

(1) U.S. Commander...

the statement said.

Bajwa said Pakistan is committed to efforts for peace in Afghanistan as it is important for peace in Pakistan.

Meanwhile Pakistani officials said Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi planned to visit Qatar and Turkey as part of his shuttle diplomacy for promoting peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

"Strengthening regional consensus on Afghanistan that is the key for medium to long-term sustainability of an Afghan-owned Afghan-led solution," a Foreign Ministry official told Xinhua on Thursday.

He said the top diplomat will explore possibilities of a win-win framework for regional connectivity and economic integration to help achieve the ultimate objective of economic growth and prosperity in the region. (Xinhua)

(2) After Kabul Attack...

not accepted responsibility for the attack, yet they were responsible and answerable for such attacks to the nation.

In order to prevent such incidents in future, the president tasked the ministries interior and finance with evolving a comprehensive security plan for government entities in cooperation with other ministries and departments.

About the 6th of Jaddi, the day when the former Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan 39 years ago, President Ghani said it was the beginning of deprivation, poverty, migration and destruction of the Afghans and the country.

After four decades of war and destruction, the Afghans needed national unity and cooperation more than ever, said the president. (Pajhwok)

(3) President Insists...

one could interfere in the affairs of education officials who had been appointed on merit.

Calling students as the future national builders, the president said no one could use students for political advantages.

Remembering the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union, President Ghani said it was a black day in the history and one of the factors behind the Russian intervention was politics on the Kabul University campus and in schools.

The president insisted the education sector should national, professional and apolitical. "Each time when I pass by the Habibia and Istiqlal high schools, I pray for my teachers who were ambassadors of our national spirit, no one could even think of asking you your tribe, this was the level of national spirit," recalled Ghani.

The president directed the acting education minister to prepare a policy for resolving problems being faced by teachers and submit it to the High Council of Human Resources together with recommendations of the symposium.

Ghani also directed the Education Ministry to pay attention to women's leadership role in its affairs and stressed joint efforts and cooperation between the education and higher education ministries in bringing about fundamental changes to the education curriculum. (Pajhwok)

(4) Time for Afghans...

in 1979 or bring them to an end after 39 years.

The event was organized to remember and condemn the 6th of Jaddi of Afghan calendar as "black day in Afghanistan history".

The sixth of Jaddi month of Afghan calendar (Thursday) marks the 39th anniversary of the former Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan.

A 120,000-strong Red Army equipped with sophisticated weaponry, invaded Afghanistan and installed Babrak Karmal as president of the country 39 years ago. The invasion followed uprisings in various parts of the country,

triggering a war that lasted ten-long years and resulted in the Soviet Union biggest defeat and subsequent disintegration.

During the invasion, Afghanistan was turned into rubble. More than one million Afghans lost their lives, thousands were maimed and another five millions migrated to neighboring Iran and Pakistan.

Abdullah said the legacy of the Soviet invasion continued to haunt the Afghans after decades. Remembering the invasion, the CEO said the Afghan mujahideen confronted the invading troops barehanded and their resistance not only forced the Russians to withdraw but also disintegrated the union.

The invasion destroyed Afghanistan and forced millions of people to flee homes and migrate to neighboring countries, he said, adding "after 39 years, we are still struggling to recover from the damage and see a stable and prosperous Afghanistan."

In a reference to the Taliban, Abdullah said their rejection of peace talks with the government meant they wanted to keep continue the misfortunes.

He said Afghanistan had raised its voice for peace and had removed all hurdles in this regard. Now it was up to the Taliban weather to continue the misfortunes since 1979 or put them to an end.

He asked the Taliban to stop violence and destructive activities and instead join their countrymen in rebuilding their homeland.

"The history tells us no one could occupy Afghanistan. The ongoing terrorism will be defeated with the help of Gold by the Afghan forces in cooperation with the Afghans."

Abdullah said the Afghan forces would use all their force to vanquish terrorist groups which wanted to continue the conflict.

"We all should learn from the past. Our victory and prosperity is a prosperous Afghanistan. The time has come when all Afghans arrive at a single platform and jointly push for an end to the war." (Pajhwok)

(5) Khalid, Saleh...

interior ministers was against the law and contrary to Article 153 of the Constitution.

"Everything is sacrificed in politics. Saleh and Khalid have to resign as heads of their parties and their supporters may believe all their struggle was about to get high positions and they were used as tool in this purpose," he said.

Saleh, who headed the National Directorate of Security (NDS) from 2005 to 2010, established his political party called Rawand-i-Sabz.

