Parliament Approves Nominees for 10 Ministries

KABUL - The Afghan parliament on Saturday approved the candidates for 10 ministries, including two security agencies, amid an increase in violence and concern by people about lack of se-
curity in the country.

On Saturday session, 244 out of 248 law-
makers were present and the nominees needed 248 votes to be approved. Mohammad Hanif Atmar was ap-
poved as the lawmakers as minister of foreign affairs by getting 197 votes in favor.

Abdul Hadi Arghawal was ap-
poved as minister of finance by win-
ning 284 votes in favor, 32 votes against and 9 unmarked votes.

Anasullah Khalid was approved by the lawmakers as minister of telecom-
nication by winning 268 votes in favor, 17 votes against, 15 invalid votes and 8 unmarked votes.

Massoud Andarabi was approved as minister of interior affairs with 254 votes in favor, 25 votes against and 7 unmarked votes.

Fazel Ahmad Manawi was approved as minister of justice by getting 220 votes in favor, 9 votes against, 31 invalid votes and 7 unmarked votes.

The only woman nominee Masooma Khawari was approved as minister of telecommunication and information technology with 184 votes in favor, 67 votes against and 25 unmarked votes.

Abdul Basir was approved as minister of higher education by getting 197 votes in favor, 22 votes against, 15 invalid votes and 14 unmarked votes.

Bashir Ahmad Tahyanj was approved as minister of labor and social affairs by getting 100 votes in favor, 40 votes against, and 16 unmarked votes.

Mohammad Quam Hamimi was ap-
poved as minister of health and religious affairs with 141 votes in favor, 41 votes against, 23 invalid votes and 34 un-
marked votes.

Nasir Ahmad Cheryani was approved as minister of industry and commerce by winning 213 votes in favor, 23 votes against and 9 unmarked votes.

A ceasefire was not only a critical first step to peace, but would also help mitigate the precarious humanitarian sit-
cuation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, he argued.

The interior ministry said three people were killed and 11 more were wounded in the rocket at-
tacks were taken to Emergency Hospital in Shahr-
Naw area in Kabul.

The explosion in Arzaan Qeemat left one security force member dead and three more wounded.

The Interior Affairs Ministry said three people were killed and 11 security personnel also seized 10 million and One hundred thousand afghanis carried by the perpe-
trator, the Attorney General's office said in a statement.

He said that the two countries have time-
tested relations strengthened by common culture and values.

Erdogan called for more efforts to support the Af-
ghan peace process, the talks in Doha and inter-
national relations.

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Abdullah said Afghanistan wants Turkey’s con-
sistent support to the country’s efforts for achiev-
ing an enduring peace.

Afghanistan Reports 140 New COVID-19 Cases in 24 Hours

KABUL - Ministry of Public Health reported Sat-
urday, that out of 862 samples, 140 cases have turned positive in the last 24 hours.

According to the ministry, within 24 hours, 52 indi-
viduals have Recovered from COVID-19, and 12 in-
dividuals are reported dead.

The new cases recorded in Kabul are 34, Kandahar 4, Balkh 4, Ghazni 4, Jowzjan 3, Samangan 3, Kunduz 3, Logar 3, Herat 2, Badakhshan 2, Baghlan 2, Vardak 2, Panjshir 2, Faryab 1, Helmand 1, Badghis 1, Ghor 1, and Ghazni 1.

The total number of cases in Afghanistan is 44,303, Total deaths in Afghanistan has re-
corded 38,422.

COVID-19 global toll has increased to 57,626,994 and the reported deaths are more than 1,135,259 ac-
cording to Johns Hopkins global dashboard. (Khaama Press)

Qatari FM Says Eyeing Inclusive Afghan Peace

KABUL - Qatar Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said his country was ready to 

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KABUL - Conflicts and poverty are two serious problems facing nearly four million children in Afghanistan. While 1.2 million children are at risk of going hungry, child labor at 3.7% is depriving children of their rights to education, according to data by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Addressing an event on World Children’s Day, Bishop Ahmad Tahary, acting minister of labor and social affairs said Afghanistan will have a challenging year ahead, especially for children due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts.

“We need more resources,” Tahary said. At least 10,000 children are living in orphanages in the country, said Gholam Haider Jalani, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs.

Tahry said 3,000 of the children in orphanages became homeless due to conflicts this year.

