از کارکرد حکومت و پاسخ دادن به خواسته‌های مردم دچار ضعف و کمبودی‌هایی بوده، اما در تصویب برخی از قوانین نیز خلاف خواسته‌های مردم عمل کرده است.

http://www.8am.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16030:1389-09-09-06-34-38&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488

کمیسیون شکایات انتخاباتی؛

حفاظت و حراست از شفافیت و عادلانه بودن انتخابات

شبکه جامعه مدنی و حقوق بشر/حسین سرآمد

کمیسیون شکایات انتخاباتی یک نهاد مستقل است، که وظیفه آن جمع‌آوری شکایات و اعتراضات مردم و کاندیداها در مورد انتخابات و کاندیداها و نقایص و تخلفات پیش آمده در جریان برگزاری انتخابات و یا در جریان شمارش آرا و سپس رسیدگی به آن شکایات است. این کمیسیون، نظر به حکم قانون انتخابات ایجاد شده و مرکز آن در شهر کابل است. این کمیسیون، در هر ولایت، دفاتر ولایتی نیز دارد، که می‌تواند شکایات مردم و یا کاندیداها را در مورد انتخابات و نقایص آن جمع‌آوری و رسیدگی کند. فیصله دفاتر ولایتی در مورد شکایات، لزوماً فیصله نهایی نیست و طرف شکایات می‌تواند استیناف خواهی کند، که در آن صورت دفتر مرکزی کمیسیون شکایات انتخاباتی در مورد آن فیصله نهایی را صادر خواهد کرد.

<http://www.cshrn.af/Documents%20of%20CSHRN/Publication/Kilid/Kilid.htm>

انتخابات

شبکه جامعه مدنی و حقوق بشر / ویرا

انتخابات، یکی از روش‌های اساسی برای ایجاد و استمرار نظام دموکراسی است. با انتخابات، نه تنها حق «حکومت کردن» از مردم به نمایندگان شان در سطح ساختار دولت انتقال می‌یابد، بل با تدویر انتخابات به گونه‌ی دورانی، انتقال و دست به دست شدن قدرت، به گونه‌ی مستمر، تضمین می‌گردد.

انتخابات، روشیست برای به روز شدن قدرت و برنامه‌های سیاسی که قدرت را در جهت‌های مشخصی به کار انداخته است. در نظام‌های دموکراتیک، معمولاً حکومت‌ها اشتباهاتی را مرتکب می‌شوند. انتخابات، کمک می‌کند تا با رویکار آمدن حکومت جدید، جلوگیری از اشتباهات گرفته شود. حکومت جدید، قبل از به قدرت رسیدن و در جریان مبارزات انتخاباتی، معمولاً بر اساس بر ملاسازی اشتباهات حکومت قبلی، مبارزات سیاسی خود را تنظیم می‌کند. وقتی حکومت جدید تشکیل شد، نخستین گامش، دوری از اشتباهاتی است که حکومت قبلی انجام داده است.

<http://www.cshrn.af/Documents%20of%20CSHRN/Publication/Kilid/Kilid23.htm>

Dari Publications

چرا این همه تأخیر؟

روزنامه افغانستان، حفیظ الله زکی، ۲۱ نوامبر ۲۰۱۰

انتخابات یک پروسه دموکراتیک است که بر مبنای آن نامزدان مختلف برای احراز یک مقام سیاسی و دولتی به رقابت می پردازند. در روند برگزاری انتخابات آنچه از اهمیت برخوردار است، شفاف بودن، عادلانه بودن و سراسری بودن انتخابات است. اگر انتخابات شفاف نباشد و یا قوانین، امکانات و فرصت ها برای همه نامزدان و حامیان آنها مساوی و برابر نباشند و یا این که به دلایل غیر موجه تعدادی از شهروندان عامدانه از حق رای شان محروم گردند و نتوانند فرد و یا افراد مورد نظرشان را برگزینند، این انتخابات مشروع نخواهد بود.

<http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/archive/1249-11-21-2010/newspages/opinion.html#02>

جنگ‌هایی که بوی دالر می‌دهند

روزنامه راه نجات، از رابرت فیسک، ۲۹ نوامبر ۲۰۱۰

فغانستان، عراق و مناقشه صلح فلسطین - اسراییل سه نبردی هستند که این روزها در خاورمیانه جاری هستند. تنش در لبنان هم می‌تواند به نوعی تشنج و نظامی‌گری منتهی شود. در این فضا بد نیست اگر نیم‌نگاهی هم به هزینه جنگ داشته باشیم. قرار نیست نگاه ما بحث تلفات انسانی را شامل شود، تلفاتی مانند هشتاد مرده در یک روز در عراق یا آمار و ارقامی نامشخص در افغانستان و حداقل یک کشته در فلسطین. نگاه ما بر مبنای هزینه‌های مالی متمرکز خواهد بود.

http://www.news.rahenejatdaily.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4973:1389-09-08-09-12-28&catid=67:maqlat-va-tahlilha

فساد سیاسی و امنیت در افغانستان

روزنامه افغانستان، از محمد نوری، ۳۰ نوامبر ۲۰۱۰

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<http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/archive/1257-11-30-2010/newspages/opinion.html#03>

کارکرد پارلمان اول و اولویت‌های پارلمان دوم

روزنامه اصبح، از ظفر شاه رویی، ۳۰ نوامبر ۲۰۱۰

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کمیسیون شکایات انتخاباتی؛

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<http://www.cshrn.af/Documents%20of%20CSHRN/Publication/Kilid/Kilid.htm>

انتخابات

شبکه جامعه مدنی و حقوق بشر/ ویرا

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<http://www.cshrn.af/Documents%20of%20CSHRN/Publication/Kilid/Kilid23.htm>

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