On the other hand, Asadullah Khalid, who headed the NDS from 2012 to 2015, has recently established a political movement 'Omaid-i-Subh Melli Sazman.'

Youn said politicising security institutions was against the law. Although the new ministers had military career, still their appointment was against the Constitution if base on political influence.

Najib Mahmood, a Kabul university teacher, also termed the appointment of Khalid and Saleh against the Constitution.

He, however, said the security situation of the country and Taliban's denial to meet the Afghan delegation in the UAE could be a reason the President appointed Saleh and Khalid as ministers. "The two are strong opponents of the Taliban." (Pajhwok)

(6) 'Afghan Government...

with Afghan officials and political figures discussing the security and peace process in Afghanistan."

On the possible withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, he expressed doubt that the American troops would leave the neighboring country, though adding that Iran welcomes their withdrawal as an opportunity for the war-torn country to reach peace and security. (Pajhwok)

(7) Interior Ministry...

• Criticisms from the leadership and the incumbent superior officers and those discharged.

• Participation in media discussions and the use of the information which the personnel has currently or had access to in the past.

• Expressing views on the potential crisis in various levels.

• Pictures of the vehicles, weapons and equipment.

• Pictures or videos of officers, bases, check points and ANP installations.

• Individual or group pictures in national police uniforms.

• Sharing congratulatory and gift receiving events and ceremonies.

• Personnel of the Ministry of Interior can only voluntarily share directives, orders, guidelines, statements and messages of the ministry through their social media platforms.

• Personnel of ministry of interior may convey their applications, recommendations and their problems through the specific and predicted channels to their officers and after the proliferation of the order, the entire officials of the Ministry of Interior Affairs are obliged to abide by it and in case they violate or refuse the mentioned items, they will be fired from their posts.

The MoI has tasked the ministry's department of media and general directorates of intelligence and investigation to ensure that the new guideline is implemented and report back to the ministry regarding the implementation of the process. The new guideline will be implemented on all regions of the country.

This new development takes place a day after President Ashraf Ghani officially introduced Amrullah Saleh, as Acting Minister Interior Affairs and Assadullah Khalid as Acting Minister of Defense - two staunch anti-Taliban and anti-Pakistan veterans.

President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday said that Afghanistan is at a critical stage of the war and that now is the time that the Afghan security forces will come up with more strength and decisiveness on the battlefields.

Both veterans meanwhile pledged to use all their potentials for the service of the country and the Afghan people.

"I wish that the day I leave this post, the people attribute me with two qualities, and say that he was a sincere servant and a brutal minister against criminals and the enemies of the country," said Saleh.

Reforms in the ranks of Afghan national police has been constantly described as a need by the military experts to help police deal with the security situations with more professionalism and strength in the view of the current security climate of the nation.

Back in February, the Ministry of Interior unveiled its four-year strategic plan designed to boost reforms in the ministry and within the structures of the Afghan National Police.

Key measures in the plan include the fight against corruption, the need for professional training of Afghan police forces and systematic reforms in certain sectors.

The new plan was expected to be rolled out from Kabul and Herat provinces and within four years, the plan will be extended to all provinces across Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

(8) 46 Militants...

province and another 33 wounded. In southern Helmand province, 13 insurgents were killed and eight others wounded. Five Haqqani network militants were killed in Sheikhan village of Gardez, the capital of southeastern Paktia province and three in Charchino district of Uruzgan province. (Pajhwok)

(9) Kabul Hosts...

Arts and Cinema Sciences of the Afghan Film.

"This festival takes place in a situation where Afghan art and cinema are falling because of a growing lack of attention," said Ali Mohammad Kiyani, chairman of the acad-

emy of arts and cinema sciences.

At the event, Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah expressed satisfaction with the work of the Afghan cinema and Afghan actors. "We can say with courage that the sons of this country, including the girls and boys, men and women, have proved their status in arts and cinema under a difficult situation," he said.

Meanwhile, a number of artists called on the Afghan government to support the Afghan film industry so it can grow better in the future.

"We can produce very good films if there are resources, this gives us more courage and determination to put a step forward and prove ourselves," said Shabnam Sharifi, an artist. (Tolo news)

(10) AGO Slaps Travel...

said the sexual and physical abuse took place at the Afghanistan Football Federation headquarters and at a training camp in Jordan in 2016.

According to reports, FIFA has also started investigation about the allegations made against AFF officials. (Tolo news)

(11) Commander...

