The Kabul Times DAILY

Founded in 1962

facebook.com/thekabultimes thekabultimes@yahoo.com twitter.com/thekabultimes www.thekabultimes.gov.af

Asad 04-1400 Monday 26 July 2021 INo: 101- Vol: LIX

Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Forty-Eight

At the termination of the state of emergency, measures adopted under Article One Hundred Forty-Four and One Hundred Forty-Five of this Constitution shall be void immediately

See Page 2

Can the U.S. provide 'Over-The-Horizon' air support for Afghanistan?

See Page 3

Will not support military imposed system in Afghanistan: Intl community

See Page 4

Concerns over losing Afghan women's achievements & their uncertain future

See Page 5

Afghanistan-Pakistan ODI series shifted to Sri Lanka from UAE

See Page 6

Monsoon 'fury' batters India, leaving at least 125 dead

Up to 6 million electronic IDs have so far been distributed: NSIA

KABUL: In a meeting with the officials of the National Statistics and Information Agency (NSIA), President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani heard report about the activities of the technical team, construction of the systems, development and the process of distribution of the electronic IDs, a statement from the Presidential Press Office said Sunday.

During the meeting, held at the Chahar Chenar Palace, director general of the National Statistics and Information Agency said that according to international standards, systems in departments and ministries have been further developed and have trained human resources to improve the issues, according to a statement from the Palace.

He also briefed the president about the implementation of the systems, lack of content, change in the priorities following a change in the leadership of the departments, the repetition of action in all activities and the provision of services and other related issues, according to the statement.

"Up to 6 million electronic IDs have so far been distributed and there is a demand for eight million more electronic IDs," he briefed. The country's president thanked the officials of the National Statistics and Information Agency for creating the capacities and systems and distributing 6 million electronic ID cards and stressed the need to speed up the process, the statement quoted.

He added that the existing internal capacities should be used, in order to tackle the problems and expedite the activities.

The president noted that Afghanistan has become a digital bank and that the Ministries of Interior, National Defense, Education, Public Health and Rural Development are a priority.

The treasury, budget and payroll system of the Ministry of Finance must be completely digitalized, he noted.

President Ghani instructed the Director General of the National Statistics and Information Agency to provide a proposal to prevent duplication of action and to create and develop a single system instead of the multiple ones.

The president said that if Afghanistan was digitalized, easy payments and services and management of infrastructure projects will be much more effective.

The president said that investment was being made in this office, and urged the officials to work with confidence and expand their networks, because their work is effective when it reaches other departments.

The Kanul Times

Afghanistan, terror sanctuaries in Pakistan on agenda for Blinken's visit to India

KABUL: The fallout of the drawdown of US troops on the security situation in Afghanistan and the need to pressure Pakistan on terror financing and sanctuaries for terrorists will be on the agenda for US secretary of state Antony Blinken's visit to India this week, people familiar with planning for the visit said on condition of anonymity on Sunday, as quoted by Indian media.

The two sides are expected to discuss ways to deepen defense collaboration, including exercises, defense transfers and technologies, as part of preparations for the fourth 2+2 dialogue of Defense and Foreign Ministers to be held in the US later this year, the said.

Blinken is the third senior member of the Biden administration to visit India after defense secretary Lloyd Austin in March and special presidential envoy for climate John Kerry in April. During his two-day visit, he will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on July 28. The situation in Afghanistan is expected to be one of the main topics on the agenda for Blinken's discussions with his Indian interlocutors because of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the country in the aftermath of an offensive by the Taliban to capture territory and crucial border crossings with Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan. India is concerned about the instability in Afghanistan spilling over into parts of the region and Pakistani terrorists from Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed currently fighting alongside the Taliban turning their attention towards Kashmir. "On the regional security situation, the implications of the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan, and the need for sustained pressure on Pakistan over terror financing and terror havens will be part of the agenda," one of the people cited above said, as quoted by Hindustan Times.

Other issues that are expected to be part of the discussions are augmenting trade and investment and tapping opportunities in healthcare, education, the digital domain, innovation and security. Climate change too will be a key area, especially the potential for green collaborations, climate finance and transfer of clean technologies to developing countries.

The Kabul Times

Organizer of Kabul's Eid rocket attack arrested: Police

KABUL: Kabul police said Sunday the mastermind behind the rocket attack on Eid al-Adha has been arrested by the police's Special Forces unit. According to the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the suspects were detained in PD5 in Kabul city.

