



Despite threats, Andar residents to vote

By [Saifullah Maftoon](#) Jan 1, 2014 - 12:46

GHAZNI CITY ([PAN](#)): Resident of the militancy-plagued Andar district in southern Ghazni province on Wednesday said they would actively participate in April elections, despite security threats.

A resident of Sahib Khan village told Pajhwok Afghan News that the security situation had improved in many areas and people could vote in the upcoming presidential and provincial council polls.

Haji Mohammad Anwar recalled: "In previous elections, no one could venture out of home -- much less cast their votes -- due to warnings from the Taliban and closure of roads."

Law and order in the district has been on the mend since a popular public uprising against the insurgents began, according to Anwar, who said many areas were currently being controlled by Afghan Local Police (ALP).

Rahimullah, hailing from the Chahar Dewal village of the district, also intends to exercise his franchise this time around. He urged the future president to pay greater heed to Andar's development.

"We have seen 12 years of fighting in Andar but the government hasn't paid any attention to our plight. Our people are really afflicted, suffering a variety of privations. They need jobs," he remarked.

A [former jihadi](#) commander, Abdul Qadir, is equally optimistic about the elections producing a positive change. He urged residents to vote for a candidate who would focus on addressing their concerns.

He said the fighters were still trying to prevent the masses from voting, but their efforts were unlikely to come to fruition. Abdul Qadir asked the people not to fear anyone and vote in the polls.

The district's administrative chief asserted the government's control over most of Andar, saying that people could cast their votes without fear for a runner of their choice.

Mohammad Qasim Desiwal said efforts were being made to ensure election security. In the previous polls, only three election workers had cast their ballots in Andar.

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/01/despite-threats-andar-residents-vote>



Election commissions' neutrality underlined

By [Abasin Zaheer](#) Jan 2, 2014 - 15:02

KABUL ([PAN](#)): The Civil Society Network for Strengthening the Election Process on Thursday stressed the authorities' neutrality and transparency of the April presidential and provincial council polls.

It also signed two agreements with Ministries of Haj and Women's Affairs on raising public awareness about the importance of the elections and motivating people to participate in the process.

Kulsoom Sattarzoy, the organisation head, said the Ministry of Women's Affairs would help them educate females on the elections. She viewed insecurity, corruption and weak rule of law as big challenges to the polls.

Sultanzoy added her organisation was ready to cooperate with the Independent Election Commission ([IEC](#)) and other relevant institutions in ensuring transparency of the democratic exercise.

Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs Muzhgan Mustafawi urged all state organs to cooperate with each other for conducting a transparent election. IEC and all civil society groups should encourage people to take part in the elections, she added.

Her ministry had devised a plan for women's active participation in the election process and other political activities, she said. The strategy has been shared with IEC. All women's affair departments and 20 recreational parks would be available for panel.

Hajj Ministry Advisor Ghulamuddin Qalandari, who also attended the signing ceremony, said most of people did not know much about the elections. Based on one agreement, prayer leaders will motivate people to take part in the elections.

Civil society organisations presented a declaration on strengthening the election process. It asks the IEC and the Electoral Complaints Commission ([ECC](#)) to be neutral and prevent fraud in the process.

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/02/election-commissions%E2%80%99-neutrality-underlined>

Over 60,000 women get voter cards

By [Mahbob Shah Mahbob](#) Jan 2, 2014 - 15:33

JALALABAD ([PAN](#)): The women's affairs director on Thursday said more than 60,000 females had obtained voter registration cards in eastern Nangarhar province, despite numerous problems.

Anisa Imrani told Pajhwok Afghan News the figures were beyond her expectations because no female election staff had been appointed in nine districts and women received the cards from men.

She said in some areas, insecurity restricted women from travelling to district centres to get voter cards. She linked the high number of women recipients to the creation of mobile registration teams.

"Mobile teams have been able to give voter cards to women who could not come out of their homes."

Anisa said tribal elders in other provinces would take women to registration centres and help them obtain voter cards, a motivation that did not happen in Nangarhar. Despite this, a large number of women have been able to get voter cards in the province, she said.

