

(1) Noor Lashes...

Noor also called on the international community to support the Afghan people instead of accepting the words of four or five people at the presidential palace.

"I call on our international friends not to make mistakes, do not accept the words of four or five people at the presidential palace. You should help the 35 million people instead of hearing from four or five individuals; the majority of these people are with us and they have similar ideas as us," added Noor.

Noor meanwhile also used the opportunity to lash out at Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hizb-e-Islami. Noor said Jamiat was the first party to welcome Hekmatyar back to Afghanistan earlier this year after his years of self-imposed exile.

Noor said when Hekmatyar returned he had different ideas but Jamiat felt he needed time to settle back into life in the country.

But Noor slammed Hekmatyar and said he even rejected the national unity government. Noor said Hekmatyar felt the government was not legitimate as it had been established by the US in 2014.

Noor said that even though Hekmatyar thought the government was not legitimate, he sat with officials and eventually signed a peace accord with government.

Noor said Hekmatyar has nothing good to say about any of the political parties nor about the country's national hero Ahmad Shah Massoud.

Lashing out at him, he said: "It's clear to everyone you were a puppet."

In a message to Hekmatyar, Noor said it's clear who was supporting him and his family while he was outside the country.

"The commanders under you had only one thing on their minds, civil war," said Noor to Hekmatyar.

Noor went on to say "you are known as the Butcher of Kabul".

He told Hekmatyar that "it was you who announced jihad against this government, against these security forces, against the US forces ... but you came back even though nothing has changed."

Noor questioned Hekmatyar's decision to return to Afghanistan, despite foreign troops still being here.

He also pointed out that it was the money from the international community that has paid for the mansion he now lives in.

"It is very clear that you have lost everything. You said when you returned you would see districts and provinces fall - what happened? You have only one commander in Baghlan fighting," said Noor.

Noor stated that he had stepped in to help save Hekmatyar during the civil war, along with (Ahmad Shah) Massoud, adding that Hekmatyar's own people deserted him. Noor implied Hekmatyar should be ashamed after having lied about this issue.

Noor also stated that Hekmatyar claimed responsibility for two suicide attacks a few years ago carried out by females - the first time ever in Afghanistan where women had done this.

Noor also pointed out a number of other suicide incidents that Hekmatyar claimed responsibility for.

Zia Massoud, former presidential advisor for reforms and good governance, also addressed the event and said their coalition had been established to change the situation in the country.

He said this was also in terms of ensuring transparency in the next elections.

Zia Massoud said however that government was failing to provide security to the people and that President Ashraf Ghani was proving to be incompetent.

This comes after Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said last week that recent statements by Hekmatyar, about Afghanistan's Ahmad Shah Massoud would not affect the status of the country's martyrs.

Abdullah said that Hekmatyar was seeking fame by making such false allegations.

"The remarks which take root from humiliation and reprisal will never harm the status and the name of the martyrs," Abdullah said. "They will not achieve their goals and will not become famous by making such allegations."

In a meeting with residents of northern Badakhshan province the week before, Hekmatyar accused Massoud of relations with Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) - during the civil war in Afghanistan.

"Someone asked (Ahmad Shah) Massoud that how you trust the Taliban? Massoud replied that our friends in the ISI have assured us that the Taliban will not create any problems for us," Hekmatyar said.

Ahmad Wali Massoud, chairman of Massoud Foundation, later termed Hekmatyar's remarks 'discriminatory'.

"Perhaps it is not easy for some individuals to tolerate hearing the name of the national hero (Ahmad Shah Massoud) and they cannot witness that the people remember him (Massoud) in a good way," he said.

"People know that who have been honored by God but those who have been given disgrace they will remain in objection."

On the formation of the Coalition to Rescue Afghanistan, Hekmatyar claimed that the founding leaders of the alliance were hoarding and building palaces.

He said that the High Peace Council did not have any role in the peace deal he signed with the Afghan government. (Tolonews)

(2) Afghanistan Wants...

also been "the most expensive wars in US history," according to Linda Bilmes of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government,

who estimated in 2013 that \$4 to \$6 trillion in expenses had been racked up over the course of the conflicts. (FNA)

(3) Previous US Policy ...

understood after too many years that safe havens of terrorists were located outside of Afghanistan, Raziq said.

