The Kabul Times DAILY

Founded in 1962

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

Saratan 16-1400 Wednesday 07 July 2021 INo: 89- Vol: LIX

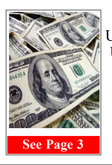
Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Thirty-Seven

The government, in preserving the principles of centralism, shall transfer necessary powers, in accordance with the law, to local administrations in order to accelerate and improve economic, social as well as cultural matters, and foster peoples' participation in developing national life.

Iranian media should keep impartiality over Afghanistan issues

See Page 2



Unprecedented U.S. dollar jump and people concerns

See Page 3

Beware of the 'economic transformation' John Kerry is promising

See Page 4

Skateboarding as an Olympic sport has even some on Team USA feeling conflicted

See Page 5

Nepal, India revise railway service pact

See Page 6

Taliban responsible for bloodshed, President Ghani

KABUL: The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani chaired a virtual meeting of the cabinet members, the Presidential Palace said Tuesday.

At the meeting attended by the cabinet members and the provincial governors, the president, at the outset, spoke about the recent developments in some provinces of the country and provided details about the rehabilitation of the country's defense and security forces, recruitment in armed forces ranks, particularly the special forces, commando and other military units, the Presidential Press Office said in a statement received by The Kabul Times.

"No collusion and will for surender. We live a dignified life, now is the day of courage, will and determination," said the president pointing to the recent Taliban insurgency and collapse of some districts to the militants in some of the country's provinces. "If the Taliban think a takeover from us, they will not reach the goal in hundred more years. The responsibility of bloodshed and destruction are on the shoulder of the Taliban and their supporters," warned the country's president.

Other agenda including addressing the natural disaster and issues relating to the internally displaced peoples (IDPs) from the growing violence and recent droughts in the center and provinces of the country has also been discussed at the meeting, according to the statement.

The Kabul Times

UNAMA stresses genuine approach to Afghan peace talks

KABUL: Deborah Lyons, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, on Monday visited Doha, the capital of Qatar, to discuss the Afghan peace process with members of the Taliban's negotiating team.

According to UNAMA, the two sides discussed the role of the United Nations in supporting the Afghan peace process.

UNAMA said the Afghan peace talks should be genuine and should be seen as the only solution to Afghanistan's problems.

UNAMA is recommending a genuine approach to Afghan peace talks at a time when a spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Qatar a few days ago accused the

Kabul negotiating team in a video message of being unwilling to negotiate and wasting time.

Meanwhile, Kabul officials have repeatedly called on the Taliban to renounce violence and return to negotiations.

The Kabul Times

Turkish, U.S. defense ministers to discuss Kabul airport plan today

KABUL: Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said he would discuss with his U.S. counterpart Lloyd Austin on Wednesday (today) a plan for Turkey to operate and guard Kabul's Hamid Karzai airport after the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan, adding there was no final decision yet. Ankara has offered to run and guard the airport after NATO's withdrawal, and has been in talks with allies, namely the United States, on financial, political and logistical support. Security of the airport is key for the operations of diplomatic missions out of Afghanistan after the withdrawal.

Speaking to a group of reporters after a cabinet meeting on Monday, Akar said talks on the details of the mission were still underway, and that the airport must be operational so the Afghan government is not isolated from the world following the pullout.

"From making certain decisions at the United Nations, NATO, to reaching an agreement with the Afghan government, as well as political, financial, and logistical support, we are in contact with various countries. Meanwhile, our talks with the Americans also continue," Akar said. "No final decision has been made yet, but our talks continue."

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan to top agenda as Indian FM visits Moscow

KABUL: Afghanistan's situation will be on the agenda in Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Russia later this week.

Afghanistan will also be on the top of the agenda at several upcoming high-level meetings, including the annual India-Russia Summit, Hindustan Times reported.

