Time for national mobilization against invaders: President Ghani...

From P1

KABUL: President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani addressed a joint special session of the National Assembly on Monday and spoke about the current situation in the country. Addressing the Lawmakers, the President said: "We have paid a high price for peace and showed great gentleness, but instead war was imposed on us." The president also said an "imported" and "hasty" process was imposed on Afghanistan which resulted in "legitimizing an insurgent group instead of achieving peace."

"The Taliban has changed only in that their cruelty has increased and they have become more mercenary than in the past," the President said. "We no longer have the … opportunity of blaming each other, we all face a great test," he added. President Ghani stated that "the current situation is due to a sudden decision on the withdrawal of the international troops," but "the protection of the people is our duty." The President mentioned that the nation was faced with an unexpected situation in the past three months.

"This aggression and war have been imposed on us," he said. The President urged the Afghan national assembly and the political leaders to seek unity, saying it is the "only way toward our victory." "We must go toward national mobilization, and we must all work for the same," he said. He assured the nation that the situation will change in the upcoming six months due to the security plan that the Afghan government has prepared. "The army is defending strategic goals and the police are defending the cities," he said.

"Our priority is to achieve lasting peace, but I see sedition in the Taliban. For those who whitewash this and say that the Taliban have changed, I repeat to them that they have become more violent and more mercenary in oppression," the president said.

President Ghani said he believes the Taliban has no will for lasting peace but that a concise military plan has been drawn up to cover the next six months in order to suppress the Taliban.

"All preparations have been made to repel this wave of sedition for the next six months in order to restore stability. An important element of this plan, along with government forces, is the mobilization of public forces," he said.

The President also said despite the group's promise to the US to cut ties with terrorist organizations, this has not been done. President Ghani said the Taliban has instead strengthened ties with such groups.

The President told MPs he would "not kneel before any destructive force. We either sit on our knees at the negotiating table or break their knees on the battlefield."

The President call to MPs comes amid raging battles across the country between the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces and the Taliban – which has captured large swathes of territory in the past few months.

The Kabul Times

UK summons Iran ambassador over attack on Israeli-managed oil tanker

Britain on Monday summoned Iran's ambassador to London in response to what it claims was a Tehran-ordered attack on a merchant vessel off the coast of Oman that killed a British and Romanian national.

"The Iranian ambassador to the UK, Mohsen Baharvand, was summoned today to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office... in response to the unlawful attack committed on MV Mercer Street on 29 July," said a British government statement.

"Iran must immediately cease actions that risk international peace and security," it added, saying that "vessels must be allowed to navigate freely in accordance with international law."

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab on Sunday said that Britain "believes the attack... was carried out by Iran and was deliberate, targeted and unlawful."

Two crew members of the Japanese-owned, Liberian-flagged oil tanker, which is managed by a prominent Israeli businessman's company, were killed in what appeared to be a drone attack, the vessel's London-based operator and the US military said Friday. Israel also blamed Iran.

US Navy forces came to the aid of the crew in response to an emergency distress call and saw evidence of the attack, said a US military statement.

Analysts said the attack bore all the hallmarks of tit-for-tat exchanges in the "shadow war" between Israel and Iran, in which vessels linked to each nation have been targeted in waters around the Gulf. Britain on Monday summoned Iran's ambassador to London in response to what it claims was a Tehran-ordered attack on a merchant vessel off the coast of Oman that killed a British and Romanian national.

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Zodiac Maritime, owned by Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer, said the incident on board the MT Mercer Street on Thursday killed one Romanian and a UK national, who was a guard for British maritime security firm Ambrey.

The vessel was in the northern Indian Ocean, traveling from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates with no cargo onboard when the attack occurred, it said.

Iran's state TV channel in Arabic Al-Alam, citing "informed regional sources", said the attack was a "response to a recent Israeli attack" targeting an airport in central Syria. It did not provide further details.

Afghan Advertisement

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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR BIDDING

Procurement Entities	NPA on behalf of Ministry of Urban Development and Land (MUDL), Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
Funded By	World Bank
Item Description / Ref No.	**Procurement of Establishment of CORS/GNSS/AFPOS Network Hardware and Software communication and maintenance cost, set up CORS control center in Kabul, RFB No:** NPA/ MUDL /1400/G-2322/ICB (ALASP/G-08).
Deadline for submission Bids	**16 September,2021 at 10:00 Hours** (Local Time). The public opening of Bids received will be held immediately after the deadline.
Address for submission Bids	**Attention:** Bidding Facilitation Secretariat **Address:** National Procurement Authority (NPA) Administrative Office of the President (AOP), Pashtunestan Wat, Kabul, Afghanistan | Kabul Afghanistan. **Telephone:** (+93) 202926290 **Email:** bfs-npa@npa.gov.af
Website	Interested bidders may download the complete Bidding Documents from our website. www.npa.gov.af/ www.ageops.net In case of any problem in downloading, may obtain the same by sending e-mail at the address mohsin.nisar@npa.gov.af Copy to hikmatullah.asad@npa.gov.af, aziz.obaidi@npa.gov.af, pfd_d_08@npa.gov.af, naseeb.arman@mudl.gov.af
Bid Security:	36,000 USD (Thirty-Six thousand)

"We used to drink motionless water from ponds"

By: Nangialai Ibrahimi

The Tawheedabad village consisted of 277 households is located near a series of mountains in Narang district of Kunar province. The heat of sun over here is as strong as the residents of this community are looking quite different from those living in neighboring communities. Safe drinking water has been one of the top priorities in addition to other difficulties that the villagers had in terms of meeting basic human needs in this community over the past years.

