

Challenges facing Afghan presidential runoff



Hamid Karzai
Ethnic Pashtun.
First popularly
elected president
of Afghanistan in
2004. Corruption,
slow development,
and deterioration
of security have
eroded his support



Abdullah Abdullah
Tajik-Pashtun.
Doctor by profession.
Senior Northern
Alliance leader
during Taliban rule.
Appointed foreign
minister in 2001 –
sacked abruptly by
Karzai in 2006

FRAUD

■ Decision by government-appointed **Independent Election Commission** to have more voting centres – up from 6,167 to 6,322 – has angered Western officials who had sought to reduce number from first round to prevent cheating

■ IEC says it is in process of replacing around 200 election staff suspected of fraud. Abdullah's demand to sack IEC Chairman **Azizullah Lodin** has been rejected by Karzai



VOTER APATHY

■ Long wait for results, accusations between political parties, and widely-held belief that foreigners decide who wins election likely to reduce turnout

WEATHER

■ End of corn harvests in south provides clearer visibility for troops fighting insurgents, but winter snows could close much of country

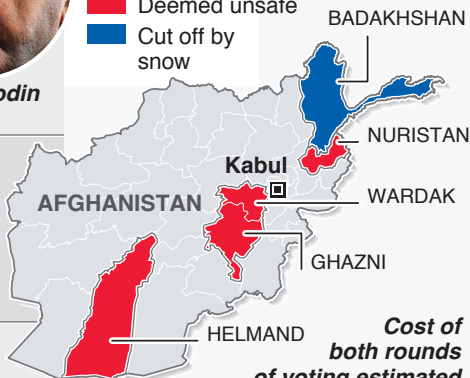
SECURITY

■ Taliban has vowed to disrupt poll – first vote saw highest number of attacks in Afghanistan since 2001

■ Taliban threat that anyone involved in preparations for runoff is considered a legitimate target puts large numbers of international staff at risk

PROVINCES WITH DISTRICTS WHERE THERE WOULD BE NO VOTING

■ Deemed unsafe
■ Cut off by snow



**Cost of
both rounds
of voting estimated
at \$380 million**

Pictures: Getty Images

Sources: IEC, Wire agencies © GRAPHIC NEWS