Lord Asha, a Kabul resident, said he lives with 25 members of his family but has no access to fa-
cilities for living. He said that 15 of his grandchildren are eligible for school, but eco-
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Lately, the Afghan traditional political parties failed to play a constructive role in past two decades in the country. Instead of working for the country, they have disintegrated to personal business firms. The political parties in Afghanistan are good in using words to advise others for their interest, but they are bad in action. They never hold the elections to choose their leaders democratically. The leaders of the political parties in Afghanistan are permanent except when they die, their parties are inherited in their sons or daughter. Sometimes, they act upon principles of democracy inside their parties, how can we expect them to implement democracy in national level? As long as they cannot engage in efficacious andพยายาม to push in a right direction and to support the opposing party in power. Some of them overtly campaign for the interests of neighboring countries and international powers like US, Russian and China. As a matter of fact, Uzbekistan, under the rule of Karimov, was not able to determine its foreign policy goals clearly; therefore, its policies kept on fluctuating. However, under Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has experienced the most positive changes in its foreign policy. When Shavkat became the President of Uzbekistan in 2016, he had already gathered a valuable expertise as a politician, as a starting point of Jizzakh region in 1996. In 2005, he was appointed as the Prime Minister by Karimov himself; therefore, he already had a strong understanding of the Karimov’s political strategies and policies. After he started his responsibilities as president, Shavkat moved the way for Afghan political parties to oppose, system, and independence, and pragmatism. Praising recent cooperation and economic well-being in consideration, Shavkat has been able to impose a foreign policy which has stunned even his critics. He started his missions with improving Taliban’s credibility in regional and international arena by introducing domestic reforms like liberalizing economics, opening border gates and allowing access to the US dollar. These reforms, Afghanistan was able to sign agreements with international financial institutions and started negotiations with World Trade Organization about its accession. At the regional level, Shavkat’s policies have brought about remarkable improvements. He has seen the region as a single ‘organiser’ with the countries sharing common geographic and economic space as a major strength, unlike theory, rather they have been converted to practical efforts. These efforts have mostly been initiated by Shavkat himself. According to him, the most significant constructive political change is that 21st Century is an era of cooperation. In March 2017, Shavkat went to Turkestan for his first abdominal. Several agreements were signed during the visit including the signing of the “Taliban–Turkistan Strategic Partnership”. He also emphasised the need for friendly and free bridges between both states and the Amu Darya. This connectivity projects would definitely support Uzbekistan in the region. Shavkat also made a trip with the EU and in addition to facilitating the transport corridor between Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and the EU, he also discussed about the international visit of Shavkat to Astana, where he met with Nursultan Nazarbayev, former President of Kazakhstan and set up a joint transportation forum. A plausible plan is to perform a cooperation with all nations. He also stated in his next moves to improve military relations in the Security sector. In March 2018, Shavkat became the first President of Uzbekistan since 2000.
issue of peace first. The Security Council was told the recent agreement had made the required international consensus around the table for a ceasefire in Afghanistan, first authored by the US. The critical mission of international forces now is to ensure we take Afghanistan as our ‘security forces’ so we can continue to generate results, seize peace, stabilise, and respect for human rights, he said. Afghanistan is never again used as a base for terror, he added.

“Any Afghan government that is not ready to support for a sovereign, independent and democratic Afghanistan should not expect any support to our national defense and security forces in our shared fight against terrorism,” he said.

“Consensus in responsibilities has not only been a great opportunity to build shared values and goals and for on- and off-era, but also clearly showed the irresponsibility of the person for what is absolutely not a national guarantee,” he added.

“That the sole legitimate government of Afghanistan is the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. And that an Islamic Emirate is not an option. Furthermore, we cannot tolerate the support of an Islamic Emirate,” Today, women make up 58% of our workforce, in certain provinces of Afghanistan, a benchmark that women's rights are being respected. Would not it be possible to tell the woman to have 58% of seats in parliament? And we said that in fact there is no free world. Women in the cabinet, women in the supreme council of the Islamic Emirate are still elected.

Women’s rights have never been forced or decreed. Women were never forced or decreed. Rights were never forced or decreed. Rights were never forced or decreed. Rights were never forced or decreed. Rights were never forced or decreed. Rights were never forced or decreed.

