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Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Twenty-Nine

In issuing decision, the court is obligated to state the reason for its verdict. All final decisions of the courts shall be enforced, except for capital punishment, which shall require Presidential approval.

Afghanistan is 'not a winnable war,' White House says as Taliban increase violence

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Uprising against Taliban attacks on rise in Afghanistan

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COVID-19 and all its rules could slam spain's economy this summer

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World star Mohammad Nabi loving Steelbacks life in Northampton

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Bangladesh: hold security forces accountable for torture

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Afghan delegation's trip to US full of achievements: VP Saleh

KABUL: First Vice President Amrullah Saleh said Sunday that President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's two-day trip to the United States was highly productive and significant achievements were made during the delegation's short stay in Washington.

President Ghani was accompanied by Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, First Vice President Amrullah Saleh, National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib, Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar and peace negotiators Matin Bek and Habiba Sarabi.

President Ghani and the delegation accompanying him met with US President Joe Biden, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and a large number of US lawmakers, including US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

VP Saleh highlighted 10 points in a statement as key achievements in President Ghani's trip to the United States. He said that the main goal of the day-and-a-half trip of the president to the US was to strengthen relations with the US after the withdrawal of its military from the country and to create more clarity regarding the breadth of cooperation.

He said that discussion focused on ways to implement and effectively utilize aid for security, defense, development and humanitarian assistance from the US.

VP Saleh also said that the delegation explained the complications of the peace process and the peace negotiations from the perspective of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and stated that the Republic has so far not withdrawn from its commitment to the talks or to ending the conflict through a political solution.

VP Saleh added that during the trip the Afghan delegation emphasized the importance of the Afghan Republic's principled and legitimate function in defending the soil and state sovereignty. He said they also highlighted the region's role in post-withdrawal Afghanistan through an economic-centric forum that was focused on Afghanistan's participation in the region.

VP Saleh said that President Ghani reiterated that Afghanistan respects the US's decision to fully withdraw its troops from the country. "Key leaders from both parties in the US welcomed the Afghan delegation and vowed continued commitment to Afghanistan," he added.

VP Saleh said that the US president told them that "the Afghan nation should know that I am their friend in the White House." Biden assured them that the narrative of the US backing out from its commitments to Afghanistan is wrong and baseless and that the US will not leave behind its friends and allies, he said.

The first Vice President added that Biden pledged that the United States would continue its assistance to the Afghan defense and security forces, and continue to provide economic, humanitarian and diplomatic support to Afghanistan.

VP Saleh said they had an off-the-record meeting with a group of Afghanistan's friends that included former ambassadors, former military members, development workers and analysts to discuss Afghanistan's situation.

The trip comes as the level of violence remains high in the country amid the Taliban's increasing offensives against Afghan forces.

In a meeting with Afghan leaders on Friday, Biden promised a "sustained" partnership with Afghanistan but reiterated that "Afghans are going to have to decide their future."

The Kabul Times

DABS accuses MoI of not fulfilling commitments over security of power pylons

KABUL: Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the Afghanistan's only power utility has accused the Ministry of Interior (MoI) of negligence after a number of power pylons were blown up this month.

DABS officials stated that they have raised their concerns with the security entities but the government failed to prevent the destruction of electricity pylons in the northern parts of the country.

"Security organizations have repeatedly promised to maintain the security of the pylons [electricity], but they have not yet fulfilled their commitments," Mohammad Hashim Sangar Niazi, a spokesman for the DABS said.

This comes after at least 35 pylons connecting imported electricity lines to Kabul and other provinces have been blown up by unknown individuals in the last six months. The DABS said that the repair of the pylons has cost over $1 million.

In the latest development, unknown men blew up another pylon in the Rabat area in the Bagram district of northern Parwan just minutes after the power company completed repairs on a pylon after three months of struggling in the Salang area of the province.

Kabul and several provinces remained in darkness, and people also face water shortages following the power cut.

No group or individual has claimed responsibility for the destruction of the pylons. The Taliban has also denied its involvement in the incidents.

