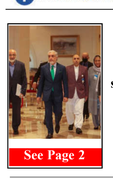
The Kabul Times DAILY
Founded in 1962
facebook.com/thekabultimes thekabultimes@yahoo.com twitter.com/thekabultimes www.thekabultimes.gov.af
Asad 21-1400 Thursday 12 August 2021 INo: 116- Vol: LIX

Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Fifty-Nine

The interim period between the adoption of the Constitution and the inauguration of the National Assembly shall be considered the transition period. The Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan, during the transitional period, shall perform the following duties:

1. Issuing legislative decrees related to elections of the President, National Assembly as well as local councils within six months;
2. Issuing decrees regarding the organization and authority of courts as well as the commencement of work on fundamental organizations law in less than one year; **To be continued**

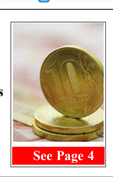


See Page 2

Afghanistan: Peace demands sacrifice

See Page 3

Three decades after its founding, where does Al Qaeda stand today?



See Page 4

Russia balance of payments: mostly supportive of ruble

See Page 5

PCB in talks with ACB to conduct all their ODIs on a single venue in Sri Lanka

See Page 6

Pakistan's top diplomat in UK hopeful of red list exit

President Ghani chairs senior security meeting

KABUL: The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani chaired the senior security meeting, upon his arrival in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh provincial capital in the north, a statement from the Presidential Palace said Wednesday.

The country's President and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, during his trip to the province, was briefed by the northern zone's security and defense officials, about the ongoing security situation and that local uprisings were supporting them within the government forces, said the statement.

The country's president also met with a number of political figures and Jihadi leaders, Marshal Abdul Rashid Dostum, former vice-president, Ata Mohammad Noor, former Balkh governor, Ustad Mohammad Muhaqqeq, the presidential advisor for security and political affairs and Juma Khan Hamdard, early Wednesday morning. In the meeting, while assessing the security situation in the north, the sides spoke about the coordination, equipment and besieging the people uprising under the security and defense forces umbrella, the statement noted. The president also separately met with the local uprising leaders in the province and said that the government was firm in war on the enemy. The president also instructed the related officials for doing more in addressing the martyrs' families problems, the statement quoted. **The Kabul Times**

Taliban must stop violence, intimidation and harassment of journalists: AJSC

KABUL: The Taliban have committed acts of violence, intimidation and bullying against many journalists in the past two weeks—something that Afghan Journalists Safety Committee strongly condemned yesterday. "On August 1, 2021, Shakib Shams, a local reporter for Salam Watandar, and Satorie Karimi, a reporter for Pajhwok Afghan News were shot at and bullied by the Taliban while covering the battlefield in Herat province. The Taliban stopped their vehicles, shot several bullets at them and arrested them afterwards.

The Taliban commander responsible for the arrest forced the journalists to interview him and then released them with the condition that the reporters must publish his interview," the AJSC said in a statement. On August 3, 2021, Maiwand Mirdanei, head of the political programs of Radio and Television Afghanistan (RTA) in Helmand province, was arrested by the Taliban on the road between Helmand and Kandahar and was released after AJSC's intervention.

"On August 8, 2021, Sefatullah Zahedi, head of the local radio station Sokun in Helmand was threatened to death by the Taliban-affiliated social media accounts, accusing him of propagating propaganda in favor of the government. The post stated that Mr. Zahedi has been pardoned by the group after accepting remorse for his mischief.

Also on the same day, Nematullah Hemmat, the head of Radio Bost in Helmand, was arrested by the Taliban for publishing a report, which accused the Taliban of releasing water of Kamal Khan Dam to Iran.