The opening of a registration centre in the premises of the provincial women's affairs department had also an impact on the number of women receiving voter cards, Anisa said.

She said some registration centres remained operational in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and it was expected the number of women voters would reach 80,000.

Independent Election Commission ([IEC](#)) chief for Nangarhar, Dr. Akhtar Mohammad Ajmal, said a total of 186,000 people in Nangarhar had been issued voter cards so far.

They included 67,000 females, which constituted 39 percent, he added, calling the figure remarkable.

He said women's participation in the first phase of registration campaign had been low, but increased with the creation of mobile registration teams.

"Initially only nine percent women were issued voter cards and the current 39 percent is regarded a great achievement," Ajmal said.

He said due to security concerns, men had to be appointed to distribute voter cards to women in some districts.

He said women's participation in insecure areas had been lukewarm, naming the towns as Hesarak, Sherzad, Pachiragam and others. Ajmal hoped the number of women card recipients was expected to reach 90,000 until the end of the registration period.

Link:<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/02/over-60000-women-get-voter-cards>



Past mistakes won't be repeated: Amarkhel

By [Abasin Zaheer](#) Jan 2, 2014 - 16:18

KABUL ([PAN](#)): Calling this year's presidential polls crucial to shaping Afghanistan's destiny, the electoral body on Thursday said the April vote would be inclusive and transparent.

The elections would decide the future of the country and all Afghans should take part in the national process, Independent Election Commission ([IEC](#)) Secretary Ziaul Haq Amarkhel told a gathering in Kabul.

Arranged by the Civil Society Network for Strengthening the Election Process, the gathering stressed the authorities' neutrality and transparency in holding the polls.

Amarkhel said the upcoming elections would be fairer than past votes, keeping in view the level of awareness among people, increased cooperation between civil society and IEC and improved ability of local forces. "Looking at these improvements, we can say the next elections will be more transparent and better than the previous ones because we will avoid past mistakes this time around," Amarkhel assured.

He urged religious scholars to highlight the importance of elections in their sermons and encourage people to participate in the process. Amarkhel said irregularities during the previous elections had been committed in areas where observers and journalists failed to reach due to security concerns.

“Security organs are trying to maintain better security this time to allow election observers to reach all areas,” he said. Civil society and candidates should send their representatives to all areas for monitoring the process.

The IEC planned to launch a nationwide awareness-creating programme on the elections few days later, he announced, saying 15000 preachers, including media representatives, would be involved in the campaign.

Amarkhel said the commission alone could not make the elections a success if it lacked support from the government and the masses. He asked the government to prevent governors and police commanders from interfering into the process.

He said 80 percent logistics and technical affairs had been completed and efforts were ongoing to complete the remaining 20 percent. According to him, 3.4 million people have been issued voter cards, with women constituting 35 percent of them.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/02/past-mistakes-won%E2%80%99t-be-repeated-amarkhel>



Insecurity threatens polls in Nangarhar: Qadir

By [Khwaja Basir Ahmad Fitri](#) Jan 4, 2014 - 20:45

KABUL ([PAN](#)): A lawmaker from Nangarhar on Saturday warned holding inclusive elections would not be possible if solid steps were not taken to improve the security situation in the eastern province.

Addressing the [Wolesi Jirga](#), Haji Qadir Zahir said the security environment in Nangarhar had deteriorated as district chiefs in 16 towns were unable to visit their offices.

He said district chiefs avoided to travel in police escort and instead used taxis. He warned if the security situation was not taken seriously, holding inclusive presidential and provincial council elections slated for April 5 would be impossible in Nangarhar.

“All lawmakers are tightlipped over the issue, they think the security situation in Nangarhar is stable, but it is not true; there is no stability.”

Meanwhile, Haji Allah Gul Mujahid, a lawmaker from Kabul, said Nangarhar turned a hot bed for insurgent activities during cold winter because it bordered Pakistan, where militants openly operated.

However, he said the currently situation in Nangarhar was not that worrisome. He said district chiefs did not travel in police escort because insurgents often targeted police vehicles with roadside bombs.

Nangarhar police chief Gen. Fazel Ahmad Sherzad told Pajhwok Afghan News security threats in districts had been reduced as a result of recent search operations.

