President Ghani to Attend SCO Summit in China

President Ashraf Ghani will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Qingdao, in eastern China’s Shandong Province, on Saturday and Sunday.

The 18th SCO Summit is scheduled for June 9 to 10 in Qingdao. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the summit will discuss the fight against insurgency in Afghanistan and the region. “We hope that all countries will cooperate with us in fighting terrorism and drug dealers. Another crucial issue for us is regional connectivity,” said Sebghatullah Ahmadi, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ongoing war in Afghanistan and its impact on countries in the region is one of the main concerns of the organization. “Taliban has an active role in the security sector of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,” Ahmadi said. (More on P6-L2)

Taliban Can’t Win on the Battlefield: WH

WASHINGTON - Describing President Ashraf Ghani’s announcement of a unilateral ceasefire with the Taliban as a “courageous” step, White House on Thursday said that the terrorist outfit needs to acknowledge that it cannot achieve its objectives on the battlefield.

“President Ghani’s remarks at the Kabul Process conference, combined with today’s announcement of the ceasefire initiative, demonstrate the Afghan government’s willingness to undertake difficult steps toward a political settlement,” Lisa Curtis, the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for South and Central Asia at the National Security Council, said. The US is ready to participate in the discussion, but it cannot serve as a substitute for the Afghan government and the Afghans themselves. Observing that no one believes that there is a military solution to this conflict, she said. (More on P7-L5)

NATO Defence Ministers Discuss Progress in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS - Speaking at a press conference following the meeting, NATO Secretary Jens Stoltenberg said that “NATO Allies and partners aren’t just maintaining their contributions to our Resolute Support Mission, they are increasing them.” He also noted the “real progress in the ability of Afghans to conduct offensive operations.”

Stoltenberg also expressed his confidence that NATO leaders will agree to extend funding to the Afghan Security Forces to 2024 when they meet at the Alliance’s Summit next month. “Our aim is to strengthen the Afghan security forces so they can create the conditions for a peaceful solution,” the Secretary General said. He also praised President... (More on P6-6)

Nearly 6m Persons Registered as Voter Country-Wide

KABUL - Around six million people have registered as voters for the upcoming Provincial and District Council elections until Thursday evening, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) said on Friday.

“The registration process launched on April 14 and currently underway in the district centers. They process may be extended in the far-flung areas till June 12,” According to Hashami the names of registered persons was now... (More on P6-L3)

Ghani’s Announcement of Truce a Concrete Step: EU

KABUL - The European Union on Thursday hailed President Ashraf Ghani’s announcement of a unilateral ceasefire with the Taliban as a concrete step toward peace.

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini said: “This announcement is another concrete and unprecedented step made by President Ghani, reinforcing the unconditional peace offer made on 28 February.”

Ghani’s move reflected his commitment to a genuinely Afghan-led and -owned peace process, Mogherini added, adding that the EU continues to support the presidential initiative... (More on P6-6)

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<th>New License (one piece)</th>
<th>License Renewal (two marks)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sole Proprietorship</td>
<td>100 AFN</td>
<td>12,500 AFN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited Liability Company</td>
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