The Kabul Times DAILY

Founded in 1962

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

Asad 11-1400 Monday 02 August 2021 INo: 107- Vol: LIX

Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Fifty-Two

Judges, Attorneys, Officers of the Armed Forces, Police and officials of the National Security shall not become members of political parties during their term of office.

See Page 2

Taliban violence could inspire terrorists, armed groups throughout Middle East

See Page 3

Body of Reuters photographer Danish Siddiqui was mutilated in Taliban custody, officials say

See Page 4

Economists welcome US efforts towards boosting Afghanistan's air exports

See Page 5

Leeds interested in Traore deal as Wolves place £30m pricetag on winger

See Page 6

Australia to return 14 artworks of disputed provenance to India

President Ghani chairs first electronic cabinet meeting

KABUL: President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani chaired the first electronic meeting via video conference, here in Kabul, a statement from the Presidential Press Office said Sunday.

The electronic meeting was taken part by the cabinet members and the provincial governors, during which the president thanked the country's security and defense forces for their dedication and sacrifices in repelling attacks from the country's enemy.

The president spoke about defense and security strategy and the role of cabinet members, stating that there was a clear plan and full political support for the forces, the statement quoted.

Inaugurating the electronic cabinet system, President Ghani thanked the Administrative Office of the President, the Office of the National Security Council, and the Presidential Office for Operations and National Development Support for their efforts in this field, according to the statement.

The country's president pointed on the beginning of the synchronization of Afghan governance with World technology, saying that technology has changed lives and detailed that 60% of the world's consulting transactions were done through electronic technology and that technology has changed the way of providing services for the citizens and that much of the future of health related to the advancement of technology.

Also, the president explained on digital payment of salaries, providing services by connecting passport system and the system of payments with electronic IDs, said that by creating the systems major problems in the field of information exchange will be solved.

He also noted that in the near future, the central bank will provide loans for security and defense forces, as well as civil servants, from one to five million Afghanis.

The Kabul Times

Afghan govt. reviews primary materials strategic reserve

KABUL: Afghan officials, in a meeting, reviewed the strategic reserve of the country's needed primary materials, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said Sunday.

Nisar Ahmad Ghoryani the Minister of Industry and Commerce chaired the meeting in which, he said the project was prepared in cooperation with the private sector to provide the primary materials needed by the citizens, the ministry said in a statement.

Representatives from both government and private sector such as Hashmatullah Ghafuri, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and Khan Jan Alokozay the Deputy to Afghanistan Chambers Federation have also attended the meeting, according to the statement.

Welcoming the plan, Khan Jan Alokozay, the Deputy to Chambers Federation said the private sector would work with the government organizations in supplying the primary materials needed by the citizens, the statement quoted.

The plan was made as foodstuff and oil prices are remarkably rising amid heavy fighting between the Taliban militants and security forces in the impoverished Asian country.

The Kabul Times

MoPH reports 484 new COVID-19 cases, 37 deaths in Afghanistan

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Health on Sunday reported 484 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 2,548 samples tested in the last 24 hours.

The ministry also reported 37 deaths and 1,341 recoveries from COVID-19 in the same period.

Data by the ministry shows that the total number of cases is 147,985 and the total number of reported deaths is 6,774.

The total confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally is at 197,962,362, and total deaths are at 4,220,009, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The Kabul Times

VP Saleh blames Pak Qureshi for once again speaking on behalf of Taliban

KABUL: First Vice President, Amrullah Saleh blamed Pakistani Foreign Minister for once again speaking on behalf of the Taliban terrorists.

"Once again speaking on behalf of Taliban terrorists, the strategic proxy of his country in Afg & the region, FM Qureshi is louder. But can he explain where does he get his confidence. When was the latest meeting of GHQ with Quetta Shura & HQN ?," VP Saleh tweeted yesterday.

The tweet comes after Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that the Afghan Taliban would not allow the Daesh militants to penetrate into their country.

The Kabul Times

Sharp rise in displaced families fleeing conflict: UN

KABUL: least 330,000 people have been displaced in the last seven months due to an increase in conflict across Afghanistan, the UN reported Saturday.

"So far in 2021, 330,000 people have been displaced by conflict across Afghanistan. Another five million people remain displaced since 2012," the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported.

According to the report, the fighting has also been reported in new areas in the northeast province of Kunar, displacing 20,000 people within the province, and Nangahar Province.

"Nine UN and partner organizations' teams are assessing needs in Kandahar. Last week, about 1,800 internally displaced people received food, relief items, and water and sanitation hygiene support as well as physiotherapy and cash assistance. In Kunar, UN and partner organizations are assessing needs and responding.

"Urgent needs include food, water, shelter, and health services," the report said.

As conflict intensifies in northern Afghanistan and other parts of the country, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, warned of an imminent humanitarian crisis, saying failure to reach a peace agreement will see further displacement.

Fahim Hamdard, Senior Field Assistant, UN Refugee Agency, stated: "Over the last year, families have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, a devastating drought and now increased violence in the north and northeast regions is driving more people from their homes every day."

Amid an overall increase in civilian casualties, the proportion of women and children affected by violence has risen sharply since January, adding to the toll Afghanistan's decades-long conflict has taken on people like Maryam and her family.

UNHCR and its partners are assisting newly displaced Afghans with emergency shelter, food, health care, water, and sanitation support, and cash assistance, but a shortage of funding means humanitarian resources are falling dramatically short.

The Kabul Times

Taliban's attacks pushed back as more troops arrive western Herat city

KABUL: Afghan government deployed more forces to the western city of Herat on Sunday a day after Taliban advanced closer to the central parts of the city.

This comes a day after Mohammad Ismail Khan, former mujahedeen leader and senior member of Jamiat-e-Islami led the fight against the Taliban in Herat along with scores of public resistance forces, and pushed back Taliban offensives.

Clashes in the city of Herat entered fourth day on Sunday.

Clashes are underway in the southern part of Herat near Malan Bridge that was taken over by Taliban on Saturday.

Defense Ministry Deputy Spokesman Fawad Aman said hundreds of reinforcements arrived in the city on Sunday morning, pledging to control the security situation there.

Hundreds of families have been displaced from southern parts of Herat city due to the ongoing clashes, local officials said.

Taliban attacks on the city of Herat was criticized on Saturday by some lawmakers and analysts as a clear violation of their commitments to the Doha agreement.

Taliban has said that the group has no commitment for not attacking major cities.

The Kabul Times