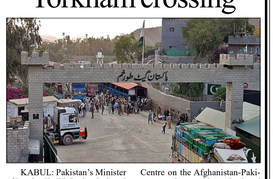
The report quotes people familiar with the matter as saying that Russia sees India as an important player for formulating a coordinated response to the situation in Afghanistan. According to the report, there hasn't been any formal announcement about Jaishankar's visit to Russia, but he is expected to be in Moscow later this week.

Jaishankar's visit to Moscow is a follow-up to the trip by his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, to New Delhi in April this year.

Quoting people familiar with the matter, Hindustan Times reports that the Indian External Affairs Minister and his Russian counterpart "will discuss all bilateral and international developments, including the most vital and current issues such as Afghanistan."

See P7

Surging COVID-19 cases: Pakistan closes Torkham crossing



KABUL: Pakistan's Minister of Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad said on Tuesday that the Torkham crossing would be closed with immediate effect to all traffic due to COVID-19.

"On the advice of the NCOC (National Command Operation Center) all types of immigration departure and arrival will be closed from today," the minister announced in a tweet yesterday.

The Torkham Immigration Centre on the Afghanistan-Pakistan crossing would remain closed until new guidelines were provided by the NCOC, the Minister added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Tribune reported that the Interior Minister also addressed a press conference this week where he discussed the situation developing in Afghanistan amid the withdrawal of US military forces.

The Kabul Times

UK could launch airstrikes from outside Afghanistan against threats: Heappey

KABUL: Britain could launch airstrikes from outside Afghanistan against any future terrorist threats to the UK that emerge inside the country as troops withdraw, a Defense Minister has said on Monday, Sky News reported.

James Heappey, the UK Armed Forces, drew on the example of how British warplanes fly from a base in Cyprus to attack Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq when asked by an MP if the UK would similarly conduct military action in Afghanistan from a distance. "We absolutely reserve the right to counter terrorist threats to the United Kingdom that may re-emerge in Afghanistan," Heappey said. "I know that is very much in the thoughts of those who are planning for that eventuality in Afghanistan," Heappey added.

Previously the New York Times reported that the Pentagon is considering whether to intervene with warplanes or drones in the event that Kabul is in danger of falling to the Taliban, though no decisions have been made.

Quoting senior US officials, The Times reported that the Pentagon is considering seeking authorization to carry out airstrikes to support Afghan security forces if Kabul or another major city is in danger of falling to the Taliban. **The Kabul Times**

No freedom of expression without a democratic system, Wafayezada

KABUL: The acting Minister of Information and Culture Dr. Mohammad Qasim Wafayezada said that freedom of expression and free media activity was not possible without a democratic system, Bakhtar Information Agency (BIA) reported Tuesday.

Addressing a meeting held to evaluate free media in the country and further legalization of media activity at the Government Media and Information Center (GMIC), the acting Minister said that without a democratic system there would be no freedom of expression and free media activity in the country, the agency quoted.

At the outset, Fazel Ahmad Manawi, Minister of Justice provided details about the media activities in line with the country's law, calling freedom of expression one of the great achievements of people in the country.

"Under the current sensitive condition, we have to jointly work for the preservation of the system and republic," said the Justice Minister adding media has remarkably grown over the last two decades.

He urged the media for doing more in encouraging the country's security and defense forces and ensuring national unity and national interests.

Meanwhile, Dr. Wafayezada, the acting Minister of Information and Culture said the development of mass media, independent and free publications were one of the great government and people achievements over the last two decades, according to the agency.

"We would never have big political, cultural and social change, which we had experienced over the past two decades without having media," said the Acting Minister as quoted by the agency. He said within a democratic system, media is the fourth pillar, but this should be noted that if media and freedom of expression are the fourth pillar of democracy, then democracy and republic is the first pillar of freedom of expression and media.

The acting Minister also noted that observing balance and impartiality was a principle in the work of media, but this doesn't mean that the media should be made local for rising voices that have no positive messages unless threat, creation of horror and removal of people from the political future of the country.

The Kabul Times