

**(1) Bring Taliban...**

ISLAMABAD - The Trump administration has once again asked Pakistan to crack down on all insurgent groups without any discrimination.

Pentagon spokesman Lt Col Koné Faulkner renewed the call a day before the visit of the US secretary of State to Islamabad for talks with the new Pakistani government.

Michael Pompeo is expected to meet Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other government leaders during his visit to Pakistan.

In a statement, the Pentagon spokesman said: "We continue to press Pakistan to indiscriminately target all terrorist groups, including the Haqqani network."

"We also continue to call on Pakistan to arrest, expel or bring the Taliban leadership to the negotiating table," the spokesman added.

According to Dawn, the US definition of terrorist groups includes Lashkar-e-Taiba, which largely focuses on India, not Afghanistan.

The emphasis on forcing the Taliban to join the peace process confirms the general perception in Washington that President Donald Trump wants stability in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Dr. Arif Alvi of PTL...**

ISLAMABAD - Dr. Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was on Tuesday elected President of Pakistan in a presidential election held simultaneously in the joint session of National Assembly and Senate as well as in all the four provincial assemblies.

Dr. Arif Alvi secured victory in the presidential election by defeating Maulana Fazalur Rehman, a joint candidate of PML-N, JUI and allied parties, and Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan of Pakistan People Party. (Agencies)

**(3) UK Bolsters...**

Afghanistan at the NATO Summit in July.

The UK plays a leading role in NATO, and this troop uplift will make the UK the third largest contributor to Afghanistan with around 1,100 personnel.

Speaking in Kabul, Williamson said: "We remain absolutely committed to building an Afghanistan that is a strong security partner for decades to come. A secure and stable Afghanistan helps keep the streets of the UK safe."

"The uplift of UK personnel not only underlines our commitment to Afghanistan and regional security, but also to the Alliance that has been the cornerstone of our defense for 70 years. Thousands of our personnel stand shoulder-to-shoulder with NATO allies around the world. Those here in Afghanistan are just one example of Global Britain in action."

"The additional troops will bolster the UK's existing contribution to the UK-led Kabul Security Force (KSF), which plays a critical role in enabling NATO advisors in the city to undertake engagement with the Afghan government. They will also continue to mentor the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces who are responsible for security in the capital," Williamson said.

The UK's ministry of defense said on Tuesday, Williamson also traveled to Mazar-e-Sharif where, alongside the German Armed Forces, UK personnel are supporting the expansion of the Afghan Special Police.

The defense secretary also met President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, underlining the UK's commitment to a secure and stable Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

**(4) 3.7 Million...**

the ground to go to school," Balkhi said.

At the same event, Abdullah said different reasons have hindered

Afghanistan from achieving substantial development and that one of the main reasons for this was the high rate of illiteracy among the people.

He said the Ministry of Education has made good progress in terms of developing education in the country under the National Unity Government (NUG) but that there is still "a long way ahead to reach our goals".

Abdullah called for a national mobilization campaign to reduce illiteracy and urged international organizations, religious scholars, the private sector and citizens to get involved.

According to a press release by Abdullah's office, ambassadors of Japan and Sweden in Kabul and the envoy of UNESCO as well as Mohammad Ayaz Niazi, a prominent religious scholar and university lecturer, attended and spoke at the event.

The Swedish and Japanese envoys said their countries are committed to overcoming illiteracy in Afghanistan.

International Literacy Day, celebrated annually on 8 September, is an opportunity for governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges. The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, promotes, as part of its agenda, universal access to quality education and learning opportunities throughout people's lives. Sustainable Development Goal 4 has as one of its targets ensuring all young people achieve literacy and numeracy and that adults who lack these skills are given the opportunity to acquire them.

Afghanistan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, currently estimated at about 31 percent of the adult population (over 15 years of age).

Female literacy levels are on average 17 percent, with high variation, indicating a strong geographical and gender divide, according to UNESCO.