"A part of the US policy says nation building is the Afghans own responsibility, which is also important for Afghanistan."

Raziq called on militants to shun insurgency and let the peace prevailed.

"I voice on the Afghan Taliban to separate themselves from Al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Daesh and avoid to be used for the interests of Pakistan, Iran and Russia," he said.

"A change would soon appear in this regard in the whole of the country including the southern region," Raziq said.

He also talked about security situation of Kandahar and said a large number of rebel fighters from Helmand, Uruzgan province and from across the Durand Line sneaked into Kandahar and intensified their attacks recently.

After capturing some areas in neighboring Helmand and Uruzgan provinces, the militants wanted to make their presence felt in Kandahar as well, the police chief said.

The militants carried out attacks in Maroof, Arghistan and Shorabak districts near the Durand Line and in Nesh, Ghorak, Shah Wali Kot, Khakrez and Maiwand districts bordering Helmand and Uruzgan provinces.

Few days back, Raziq said, militants 'advised by their foreign trainers' wanted to capture Nesh district and then Tirinkot, the capital of Uruzgan.

The militants later gathered in Shah Wali Kot district and planned to capture it, but they were severely attacked in a ground and air operation.

He said 115 militants including key commanders were killed during the operation. "Currently the militants have no power to even capture a small security post", Raziq said.

He called as important the role and coordination of NATO's Resolute Support (RS) in operations.

He said foreign forces' air support to Afghan forces increased after the new US strategy for Afghanistan was announced.

The police chief said two armed groups belonging to Mullah Haibatullah and Mullah Rassoul were active in the south and a number of Al-Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Taiba fighters were in the ranks of the two groups in some parts of Helmand and Zabul provinces. But he rejected the presence of Daesh militants in the southern region and said a splinter rebel group that had recently appeared in Baghlan district of Helmand was eliminated by local Taliban.

Raziq also talked about the joining of some key Taliban figures with the peace process.

He said 15 Taliban members, including governors, district chiefs and family members of Mullah Mohammad Omar, recently visited Kandahar and reconciled with the government thanks to efforts by tribal elders.

He said Lotfullah Agha, who was deputy defense minister and also served as consulate general in Pakistan's Punjab province during Taliban regime, was among the 15 reconciling Taliban figures.

"Agha is a close friend of former Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, and is father-in-law of Omar's brother, Mullah Abdul Manan", he said.

Raziq said most of the figures had been imprisoned by Pakistan for four to six years due to not fighting in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(4) Protesters Slam ...

forces took too long to kill them. They [the attackers] should have been eliminated before they could cause havoc," Mohammad Hashim, a survivor of the attack, told Anadolu Agency.

Hundreds of worshippers were inside the Imam Zamin Mosque in the city's Kher Khana neighborhood for Friday prayers when it came under attack.

Health Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ismael Kawosi said most victims were civilians.

The Ministry of Public Health confirmed the death toll at 28 and said over 40 others were injured. Among the dead were three policemen, seven women and a child.

Protests against the attack were held in Mazar-e-Sharif and Pul-e-Khumri cities apart from Kabul. Demonstrators criticized the government's "ineffectiveness" in preventing such attacks from recurring.

Hashim Azimi, member of the provincial assembly in Balkh province who organized the protest in Mazar-e-Sharif, told local Azadi Radio's Pashto service that militants want to sow the seeds of sectarian hatred through such attacks.

"Daesh militants want to create hatred and division among Afghans the way they [Daesh militants] did in Iraq," Azimi was quoted as saying. Daesh claimed responsibility for Friday's attack, claiming that two suicide attackers were involved.

The Taliban had denied their involvement in the sixth incident of its kind this year. According to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, four of the previous attacks occurred in western Herat province bordering Iran while the other two in Kabul. Daesh had claimed responsibility for two of these attacks.

The Human Rights Watch called the latest attack constituted a war crime.