The death toll in Kabul rocket attacks has reached 300, said an official. They were killed in different parts of Kabul. (TOLO NEWS)

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NAROBI: The Ethiopian government announced on Saturday that it had sealed off another town in its advance on the rebellious Tigray region, and rebuffed an African diplomatic push to mediate.

More than two weeks into Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s offensive, the government said Tigrayan forces were digging in and using bulldozers to plough up roads around the regional capital Mekele, home to about half a million people. Hundreds of thousands have fled, and more than 30,000 lives have been lost since the start of the conflict.

But the conflict has proven beyond Tigrayan forces whose lives have been claimed at the cost of the nation of Eritrea, and the shadow of a wider war and the upsurge of a movement of multi-ethnic armed forces. (More on P4)...(13)

TEHRAN: Iran on Saturday shut down businesses and curtailed travel between its major cities including the capital Tehran, as it grapples with the coronavirus pandemic in the Middle East.

Top Iranian officials initially downplayed the risk posed by the virus outbreak, before recently urging citizens to wear masks and avoid mass gatherings as the measures were scaled down.

Iran has recorded daily deaths of above 450 for most of the past five days.

The Iranian Health Ministry said on Saturday that the total number of confirmed cases has risen to 430,000. The new infections include 2,929 deaths.

WASHINGTO: Donald Trump has a fresh setback in his bid to overturn the results of the US election as Michigan lawmakers indicated they would not seek to undo Joe Biden’s popular vote lead in the state.

Two Republican legislators put forward a bill on Friday that would certify Mr Biden’s narrow-majority win in the state.

The Democrat-led state Senate is set to vote on Friday, the day before US President Donald Trump is to be sworn in as US President.

Mr Biden’s victory in the Electoral College system, which determines who becomes president, could be thwarted if a third state joins Michigan to cast its electoral votes for Mr Trump, who has had fewer public appearances since the 5 November vote, in . (More on P6)...(9)

THOUSANDS attend Pakistan’s clerical funeral as COVID-19 curbs

LAHORE: Tens of thousands of Muslims attended the funeral of a top cleric in the eastern city of Lahore on Saturday despite the government’s ban on large public gatherings in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases in the country.

Khumid Hassan Bhatti, 54, died of cardiac arrest on Thursday after heading a protest march to the capital, Islamabad, against the publication in France of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

Daily coronavirus infections have risen in Pakistan in the past month, and the government has imposed further restrictions on gatherings as it declared the country’s “third wave” after a three-month lull.

Official data released on Saturday showed 2,845 people had tested positive for the virus and 42 had died during the last 24 hours - both figures the highest in a day in a week or two if strict distancing measures are not observed.

The ISF statement did not give any numbers, including confirmed cases and deaths, but the ISF did say that the operation “was carried out smoothly, he said. (More on P6)...(9)

Five Lebanese prisoners die in prison break-out

BEIRUT: Five escapee prisoners died on Saturday when their car hit a tree after more than 60 breakout-prisoners from a Lebanese detention centre near Beirut, Lebanon’s Internal Security Forces (ISF) said in a statement.

The ISF statement did not say how the 60 prisoners had escaped the facility, which a security source said held pre-trial detainees and other agencies will be sent to Armenia and Azerbaijan in . (More on P7)...(13)

Tibetan political leader visits White House for first time in six decades

SHANGHAI: The head of the Tibetan government-in-exile has visited the US White House for the first time in six decades, a move that could further infuriate Beijing, which has accused the US of trying to destabilise the region.

The two former leaders met at the request of the US government and it is part of a wider push by the Biden administration to reengage with China.

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NEW DELHI-India on Saturday summoned Pakistan’s deputy ambassador over what New Delhi described as a “serious attack” on the Indian post in the western province of Jammu and Kashmir.

The border area has been the site of a long-running conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

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Narayanan said his party had always been for peace and cooperation between India and Pakistan, and it is important to make sure that the International Community should do its part to bring peace to Karimabad and the surrounding area.

Karakoram Highway, Pakistan’s transit route to the Chinese border, is a vital artery for trade and commerce.

But the Kashmiri society of infectious diseases said lockdowns, including in the biggest city of Srinagar, could make the situation worse.

Officials noted during a press conference on Thursday that a large number of people were being targeted for their medical history.

