MPs Urge President to Extend Parliament Term

KABUL - Some lawmakers on Saturday renewed their call for announcing a date to hold parliamentary polls, saying the sitting parliament members could continue their work until new members were elected.

Under Article 48 of the Constitution, the parliamentary term ends after the declaration of election results on the 30th of Shaban (22 June) of the 5th legislative year and the new parliament convenes on the 15th of Dhu al-Hijjah. The elections for members of the House of People shall take place 30 to 60 days prior to the expiration of the term of the House of People.

Based on the article, parliamentary polls should have been held by now, but the Independent Election Commission (IEC) had cited lack of funds for delaying the vote.

Shalaka Hashemi, a lawmaker from southern Kandahar province, said: “We have 15 legitimate days to continue in lawmakers" and that if we cannot evaluate anything, it is the proof of our campaign’s efforts and the election of parliament’s mandate. We have 15 legitimate days to continue in our mandate," she added.

Hashemi urged the president to set a date for the parliamentary elections through a decree and extend the current parliament’s mandate.

But Naseebullah Sadiki from central Dandikot province said: “Based on Article 15 the current term ends after announcement.” (Article on Pl.41)

Four New Governors Appointed: Officials

KABUL - Officials on Saturday evening said that four new governors have been appointed. However, almost two-thirds of the provinces are still being led by acting governors.

Afganistan would remain among the top four aid recipients from his country, Kafirullah, who called: “...on Pl.61”

SAARC Urged to Develop Afghan Tourism Sector

KABUL - The commander of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan said that the SAARC special emphasis would be Afghanistan on the alliance will continue to advise and assist Afghan National Security Forces throughout the remaining 18 months of the Resolute Support mandate and beyond.

This comes as the Afghan Air Force is undergoing through rehabilitation phase and for the first time “...on Pl.69”

Special Emphasis will be put on the Afghan Air Force: Gen. Campbell

KABUL - The commander of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan has said that the special emphasis would be Afghanistan on the alliance will continue to advise and assist Afghan National Security Forces throughout the remaining 18 months of the Resolute Support mandate and beyond.

This comes as the Afghan Air Force is undergoing through rehabilitation phase and for the first time: “...on Pl.69”

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3 AFS

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1 AFS/min

Thereafter

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“Offer valid for Etsisalat to Etsisalat calls only. Daily rental at 2 AFS”
15 Civilians Killed in Khosh

KOHSISTAN CITY - Fifteen civilians were also killed in Friday's drone strike that killed 17 Taliban commandos, a government spokesman said Saturday.

The drone strike, which was launched in the Kohar district in southern Afghanistan, was carried out by a U.S. aircraft in response to a Taliban attack on a government post in the district.

The attack was carried out in response to a Taliban attack on a government post in the district, a government spokesman said. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident.

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Banyan – SAARC Cultural Capital

By Hujjatullah Zia

A grand ceremony was held on Friday June 05, 2013 in Banyan province to celebrate the Cultural Captivating Conference for the Reconstruction Regional Cooperation (CCRC-RRC) with the theme of declaring Banyan as SAARC cultural capital for the year 2013. The event was graced by several dignitaries, including the President of the Banyan province, Mr. Samanungiri, to his ex-minister of information and culture Dr. Muhammad Basitullah. Last year, the SAARC delegation visited various heritage sites in Banyan province and found out that they were already existing and those that are coming up in near future. The delegation then highlighted the importance of Banyan National Park, Bande-Amir, Shibar-e-Zahab and Shibar-e-Gholghed, including the exploration of the influence of city and its ghinas on its heritage.

Banyan province has been declared the SAARC cultural capital on the grounds of cultural background. In the historical heydays, Banyan was one of the most holy places in the world for people all over the world. Buddha's followers used to visit there every year for a ritual purpose. Moreover, the Banyan's spirituality played the role of the main and nearest link road between the Central Asia and South Central. Therefore, at that time thousands of people came to Banyan from all the regions of the SAARC countries. For accommodation of these thousands of people some twelve taverns were made in Falak and Falakudda. During the modern era of Afghanistan this historical heritage was badly damaged due to the regimes of Amurad Rahman (1883-1901) who came from Kabul to Kabul, and two other regimes inflicted heavy damage to the city and its ghinas on their destruction.

Since Banyan was the capital of historical wars and conflicts, there were other sources of disturbance, as it was the seat of Afghan independence fighters. In 2011, I declared Banyan as SAARC Cultural Capital. This declaration will convey a deeper message to the SAARC countries to notify that Banyan is an integral part of SAARC.

Moreover, Banyan is one of the secure provinces in the country and there are no barriers for political, social and cultural activities. The province is free from criminal activities for the past decade. The residents are entitled to the rights to exercise social welfare activities without any hassle.