"An attack on a place of worship during prayers is a horrific crime meant to maximize civilian deaths," Patricia Gossman, senior

Afghanistan researcher at Human Rights Watch, said.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani vehemently condemned this "inhuman and un-Islamic" act, saying terrorists cannot divide the Afghan nation with such atrocities. (AA)

(5) Police Accused of ...

by area people, the park's fund lapsed every year.

A plan was devised a few months back for reclaiming the land and a decision taken for implementing it. But the provincial police headquarters had been ignoring the plan's execution, he added.

"Because the provincial police commander hails from Mandozai district. Due to his sympathy with his tribe, he isn't willing to reclaim the land for the industrial park." The official blamed the police commander for negligence in removing hurdles to implementation of projects for the happiness of his tribe.

"Recently, decisions about getting back the land from usurpers have been taken at many military meetings, but the police headquarters has evinced no interest in this regard."

According to him, of the 200 acres of land, 150 acres are in government control, but the provincial police performance is not satisfactory in providing security for the execution of the project.

Meanwhile, Khost Governor Hokam Khan Habibi told Pajhwok the industrial park project had not been implemented due to social issues and property disputes in the area.

He said security organs had been directed to reclaim the park's land from its occupants. However, he said nothing about the lack of cooperation from police.

"If the land allocated for the industrial park is wrested back, it will provide an opportunity to entrepreneurs to establish factories. But unfortunately, the project has been delayed."

Habibi did not identify the grabbers. However, he obliquely referred to problems being created by the tribespeople from Mandozai and Ismailkhel district.

If power, security and land were guaranteed for the project, all factories functioning in homes and markets in Khost City, the provincial capital, would be relocated to one place, he continued.

On the other hand, provincial council member Qadeem Afghan said the land for the industrial park had not been usurped as it was Mandozai people's property.

He said nothing about police's negligence, but explained the Mandozai people had proved their ownership of the land in all three courts.

"A man claimed having ownership of 75 acres of the land, but the Mandozai people won the case in the three courts and the tribe has documents proving its ownership."

A tribal elder from the district, Haji Gul Nawaz Khan, denied creating hurdles to development projects. In fact, he insisted, they provided all-out support for such initiatives. However, he slammed the government for not reclaiming the industrial park's land, on which construction had also taken place. The government instead wanted to establish the park on private lands, he charged.

"Of the 200 acres, 125 acres of land is in government possession and houses have been built on the rest. The government should destroy the homes and retake its land." He said he had legal ownership documents of his land and he never claimed the government-owned land.

However, provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Faizullah Ghairat said police was committed to wrest back the grabbed land.

He about the industrial park said: "The project was being implemented in another area instead of its original specified land; therefore, some people opposed it but the problem has been solved now."

He acknowledged the usurpation of some parts of the industrial park land by people, saying the issue was put forward to people, who expressed readiness to leave and hand over the land. (Pajhwok)

(6) ARG Unveils ...

"Today we want these pictures to hang on this wall in a way that it should be the starting point for the future where people's ideologies can rule the center of power (ARG) or its roots develop each day so as to explain democracy within the Presidential Palace," said Naderi.

Thirty one pictures of journalists, artists and civil society activists have been hung on the wall.

"Those faces who played a vital role in certain categories, their pictures have been hung, so we decided to sit and work on it day and night," said one of event organizers, Jawayria Sardaradah.

According to Naderi, in the past only pictures of kings and high-ranking government officials were hung on the wall of the Presidential Palace. (Tolonews)

(7) New Law...

to the government to investigate and prosecute members of its own security forces who are accused of torture, something activists and investigators say is rare.

"The pervasiveness of torture in Afghanistan makes its criminalization and the prosecution of alleged torturers an urgent priority," Human Rights Watch senior researcher Patricia Gossman wrote in a post calling for the annex to be enacted.

"But the government also needs to enshrine in law the rights of torture victims to redress for their suffering."

If prosecutors delay, "a compensation system would create a new avenue for holding

the government accountable," she said.

