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Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Twenty-Four

Provision of Laws related to civil servants as well as other administrative staff of the state shall also apply to the officials and the administrative personnel of the judiciary; but the Supreme
Court in accordance with the law shall regulate their appointment, dismissal, promotion, retirement, rewards and punishments.

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Pakistan yet to take honest steps for peace in Afghanistan

See Page 3

Damaging public infrastructures; clear violation of int'l humanitarian rights

See Page 4

Growing concerns on fire in commercial centers, fuel tanks

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Khalida's story: Playing football for unity during EURO 2020

See Page 6

Tajikistan: China attaches strings to $204m highway grant

Taliban openly hold fundraising campaigns in Pakistan

"They are coming on motorbikes and asking larger stores for contributions. They say that they belong to the Taliban movement and that they are fighting in Allah's path."

KABUL: Donations to the Taliban militants are on the upswing in Pakistan border regions as the militant group intensifies attacks against Afghan forces ahead of the U.S. troop withdrawal, local sources told Voice of America.

Multiple sources and eyewitnesses on the ground with knowledge of these donations have confirmed to VOA that fundraising for the Taliban has continued in various parts of Pakistan.

An informed resident of Duki, some 210 kilometers (130 miles) east of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, told VOA that Afghan Taliban militants stay with coal miners in the nearby mountains and come to the bazaar area every Friday to solicit 5,000-10,000 Pakistani rupees ($50 to $70) from shopkeepers.

"They are coming on motorbikes and asking larger stores for contributions. They say that they belong to the Taliban movement and that they are fighting in Allah's path," said the resident, who did not want to be named because he fears retaliation by the militants.

"In the past, they were coming to a few mosques. But recently they have started coming to collect contributions from shops," he added, as quoted by VOA.

A member of the Balochistan assembly, who also requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, told VOA that members of the Taliban openly hold fundraising campaigns in several districts of the province.

"It is not a secret," he said. "It is going on in Quetta, Kuchlak Bypass, Pashtun Abad, Ishaq Abad, Farooqia Town."

The lawmaker added that he suspects Taliban supporters used the money to fund the insurgents' recent fight against government in Afghanistan.

A resident of Quetta, where Quetta Shura — a militant organization linked to the Taliban — is allegedly based, said he regularly witnesses the Taliban at mosques.

"I went there for the Friday prayers," he said. "A Taliban fighter with long hair gave a five-minute speech. He said that they were fighting, and we should help them financially. "'If someone cannot go to jihad, he should support us financially,'" the resident said, quoting the Taliban orator.

Multiple videos have recently surfaced on social media platforms, showing people allegedly collecting donations for the Taliban.

The increased fundraising comes as Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement on Saturday asked Pakistan to avoid unrealistic and untrue statements against Afghanistan.

"Given the sensitivity of the situation and the opportunities arisen to achieve a permanent peace in Afghanistan and the region, comments and statements that spoil this trend are not favorable to the Afghan Peace Process," the statement said.

"Unrealistic and untrue statements will obstruct strengthening relations between the two countries. Afghanistan is determined to discuss important and key issues with Pakistan through diplomatic channels," the statement further said.

The statement came in response to Pakistanis allegations that once again hit out at Afghanistan's National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib for what it called his "repeated impertinent and unwarranted remarks" and accused him of trying to "disregard and nullify" the progress made in the Afghan peace process.

In a rejoinder to a tweet by NSA Mohib on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's interview with Afghanistan's Tolonews, the Pakistan Foreign Office said: "Repeated impertinent and unwarranted remarks" were "a calculated attempt by his office to disregard and nullify the progress in the peace process so far", Dawn reported. In the interview with Afghanistan's Tolonews, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has sought to absolve the Taliban for the high levels of violence in Afghanistan. See P7

Meeting reviews security situation in Afghanistan

KABUL: President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani chaired the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces meeting here yesterday, a statement said.

During the meeting the president congratulated the new security team and introduced Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahman as senior deputy minister of interior for security affairs to the meeting participants. Afterwards, the country's defense and security officials delivered their reports regarding of the country's overall security situation, the presidential palace statement added.