The ISF said the ISF would push the investigation to find the causative factor.

Below are the key elements of the Trump administration’s plan to cut aid:

1. **Increase in Recipients:** The plan aims to reduce the number of beneficiaries by 15% by the end of the year.

2. **Payment Cuts:** Recipients will face increased fees and penalties.

3. **Obligation to Work:** Recipients will be required to work or volunteer for at least 20 hours per week.

4. **Work Requirements:** Recipients will be required to report their income and assets on a quarterly basis.

5. **Work Observation:** Recipients will be subject to random drug testing.

6. **Work Training:** Recipients will be required to participate in work training programs.

7. **WorkPASS:** Recipients will be required to use a new card, called the WorkPASS, which will replace the EBT card.

8. **Workfare Programs:** Recipients will be required to participate in workfare programs, such as community service.

9. **Workforce Development:** Recipients will be required to participate in workforce development programs.

10. **Workforce Employment:** Recipients will be required to obtain employment.

The Trump administration’s plan to cut aid will face opposition from Congress and advocacy groups.

Mexico agreed with U.S. Attorney General Barr to drug cap in deal for general

MEXICO CITY: Mexico and the United States agreed on Tuesday to put the cap on the amount of drug in the country by the U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Mexican officials.

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Cutting aid budget would hit UK influence, former PMs say

LONDON: Two former prime ministers have called for a freeze in the UK’s spending on foreign aid and a review of its foreign policy.

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Pompeo to Meet Afghan Government, Taliban Negotiators in Qatar

On Saturday, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet with negotiators from the Afghan government and the Taliban in Qatar on Saturday, according to the State Department’s public schedule. This comes as Pentagon this week said that it would reduce the number of US troops in Afghanistan from 130,000 to 2,500 by mid-July.

Pompeo will also visit Qatar’s Emir, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and the foreign minister on his stop in the capital Doha, according to the State Department’s public schedule.

United Nations - A Chinese envoy on Friday told a high-level Arria-formula meeting on the peace process in Afghanistan that no external actors shall use the Afghan issue to serve their domestic agenda.

"The international community should respect the Afghan people’s will and make sure the peace process is ‘Afghan-led and Afghan-owned’. No external actors shall impose solutions, or use the Afghan issue to serve their domestic agenda," Geng Shuang, China’s deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, told the meeting, which was co-organised by Security Council members Estonia, Germany and Indonesia, together with co-sponsors Afghanistan, Finland, Norway, and Qatar.

Noting that Afghanistan is the heart of Asia, the envoy said that the situation there has a direct impact on the peace and stability of the region.

"As the peace and reconciliation process now enters a critical juncture, so does the future of Afghanistan," he said. (1TV NEWS)

External Actors Should Not Use Afghanistan to Serve Domestic Agenda: Chinese Envoy

Chinese envoy speaking at high-level meeting in UN on Afghanistan's peace process.

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The war in Afghanistan is entering a critical juncture, so does the future of Afghanistan," he said. (1TV NEWS)

Kabul - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet with negotiators from the Afghan government and the Taliban in Qatar on Saturday, according to the State Department’s public schedule. This comes as Pentagon this week said that it would reduce the number of US troops in Afghanistan from 130,000 to 2,500 by mid-July.

Pompeo will also visit Qatar’s Emir, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and the foreign minister on his stop in the capital Doha, according to the State Department’s public schedule.

United Nations - A Chinese envoy on Friday told a high-level Arria-formula meeting on the peace process in Afghanistan that no external actors shall use the Afghan issue to serve their domestic agenda.

"The international community should respect the Afghan people’s will and make sure the peace process is ‘Afghan-led and Afghan-owned’. No external actors shall impose solutions, or use the Afghan issue to serve their domestic agenda," Geng Shuang, China’s deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, told the meeting, which was co-organised by Security Council members Estonia, Germany and Indonesia, together with co-sponsors Afghanistan, Finland, Norway, and Qatar.

Noting that Afghanistan is the heart of Asia, the envoy said that the situation there has a direct impact on the peace and stability of the region.

"As the peace and reconciliation process now enters a critical juncture, so does the future of Afghanistan," he said. (1TV NEWS)

Afghan War Crime Allegations Disturbing: Morrison

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Universities, Higher Education Institutes to Shut down in The Coming Week

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