He said Qaisari was scheduled to meet elders from several provinces, particularly from northern and northeastern provinces, at the house of Gen. Dostum tonight. He said the Uzbek leader was released as per demand of the people of northern Afghanistan from the president.

Meanwhile, AGO spokesman Jamshid Rassouli said the NDS had requested the AGO that Qaisari should be released against a reliable bail because investigation into cases against him would take some time to complete.

He said the AGO had placed Qaisari on no-fly list and would be released against the guarantee that he would appear for investigations. However, the AGO spokesman did not say if Qaisari has been released.

Efforts at seeking comment in this regard from the intelligence service failed. (Pajhwok)

(12) Taliban Seek...

"I don't think their mindset has changed but they have realised that without respecting human rights, they cannot be accepted by the international community," said Bilal Sediqi, spokesman for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

With Afghanistan likely to remain dependent on foreign aid for years, the Taliban know they cannot return to the past when fighters swept into Kabul after the chaos of the 1990s civil war.

But they insist that as well as the withdrawal of foreign forces, there will be a return to their strict version of Islamic rule and many Afghans doubt their claims to have softened, even while yearning for an end to the war.

In June, Taliban leaders were angry at their fighters swapping selfies with soldiers and government officials and eating ice cream with civilians during a three-day ceasefire. Soon afterwards, they launched complex attacks on strategic provinces to try to oust Afghan forces and used civilians as human shields.

"I know there is no place for me if the Taliban return in their old style," said Abdul, a 12-year police veteran currently working in the western province of Farah.

"...I will stand by the government side whatever it decides. But still I have not lost my hope in the future. The Taliban are not the old ones. We see changes among them. They are also tired of war."

The Taliban, a predominantly ethnic Pashtun movement, strongest in the south and east of the country, now control large stretches of the countryside, where they levy taxes, run courts and control education.

For many conservative rural Af-

ghans, Taliban rule provides welcome stability and the merciless punishments and rigid controls on women's practices fit well with traditional practices in many areas.

In the Aqdash district of northern Kunduz province, a hotbed of Taliban insurgents, some women said they are allowed to walk freely and do not have to cover their faces in all-enveloping burqas.

Mujahid said the Taliban were not against women's education or employment but wanted to maintain cultural and religious codes.

"We are not against women working in government organisations or against their outdoor activities, but we will be against the alien culture clothes worn by women, brought to our country," Mujahid said.

Omaid Maisam, the deputy spokesman for Afghan Chief Executive officer Abdullah Abdullah, said the government protects human rights and the Taliban must accept the national constitution to shed their hardline image.

"We have seen some signs of changes among them, but they have to show it in their actions that they have really changed," he said.

Many believe the return on the Taliban would threaten the gains the country has made since 2001. Much work remains to be done to convince women in work or education and sceptical groups of ethnic Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras from northern and central Afghanistan.

"I think that these statements that the Taliban have changed are only excuses that are being used by the Taliban to gain acceptance," said Malina Hamidi, a teacher at a school in the Chamtal district of Balkh province.

"I am 100 percent confident that once they come back to power, they will be the same Taliban that ruled Afghanistan in the nineties." (Reuters)

(13) Over 1,000...

a spokesman of the US forces in Afghanistan, said the military pressure on Taliban is aimed to make the group sit in negotiations table.

"What the US and what the Resolute Support nations are concerned about here is stabilizing Afghanistan to the point where the terrorists are not allowed to have safe haven and attack across the world," said Butler.

Afghanistan Interior Ministry meanwhile said military operations against the enemies have increased recently which have caused fatalities among the militants and every week tens of their commanders are killed across the country.

"Recently, offensive operations on Afghanistan's enemies have increased by 100 percent in different parts of the country which have had good results. In every week, dozens of commanders of Afghanistan's enemies are being killed," said Nurrah Rahimi, deputy spokesman for Ministry of Interior.

This comes as the United Nations has raised concerns over civilian casualties in military operations and airstrikes. The UN has said that increase in the airstrikes rises civilian casualties.

"Airstrikes should be conducted based on intelligence about the enemy's location and their numbers. Also the issue of civilians should be considered and the strikes should be done after a comprehensive analysis," said Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, a military affairs analyst.

"The information about the enemy should be accurate. It should not happen in a way that the enemy is in one place and they bomb another place. If they bomb areas wrongly, then people will suffer and the distance between the people and government will increase," said Aziz Ahmad Wardak, a military affairs analyst.

Taliban has not commented on the US Air Force figures about their airstrikes and their fatalities. (Tolo news)