

Article One Hundred Seven Proposals for drafting laws shall be first submitted to the House of People by the President...

News highlights: Afghanistan financial sector-Amid pandemic and political fragility, Taliban have lost to fight Afghan National Defense & Security Forces, Taiwan lawmakers double stimulus cap as virus batters economy, Rabih Khan to miss CPI 2021 over national duty, Pakistan, Iraq to enhance security, defence cooperation

Govt. vows to contain 3rd wave of COVID-19, as Afghanistan records biggest single-day rise in new positive cases

KABUL: In a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Public Health on Sunday afternoon, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said that government was ready to contain the third wave of the COVID-19 in the country, however Afghanistan sees increasing number of new positive cases, as the country registered 1,568 cases in past 24 hours.

While discussing the government's preparation to curb the third wave of the outbreak of coronavirus, the president stressed the need to implement strict measures to contain the virus.

Evaluating the report of the Ministry of Public Health on resource management, future steps, increasing coordination and identifying limitations, President Ghani said that the government is fully prepared to curb the third wave of the coronavirus and that international health institutions are cooperating effectively and efficiently and fully implement their commitments in Afghanistan.

The acting minister of public health and research officials presented a report on their preparations to curb the third wave of the coronavirus, saying that with the experience of the past two waves of the virus, there was sufficient capacity to PCR tests and timely delivery of oxygen to patients.

The president said that the Ministry of Public Health's proposal to eliminate the shortage of medicines and medical equipment would be addressed promptly, adding that the provincial administration should be more cohesive while informing the people and clarifying their responsibilities for the effective use of resources.

This comes as Afghanistan recorded 1,568 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 5,503 samples tested in the last 24 hours. The ministry also reported 30 deaths and 181 recoveries from COVID-19 in the same period.

Deaths were reported in the provinces of Kabul (156), Balkh (23), Nangarhar (11), Badkhan (11), Herat (11), Mazar-e-Sharif (11), Laghman (11), Ghazni (11) and Jowzjant (1). The minister reported that the cumulative total of known COVID-19 cases is 73,296, the total number of reported deaths is 2,878, and the total number of recoveries is 67,608.

So far, 474,132 samples have been tested in government centers and more than 12,000 known active COVID-19 cases in the country, according to the ministry statistics. According to Johns Hopkins University, the number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 1,541,000 and the number of known global recoveries cases is 1,703,714.

Iranian Parliament ratifies rail cooperation agreement with Afghanistan

KABUL: Iran's Parliament on Monday passed the Afghanistan-Rail Cooperation Agreement that allows rail connections between the neighboring countries.

Iran and Afghanistan agreed to build direct connections through railroad to transfer passengers and goods.

According to the agreement, the two sides have agreed to provide rail vehicles and services and implement safety supervisory in accordance with international rules, while domestic rules are valid where no issues occur outside of international conventions.

The agreement also states that the two sides must first provide goods and goods from the other side the way they treat their own.

This applies to free access to destination points, providing space for origin terminals, unloading and reloading of cargo, unloading and offloading passengers, and using international railroad services.

Islamic Republic of Iran Railway and Afghanistan Railway Authority have been chosen in the agreement as qualified authorities to supervise implementing the agreement and to solve disputes.

Iran and Afghanistan linked their railway through Iran's Khaf and Afghanistan's Herat.

The Kabul Times

Afghan forces free 5 people from Taliban prison in Kunduz

KABUL: Afghan commandos freed five people from a Taliban prison in Kunduz city on Sunday night, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said in a statement on Monday.

The operation was launched in Qash Tepa village in Kunduz city's District 4 on Sunday night, the statement said, adding that "12 Taliban were killed, and eight others were arrested during the operation."

Taliban has not commented on the operation.

In the past two weeks, the security forces have launched operations in Baghlan, Helmand and Laghman provinces in which nearly 100 people including security force members were rescued by the Afghan commandos.

The Kabul Times

Former president asks gov't, Taliban to accelerate peace talks

KABUL: Former President Hamid Karzai has called on government and the Taliban to take the peace talks initiative soon.

As a sign of goodwill, Karzai said that should the peace process be successful, he will no longer be a "process" negotiator, but a "peace" negotiator.

Karzai said that once peace has been achieved, Afghanistan will be able to reach a new era of stability and reconstruction.

Karzai noted that other war-torn countries have achieved peace through negotiations. On this note, he said that Afghanistan's peace talks should be stepped up within months, or less, if possible.

Other speakers at the meeting, including Rajiv Ranilunga, former international security adviser, agreed and said that peace talks are essential for the country's future.

The Kabul Times

China assures support for Afghanistan in fight against COVID-19

KABUL: Deputy and Acting Foreign Minister Mirwais Wahab assured Deputy Minister Nab of China's continued support to the government and people of Afghanistan in various fields, calling for strengthening and expansion of cooperation between Kabul and Beijing beneficial for peace and stability of the region, according to the statement.

Highlighting the recent developments in the Afghanistan Process, political, and security affairs, Nab emphasized the importance of China's support to the government and people of Afghanistan in various fields, calling for strengthening and expansion of cooperation between Kabul and Beijing beneficial for peace and stability of the region, according to the statement.

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