He said the operations were conducted in Khogyani, Chaparhar, Achin and Nazian districts, where the situation had improved and security posts established.

He rejected concerns that security problems could threaten the elections, saying all government departments discharged their affairs without any concern.

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/04/insecurity-threatens-polls-nangarhar-qadir>

Electoral watchdog warns Dr. Ghani

By [Meer Agha Nasrat Samimi](#) Jan 4, 2014 - 20:49

KABUL ([PAN](#)): The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) on Saturday renewed its warning to presidential and provincial council candidates to avoid electioneering ahead of the stipulated time.

IECC officials say they have formally informed presidential and provincial council elections not to embark on election campaigns ahead of the time.

IECC secretary and spokesman Mohammad Nadir Mohseni on Saturday told a press conference in Kabul they had received reports of some candidates having launched activities, which could be considered as election campaign.

He said the reports compelled the IECC to again warn candidates against violating the rules. He named presidential candidate Dr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai and his running mate Abdul Rashid Dostum of having violated the electoral law in this regard.

He said the IECC had twice asked candidates not to embark on electioneering ahead of time, claiming some candidates had been handed over documents proving their violations.

Mohseni said some candidates, ignoring their repeated warnings, had violated the electoral law by opting to activities, which could be called electioneering.

He said the ECC had decided to officially warn Ashraf Ghani and his running mate against doing something that ran counter to the electoral law and principles.

Ghani and his two vice-presidential running mates a day earlier addressed a gathering in Kabul and discussed the elections. Reports quoted Ghani as inviting other runners to a debate. His running mate, Abdul Rashid Dostum, criticised another Dr.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/04/electoral-watchdog-warns-dr-ghani>

300,000 observers to monitor presidential vote

By [Hassan Khitab](#) Jan 4, 2014 - 16:30

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Independent Election Commission ([IEC](#)) announced on Saturday that up to 300,000 national and international observers would monitor the April presidential polls. Addressing a youth gathering in Kabul, IEC spokesperson Noor Mohammad Noor promised all interested civil society groups would be afforded the opportunity to observe the polling process.

One condition for IEC authorisation was that the observer group/individual had to be registered with the Justice/Economy Ministry, Noor said, adding 1,400 representatives of 120 local and international entities had already been listed by panel.

The commission has sent invitations to international observers from the European Union and South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation ([SAARC](#)) countries. Calling the role of youth in watching the elections vital, Noor asked them to cooperate with IEC in this respect. Of the estimated 12 million eligible voters, 70 percent are youth. Khat-i-Naw -- a civil society organisation -- announced it will introduce 2,000 observers to IEC. Fahim Siddiqui, the group's head, said: "We have prepared over 2,000 youth from four zones to observe the election process." Hajira Mohammadi, a member of the organisation, said their observation of the process would improve transparency of the election. Youth have joined hands to watch the election and reduce violence. Naeem Ayubzada, the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) chief, said civil society held key to success of the democratic process in case if it acted professionally. "Observing an election doesn't mean taking authorisation to participate in the process. Observation without proper training is no simple job," he remarked, stressing trained professionals should be assigned the task. Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/04/300000-observers-monitor-presidential-vote>



Provincial council heads warn to boycott polls

By [Khawaja Basir Ahmad Fitri](#) Jan 5, 2014 - 21:28

KABUL ([PAN](#)): A number of provincial council chiefs on Sunday warned if they were not fully authorised to monitor local government departments, they would boycott the April provincial council elections.

At a meeting with Wolesi Jirga's Administrative Board members, the council heads urged lawmakers to approve a draft law increasing their authority to monitor the affairs of provincial departments. They also called for the tenure of provincial councils to be extended from one year to two years. The draft law has been sent to the lower house three months ago, but it is yet to be passed for unknown reasons. Uruzgan provincial council chief Amanullah Hotak asked the Wolesi Jirga to urgently adopt the law.

