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## **U.N. boss in Afghan election mission**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0911/091103-afghanistan.html>

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091103-afghanistan.html>

The General-Secretary of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon has visited Afghanistan. The U.N. chief is trying to help in the crisis over the upcoming election. There was to be a run-off vote on November 7 involving Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his rival Dr Abdullah Abdullah. However, Dr Abdullah withdrew his candidacy, leaving the election a one-horse race. There are frantic behind-the-scenes efforts to get the election back on track. Mr Ban will meet both election candidates to try and find a workable solution. A U.N. statement said: "The Secretary-General will meet Dr Abdullah Abdullah and President Hamid Karzai to assure them and the Afghan people of the continuing support of the United Nations toward the development of the country."

The run-off was happening because of a fraud inquiry that cast doubt on the national election results. Mr Karzai agreed to a new poll for the sake of "national unity". He was also probably under a lot of pressure from Western powers. The USA, in particular, wants to see a very democratic Afghanistan. If the US public sees anything different, Barack Obama will have problems explaining what US troops are doing overseas. Dr Abdullah's decision not to run has put a spanner in the works. It now seems likely that Hamid Karzai will remain as the Afghan president unless Ban Ki-Moon can bring the two men together. A spokesman said: "Karzai knows that he can't run the country without the support of Abdullah."

# WARM-UPS

**1. AFGHANISTAN:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about Afghanistan. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*United Nations / crisis / election / rivals / one-horse race / finding solutions / support / fraud inquiries / casting doubts / national unity / U.S. troops / spanner in the works*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. WORKABLE SOLUTION:** What should happen in Afghanistan? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you heard.

SOLUTION	Workable?	Why (not)?
All foreign troops out		
Lots more troops		
Share power with Taliban		
250,000 UN peacekeepers		
More cash for Afghan army		
Talk to the Taliban		

**4. PEACE:** Students A **strongly** believe peace will come to Afghanistan; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. BASICS:** What basic things does Afghanistan need? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important thing at the top. Change partners and share your ratings again.

- Democratic elections
- More schools
- A pullout of foreign troops
- National unity
- A better police force
- The destruction of poppy fields
- Overseas investment
- A ceasefire

**6. CRISIS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'crisis'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091103-afghanistan.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. The head of the U.N. wants to be president of Afghanistan.             | T / F |
| b. There will be an election in Afghanistan on November 7.                | T / F |
| c. The two election candidates will watch a race that has just one horse. | T / F |
| d. The U.N. General-Secretary promised the Afghan people U.N. support.    | T / F |
| e. The last election was the subject of an investigation over fraud.      | T / F |
| f. The Afghan President saw the need for a new election.                  | T / F |
| g. The Afghan President's rival used a spanner to make something work.    | T / F |
| h. President Karzai said he can no longer run because of his age.         | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. chief    | a. pulled out |
| 2. crisis   | b. stay       |
| 3. withdrew | c. corruption |
| 4. frantic  | d. disbelief  |
| 5. solution | e. emergency  |
| 6. fraud    | f. boss       |
| 7. doubt    | g. manage     |
| 8. likely   | h. answer     |
| 9. remain   | i. probable   |
| 10. run     | j. frenzied   |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The U.N. chief is trying      | a. United Nations           |
| 2. a one-horse                   | b. solution                 |
| 3. try and find a workable       | c. the country              |
| 4. the continuing support of the | d. of the country           |
| 5. the development               | e. of pressure              |
| 6. cast doubt                    | f. the works                |
| 7. under a lot                   | g. race                     |
| 8. put a spanner in              | h. as the Afghan president  |
| 9. Karzai will remain            | i. to help                  |
| 10. he can't run                 | j. on the national election |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091103-afghanistan.html>

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The General-Secretary of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon has \_\_\_\_\_ Afghanistan. The U.N. chief is trying to help in the \_\_\_\_\_ over the upcoming election. There was to be a run-off vote on November 7 involving Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his \_\_\_\_\_ Dr Abdullah Abdullah. However, Dr Abdullah withdrew his candidacy, leaving the election a one-\_\_\_\_\_ race. There are frantic behind-the-scenes efforts to get the election back on \_\_\_\_\_. Mr Ban will meet both election candidates to try and find a workable \_\_\_\_\_. A U.N. statement said: "The Secretary-General will meet Dr Abdullah Abdullah and President Hamid Karzai to \_\_\_\_\_ them and the Afghan people of the continuing support of the United Nations \_\_\_\_\_ the development of the country."

*assure*

*horse*

*crisis*

*solution*

*visited*

*toward*

*rival*

*track*

The run-off was happening because of a \_\_\_\_\_ inquiry that cast doubt on the national election results. Mr Karzai agreed to a new poll for the \_\_\_\_\_ of "national unity". He was also probably under a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ from Western powers. The USA, in particular, wants to see a very democratic Afghanistan. If the US public sees anything \_\_\_\_\_, Barack Obama will have problems explaining what US troops are doing \_\_\_\_\_. Dr Abdullah's decision not to run has put a spanner in the works. It now seems likely that Hamid Karzai will \_\_\_\_\_ as the Afghan president unless Ban Ki-Moon can \_\_\_\_\_ the two men together. A spokesman said: "Karzai knows that he can't \_\_\_\_\_ the country without the support of Abdullah."

*bring*

*pressure*

*sake*

*overseas*

*run*

*fraud*

*different*

*remain*

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091103-afghanistan.html>

The General-Secretary of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon has visited Afghanistan. The U.N. \_\_\_\_\_ help in the crisis over the upcoming election. There \_\_\_\_\_ -off vote on November 7 involving Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his rival Dr Abdullah Abdullah. However, Dr Abdullah withdrew his candidacy, leaving the election \_\_\_\_\_. There are frantic behind-the-scenes efforts to get the election back on track. Mr Ban \_\_\_\_\_ election candidates to try and find a workable solution. A U.N. statement said: "The Secretary-General will meet Dr Abdullah Abdullah and President Hamid Karzai \_\_\_\_\_ and the Afghan people of the continuing support of the United Nations toward the development \_\_\_\_\_."

The run-off was happening because \_\_\_\_\_ that cast doubt on the national election results. Mr Karzai agreed \_\_\_\_\_ the sake of "national unity". He was also probably under a lot of pressure from Western powers. The USA, in particular, \_\_\_\_\_ very democratic Afghanistan. If \_\_\_\_\_ anything different, Barack Obama will have problems explaining what US troops are doing overseas. Dr Abdullah's decision not to run has put a spanner in the works. It now \_\_\_\_\_ Hamid Karzai will remain as the Afghan president unless Ban Ki-Moon can bring the two men together. A spokesman said: "Karzai knows that \_\_\_\_\_ country without the support of Abdullah."

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091103-afghanistan.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'national' and 'election'.

<b>national</b>	<b>election</b>
-----------------	-----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• trying</li><li>• involving</li><li>• horse</li><li>• track</li><li>• workable</li><li>• meet</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cast</li><li>• unity</li><li>• pressure</li><li>• overseas</li><li>• remain</li><li>• run</li></ul>
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# STUDENT AFGHANISTAN SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091103-afghanistan.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Afghanistan in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# AFGHANISTAN DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'election'?
- c) What do you know about the recent Afghan elections?
- d) What effect do you think elections will have in Afghanistan?
- e) What do you think of Hamid Karzai?
- f) What are elections in your country like?
- g) What kind of rivalry is there between the leaders of your country's main political parties?
- h) What do you think Mr Karzai and Dr Abdullah would talk about?
- i) Do you think there is a workable solution for Afghanistan?
- j) Do you think General-Secretary Ban Ki-Moon is good at his job?

*U.N. boss in Afghan election mission – 3rd November, 2009*  
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# AFGHANISTAN DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Are elections in your country run well?
- c) How important is it for people to vote?
- d) Do you think Hamid Karzai listens to the US President and other western leaders?
- e) Why isn't there national unity in Afghanistan right now?
- f) Have you ever put a spanner in the works?
- g) Hamid Karzai will probably continue as the unelected leader of Afghanistan. Is this a problem?
- h) Do you think Dr Abdullah should run for president?
- i) How can the international community make sure elections in Afghanistan are free and fair?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Hamid Karzai?

*U.N. boss in Afghan election mission – 3rd November, 2009*  
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# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0911/091103-afghanistan.html>

The General-Secretary of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon has visited Afghanistan. The U.N. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ is trying to help in the crisis (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the upcoming election. There was to be a run-off vote on November 7 involving Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Dr Abdullah Abdullah. However, Dr Abdullah withdrew his candidacy, leaving the election a one-horse race. There are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ behind-the-scenes efforts to get the election back on track. Mr Ban will meet both election candidates to try and find a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ solution. A U.N. statement said: "The Secretary-General will meet Dr Abdullah Abdullah and President Hamid Karzai to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ them and the Afghan people of the continuing support of the United Nations toward the development of the country."

