

Afghan women must be meaningfully included in peace negotiations

Why polio continues to be a health risk in Afghanistan, Pakistan

Successful negotiations to transform Afghan economy

'It feels amazing to be someone who is changing the life of youngsters', Rashid Khan

China's navy continues to escort Indian ships to safety



NPC approves 42 procurement cases including 15 irrigation dams

KABUL: Chaired by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, the meeting of National Procurement Commission was held Tuesday evening at Presidential Palace.

In the meeting, 48 procurement cases including contract awards, termination, renewal, means and request for instructions were reviewed of which 42 contracts including those projects for planning, design and construction of 15 irrigation dams were approved.

Nevertheless, request for provision, procurement, design and launching the 220 to transmission line in Nurajilhad related to Da Afghanistan Bank's submission to Herat province and contract project of 50,000 cordless machines for 10 programs of the Ministry of Public Health were referred for further review.

The NPC meeting made necessary decision on requests and means and various procurement issues such as implementation of the cabinet's decision in connection with payment to companies whose projects have been stopped by audit committee of former House of parliament, instructing relevant organs for implementation of the decisions.

Also, the meeting approved request for amendment of a number of contracts including extension of term of contract project for printing 500 million new banknotes related to the Afghanistan Bank and extension of another project for surveying and designing the Salang Tunnel and highway.

The meeting was attended by members and officials of NPC and national and international observers. The Kabul Times

VP Saleh, French Ambassador discuss peace process

KABUL: First Vice President Mohammad Saleh met with French Ambassador to Kabul David Mariani here in office yesterday, a statement said.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the talks between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban in Doha. The Ambassador of the Republic of France reiterated his country's support for the values of the Afghan people and the achievement of the past two decades, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Afghan government, Taliban negotiating teams hold meeting in Doha

KABUL: The negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban held a meeting in Doha Tuesday evening, the State Ministry for Peace Affairs said.

In a video clip sent to media, Afghan negotiators team members Nadir Naderi said that the two sides assigned five members from each team as contact persons between the two sides.

France's meeting was the second meeting between the two negotiating teams. Their first meeting was held here after the opening ceremony of the negotiations on Saturday in which they formed six assign members of contact groups.

This comes as UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad visited New Delhi Tuesday and met with India's Minister of External Affairs Sushant Kumar Jaisankar, India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and other senior Indian officials, according to a statement by India's External Affairs Ministry.



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The United States and its allies share the view that the peace process must continue until there is agreement on a political roadmap and a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire. Khalilzad stressed regional and international support is critical for the success of these negotiations, the statement said.

The Kabul Times

40 new COVID-19 cases reported in Afghanistan

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Health on Wednesday reported 40 new cases of COVID-19 from 101 samples tested over the last 24 hours.

So far, 10,953 samples have been tested in government centers and there are 4,976 known active COVID-19 cases in the country, according to data from the Ministry of Public Health.

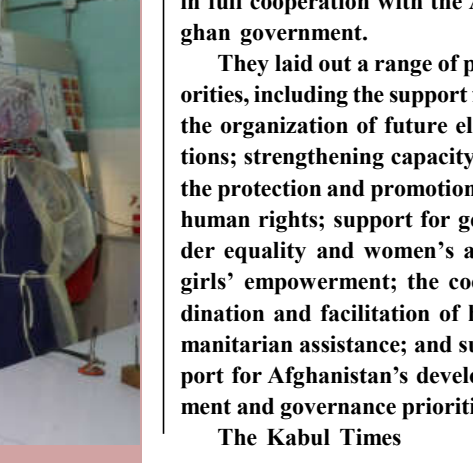
In the last 24 hours, the ministry also reported 10 deaths and 260 recoveries from COVID-19.

The number of total cases is now 20,825, the total number of reported deaths is 1,236, and the total recoveries is 21,288.

The cases were reported in Herat (2), Kabul (2), Bamiyan (1), Kandahar (1), Faryab (10),

Badakhshan (1) and Wardak (2) provinces. The number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 50,000 and the number of global recoveries cases is 24,777,803, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The Kabul Times



A person in a white protective suit working in a laboratory setting.

UN Security Council agrees to extend Afghanistan mission for one year

KABUL: The UN Security Council has agreed to extend the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for another year.

Unanimously adopting the resolution, the 15-member council agreed to extend the mission's mandate until September 30 next year.

The council welcomed the start of intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha and strongly encouraged the parties to continue peace negotiations, building measures — including additional reductions in violence — and encouraged them to engage in good faith.

Members decided that UNAMA and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, within their mandate and in a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, will continue to lead and coordinate international civilian efforts in Afghanistan in full cooperation with the Afghan government.

They laid out a range of priorities, including the support for the organization of future elections, strengthening capacity in the protection and promotion of human rights, support for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, the coordination and facilitation of humanitarian assistance, and support for Afghanistan's development and governance priorities.

The Kabul Times



and the Taliban in Doha. The Ambassador of the Republic of France reiterated his country's support for the values of the Afghan people and the achievement of the past two decades, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Permanent houses to be constructed for Afghan returnees, IDPS

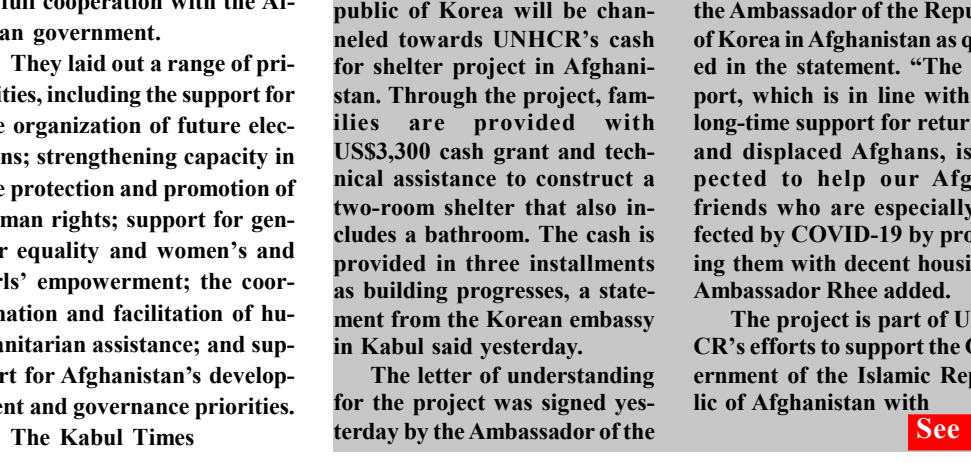
KABUL: The Republic of Korea and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) have joined hands to construct permanent houses for 253 families in the priority return areas of Afghanistan, a statement said yesterday.

The generous contribution from the government of the Republic of Korea will be channeled through UNHCR's cash for shelter project in Afghanistan. Through the project, families are provided with US\$300 and grant and technical assistance to construct a three-room shelter that also includes a bathroom. The cash is provided in three installments.

The project is part of UNHCR's efforts to support the return and reintegration of Afghan returnees and IDPS.

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The Kabul Times



A group of people standing in front of a building, possibly a construction site.

Images including a sprawling, fenced-off police base, according to satellite images publicly available on Google Earth and historical images provided to Reuters by Planet Labs. The village, in