Hotak, who is seeking his reelection, said all council members wanted to be fully authorised to monitor the government's affairs, otherwise they would boycott the elections. He said provincial council members should be allowed to monitor all affairs of local government institutions and update the President, the Mishrano Jirga and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) about their activities. Meanwhile, Herat council chief Syed Abdul Wali Qatali said: "We are not here to call for a raise in salaries, we have come here to reduce the problems exist in local government offices." He said if the councils lacked full authority of monitoring then holding the provincial council elections by spending a large amount of money would be useless. He said the word "monitor" should be added to the provincial council draft law and warned all Herat council candidates would not participate in the upcoming elections if their demand was ignored. Meanwhile, Hajji Abdul Zahir Salangi, deputy head of Parwan provincial council, warned if their demand was not considered, he would be among 50 Parwan representatives to announce a boycott of the elections.

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/05/provincial-council-heads-warn-boycott-polls>



Fair polls to be happiest day in my life: Karzai

By [Pajhwok Report](#) Jan 5, 2014 - 20:42

KABUL (Pajhwok): President Hamid Karzai on Sunday said that conducting the April presidential vote in a transparent manner would represent the happiest day in his life. During a meeting with 11 presidential runners and their deputies at his office, Karzai said that fair elections would be a big achievement for the nation.

Heads and members of election panels, Cabinet Secret chief, defence and interior ministers, the spy service head and his national security advisor attended the meeting.

A statement from the Presidential Palace quoted Karzai as saying: "The happiest day in my life will be when the polls are held in an acceptable way and power successfully transferred to a new president."

The candidates also shared their views and concerns with the president, underlining the need for government officials' neutrality during the electoral process.

While calling for preservation of last decade's achievements, they agreed all contenders should work for promoting national unity. They also concurred the election campaign should be conducted in a responsible fashion.

Heads of both election bodies assured the participants that the polls would be held in a free and inclusive way. Election staff would demonstrate complete impartiality, they promised.

The president asked the candidates to present him their suggestions on how to minimise meddling from government officials in the process through the commissions.

A satisfactory security environment was central to an acceptable election outcome, he said, adding top defence ministry officials had assured him that Afghan forces were capable of meeting the challenge.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/05/fair-polls-be-happiest-day-my-life-karzai>

Khost residents fear fraud in April vote

By [Mohammad Haroon](#) Jan 6, 2014 - 15:22

KHOST CITY ([PAN](#)): Religious scholars, tribal elders and civil society activists on Monday asked the government and the Fair and Free Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FFEFA) to take realistic measures for transparent polls.

The call came at a gathering attended by a large number of scholars, tribal elders and civil society activists at the Tribal Solidarity Council office in Khost City, the capital of southeastern Khost province.

Ghazni Nawaz Tanai, the council chairman, in his address to the gathering said he was deeply concerned about possible widespread irregularities in April 5 presidential and provincial council elections.

He warned that if the security situation remained unchanged, the elections would not be inclusive as desired by the people of Afghanistan. Tanai was confident Afghan forces would have no difficulty in maintaining security after the withdrawal of foreign troops.

He said the Afghan forces had been strengthened enough and coordination among them had improved. He believed public support for their security forces had lately increased. Tribal elder Ahmad Gul said they were in favour of foreign troops' withdrawal, calling it a key public demand. He acknowledged some challenges remained, but Afghan forces had the ability to maintain security on their own.

A tribal elder from Musakhel district, Haji Hamim Mangal, said he was concerned irregularities and fraud could mar the April vote. He urged residents to support a presidential candidate who had the ability to serve the country.

At the end, the gathering issued a statement that called for the elections to be free of fraud. It urged Afghans to support their security forces in performing their job.

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/06/khost-residents-fear-fraud-april-vote>

Tight election security in Kabul promised

By [Muhammad Hassan Khitab](#) Jan 6, 2014 - 14:55

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Kabul police chief on Monday promised tight security around all polling stations during the April 5 presidential and provincial council elections.

Maj. Gen. Mohammad Zahir told a press conference they had assessed the security situation for all polling stations in Kabul City and 14 police districts.

Police had taken the required measures to maintain security during the elections, he said, adding there won't be any concerns even in most far-flung areas of Sarobi district. Security for elections would be as foolproof as it had been for the consultative [Loya Jirga](#) on the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the United States, he added.