The highest female literacy rate, for instance is 34.7 percent, found in the capital, Kabul, while rates as low as 1.6 percent was found in two southern provinces of the country. Male literacy rates average about 45 percent, again with high variation. The highest male literacy rates are in Kabul, at 68 percent, while the lowest is found in Helmand, at 41 percent. (Tolo news)

**(5) MoPW Signs Contract...**

begin in a few days and they would be completed from 12 to 14 months, Yari said.

He said construction and graveling of a nine kilometer road from Qarqin area to Kulaft port in Jawzjan province and construction of another part of this road was part of the projects.

Around 10 kilometers road would be also constructed and graveled from Chahar Burja area to Rashidan district of Ghazni province, he added.

Maintenance of a 45 kilometers road from Yakawlang to Sighnan district of Bamyan is among the projects, he said.

Yari said launching these projects would generate work opportunities of hundreds of people and would benefit thousands of local residents. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Taliban Say Founder...**

had been paralyzed for the past 10 years.

In announcing his death Tuesday, Mujahed called Haqqani a religious scholar and exemplary warrior.

Because of his infirmity, Haqqani's

network has been led by his son Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is also deputy head of the Taliban. Considered the most formidable of the Taliban's fighting forces, the Haqqani network has been linked to some of the more audacious attacks in Afghanistan. The elder Haqqani joined the Taliban when they overran Kabul in September 1996, expelling feuding mujahedeen groups, whose battles left the capital in ruins.

Since then, the network has been among the fiercest foes fighting U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan.

Haqqani was among the Afghan mujahedeen, or holy warriors, the United States backed in the 1980s to fight the former Soviet Union's invading army, sent to Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the pro-Moscow government. Haqqani was praised by the late U.S. Congressman Charlie Wilson as "goodness personified." After 10 years, Moscow negotiated an exit from Afghanistan in an agreement that eventually led to the collapse of Kabul's communist government and a takeover by the mujahedeen.

In 2012 the United States declared the Haqqani network a terrorist organization. Haqqani had not been heard from in several years and reports of his death were widespread in 2015.

Declassified U.S. cables called Haqqani a "moderate socialist" who did not embrace the Taliban's strict rules that denied girls education. "Haqqani functions more in the military area, and is not a force in setting Taliban political or social issues," the cables read.

Born in 1947 into the powerful Zardran tribe that dominates southeastern Afghanistan's Paktia, Paktika and Khost provinces, Haqqani was a close friend of Osama bin Laden, who often took refuge in his camps outside Khost.

The father of 12 sons, the ailing Haqqani - who had been suffering from Parkinson disease for several years prior to his death - had turned the day-to-day military campaign over to his son Sirajuddin.

The elder Haqqani's association with Pakistan dates back to his early years, when he studied a deeply conservative form of Islam at the Darulaman Haqqania madrasa, or religious school, in northwest Pakistan. In an earlier interview with The Associated Press, the school's top cleric Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, recalled a studious Haqqani.

It was Haqqani's rigid interpretation of Islam that launched him on the road to insurgency in the early 1970s when he returned to Afghanistan to open a madrasa, or religious school, and organized a movement against Afghanistan's monarch, King Zahir Shah, according to unclassified U.S. documents that tracked Haqqani's militant career from the early 1970s to his partnership with the Taliban in 1996.

Forced to leave Afghanistan because of his agitation against the monarchy, which was eventually overthrown, Haqqani set up a madrasa in Miran Shah, in Pakistan's North Waziristan.

During the 1980s, when Washington backed an uprising against the communist government in Kabul and its Russian allies, it was Haqqani's military prowess that brought him attention from both the United States and Pakistan. He received both money and weapons from the U.S.

While the Soviet Union poured men and money into Afghanistan to support the Communist government in Kabul, Pakistan, the United States and several Arab states including Saudi Arabia and Egypt, stockpiled weapons for the mujahedeen in neighboring Pakistan. Suitcases full of cash were delivered to the mujahedeen through Pakistan, according to a former CIA chief, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He told The AP he person-

ally delivered suitcases full of money to Haqqani, whom he described as "one of the good ones."

