



An Afghan National Police officer guards a traffic intersection decorated with election campaign posters in Kabul yesterday, on the eve of parliamentary polls.

Afghan polls will have irregularities Karzai says

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's parliamentary election will have "irregularities", President Hamid Karzai said yesterday, a year after his own re-election was riddled with fraud.

"In Afghanistan under the circumstances we must expect that there'll be irregularities, there'll be problems and there'll be allegations as well," he told reporters at his palace in Kabul.

"But we should try to do our best under the circumstances and make the elections a success as things are today," he said. "Therefore, it's important that the Afghan people come out and vote and have trust in their vote."

Referring to vote buying, he said: "We know lots of people have spent money, businesses, those who are getting contracts from the international community, they have lots of money to spend... but the people should vote regardless of the dollar amount or pressure on them."

Karzai was returned for a second five-year term last year after an August presidential poll was found to have been marred by massive fraud, most of it in his favour.

Since then he has also faced accusations of involvement in corruption, with some scandals, including the near-collapse of the privately-owned Kabul Bank, skirting close to his palace.

Earlier he urged the Taliban to vote, although they have vowed to derail the election, called for a boycott and killed three candidates.

Maoist leader withdraws from Nepal PM race



Ram Chandra Poudel, left, vice president of the Nepali Congress party, and Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, share an umbrella during the 12th National General Convention in Kathmandu yesterday.

AFP, Kathmandu

The head of Nepal's opposition Maoists withdrew yesterday from the race to become prime minister to pave the way for fresh talks on forming a national consensus government, his party said.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal, former warlord who still goes by his nom de guerre, Prachanda ("the fierce one"), was the front-runner in the two-way contest, but had failed to win the cross-party support he needed to form a new coalition government.

The Maoists, who fought a decade-long civil war against the state before transforming themselves into a political party and winning 2008 elections, hold the largest number of seats in parliament, but not enough to govern alone.

"The country has been held hostage by the indecision of its politicians," the party's vice chairman Baburam Bhattarai told AFP.

"We have decided to pull out of the race so that we can make a fresh attempt at reaching consensus between the parties for a national unity government."

Nepal has been without a government since June 30, when former prime minister Madhav Kumar Nepal stood down under intense pressure from the Maoists.

Since then, the parties have been unable to agree on the shape of the new administration and a series of votes in the 601-member parliament have proved inconclusive, with none of the candidates securing an overall majority.

The next vote was due to be held on September 26, but is likely to be cancelled after the Maoists' move.

Eve-of-poll kidnappings hit Afghanistan

BBC ONLINE

Two Afghan parliamentary candidates and 18 poll officials and campaign workers have been kidnapped in three separate incidents.

The Taliban are suspected of abducting the would-be MPs in eastern Laghman province and western Herat province.

The militants said they had seized the 18 poll officials and campaign workers in north-western Badghis province.

The Taliban have threatened to attack voters and election workers taking part in today's parliamentary elections.

Washington is watching the poll closely, as US President Barack Obama prepares a war strategy review in December that is expected to consider the scale of plans to start withdrawing American troops from next year.

The poll is also seen as a test of credibility for Afghan President Hamid Karzai after last year's presidential elections, which he won despite a third of his votes being thrown out as fakes.

Security forces are setting up extra checkpoints across the country and are using sniffer dogs as they search every car heading along main roads into the capital, Kabul.

They are questioning anyone wearing a burka, as insurgents have previously hidden under the Islamic full-body robe to get past checkpoints.

AFGHAN ELECTION FACTS

- Number of eligible voters: about 10.5 million
Number of seats: 249
Total number of candidates: 2,514, including 406 women
Total number of polling centres: 6,835
Polling centres closed because of security concerns: 1,019
Estimated cost: \$150m, paid

burka, as insurgents have previously hidden under the Islamic full-body robe to get past checkpoints.

More than 2,500 candidates are standing for 249 seats in the lower house of parliament, the Wolesi Jirga.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabullah Mojahed, told the BBC they had kidnapped candidate Mawli Hayatullah in Laghman yesterday.

The militants also said they abducted the 18 poll officials and campaign workers in Badghis on Thursday.

It has also just emerged that another candidate, Saifullah Mojadedi, was kidnapped in Herat by unknown armed men on Wednesday, according to the Electoral Complaints Commission.

The Taliban have been handing out letters warning voters to boycott the poll or risk reprisals.

