

## Quote of the Day

Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire.  
Reggie Leach

# US Stresses Early Resumption of Afghan Peace Parleys

PESHAWAR - Currently in the thick of a succession struggle, the Taliban are not ready for resuming talks with the administration of President Ashraf Ghani until the resolution of their internal bickering, a Pakistani official said on Wednesday.

Islamabad hosted the first face-to-face peace negotiations between the two sides in July, but a second round that was due after Eidul Fitr had to be put on ice after reports of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar's death were leaked to the media.

Following cancellation of the talks and a string of deadly attacks in Kabul, Afghan-Pakistan relations once again came under strain, with President Ghani taking a swipe at Islamabad for failing to rein in terrorists on its soil.

The security official, who did not want to be named, confided to Pajhwok Afghan News US National Security Advisor Susan Rice, during her recent



visit to Islamabad, asked Pakistan to do more to ensure the early resumption of Afghan peace parleys.

At meetings with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif, Rice reaffirmed America's interest in seeking a settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan. The official said she pushed Pakistan to lend its weight to the Afghan reconciliation effort.

He added the prime minister and his army chief met Tuesday night in Islamabad to discuss the Afghan reconciliation process. Gen Raheel briefed Sharif on his meetings with Rice and Special Assistant to President Obama for South Asian Affairs Dr Peter Lavoy.

"Pakistan has sought time for arranging a second round of talks between the Taliban and Afghan government representatives," the source said, adding the ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Haqqanis Main Bone of Contention with Islamabad



KABUL - The Afghan government on Tuesday identified the presence of terrorist groups, particularly of the Haqqani network on the Pakistani soil "the main source of contention between the two neighbouring countries."

The declaration from the Presidential Palace in Kabul comes on the heels of a recent visit to Pakistan by United States National Security Advisor (NSA)

Susan Rice. The top security official reportedly warned Pakistani political and military leaders on Sunday that recent attacks in Afghanistan by militants based in the South Asian country threaten regional security.

Rice visited Islamabad amid tense relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and warnings from Washington to hold back ... (More on P4)...(2)

## Afghanistan Rejects Pakistan's Claim on Haqqani Network

KABUL - Afghanistan rejected Pakistan's claim that it has disrupted some anti-Afghan terrorist operations within its borders, discounting it as "mere repetition".

Afghanistan noted that its own counterterrorism army disrupted the Haqqani terror network within Pakistan's border. An Afghan presidential statement issued in Kabul said the main disagreement between the two countries is over the presence of terrorist groups - in particular the Haqqani Network - inside Pakistan.

"There is credible evidence that the leadership, command and control center, support infrastructure and sanctuaries of the Haqqani Net-

work and other terrorist groups are inside the Pakistani territory," the statement said.

It went on to say that the Afghan government has time and again provided "ample evidence" to the Pakistani government about the presence of terrorist networks inside Pakistan so that it could take action against the groups.

"Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reiterates that denial of these facts weakens the ground for cooperation between the two countries in the war against terrorism and the efforts strengthening regional peace and stability," the statement said. The Afghan government has again asked Pakistan to ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Intense Fighting Displaces Dozens of Qarabagh Families

GHAZNI CITY - Dozens of families have been displaced from the Qarabagh district of southern Ghazni province due to fear of fighting, officials and residents said on Wednesday.

Noor Rahman, a resident of Shadi Khan Kala area, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had moved along with his family to the Shah Ghuli area of Ghazi City as a result of lingering violence in the district.

"Every day, our village was haunted by clashes. The Taliban would fire from the middle of our village at security posts. In retaliation, the security forces would fire at our homes, forcing us to leave the area," he claimed.

The situation created psychological problems for children, something that prompted many households to migrate ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Govt., Donors Support UN's Role in Afghanistan



KABUL - Senior Afghan government, UN officials and representatives from the international donor community met in Kabul on Wednesday. It was the last of three meetings to examine the role of UN entities in Afghanistan. The Tripartite Review Commission was established following Security

Council Resolution 2210 of 16 March 2015, which renewed the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). A statement from the mission said a full examination of the role, structure and activities of all United Nations entities in Afghanistan was required in full ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Sartaj Aziz to Visit Kabul, Ease Tensions

KABUL - Pakistan's national security advisor, Sartaj Aziz, is expected to visit Afghanistan amid strained relations between Kabul and Islamabad.

Besides attending the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) summit which will start on Thursday, the Pakistani diplomat is said to help improve the relations between the two neighboring countries, Pakistani media outlets said Wednesday.

The relations were soured following a spate of attacks in Kabul which the Afghan intelligence sources blamed on Pakistan. Meanwhile, officials at the



Afghan Presidential Palace said Afghanistan has delivered solid evidence to the Pakistani government that clearly proved bases of insurgent networks in that country.

According to Afghan officials, the fundamental cause of tension with Islamabad is the existence of insurgent groups, ... (More on P4)...(5)

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