Zahir said security forces had already started making arrangements to deal with possible threats during elections. However, he explained the situation in neighboring provinces had a direct impact on security in Kabul.

Security organs were supposed to submit an assessment to the Independent Election Commission ([IEC](#)), but due to unknown reasons, the report has been delayed. IEC has expressed concerns over the delay, saying it will affect the panel's activities.

But the Ministry of Interior said there were no specific threats or challenges ahead. In a week's time, a detailed report would be handed over to IEC, it added.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/06/tight-election-security-kabul-promised>

Candidate cases can't be decided until polls

By [Meer Agha Nasrat Samimi](#) Jan 7, 2014 - 19:56

KABUL (Pajhwok): Some political and legal experts believe cases submitted against five presidential candidates to the Attorney General Office (AGO) by the Independent Election Complaints Commission could not be decided until the April polls.

They believe it would be impossible to investigate all the charges levelled against the five contenders during the less than three months left for the landmark elections. The experts say the time is too short to try them in courts. The IECC on Monday referred the five presidential hopefuls to the Attorney General Office. Basir Azizi, a spokesman for the AGO, said a commission had been tasked with investigating the cases.

Without going into details about the nature of the charges, Azizi said the investigation process would be kept secret.

On the other hand, some analyst say the AGO could not finalise the cases until the April elections, believing it would be impossible for the IECC to take a decision on the fate these hopefuls.

Dr. Wadir Safi, a political science faculty lecturer at Kabul University, said had the IECC submitted the cases several months ago, they would have been concluded now.

He said some high-ranking government officials could put pressure on election officials to disqualify the accused candidates. He added some cases referred to legal institutions several years ago were yet to be decided.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/07/candidate-cases-can%E2%80%99t-be-decided-until-polls>



Policewomen ready for election duty

By [Pajhwok Report](#) Jan 7, 2014 - 12:41

KABUL (Pajhwok): Policewomen are fully prepared to perform their duties as well their male counterparts during the April elections, officials said on Tuesday.

Around 25,000 policewomen have been trained to deal with security threats during the polls. Another 1,392 will be trained in coming months to ensure peaceful elections. Senior Ministry of Interior official Brig. Gen. Hikmat Shahi told Pajhwok Afghan News the presence of policewomen at polling station was essential to prevent fraud.

Shahi said policewomen helped their male colleagues to a greater extent during operations as searches of certain places and women by males were against the Afghan culture.

The ministry has formed a 10-member commission to monitor the election security environment. She said seven policewomen had lost their lives in the last couple of years but their spirit remained high.

Oxfam, a UK-based organisation, recently linked the small number of Afghan policewomen to increasing incidents of violence against women in the country.

In a report, Oxfam said 15 percent of the Afghan police force was comprised of women.

Hikmat Shahi said their priority was to equip and train the policewomen. She added a number of policewomen had been sent to Egypt, South Korea and Finland for training courses.

Col. Gulalai, her deputy, says a commission selects police personnel for training courses in human rights, controlling violence against women and capacity building.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/07/policewomen-ready-election-duty>

Senators underline effective poll security

By [Abasin Zaheer](#) Jan 7, 2014 - 15:12

KABUL ([PAN](#)): Concerned at the current situation, a number of senators on Tuesday called for effective measures to ensure security for the April presidential and provincial council elections.

Participating in a [Meshrano Jirga](#) debate on the subject, a lawmaker from western Farah province underlined the need for a satisfactory security environment in the build-up to and during the polls.

Gul Ahmad Azimi believed foreigners could help Afghanistan reinforce security for the vote. He also urged the Karzai administration to sign the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the US.

Afghan forces should devise election security plans right away, he suggested, arguing: "Tight security on one particular day won't help. The elections must also be transparent and inclusive."

Gulalai Akbari, a woman legislator from the remote northeastern province of Badakhshan, complained the security situation in many districts was deteriorating. People would not be able to cast their votes if remedial steps were not taken, she warned.

"It'll be equally difficult for candidates and voters to take part in the election process in the absence of a secure environment," she said, asking the security personnel to create the right conditions.