Fortunately, after the Citizens' Charter National Priority Program of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/CCNPP) covered this community and stablished the Community Development Council (CDC), the villagers through their CDC gave top priority to the construction of a much-needed water supply network that has now addressed the challenges of access to clean drinking water.

The water supply network project worth AFN 3.7 million including 10% community contribution (financial, labor or in-kind) is consisted of an overhead water storage tank with a volume of 35,000 cubic meters, a deep well, a pipe scheme, several solar panels and installation of 15 taps in several locations in the community. Completion of this project with financial and technical support of CCNPP has provided an opportunity for the residents to access healthy drinking water right in front of their houses.

Nadir Khan 62 years of age is a resident of Tawhidabad village. He says that they used to utilize the rain water for drinking and washing purposes that they were collecting in a pond over the past years. "Our cattle including cows, bulls, oxen, buffaloes and calves also drank water from the same pond. When there was not enough rain to accumulate water in the ponds, we had to fetch water on our heads and backs from the river, flowing some 5 km away from our community."

The villagers expressed that the use of both rain and river water caused numerous diseases in villagers. Most of the households had to leave the village and settled elsewhere due to severe shortage of safe drinking water.

They are thrilled that the Citizens' Charter intervention has raised hopes of survival in this community.

Hayatullah 36, another villager said: "Our children and women had to cover a long distance by foot to bring water in casks and buckets from other villages and the river, located far away from our community."

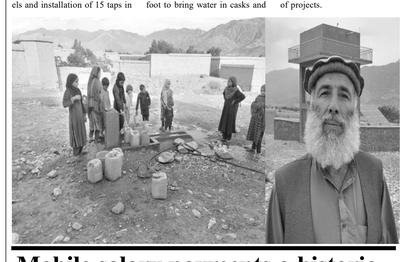
He added that since the river water was contaminated and full of silt, it would usually cause diseases such as diarrhea and dysentery in children and kidney stones in adults.

Using the water from the water supply network has led to a considerable decline in certain diseases in our community.

The water supply project has also helped some employment generation in Tawheedabad village. During the construction work, a total of 1,246 labor days have been created for both skilled and unskilled local laborers.

So far, the MRRD/CCNPP has been able to complete 2,881 projects in Water Supply Sector while another 1,980 are ongoing in as many as 123 districts across the country.

On a daily basis, more than two million villagers receive nearly 50 million liters of potable water through 20,000 water points, installed inside communities. Meanwhile, more than 16 million labor days have so far been generated only in Water Supply Sector for both skilled and unskilled laborers during the implementation of projects.



Mobile salary payments a historic...

From P1

The president described the system very important in preventing corruption and creating transparency, saying that members of the security and defense forces could now easily send their salaries to their families. The president also added that the system and experience have been successful in Africa, the statement further said.

The Kabul Times

Lashkar Gah: "In just one day we performed...

From P3

With fighting taking place not far from Bost hospital, and people too afraid to leave their homes due to the violence access to healthcare access is dangerously low

"We have had patients who were caught in crossfire. On top of something like severe diarrhoea, they have also arrived with a bullet in their shoulder or their leg," explains a doctor working in the MSF Emergency Room and Intensive Care Unit at Boost hospital. "The conflict leads people to think ten times if they really want to make the journey. They delay until they can't wait any more, when their relatives haven't opened their eyes for two or three days, have shallow breathing and are unresponsive. From a medical perspective, that's almost too late."

And when people do make it to care, that is just a first step. The effects of the conflict have long-term consequences too, as one patient with bullets wounds to both his arms explained, "All my family depend on me, but I feel like in the future I won't be able to work because of my injuries. It'll be very hard for me to feed my family. I've left my home and I cannot go back there."

Even amongst MSF staff, the impact of the fighting is clearly visible. An MSF doctor explains, "Healthcare staff are exhausted. The work itself, seeing all these patients, is hugely difficult. And then on top of that, people have to deal a lot with outside pressures and worries." MSF continues to provide much-needed healthcare in Bost hospital, and also has projects in four other locations around the country, Herat, Kandahar, Khost and Kunduz.

The Kabul Times

Breastfeeding to promote health...

From P3

Unlike breastmilk which is always available, unlimited, and served at the right temperature formula feeding your baby requires planning and organization to make sure that you have what you need when you need it. Parents must buy formula and make sure it's always on hand to avoid late-night runs to the store.

And it's important to always have the necessary supplies like bottles and nipples clean, easily accessible, and ready to go; otherwise, you will have a very hungry, very fussy baby to answer to. With 8-10 feedings in a 24-hour period, parents can quickly get overwhelmed if they're not prepared and organized.

Lailuma Noori