He is still in the Taliban detention," according to the committee. AJSC said: "On August 8, Toofan Omari, the owner, and head of Sada-e Paktia Media Center and a prosecutor was assassinated in Deh Sabz district of Kabul. Although no group has claimed responsibility for the murder, the Taliban have committed similar acts of assassination of prosecutors and journalists in the past." In the latest incident, the Taliban yesterday summoned a number of Takhar provincial journalists and instructed them to tailor their publications based on the instructions of the group, otherwise, facing serious consequences. AJSC said that all forms of violence and harassment of journalists are transgression of freedom of expression and stand contrary to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Declaration of Islamic Human Rights, and Geneva Conventions. "Violence and harassment of journalists are considered an international crime under the Rome Statute. It is noteworthy that such violence is in direct contrast to the official statements made by the Taliban leaders. The continuation of such a situation, in addition to undermining press freedom and journalists' safety, will further isolate the Taliban among the country's media community." The AJSC asked Taliban to understand that freedom of expression finds meaning in the presence of criticism, disagreement, and the publication of facts.

AJSC urged the Taliban to stop such acts of violence against journalists so that journalists can work in a safe environment free from violence, aggression and bullying. AJSC also called on the United Nations and the international community to increase their diplomatic pressure on those who violate freedoms of press and expression. These are some of the most significant gains of Afghanistan which need to be protected.

The Kabul Times

Six countries urge EU not to halt deportations of unsuccessful Afghan asylum seekers

Six EU member states have sent a letter to the bloc's executive warning against halting deportations of unsuccessful Afghan asylum seekers despite major advances of Taliban militants in their country, Reuters reported.

"Stopping returns sends the wrong signal and is likely to motivate even more Afghan citizens to leave their home for the EU," Austria, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece and Germany said in the letter, which was posted on Twitter by a journalist for Belgium's weekly Knack news magazine. "This is why we urge you and your teams at the Commission to intensify talks with the Afghan government on how returns to Afghanistan can and will continue in the coming months."

The European Commission said it had received the letter and would reply in due time, Reuters reported.

Doha meeting calls for political settlement in Afghanistan

KABUL: A multilateral meeting on the peace process in Afghanistan convened in Qatar's capital of Doha on Tuesday with participating parties calling for a political settlement to achieve enduring peace in the county.

The meeting saw attendees from China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, the United Nations, and the European Union, Reuters reported.

Representatives of all parties agreed that a political solution through negotiation is the only way out for Afghanistan, and its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity must be respected at the same time, the report said.

According to Reuters report, the meeting also called for agreements on fundamental issues reached by all sides in a timely manner to jointly promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, and ultimately achieve a permanent and comprehensive cease-fire and form an inclusive government in the country.

In an exclusive interview with China Central Television (CCTV) that day, Yue Xiaoyong, special envoy for Afghan affairs with the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said the Chinese government will continue to play a constructive role in this respect, facilitating negotiations through various channels to promote peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue. "We are also working actively with Afghanistan to think about the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan in the future, and China is ready to make its contributions in this regard. In my opinion, the problem continues to develop now. China will make unremitting efforts with the international community, neighboring countries and countries in the region," said Yue. Reuters reports that China, the United States, Russia and Pakistan will meet in Doha on Wednesday to further exchange views on Afghan issues of shared concern. **The Kabul Times**

FM Atmar seeks Chinese support for peace, cessation of Taliban attacks

KABUL: Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar met with Chinese Ambassador to Kabul Wang Yu and both sides discussed the latest security developments in Afghanistan and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation, a MoFA statement said.

Referring to the Taliban attacks on cities and the killing of people in different parts of Afghanistan, which has caused a humanitarian catastrophe in the country, the Foreign Minister spoke about the desire of the Afghan people to immediately stop attacks and violence and start meaningful peace talks, the statement added.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's proposals to hold two special meetings of the Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council on Afghanistan and the Doha Summit, FM Atmar hinted at the two main demands of the Afghan government and people, including immediate cessation of Taliban attacks on cities and the rapid start of negotiations for a political solution to the establishment of lasting peace in the country.

FM called for China's constructive and comprehensive support and cooperation in this regard. Speaking about his country's efforts to stop the violence and humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan, the Chinese ambassador called for a rapid cessation of attacks on cities to prevent civilian casualties and the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan.

Wang also assured FM the support and efforts of his country to implement Afghanistan's proposals in the framework of the Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council and the Doha Summit. The Foreign Minister and Chinese Ambassador also discussed strengthening political, economic and technical cooperation, including the provision of the Covid-19 vaccines. **The Kabul Times**