Human rights investigators have praised recent moves by Ghani's administration to criminalize torture, but at a practical level reports of torture continue to be widespread. In April, a U.N. report said measures by the government had failed to reduce torture, with nearly 40 percent of conflict-related detainees interviewed by the investigators reporting that they had been tortured or mistreated by Afghan security forces, mostly the police and intelligence services.

Among the methods described in the report were severe beatings to the body and soles of the feet with sticks, plastic pipes or cables, electric shocks, including to the genitals, prolonged suspension by the arms, and suffocation.

Allowing victims to sue in civil court would ensure that they receive compensation and create a public record of torture cases, said Shaharazad Akbar, a civil society activist who works on anti-torture causes.

"Governments across the world are hesitant to prosecute their employees, so redress creates a civil mechanism for the public to hold government accountable," she said.

"This leads to an internal conversation in the government about the responsibility of government entities to prevent torture." (Reuters)

(8) 20 Afghan Kids...

telemedicine had also been activated, said a statement from Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah's office.

The statement said Abdullah met the RCSC's delegation at his office on Sunday. The RCSC's delegation promised increased cooperation with ARCS.

The Chinese team said it had been in contact with ARCS for years and their support remained focused on providing health services and needed facilities to the Afghan counterpart.

The delegation also notified about its preparations to cure 20 Afghan children suffering from atrial septal defect (ASD) or hole in the heart, saying these children would be treated in a span of 15 days.

The statement quoted the delegation as saying they would take the children to China this time for treatment; but in future they had a plan to provide treatment inside Afghanistan by sending doctors and facilitating telemedicine.

The Chinese delegation sought the CEO's cooperation with regard to sending the ailing children to China and facilitating their obtaining of passports.

CEO Abdullah on his part, while expressing gratitude to the cooperation and assistance of RCSC to Afghanistan people, said the government would facilitate the children in every manner it could to reach China for treatment.

The Afghan government was ready to consider chartered flights for transferring the 20 ailing children to China, said Abdullah, while tasking the organizations concerned to provide the children with passports on emergency basis. (Pajhwok)

(9) Hajj Ministry...

affairs Dayee-ul-Haq Abid. Meanwhile the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said it has been trying to improve security at mosques.

"We are taking this issue very seriously; we raised the issue at our emergency meeting yesterday in which police were asked to ensure the security of mosques," said MoI spokesman Najib Danish.

In addition, the office of the CEO Abdullah said that terrorists in joint collaboration with regional intelligence agencies are trying to create sectarian division in the country by carrying out coordinated attacks on mosques.

"Unfortunately the terrorist groups in joint cooperation with intelligence agencies in the region are trying to introduce such a problem in Afghanistan, but they have failed to divide the people and they killed only innocent people," said CEO spokesman Mujiburrahman Rahimi.

"Lost my two roses," said Mohammad Nabi, referring to the killing of his parents at Imam Zaman mosque in Kabul on Friday, adding that the terrorists are enemies of Islam and they will fail to split the Shia and Sunni in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(10) Watchdog ...

The officials accused mines of embezzling money and said bad management was to blame. "For the past three years, mines are being managed very badly - in fact we can say that mines are not being managed," said Ibrahim Jafari, a member of NRMN.

Meanwhile, the ministry of mines acknowledged that revenue generation had dropped over the past few years. The ministry's spokesman, Abdul Qadeer Mutfi, said they are reviewing contracts and are working on a strategy for mines and once the strategy has been finalized, measures will be implemented to grow the sector and increase revenue.

"Our annual revenue has decreased because big contracts have not been signed and small contracts have been suspended," said Mutfi. A number of economic affairs analysts meanwhile said the National Unity Government (NUG) has no plans for mine management and that natural resources are being looted. (Tolonews)

(11) Pakistan's Afghan ...

a potentially suicidal policy for Pakistan." According to the retired Pakistani senator, Pakistan's Afghan policy is the product of a militaristic and hegemonic design based on the jihadist project of the 1980s and it hasn't

changed in any tangible way despite tall claims to the contrary.