The state will have to do its best to "attain a prosperous position" in the SAARC countries, and it is a challenge to build this land, and, eventually, regain Afghanistan's appre- ciation in the SAARC. The Banyan will continue to be a cultural capital of SAARC. I hope declaring Banyan as SAARC Cultural Capital will give us a chance to establish Banyan as the true peace partner in the world. It would convey a stronger message to the international community to promote the peace and prosperity message the Banyan.

The Banyan province was added to the list of the ancient sites with the culture and its ghinas of Banyan are an old heritage that should be developed and conserved.

Our Spoiled Standards

By Dilawar Sherzai

A society is known by the standards it maintains in itself. In the present scenario, there are many standards that are being maintained in the name of the Islamic culture. These higher standards are for almost every aspect of life. The standards are simply meant for all the people that have a role and a place to play in perfecting the society.

Despite the fact that one should not be good or bad, it is most necessary to the standards that are the true power of the human and their true role and behavior – the one that keep in consideration the well-being of the society and its members. Whether it is a question of art, science, craftsmanship, or music, true inspiration is the one that must be encouraged and supported.

Today’s human beings need to have lost their way. They have turned into something that is not a real human being but a pseudohuman being. Therefore, the true purpose of the standards that are considered is to be supported by all the people and its norms are the right standard and it is not possible for the Banyan that it is not always thought to be positive.

It is really difficult to set universal standards for the society. Some people consider themselves to be higher than others. Of course, it is easy to understand the standards that are set by the true power of the human and their true role and behavior – the one that keep in consideration the well-being of the society and its members. Whether it is a question of art, science, craftsmanship, or music, true inspiration is the one that must be encouraged and supported.

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Russian scientists stage stage rally against demo

Moscow – Russian scientists staged a rally on Saturday in front of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) in opposition to recent attacks on scientists and scientists' work. After Komsomol activists on the eve of the demonstration, a number of opposition figures including, among others, the head of the RAS, Mikhailov, have been among the demonstrators. The massive advance of aggression is being supported by the state media.

The protest was originally called in support of the scientists who were arrested during the anti-war demonstrations where 10-year-old philosopher, philologist, and physicist Vladimir Dementiev was killed. The government has promised to give the scientists legal aid, but the scientists demand the release of their colleagues and the recognition of their right to a fair trial. They also call for the resignation of the government and the holding of early elections.

The rally was organized by a group of scientists and intellectuals, including the Nobel laureate Yuri Khmelnitsky, the prominent sociologist and political scientist Evgeny Chichvarkin, and the well-known journalist and writer Vyacheslav Vishnyakov. The rally was attended by thousands of people, including students, teachers, and scientists.

The rally ended peacefully with a statement released by the organizers, calling on the government to respect the rights of scientists and to end the attacks on their work. The statement said: "The attack on scientists is an attack on the future of our country. We demand the release of our colleagues and the recognition of our rights. We call on the government to respect our work and to end the attacks on our freedom."
**Don't Be Afraid of Russia, Putin Tells West**

**MOSCOW** - Russia is not a threat to the West, President Vladimir Putin told an international gathering on Tuesday, according to a statement from the Kremlin.

"We have other things to do, I cannot imagine," the Russian president said.

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**US Must Boost Military Exercises to Counter Russia: Carter**

WASHINGTON — The United States needs to increase the number of military exercises and training maneuvers across Europe and South Asia to deter Russia’s intelligence sharing to bolster its re-gional militaries, the defense secretary said Wednesday.

"A key point of the defense secretary’s visit is to show the commitment of the United States to the region," Defense Secretary Ash Carter told reporters traveling with him from Beijing.

Carter said the United States is willing to help Russia in any way it can.

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**N. Korea Nukes Test Unlikely Until Fall: US Think-Tank**

PONYANG — North Korea is unlikely to conduct a nuclear test in the next few months, a US think-tank said Wednesday.

"We are not seeing any indications of a nuclear test. The regime’s foreign minister said Tuesday that there is no plan to conduct another nuclear test," a US intelligence official told the Daily NK.

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**Russian, Dutch Ministers Discuss Prosecuting MH17 Culprits**

MOSHOLU (Dutch carrying) — The Dutch government on Wednesday described the situation in Russia as a “state with no political will” and expressed its determination to hold those responsible for the MH17 disaster accountable.

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**16 is Working to Develop Chemical Weapons: Australia**

SYDNEY — The course of the 11th anniversary of the Sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway, the first chemical weapons attack in a major metropolitan area, is being marked with a series of events in Australia.

The event, which took place on March 20, 1995, is remembered as a significant milestone in the history of chemical weapons.

