Afghanistan Records 60% Drop in Water Levels

KABUL - The Ministry of Energy and Water says Afghanistan is currently facing more than sixty percent of the water losses. Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rehabilitation on Monday summed up to parliament over concerns regarding the drought. The Ministry of Water and Energy said that with each passing day, Afghanistan’s water resources are decreasing. “People are even digging wells up to 280 meters but there is no water; water dams around Kabul should have been built but this has not been done,” said MP Mohammad Hishtam Maldivar. “The aqueducts are drying up, and there is no drinking water and crops are being forced to move to the cities,” said MP Khalid KhalidMal. “The Ministry of Water and Energy is silent and is not paying attention at the time when a disaster that can create a disaster,” said another MP Naifal Zabi. The Ministry of Energy and Water, says Afghanistan is extremely vulnerable to climate change and that each day, water levels drop in the country. “The size or amount of rainwater or water that was present has decreased by sixty percent,” said Khan Mohammad Takal, Water and Energy deputy minister.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRHD), Muhle Rahman Karimi told parliament that by providing fodder, distributing and storing wheat in various provinces, creating water dams and reservoirs and designing emergency plans to help affected people are currently being carried out by government. “...attention to these issues can be detrimental to the people of Afghanistan.”

NDS Arrests 26 Daesh Fighters Ahead of Ashura

KABUL - The NDS said the group of fighters had recently been present in the country and were planning to conduct attacks in the coming days. At least 26 Daesh fighters were arrested during National Direction Security Forces (NDS) forces operations in different areas of Kabul.

The NDS also confirmed that a statement was issued on Tuesday. According to the NDS statement the group entered Kabul from different provinces and were waiting for the opportunity to conduct terrorist attacks during Ashura ceremonies on Tuesday in Kabul.

“There are no boundaries for them before they reached their targets and then spread their plans,” the statement read.

For Shi'ah Muslims, Ashura marks the remembrance of Husain bin Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Commemoration of the day marks the year in which Ali's grandson was killed.

Kabul Keenly Following US-Taliban Talks: Saikal

KABUL - Speaking during a gathering organized on the eve of Ashura Day, Danish said each moves is against democracy and the benefit of the people of Afghanistan. Danish further added that the formal closure of the provincial election offices is also a move against the national constituion of the country. The Grand National Coalition, consisting of political parties, recently closed the offices of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) in three provinces, including Western Herat province.

The supporters of the coalition have said the step was taken after the government and the election commission failed to positively respond to their demands. They have also warned that the election offices in other provinces will also be closed if the government and election commission did not respond positively to their demands. (More on PAG-11)

The Second Vice President of Afghanistan was formally inaugurated the recent move of the political parties for closing the provincial election offices in certain provinces.

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Quote of the Day

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Russia Worried at Daesh Presence in Afghan斯坦:

KABUL - Russia has expressed grave concern at the increasing activities of Islamic State (Daesh) militants in Afghanistan.

The number of Daesh fighters could surge to 10,000 in the country, the Russian ambassador to the United Nations tweeted on Monday. During a Security Council meeting on Monday, Vasily Nebenzia said: “At the focus of our attention is a surge of terrorist activity by the Afghan wing of ISIL.”

“According to our information, the number of ISIL adherents may reach 10,000 individuals,” he said, adding Russia was worried that the group’s attempts to reach an agreement with the Taliban and others on coordinating operations.

Contacts between Daesh and representatives of the Taliban and other groups might be unfil- led, the envoy noted, urging joint regional and international action against the outfit.

UN Concerned at Challenges to Afghan Elections

KABUL - The UN chief’s special representative has voiced his concern at security and political challenges to Afghanistan’s parliamentary elections, slated for October 20.

Talalnesh Yamamoto warned: “Political challenges could jeopardize the tight timelines and derail the elections unless all political leaders engage constructively to ensure the elections are held on time.”

Bringing the UN Security Council, he said the world is aware of real fear that could take place, as well as allegations of fraud which might have the tactical purpose of discouraging already difficult elections. The elections would be a test for Afghanistan’s nascent democratic institutions, he said, adding the Independent Election Commission was expected to perform with integrity and accountability to the Afghan people.

Almost a third of 7,000 polling centres could not open due to security, raising concerns about inclusivity of the democratic process, the top UN diplomat said.

UNAMA would do everything possible within its mandate and with the resources available to support a successful electoral process in the country, he added.

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