Up to 300,000 Afghan soldiers and police will guard the poll, backed up by nearly 150,000 foreign troops.

Preliminary results are to be announced on 22 September, with the final results due on 31 October.

Pak tribal clash 'kills 102 in last two weeks'

AP, Parachinar

A Pakistani police official says fighting between two tribes near the border with Afghanistan has killed 102 people over the last two weeks.

Jalil Khan says 48 people died Friday in the dispute over access to water in the Kurram region.

There have been frequent bouts of deadly tribal and sectarian fighting in the region over the last few years.

Khan says one tribe consists of minority Shia Muslims while the other is Sunni.

Kurram and other parts of the border region are also home to Sunni Islamist militants and al-Qaeda.

Some reports from the remote region have said the militants may have a role in the conflict.

Army patrols Kashmir, 2 protesters killed

AP, Srinagar

India sent soldiers into the streets of Kashmir yesterday as part of a new strategy to use the military to crack down on increasingly angry separatist protests in the region, as two more Muslim demonstrators were killed in clashes, police said.

Paramilitary forces and police have taken the lead in confronting protesters since widespread protests began in June, but with violence escalating over the past week, the government has searched for a new strategy.

While some Indian officials have called for a good-will gesture, a top state official said yesterday the government would use all its powers to restore order.

"The government has to assert its writ, and appeasement will not work. We'll take every legal measure to stop the protests now," said Taj Mohi-u-Din, an influential Cabinet minister in the state government.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board) Registered Office: WAPDA Building (First Floor), 12 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (EGCB) an Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and an utility for generation of electricity invites applications from qualified professionals for the following post:

Name of the post: Managing Director

Duties and Responsibilities: The Managing Director is the Chief Executive Officer of the Company responsible to the Board of Directors. He is the head of management of the Company responsible for administration, financial control, Company matters, corporate planning/governance, project implementation, operation of power station, compliance of laws, rules and regulations.

Academic Qualification: Candidate must be a graduate in Engineering or an FCA/FCMA/MBA from recognized University/Institute.

Experience: Candidate must have minimum 20 years of working experience in different levels in government service/large public utility organization/large private sector company with minimum 2 years working experience in the higher managerial position.

Age: Maximum age limit of the candidate will be 57 years on the date of last day of submission of application. However, the maximum age limit may be relaxed for exceptionally deserving candidates.

Remuneration: For the post of Managing Director is Tk.60,000.00 (sixty thousand) as salary per month, Tk.25000.00 (twenty five thousand) as house rent allowances per month with free medical treatment for self and family within Bangladesh and full time transport and other facilities as per Company Rules.

Term of Appointment: The appointment to the post of Managing Director will be made initially for 3(three) years, renewable subject to evaluation of performance by the Board of Directors.

Submission of Application: Application, with (i) complete CV, (ii) 2 recent PP size duly attested photographs, (iii) attested copies of supporting documents of education and other qualifications and experience(s) and National ID card, must reach by 19/10/2010 to the under signed:

The CV must include (i) Name, (ii) Father's Name, (iii) Mother's Name, (iv) Present Address, (v) Permanent Address, (vi) Contact Phone No(s), (vii) Mailing Address, (viii) Date of Birth, (ix) Age (years, months & days) on 19/10/2010, (x) Educational Qualification stating division/class obtained, Year of passing, Group/Subject, Board/University, (xi) Professional qualification and membership (if any), (xii) Experience in detail, (xiii) Publication in any journal (if any), (xiv) Special training undertaken (if any) and (xv) Special works/ activities performed (if any). Candidates who are serving in government/semi-government/autonomous body etc. must apply through proper channel.

Selection of Managing Director: The Managing Director may be selected from among the candidates to be called for interview.

Deputy General Manager (HR) Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. BTMC Bhaban (8th Floor), 7-9 Karen Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.

রূপান্তরিত প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী) আরপিজিসিএল ভবন, নিউ এরারপোর্ট রোড, প্লট # ২৭, নিউক-০২, বিলকেন্দ্র, ঢাকা-১২২৪ঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
রূপান্তরিত প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (আরপিজিসিএল)-এর প্রধান কার্যালয়সহ দেশের প্রত্যন্ত অঞ্চলে অবস্থিত বিভিন্ন স্থাপনায় শূন্য পদে জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিম্নে হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :