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Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Eighteen

Supreme Court members shall have the following qualifications:
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1. At time of appointment the age of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and its members shall not be less than forty year.
2. Shall be a citizen of Afghanistan.
3. Shall have higher education in legal studies or Islamic jurisprudence as well as expertise and adequate experience in the judicial system of Afghanistan.
4. Shall have good character as well as good reputation.
5. Shall not have been convicted, by a court, for crimes against humanity, crimes, or deprivation of civil rights.
6. Shall not be a member of any political party during his term of duty.

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CENTCOM commander vows to keep the pressure on adversaries even after leaving Afghanistan

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International community assures continued support to Afghanistan

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MAIL approves 255mln Afs to boost agriculture in Afghanistan

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CAFA Women's Championship: Afghanistan beats Tajikistan by one goal

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Covid orphans are a tragic legacy of India's pandemic

NATO leaders bid symbolic adieu to Afghanistan at summit

KABUL: U.S. President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts will bid a symbolic farewell to Afghanistan on Monday in their last summit before America winds up its longest "forever war".

The meeting is bound to renew questions about whether NATO's most ambitious operation ever was worth it.

The 18-year effort cost the United States alone $2.26 trillion, and the price in lives includes 2,442 American troops and 1,144 personnel among U.S. allies, according to figures from Brown University.

The military effort followed the 2001 arrival of a U.S.-led coalition that ousted the Taliban for harboring al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Few experts argue that it brought long-term stability, meaningful democracy or security. "At this point, you get the impression that NATO leaders almost want to downplay and leave quietly, rather than making too big a deal of it, and going on to focus on other business," said Erik Brattberg, director of the Europe Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as quoted by Associated Press.

With the U.S. leading the withdrawal, European allies want to hear Biden's thinking about how security will be assured at their embassies, along major transport routes and above all at Kabul's airport. Many wonder whether the Afghan government can survive a resurgent Taliban. Some think Kabul's capitulation is only a matter of time.

"We are currently in intense discussions with our member states, the United States, NATO and the United Nations on the absence of essential security conditions for our continued diplomatic presence. It will be difficult to keep it" in place, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said, according to Associated Press. For now, NATO plans to leave civilian advisers to help build up government institutions. The 30-nation alliance is also weighing whether to train Afghan special forces outside the country. "Afghanistan has come a long way, both when it comes to building strong, capable security forces, but also when it comes to social and economic progress," he told The Associated Press.

"At some stage, it has to be the Afghans that take full responsibility for peace and stability in their own country."

When NATO took charge of international security operations in 2003, Afghanistan was its first major mission outside Europe and North America. The aim was to stabilize the government, build up local security forces and remove a potential base for extremist groups.

Yet 18 years later, security is at its lowest ebb for most Afghans. The capital is rife with criminal gangs, many linked to powerful warlords, and there are routine attacks by an upstart Islamic State.

Quite early into the operations, as combat took its toll on NATO troops, extremists and civilians, a stalemate developed. The Taliban could not be routed from outlying areas, but neither could its fighters seize and hold major cities. Troop surges made little difference, and it soon became clear that NATO's military training effort was its exit strategy. Only by creating a big army capable of standing on its own feet could the organization wind up its operations.

On Monday, NATO's leaders will reaffirm the strength of their alliance and go back to what they know best: their old nemesis, Russia. Biden will brief his partners before meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Kabul Times

Afghan Film employees among seven killed in Kabul explosion

KABUL: The bodies of two young women employed by Afghan Film directorate of the Ministry of Information and Culture, who had been missing since Saturday's explosion, were finally tracked down by their families on Sunday.

The families of Tayeba Mousawi and Fatema Mohammadi confirmed Sunday that they found the women's bodies at the government forensic medicine department. The discovery comes after both families had desperately searched for the women at all hospitals.

According to the families, both women had been burnt and could not be recognized.

In a statement, Ministry of Information and Culture condemned the attack and extended condolences to the employees' families. "It is with great sadness that Tayeba Mousawi and Fatema Mohammadi, two newly appointed and young employees of the Afghan Film Directorate of the Ministry of Information and Culture, were among those killed in yesterday's explosions in west of Kabul."

The statement said that Tayeba Mousawi and Fatema Mohammadi, were recruited through open competition for the Afghan Film Directorate.

At least seven civilians were killed, and six others wounded in two separate explosions on Saturday afternoon in Dasht-e-Barchi in PD13 and in PD6 near the Ali Jinnah Hospital.

In both instances IEDs were detonated against vehicles, according to police. The Ministry of Interior reported that all the victims were civilians.

The Kabul Times

US, Pak embassies in Kabul close consulate section due to COVID outbreak

KABUL: As the third wave of COVID-19 ravages Afghanistan with rising infections, the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul announced one-week closure time for its consulate section.

"Due to the deteriorating situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, the consular section of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul will remain closed for one week from 13 June to 17 June 2021", Pakistan Embassy in Kabul said in a statement the other day.

The further announcement would be made on 17 June as the Embassy would continue to be operational for the online visa issuance facility. This comes after the US diplomatic mission in Afghanistan on Saturday had announced the suspension of visa operations at the embassy's consular section starting from Sunday due to a rise in coronavirus cases. "In response to the current outbreak, effective June 13 the Embassy's Consular Section is suspending all visa operations," the embassy said in a statement. It further said that those who have scheduled appointments will be able to reschedule as soon as visa operations resume.

Recently, the infection rate has spiked in Afghanistan. The country's health ministry has warned the general public of a crisis if healthcare measures are not taken seriously.

Amid the 14-day restriction period in the country, the health ministry has called on the public to take this pandemic seriously and abide by the COVID norms.

The Kabul Times

Intensified attacks, increasing violence unacceptable: Arnault

KABUL: Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Haneef Atmar met the United Nations Secretary-General special envoy on Afghanistan and regional issues, Jean Arnault, the other day, a statement said yesterday.

Minister Atmar congratulated Arnault on his new tenure as the UN Secretary-General's special envoy for Afghanistan and regional issues and commended the UN co-operation and its effective role in support of the Afghan Peace Process, the MoFA statement said.

Minister Atmar further elaborated on the Afghan government's agenda for political and security affairs, and the peace talks, stressing the need for immediate and comprehensive cease-fire, and the importance of strengthening regional consensus to support the process.

Pleased with his new mission in Afghanistan and the region, Arnault, as quoted in MoFA statement, highlighted the United Nations role in the Afghan Peace Process and added that intensified attacks and increased violence in Afghanistan were unacceptable for the UN and all those supporting peace in Afghanistan.

Emphasizing the importance of accelerated peace talks, Arnault called for an immediate ceasefire. He noted that continued violence in Afghanistan, delay in resumption of meaningful peace talks, and the Taliban's disparity to an immediate ceasefire could compromise the success of the Peace Process. Referring to UN Security Council Resolution 2513 and the Taliban's non-compliance with their commitments to sever ties with regional and international terrorist groups, Arnault expressed concern about the situation, calling it a spoiler to achieving lasting peace in Afghanistan.

The two sides stressed the importance of strengthening regional consensus and unifying the perspectives of regional countries and organizations to achieve a political settlement, peace, security, and stability in Afghanistan.

They also assessed continued cooperation in the fight against terrorism and preserving of Afghanistan's gains achieved in the last two decades.

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan sees spike in COVID-19 deaths

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Health on Sunday reported 1,597 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 4,587 samples tested in the last 24 hours. The ministry also reported 85 deaths and 471 recoveries from COVID-19 in the same period—the highest reported death toll from COVID-19 in a single day in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan so far has recorded 91,458 positive cases and 3,612 deaths from COVID-19.

This comes as Amnesty International has called on the Afghan government to address oxygen shortages and procure an adequate amount of COVID-19 vaccines and other essential medical supplies with the support of the international community.

"Afghanistan's COVID-19 case numbers have been steadily increasing and these latest figures are of grave concern. It's clear that the country has been hit by the third wave of COVID-19 and without urgent international support to contain this surge, the situation could quickly spiral out of control, with existing shortages of life-saving supplies posing serious challenges," said Zaman Sultani, South Asia Researcher at Amnesty International.

The organization stated that Afghanistan's COVID-19 case numbers have been steadily increasing and that these latest figures are of grave concern.

According to Johns Hopkins University, the number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 3,795,577 and the number of known global coronavirus cases is 175,671,781.

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