After hearing security reports, the country's President and Supreme Commander of Armed Forces instructed the defense and security officials to adopt resolute and overall measures for repulsing enemy's attacks and vicious plans.

While introducing the new ministerial nominees for the Ministries of Defense and Interior, President Ghani said on Saturday the Taliban should decide in what way they want to proceed: by seeking a political solution or continuing "enmity."

"The Taliban must choose: do you want to be in the future based on a lasting and just peace based on a political solution with dignity or do you want enmity, to which this nation will give a strong response? No one should doubt this," he said.

President Ghani criticized the recent Taliban attacks on various parts of the country—and the targeting of civilians.

Addressing the Taliban, he said: "Why are you targeting public facilities, bridges and small bridges? Why are you placing roadside mines that kill women and children?" "Why are you burning schools and the district governor office? Isn't the answer as clear as the sun? Do you work for others?" he mentioned.

Meanwhile, he said that the new changes in the Ministries of National Defense and Interior are intended to strengthen the security institutions. "We all know that martyrdom on the way to the homeland is an honor, but we want life, not death for a country that is deprived of it's most basic right, which is peace.

"There is a clear need for a national, regional and international dialogue to be implemented across the country, the region and the world to say: "Is 43 years (of war) not enough?" he said.

"Here we must conclude that we will not surrender to the terrorists, we will not surrender to the grim plans, we are the future-makers, we are shaping the future," he added.

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey hold trilateral meeting

KABUL: Afghan, Iranian and Turkish foreign ministers held a trilateral meeting on Sunday.

The trilateral meeting between Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Mohammad Jawad Zarif and Mevlut Cavusoglu, Afghan, Iranian and Turkish foreign ministers was held on the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2021.

One of the main topics of the meeting was the latest developments in Afghanistan and Afghan peace process. During the meeting, the foreign ministers emphasized the active participation of the three countries in the Afghan peace process and the fight against terrorism in the region.

Iranian ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Farazmand also in a tweet announced the holding of the meeting, saying that trade, transit, migration, drug trafficking and counterterrorism were among the topics discussed at the meeting. At the end of the meeting, a trilateral statement was issued by Mohammad Javad Zarif, Mevlut Cavusoglu, and Mohammad Haneef Atmar.

The Kabul Times

MoPH reports 1,927 new COVID-19 cases, 93 deaths

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Health on Sunday reported 1,927 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 5,477 samples tested in the last 24 hours. 93 deaths were also reported in the same time period. 526 recoveries from COVID-19 were reported in the last 24 hours. Afghanistan has so far recorded 103,921 positive cases and 4,215 deaths from COVID-19. According to Johns Hopkins University, the number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 3,860,153 and the number of known global coronavirus cases is 178,202,071.

The Kabul Times

Turkey committed to cooperation with Afghanistan, Minister

KABUL: Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar met with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu at on sideline of Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2021, a statement from the ministry of foreign said Sunday.

Appreciating Turkey's cooperation with Afghanistan in various fields, the country's Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar called the role of Turkey very important in the restoration of peace and lasting ceasefire in Afghanistan, the statement said.

Pointing to the full withdrawal of the Resolute Support forces from Afghanistan, the minister spoke in detail about what he said a new chapter of cooperation with Afghanistan and the importance of expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries, according to the statement.

The Turkish Foreign Minister, touching on the recent NATO leaders' summit in Brussels, said that his country was committed to cooperation and support to Afghanistan, particularly in facilitating peace talks, preserving the last two decades of joint achievements, ensuring security of Kabul Airport and interest in economic projects investment in Afghanistan.

Both sides also spoke about a trilateral meeting of Afghanistan, Turkey and Iran and holding a meeting with the participation of religious scholars from Afghanistan, Turkey and the Islamic countries, the statement added.

The country's foreign minister also met and discussed investment development with Ahmet Çalýk Turkish investor and national trader, a separate statement from the foreign ministry said.

The Turkish investor briefed about the power transition from Turkmenistan within the TAP Project and the export of salt from Herat to the central Asia.

The country's foreign minister said his country supports all foreign investments and calls it a positive step towards welfare and economic expansion in Afghanistan and the region, the statement concluded.

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