"During a targeted operation in Kabul's PD5, special police forces arrested a key member of the Taliban who had planned and organized a rocket attack on worshipers on Eid al-Adha," the MoI said in a statement.

The Ministry said that in addition to the arrest of the mastermind of the rocket attack, three other people were also arrested during the operation.

"They were actively involved in planning and launching terrorist attacks in different parts of Kabul city, especially in Paghman district," the MoI statement read. The ministry said two mobile phones and some documents were also seized.

See P7

First task for Afghan forces is to slow Taliban's momentum: Austin

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Saturday that the Afghan security forces' first job was to make sure they could slow the Taliban's momentum before attempting to retake territory, as Afghan forces plan to consolidate forces around strategically important parts of the country.

Reuters reported that Afghanistan's military is overhauling its war strategy against the Taliban to concentrate forces around the most critical areas like Kabul and other cities, border crossings and vital infrastructure.

"They are consolidating their forces around the key population centers," Austin told reporters during a visit to Alaska.

"In terms of whether or not it will stop the Taliban, I think the first thing to do is to make sure that they can slow the momentum," Austin said, speaking as the U.S. military is set to end its mission in Afghanistan on Aug. 31, on orders from President Joe Biden.

Austin added that he believed the Afghans had the capability and the capacity to make progress, but "we'll see what happens."

The politically perilous strategy appears to be a military necessity as over-stretched Afghan troops try to prevent the loss of provincial capitals, which could deeply fracture the country.

Taliban insurgents are gaining control of more and more territory, which the Pentagon estimated on Wednesday now extends to over half of half Afghanistan's district centers. The Taliban are also putting pressure on the outskirts of half of the provincial capitals, trying to isolate them.

The United States has continued to carry out air strikes to support Afghan government forces that have been under pressure from the Taliban as U.S.-led foreign forces carry out the final stages of their withdrawal from the country.

See P7

AIHRC charges Taliban with targeted killings in Kandahar

KABUL: At least 33 people have been assassinated in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar after Taliban insurgents overtook a crossing point there with Pakistan, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) said on Saturday.

Confirming recent reports from media outlets citing officials that the Taliban rejected, findings by the commission suggested that religious scholars, tribal elders, civil society activists, journalists, and human rights defenders were being sacrificed in targeted attacks in the province.

The grim situation in the Taliban-held area also caught the attention of international rights groups with Human Rights Watch (HRW) saying the Taliban has been targeting government officials and pro-government figures, as well as their families.

See P7

Outcry in Pakistan after NSA Mohib meets Nawaz Sharif in London

- *"ISI can protect Osama bin Laden and regional / international terrorists in its military bases, but Afghans have no right to meet with Pakistani politicians!?,"*

KABUL: Several Pakistani Ministers on Saturday lashed out at former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for meeting Afghan National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib in London, saying the PML-N supremo was a "close friend" of every enemy of Pakistan.

Afghanistan's National Security Council on its Twitter account shared a picture of NSA Mohib and Afghan State Minister for Peace Sayed Sadat Naderi meeting Sharif in London, where he has been living since 2019 for medical treatment. The tweet said that senior Afghan officials met Sharif to "discuss matters of mutual interest".

"Dr. Mohib expressed his support for the democratic movements in Pakistan, and the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also said that a strong and stable Afghanistan is in interest of Pakistan and the region," a statement from the NSA Press office said.

Responding to the meeting, Minister for Information of Pakistan Fawad Chaudhry said: "every enemy of Pakistan was a close friend of Nawaz Sharif."

Sharif, 71, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, has been living in London since November 2019 after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

Reacting to Pakistani outcery, former Afghan NDS Chief Rahmatullah Nabil said that Pakistan has become a rogue nuclear state which can't see a stable Afghanistan.

"Pakistan has become a rogue nuclear state which can't see a stable Afghanistan. Paki military has super alliances with terrorists. It should be declared a terrorist state. ISI can protect Osama Bin Laden & regional/International terrorists, but Afghans are not allowed to meet PAK politicians," he tweeted yesterday.

Ties between Pakistan and Afghan have plummeted in recent weeks in the wake of the withdrawal of US troops and the resurgence of the Taliban attacks. Pakistan has been blamed for logistic and military support to Taliban.

NSA Mohib recently made headlines in Pakistan for calling the country a "brothel", evoking a sharp response from ministers in Islamabad, including from Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi who asked him to "reflect and correct" his behavior.

The Kabul Times