The Kabul Times

Thousands displaced by fighting in northern Kunduz province

KABUL: About 5,000 Afghan families have fled their homes in Kunduz after days of fighting between the Taliban and government forces, according to officials, with the insurgents continuing to surround the key northern city.

The Taliban briefly seized the city twice in recent years but have now captured the surrounding districts and a nearby border crossing with Tajikistan.

"About 5,000 families have been displaced by the fighting," Ghulam Sakhi Rasouli, director of the Kunduz Refugees and Repatriation Department. He said up to 2,000 of those families had fled to Kabul and other provinces.

Many people took refuge in a school in the city and had been provided with food and other relief items, Kunduz provincial council member Ghulam Rabbani Rabbani said.

Video footage taken by AFP showed dozens of people, many of them women and children, sitting inside tents set up in a school compound.

"We are six families living together here for three days ... you can see my children are sitting on the ground," Juma Khan, who fled with his family, told AFP.

"We have still not received any help. A team came today to survey some families but after a few minutes they left," said Akhtar Mohammad, who has also taken refuge in the school.

Another 8,000 families have been displaced across the province of Kunduz following a month of sporadic clashes between the insurgents and government forces, Rasouli added.

He said authorities were unable to provide relief items to all the displaced families across the province.

Kunduz city's public health director Ehsanullah Fazli said that since the fighting erupted more than a week ago, 29 civilians have been killed and 225 wounded.

Fighting has raged across Kunduz province for days, with the Taliban and Afghan forces engaged in bloody battles.

Violence surged after the US military began the withdrawal of its last remaining 2,500 troops from the country to meet the September 11 deadline announced by President Joe Biden to end America's longest war. Peace talks between the two warring sides remain deadlocked in Qatar.

The Kabul Times

MoPH reports 1,532 new COVID-19 cases, 80 deaths in Afghanistan

KABUL: Afghanistan on Sunday once again recorded a high number of daily COVID-19 deaths and positive cases of the virus, despite officials' optimism over a 1% decline in coronavirus infections in the country.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported 1,532 new positive cases of COVID-19 and 80 deaths from the virus in the last 24 hours, a daily figure similar to rates in the past weeks. The ministry said that 4,994 samples were tested in the country's laboratories in the last 24 hours.

805 recoveries from COVID-19 were also reported in the same period, showing a remarkable increase in the number of those who survive the virus. The number of recoveries was 300 on Saturday and 384 the day before.

The number of total recorded cases in Afghanistan is now 115,615 while the total deaths stand at 4,730 and recoveries at 68,288.

The Ministry of Public Health said Saturday that the Delta variant makes up 50% of COVID-19 infections in the country and it is one of the major reasons behind the sharp rise in coronavirus cases in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has achieved the capacity to recognize COVID-19 variants, including Delta, the acting minister of public health, Waheed Majroh, said at a press briefing in Kabul.

As an example, he said, out of 19 samples tested in government laboratories, 11 were the Delta variant, while 8 others were the British variant.

Also, the closure of schools and universities was extended for another two weeks on Saturday with health officials warning against people's negligence toward health advice such as using masks in public places and maintaining social distance.

Afghanistan is due to get a 3-million-dose package of Johnson & Johnson vaccine from the United States that will arrive in the country in the first week of July, the Public Health Ministry said.

Figures by Johns Hopkins University show that the number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 3,918,101 and the number of known global coronavirus cases is 180,823,910.

The Kabul Times

Airstrikes kill 6 Taliban mine planters in north Afghanistan

KABUL: Six terrorists have been confirmed dead as fighting planes struck a group of Taliban terrorists in northern Kunduz province on Saturday night, army spokesman in the region Abdul Razaq said yesterday.

A group of Taliban mine planters were busy planting mines on a road in Ali Abad district that links Kunduz to the capital Kabul city on Saturday. Acting on tip-off, the fighting planes, targeted them, killing six on the spot, Razaq said.

In the meantime, heavy fighting has been continuing between Afghan forces and Taliban for the control of Rustaq district in northern Takhar province over the past few days. Takhar provincial spokesman said that has repelled the insurgents' attacks.

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