Khaliqdad Balaghi, a senator from Kabul, also questioned the way security was being maintained. "None of candidates can meet people without fear to inform them of their election manifestos." He said security officials should brief the assembly on their election strategy as soon as possible.

But his colleague from central Kapisa province, Maulvi Mohiuddin Munsif said the government alone could not provide security. People and religious scholars should support the government in this regard, he added.

Mohammad Amin Sapi, a senator from eastern Kunar province, said election should be definitely conducted in the country because everyone was looking forward to them.

Besides militants, neighboring countries were also trying to disrupt security in the country to pave the ground for interferences. A number of other members also voiced concerns about election security.

The Ministry of Interior had said on October 29 that 3, 435 of the 6,845 polling stations had normal security, 945 faced low-level threats, 10, 74 mid-level and 1, 132 high. Based on the report, 259 polling centres are under the armed opponents' control.

Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar accused security forces of making exaggerated claims. He said they should be pressurised to measure up to the security challenge.

Elections on schedule represented the only way of a peaceful transfer of power, he observed, hoping the requisite preparations would be made by all state institutions concerned.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/07/senators-underline-effective-poll-security>



Abdullah raps delay in security pact signing

By [Pajhwok reporter](#) Jan 7, 2014 - 20:05

KABUL ([PAN](#)): Leading presidential candidate Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on Tuesday warned a delay in signing the Bilateral Security Agreement with the US and freeing dangerous prisoners without court verdicts could endanger the national interest.

Addressing a news conference in Kabul, the National Coalition of Afghanistan leader urged President Hamid Karzai to explain the fate of the pact to the nation. A refusal to sign the deal and an end to global assistance would help Al-Qaeda regain its strength in the country, he said.

"I have repeatedly told the president that this issue (BSA) concerns Afghanistan's national interest. All Afghans unanimously want their interests to be protected. A refusal to conclude the agreement imperils the national interest," he added.

Also an ex-foreign minister, Abdullah claimed uncertainty about the accord was fuelling concerns among the people besides having a negative impact on security, the April elections and the economy. During his latest meeting with the president, he raised the concerns. "I told the president Afghanistan has been unable over the past 13 years to achieve self-reliance, and that the government should have taken advantage of international assistance to make the country stand on its own feet," he remarked.

He welcomed the release of innocent individuals from the Bagram jail in central Parwan province, but he disagreed with the procedure for freeing the detainees. Courts, not a government-appointed body, should decide the fate of those arrested on battlefield, he opined.

He also opposed the continuation of Abdul Salam Azimi, who had completed his constitutional tenure, as acting chief justice. The opposition leader demanded the appointment of a new chief justice.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/07/abdullah-raps-delay-security-pact-signing>



Election security report to be released in two days

By [Khwaja Basir Ahmad](#) Jan 7, 2014 - 17:52

KABUL (Pajhwok): The elections security report would be released in two days, Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Ayub Salangi informed governors and provincial police chiefs on Tuesday.

Speaking to the officials from central and eastern zones in Kabul, Salangi said they would assess and discuss security for polling stations.

Security organs were supposed to submit the report to the Independent Election Commission ([IEC](#)) on Jan. 5. Salangi linked delay to bad weather conditions that did not allow provincial authorities' arrival and some technical issues.

Acknowledging security problems, Salangi said they were determined to conduct elections in a peaceful and transparent manner with people's support. "Within two days, the report will be handed over to IEC."

About the participation in the election process by residents of cold provinces, he said the nationwide assessment was ongoing. If there were genuine concerns, the commission and the government would be informed, he added.

If roads to polling stations were blocked, they would tackle the issue with cooperation from the IEC to enable voters to exercise their franchise, the deputy minister continued.

Ahmad Yousaf Nuristani, the IEC head, told the meeting the delay in the report's release would not have any negative impact on the election process.

There was no problem from technical and logistical perspective, as preparations were ongoing in line with the timetable, Nuristani said. "Definitely, the election will take place on schedule."

Maj. Gen. Qadam Shah Shahim, the Kabul 111st military division head, promised security around all polling stations in the capital. Afghan security forces had already launched preparations, he concluded.

Link: <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2014/01/07/election-security-report-be-released-two-days>