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**China, Japan Hold Finance Talks Stalled Amid Tensions**

BEIJING — China and Japan held talks on Thursday, with both sides calling for improved ties, amid increasing tensions between the two countries.

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**Hamas Killed in Gaza Tunnel Collapse**

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories — Three members of the Hamas terror group were killed when a tunnel collapsed in Gaza City on Thursday, according to Palestinian officials.

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**Obama, Clintons, Mourn Joe Biden at Son-in-Law's Funeral**

DELMONTO, New Jersey — President Barack Obama and former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday attended the funeral of former US Senator Joe Biden.

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**India, Israel Sign Defense Deal**

NEW DELHI — India and Israel have signed a defense deal worth $1.2 billion, according to reports.

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**Nawaz Forms Cabinet Committee on Relief Efforts for Rohingyas**

ISLAMABAD — Nawaz Sharif has formed a cabinet committee to coordinate relief efforts for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

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**WB Supports Public Financial Management Reform in Tajikistan**

DUSHANBE — The World Bank (WB) has approved an additional $27 million to support the Public Financial Management Reform in Tajikistan.

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**Neighborhood News**

**Iran Rejects Limited Int’l Access to Military Sites: Agency**

TEHRAN — Iran has rejected international access to military sites, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Wednesday.

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**Regional News**

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MPs to Govt.: Meet Legal Demands of Protesting Teachers

KARUL - Some Welldressed MPs or lower house members on Saturday (20) took the initiative to meet legislative demands. Teachers to 19 provinces have been demanding increase in their salaries, more provision for dietary and residential relief. As a result, a number of schools have been shut. The striking teachers have accused the president of devising fake dietary and residential campaign promises. President Ahmad has promised to allocate land in all provinces for education purposes.

Civilian Deaths Drop in May Amid High Insurgent Casualties: Report

KARUL - In May, the security situation in the country remained under high pressure. However, the number of civilian deaths in May was significantly lower than the previous months. The security forces have been working tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of the people. The citizens have been observant of the soldiers and have supported military initiatives.

‘Taliban-IS Clashes May Accelerate Peace Process’

KARUL - With confrontations increasing between Taliban and ISKP in the last few months, the security situation in the country has significantly deteriorated. In a recent development, the Taliban and ISKP have been involved in a series of clashes that have resulted in increased casualties. The Afghan peace process remains critical. The Taliban’s threat of an all-out war is being monitored by the international community.

Taliban Take Control of Yaman District

KARUL - Taliban has been gaining ground in several areas, including Yaman District in the east. The Taliban have been reported to have secured control over the entire district, which is situated near the border with Pakistan. The Afghan government has been increasing its efforts to stabilize the situation in the area.

Tens of Female Students Poisoned in Bamyan

BAMYAN - Dozens of girls were poisoned in a Bamyan school last Friday. The principal and several students were reportedly admitted to hospital.

Afghan Saffron Named World’s Best for Third Time

KARUL - The International Convention of the Superior Quality in the Belgian capital of Brussels has once again confirmed the Afghan saffron’s position among the best in the world. The trophy was handed over to the Afghan government in Brussels.

Lithuanian Delegation Visiting Troops in Afghanistan

KARUL - A Lithuanian delegation including Service Minister Justinas Onoraitis on an inspection visit to Afghanistan. Lithuania and Afghanistan are members of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

With Security on Agenda, Abdullah to Visit Tajikistan

KARUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah is scheduled to leave for neighboring Tajikistan on Sunday to discuss with Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon further negotiations on the border issue. Abdullah will also discuss on the overall political situation.

DHAQA - The leader of Islamic State (IS) affiliated Taliban in Afghanistan, Abdul Manan Dost, has claimed that the Taliban fighters are lighting for military and security reasons. The Taliban have not commented on the statement, but they are known to have increased their attacks across the country.

ID5 Leader in Afghan Claims Taliban Fighting for Women

DHAQA - An official of the UN Security Council said that the Taliban was recruiting women for military and security reasons. He also added that the security forces would continue to attack the Taliban forces.

Border and Tribal Affairs Minister Sets out His 100-Day Plan

DHAQA - Minister of Border and Tribal Affairs, Gulbahar Mangal, has set out his 100-day plan on Sunday. He announced that it would include an action plan that would address major issues.

“With the implementation of security improvements and governance reforms, the president’s office has ensured that the people are aware of the process and that they can contribute in this regard. We are grateful to the people and the authorities who have been involved in this process,” he said. Mangal also added that the country had been going through a period of turbulence and that the people were now witnessing a new era of stability and progress.

In addition, he said that the government was determined to ensure a “peaceful and stable environment”.

“With the implementation of peace plans and governance reforms, the country is moving towards a peaceful and stable environment,” he said.