The Kabul Times DAILY

Founded in 1962

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Saratan 15-1400 Tuesday 06 July 2021 INo: 88- Vol: LIX

Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Thirty-Six

The administration of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, based on the units of the central government and local offices, shall be regulated according to the law. The central administration shall be divided into several administrative units, each headed by a Minister.

The local administrative unit shall be a province. The number, area, divisions and related provincial organizations as well as number of offices shall be regulated on the basis of population, social and economic conditions, as well as geographical location.

Biden administration still weighing CIA drone strike policy amid Afghanistan withdrawal

See Page 2

Turkey's possible Afghanistan mission: Opportunities and challenges

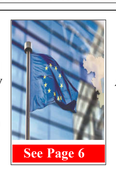
See Page 3

Bamyan Art Market; stepping up towards self-sufficiency

See Page 4

Wimbledon ready for final Manic Monday with Emma Raducanu the star attraction

See Page 5



EU, Central Asian states and Afghanistan hold annual political and security dialogue

See Page 6

'Afghan forces plan counteroffensive in northern provinces'

KABUL: Afghan National and Defense Forces plan a counteroffensive in Afghanistan's northern provinces after losing ground to the Taliban, Russia's RIA news agency quoted National Security Adviser to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani as saying on Monday.

National security adviser Hamdullah Mohib, who was in Moscow on Monday for talks with senior security officials, told RIA in an interview that government forces had not expected the Taliban offensive but would "absolutely, definitely" counterattack. Russia operates a military base in Tajikistan, a former Soviet republic bordering Afghanistan, Reuters reported. Russia's foreign ministry said separately on Monday that the Russian consulate in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan was suspending its work because of security concerns, TASS news agency reported.

See P7

UK may keep special forces in Afghanistan

KABUL: The British government is poised to keep a small special forces contingent on the ground in Afghanistan, The Daily Telegraph has reported.

This comes as the US and its NATO allies pulled out of the coalition's main base in Bagram district of Parwan province on Friday.

The UK is now reportedly considering the retention of an "advisory group" of elite special forces soldiers in the country, the report said.

Citing a former Special Air Service (SAS) soldier, who until recently was stationed in Afghanistan, The Telegraph reported that the group would "provide training to Afghan units and deploy with them on the ground as advisers."

The deployment will be open-ended, they said, meaning the forces would stay "as long as [the government] continue to see value" in having them stationed there.

The decision whether to withdraw all the UK's remaining 750 soldiers from Afghanistan for good or leave some troops behind amid the Taliban's ongoing offensive is yet to be made, a senior military source told the paper.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has the final say on the matter, is expected to make an announcement at the National Security Council meeting on Monday.

See P7

Ministry reports 1,485 new cases of COVID-19, 77 deaths in Afghanistan

On Monday, the Ministry of Public Health reported 1,485 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 4,238 samples tested in the last 24 hours. The ministry also reported 77 deaths from COVID-19 and 834 recoveries in the same period.

The number of total recorded cases is 127,464 and total deaths is 5,360, according to figures by the Public Health Ministry. The number of recovered people also reached to 75,314.

Johns Hopkins University reports that the number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 3,977,937 and the number of known global coronavirus cases is 183,828,135.

The Kabul Times

US to soften Afghanistan pullout: report

KABUL: The New York Times on Sunday wrote that US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin in a meeting with the current commander of US and NATO forces Gen. Austin Miller, Joint Chiefs Chaiman Gen. Mark A. Milley and Centcom head Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. discussed Afghanistan and specifically ways to buffer the impact of the US pullout on the Afghan people.

On Friday, the US military left Bagram Airbase in Parwan province, north of Kabul, effectively ending US operations, although a contingent of US military personnel has been left behind to guard the US embassy.

Austin ordered a series of steps to slow the pace of the final withdrawal from America's longest war, said The New York Times.