"It aims at imposing a puppet government on Afghanistan by defeating the Afghan state and its international allies. Many political parties in Pakistan have been criticising this policy. It has neither been approved by the Parliament nor supported by any elected political government," he added.

Khattak also added that Pashtuns in Pakistan are particularly opposed to it because it puts them in the eye of the terrorist storm.

"Pakistan's Afghan policy has been the monopoly of the country's security establishment and at times the civilian government would be sent packing for opposing it. Taliban's brutality was unleashed on every entity that clearly opposed it," he said, adding that the policy of supporting good Taliban (that includes Afghan Taliban and elements fighting against India) has perpetuated terrorist problem in Pakistan despite valiant sacrifices by the people of the country and members of the security forces.

Khattak said Pakistan has remained a war theater for almost the last four decades. It's only natural that the generals and not the civilians would call the shorts in a war theater. So it isn't surprising to see that support for jihadist project and threat to democracy emanate from the same source. Again it's the same mindset that is attacking democratic republics (however flawed they may be) in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. (KP)

(12) Increasing ...

drug addicts to the use of Nimroz as a smuggling route for drugs from other provinces. He expected further increase in the number of people slipping into addiction in Nimroz. Ghamai said about 5470 hectares of land was cultivated with poppies last year, when the crop on only 45 hectares of land was destroyed because most of the cultivated land was in areas under Taliban control.

Governor Mohammad Sami also said drugs were destroying the society and the young generation, calling it people's duty, particularly of religious scholars, to play their role in discouraging drug abuse.

Dr. Syed Khalil Shah Kazemi, director of the addiction treatment hospital, said most of the drug users in Zaranj were those who had started using drugs outside of Afghanistan before returning back.

He added mental stress, distance from home and easy access to narcotics were among reasons behind the increasing number of drug addicts.

He also noted the government used to collect drug addicts and bring them to hospital for treatment. He said there was a 50-bed treatment centre for male addicts and a 20-bed for females in the city, where he said about 10,000 addicts existed.

"A majority of these people are those who went abroad for work but unfortunately returned addicted to their homeland."

Drug addict Mohammad Iqbal said he had been abroad to find work but slipped into addiction there. He blamed poverty for his habit. (Pajhwok)

(13) Exiled Baloch ...

between its friends and foes in the region. We hope the US will not let us down this time," said Switzerland-based exiled Baloch leader Nawab Brahmdag Bugti.

Brahmdag Bugti, a grandson and political successor to the Baloch nationalist leader, made the remarks in his address to an event marking the 11th assassination anniversary of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti.

"We welcome the new American strategy for dealing with Pakistan. President Trump said we have been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars. At the same time, they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting."

It was what the Balochs have been saying for years and it was really encouraging for them to see the US government recognise the real face of Pakistan, Bugti commented.

Nawab Mehran Marri, chief of the Marri tribe and president of the Baluchistan House, also welcomed the policy announcement by Trump. (Pajhwok)

(14) 21 Taliban ...

He said the security forces suffered no casualties during the Nawa offensive, in which three motorcycles were destroyed and 37 hand grenades seized from the militants.

He added as a result of the clearing operation in Nawa, which began a week ago, the district had been purged of militants. The operation is still underway. Meanwhile, police spokesman Lt. Abdul Salam Afghan said police also carried out a raid on the Helmand-Kandahar highway. He said eight militants were killed and 12 other injured. (Pajhwok)

(15) Armed Men ...

The reason for the assault is not known but according to eyewitnesses, the armed men were also with the son of a former Jihadist commander. "Five to six men came here and beat them (taxi driver and his son)," an eyewitness said. "A policeman came and the armed men pushed him back with weapons and told him to go as he (one of the group) was the son of a commander," another eyewitness said. (Tolonews)

(16) Landmines...

ammunition were seized in the 12th police district of Herat City, the provincial capital. He added the ammunition included one BM-1 rocket, two mortars, and RPG type rocket launcher, and four hand grenades buried in a garden. He said the weapons belonged to militants who wanted to use them in terrorist attacks. (Pajhwok)