KABUL - President Mohammed Ashraf Ghani on Saturday warned unconstitutional steps were unacceptable and stressed every institution should avoid decisions contrary to the constitution.

He expressed this during separate meetings with different groups of people to discuss parliamentary elections and political reforms

According to a statement from Presidential Palace, the participants included representatives of women, media, civil society and political figures as well as representatives of UNAMA. After hearing views of the representatives, Ghani said: “We will never allow any vacuum in the system of the government.” He pledged decision would be made in accordance with the country’s constitution and in light of national interests. He urged participants to hold more meetings and share their final suggestions and views with the Presidential Palace. According to a statement by the constitution, new members of Wolesi Jirga should start work on June 22. The article also allows the election for the lower house should be held on one or two months ahead before the period of current lawmakers expired. (Pajhwok)

WJ Again Asks Govt. to Specify Elections Date

MPs Express Grave Concern Over Insecurity

KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga (WJ) members on Saturday expressed grave concern over prevailing insecurity and warned that some districts might fall to insurgent groups if steps were not taken to bolster law and order. Ferrari Rohi, a lawmaker from Badakhshan, said security had deteriorated in northeastern province. Taliban had been killing innocent people in Ye:mengen which was captured by the group ten days back, Rohi added. She warned more Badakhshan province might collapse security forces did not launch operation to flush out rebels from the area. Kohi said Taliban had been preparing for assault in Yaminang to capture more districts in the strategically important Badakhshan. (More on P5, 19)

KABUL - The holy month of Ramadan (Sawm) will begin on Thursday, a known astrologer predicted. The month of Sawm would be of 30 days while Ramadan moon would be sighted on Wednesday, Abdullah Rashidullah told Pajhwok Afghan News. “The coming Thursday (June 13) will be the first day of the holy month of Ramazan,” he said. The astrologer went on to say that Eid would be observed on Friday (July 13). (Pajhwok)

Talk Peace if You’re Afghan and Recognise Afghanistan

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Friday urged religious scholars to highlight the importance of peace and play a proactive role in advancing the peace process. The president held a meeting with members of the Afghan Peace Council at the Presidential Palace, a statement from the palace said. At the meeting, the president said threats should highlight the importance of peace and help strengthen the peace process. The council issued a declaration at the meeting and read out by its member Maulvi Attaullah Lashari, the statement said. In the declaration, the council had urged all print and electronic media to promote peace. (More on P4, 18)

Constitution

During the state of emergency, the President, with the consultations of heads of the National Assembly, and Chief of Staff, can transfer some authorities of the National Assembly to the government.

Article 144

Taliban Suffered Severe Setback This Year: MoD

KABUL - The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Saturday said militants have accelerated anti-state activities this year but they faced a humiliating defeat after security forces carried out over 6,000 anti-insurgent operations in parts of the country. Addressing a press conference, MoD spokesman major Gen. Mohammed Aftab Amin said security forces have captured hard ghazars but

incurred heavy casualties on rebels during the first three months of the current year. He said that 8,500 military operations had been launched this year to fend off Taliban’s gains nationwide.

Afghans continuously fought in four parts of the country that included Ghazni, Nangarhar, Badakhshan and Zabul provinces, some areas in Farah province.

(Talk Peace if You’re Afghan and Recognise Afghanistan)

(Uzia)

KABUL - The Minister of Interior Noorul Haq Ulzai said Saturday that the Ministry of Interior Affairs is fully prepared to start distribution of electronic national identity cards during the current year - 1399. While presenting the ministry’s 2020 plan and strategies,