The measures are intended to buy some time to soften the drawdown's psychological shock to the Afghans, and to extend at least through August some involvement by the American military, despite there being no combat troops, equipment or bases in the country.

The first measure, said The Times report, sought to highlight Biden's message to Afghan leaders that the United States was not abandoning the country at a moment when intelligence analysts predict the fall of the Afghan government to the Taliban in months.

General Miller will remain in Afghanistan for "at least a couple more weeks," said John F. Kirby, Pentagon spokesman, to aid the transition of the American military mission from warfighting to two new objectives — protecting an ongoing US diplomatic presence in Kabul and maintaining ties with the Afghan military.

The Times quoted Pentagon officials saying that Gen. Miller will turn over his command to Gen. McKenzie who will assume "at least through August" the same authorities General Miller had to carry out airstrikes against Al Qaeda, the Daesh and, in very limited circumstances, Taliban fighters.

General McKenzie will be authorized, at least through the September deadline, to move 300 additional troops into Afghanistan if needed for security or emergencies, like the possible evacuation of the American Embassy, Pentagon officials said as cited by The Times.

The Times said that in the next few weeks, Gen. Miller will travel within Afghanistan, and to Brussels to brief NATO officials on the transition, and to the forward headquarters in Qatar, Pentagon officials said.

The Kabul Times

Chinese FM urges Washington to ensure responsible troops withdrawal

KABUL: Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged Washington to act with sincerity and work toward solutions on a variety of hot-spot issues including Afghanistan.

Addressing the ninth World Peace Forum in Beijing on Saturday, Wang said since the US military began withdrawing from Afghanistan, violence has spiked and the urgent need for humanitarian assistance has increased substantially.

China Daily reported that according to Wang, the top priority in Afghanistan is to maintain peace and stability and to prevent wars and chaos.

In line with this, he said the United States, as the initiator of the Afghanistan issue, should ensure a smooth transition during the troops withdrawal process and ensure its done "in a responsible manner".

On Iran's nuclear issue, Wang said the US should correct its mistakes and take the initiative to lift illegal, unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran and third parties in an all-around, clean and thorough manner, China Daily reported.

Former President Hamid Karzai also spoke, via video link, during the World Peace Forum, and said that China, in particular, can play a significant role in improving Afghanistan's relations with Pakistan. "It's committed also to peace and stability to Afghanistan and the region, China is also a great friend of Pakistan, and Pakistan is the biggest neighbor of Afghanistan as well.

"Afghanistan, Pakistan and China are neighbors. We are connected geographically. China plays a very important role, a significant role in improving the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and it makes sure that a synchronized relationship is established between the two countries.

"So, this way, I as an Afghan, feel a lot more hopeful towards a better future than I was before, because we are now on our own, and it is in our interest in Afghanistan, and certainly in our neighborhood, to bring peace to Afghanistan, and if we join hands, we will certainly gain it sooner rather than later," said Karzai.

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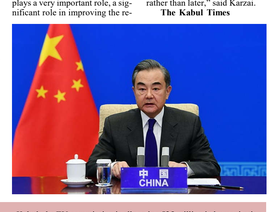

EU mobilizes €25 million in humanitarian aid to fight hunger in Afghanistan

Kabul: the EU commission is allocating €25 million in humanitarian funding from its solidarity emergency aid reserve to fight hunger in Afghanistan, a statement from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian aid Operations said yesterday.

"Urgent actions to save lives and livelihoods are required due to a drought that is currently affecting Afghanistan, leaving at least 11 million people in a food crisis, and 3.2 million people in a food emergency," the statement further said. Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, as quoted in the statement said: "In 2021, half of the population in Afghanistan is expected to suffer from acute food insecurity. The drought affecting the country is worsening an already dire situation with political insecurity and conflict, as well as the current strong third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The food shortage and limited water availability will increase the prevalence of severe malnutrition. In response, the EU is mobilizing humanitarian support to help alleviate hunger."

See P7