The run-off was happening because of a fraud inquiry that (7) \_\_\_\_\_ doubt on the national election results. Mr Karzai agreed to a new (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of "national unity". He was also probably (9) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of pressure from Western powers. The USA, in (10) \_\_\_\_\_, wants to see a very democratic Afghanistan. If the US public sees anything different, Barack Obama will have problems explaining what US troops are doing overseas. Dr Abdullah's decision not to run has put a spanner in the works. It now seems (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that Hamid Karzai will remain as the Afghan president unless Ban Ki-Moon can bring the two men together. A spokesman said: "Karzai knows that he can't run the country without the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of Abdullah."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                  |                |               |                |
|-----|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) chef         | (b) chiefly    | (c) chefs     | (d) chief      |
| 2.  | (a) over         | (b) on         | (c) under     | (d) through    |
| 3.  | (a) rivalry      | (b) rival      | (c) rivaling  | (d) rivaled    |
| 4.  | (a) fanatic      | (b) fantastic  | (c) frantic   | (d) futuristic |
| 5.  | (a) workaholic   | (b) work rate  | (c) workable  | (d) worked up  |
| 6.  | (a) insure       | (b) assure     | (c) sure      | (d) pressure   |
| 7.  | (a) past         | (b) last       | (c) fast      | (d) cast       |
| 8.  | (a) poll         | (b) pole       | (c) pull      | (d) pill       |
| 9.  | (a) over         | (b) under      | (c) around    | (d) beneath    |
| 10. | (a) particularly | (b) peculiar   | (c) particle  | (d) particular |
| 11. | (a) liking       | (b) liked      | (c) likely    | (d) likewise   |
| 12. | (a) support      | (b) supportive | (c) supported | (d) supporting |



# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about Afghanistan. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. AFGHANISTAN:** Make a poster about Afghanistan and its recent history. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SOLUTION:** Write a magazine article about the solution to Afghanistan's problems. Include imaginary interviews with an Afghan and Barack Obama.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Hamid Karzai. Ask him three questions about Afghanistan. Give him three opinions on how to resolve the situation in his country. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. F      c. F      d. T      e. T      f. T      g. F      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. chief    | a. boss       |
| 2. crisis   | b. emergency  |
| 3. withdrew | c. pulled out |
| 4. frantic  | d. frenzied   |
| 5. solution | e. answer     |
| 6. fraud    | f. corruption |
| 7. doubt    | g. disbelief  |
| 8. likely   | h. probable   |
| 9. remain   | i. stay       |
| 10. run     | j. manage     |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The U.N. chief is trying      | a. to help                  |
| 2. a one-horse                   | b. race                     |
| 3. try and find a workable       | c. solution                 |
| 4. the continuing support of the | d. United Nations           |
| 5. the development               | e. of the country           |
| 6. cast doubt                    | f. on the national election |
| 7. under a lot                   | g. of pressure              |
| 8. put a spanner in              | h. the works                |
| 9. Karzai will remain            | i. as the Afghan president  |
| 10. he can't run                 | j. the country              |

## GAP FILL:

### U.N. boss in Afghan election mission

The General-Secretary of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon has **visited** Afghanistan. The U.N. chief is trying to help in the **crisis** over the upcoming election. There was to be a run-off vote on November 7 involving Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his **rival** Dr Abdullah Abdullah. However, Dr Abdullah withdrew his candidacy, leaving the election a **one-horse** race. There are frantic behind-the-scenes efforts to get the election back on **track**. Mr Ban will meet both election candidates to try and find a workable **solution**. A U.N. statement said: "The Secretary-General will meet Dr Abdullah Abdullah and President Hamid Karzai to **assure** them and the Afghan people of the continuing support of the United Nations **toward** the development of the country."

The run-off was happening because of a **fraud** inquiry that cast doubt on the national election results. Mr Karzai agreed to a new poll for the **sake** of "national unity". He was also probably under a lot of **pressure** from Western powers. The USA, in particular, wants to see a very democratic Afghanistan. If the US public sees anything **different**, Barack Obama will have problems explaining what US troops are doing **overseas**. Dr Abdullah's decision not to run has put a spanner in the works. It now seems likely that Hamid Karzai will **remain** as the Afghan president unless Ban Ki-Moon can **bring** the two men together. A spokesman said: "Karzai knows that he can't **run** the country without the support of Abdullah."

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d    2 - a    3 - b    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - d    8 - a    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a