It was during the 1980s that fighters from the Muslim world were recruited to fight the invading communists in Afghanistan. Bin Laden was among the first to sign up. Many of the Arab fighters gravitated toward Haqqani because he was an Arabic speaker and a ferocious warrior.

Many of the Arab fighters, who remain in Afghanistan, including the new head of al-Qaida Ayman al Zawahri, are believed to be protected by the Haqqani network, which it is believed they also help fund.

Haqqani developed close ties with Pakistan's intelligence service known by the acronym ISI as well as Pakistani militant groups, many of whom were being groomed by the ISI to fight neighbor India in the disputed Kashmir region.

After the Russians left and Afghanistan's communist government fell to the U.S.-backed mujahedeen, Haqqani served briefly as justice minister. He soon abandoned the mujahedeen government frustrated by their relentless feuding and returned to Khost where he maintained close contact with militants, including bin Laden, from Arabic speaking countries.

After taking power in September 1996, the Taliban embraced Haqqani for his military skills, according to a declassified 1998 cable from the U.S. Embassy. That cable also said Haqqani "is close buddies with many Arab and Pakistani Islamists."

In August 1998, U.S. cruise missiles targeted Haqqani's base in a failed attempt to kill bin Laden. Several Pakistani militants affiliated with the Harakat-ul-Mujahedeen group were killed in that attack.

In November 2001, when the Taliban were routed from Kabul, Haqqani was ordered by Mullah Omar to move the Arab fighters to safety.

Haqqani had proven to be among the most resilient of Afghanistan's insurgents. (Fox news)

**(7) Scholars, Elders...**

was not the way to resolve the problem and asked to negotiate the matter.

Malak Waris Khan, the elder of Shinwari tribe, said before the closure of the consulate thousands of people waited for the hot weather for visa and stayed during the night at on the road.

Pakistan earlier closed its consulate in eastern Nangarhar province, accusing the governor of meddling in the diplomatic mission's affairs.

The Pakistan embassy in Kabul blamed Governor Hayatullah Hayat of interfering in the consulate matters. In a statement, the embassy said the meddling was against the law.

The embassy urged Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry to prevent the governor from meddling in the consulate affairs.

Visa applicants have lately been complaining against the consulate, claiming the officials concerned forced them to pay bribes.

They say hundreds of people arrive at the Pakistani diplomatic mission daily to get visas. Only those who paid bribes were issued visas, they allege. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Halt to Scrap...**

where around 4,000 people had been provided with work opportunities.

The items manufactured by these factories were supplied to different parts of the country and exported to Pakistan, India, the US, France and Tajikistan.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News on frequent complaints from industrialists, stringent measures had been taken to stop the smuggling of scrap. He said the provincial govern-

ment remained committed to the development of local industrialists and every problem faced by them would be resolved.

Shakirullah Sapi, spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, confirmed an end to scrap smuggling had left a positive impact on the local industry.

If the barriers faced by the local industry were removed, fast-track development and a surge would be ensured in the manufacture of local products, he thought. This would also help mitigate unemployment.

Experts believe the local industry, if strengthened, will help bring peace and stability to the country. They hope it will lessen foreign influence and pressures. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Ghani Orders...**

Election Commission, national statistics department and population registration department.

According to the Administrative Office of the President, the delegation has the responsibility to identify the officials who have issued fake identity cards and introduce them to the relevant judicial institutions.

The delegation has also been instructed to prepare a report in this regard and present it to the presidential palace, the statement added.

This comes as the Grand National Coalition recently shared thousands of documents, including National Identity Cards and stickers, which they claim are fake and could have a negative impact on the transparency of the elections. (KP)

**(10) Taliban Stop...**

Provincial Council's Deputy Chairman Abdul Wali Wakeel also confirmed the closure of schools and said the militants had taken the step to improve the quality of education.

"The Taliban claim that all schools for girls above sixth grade were ghost schools. Therefore, they have closed the schools," the public representative added.

When approached by Pajhwok, the Governor's House and the Education Department declined to comment on the issue.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said he was aware of the closure of schools in Baraki Barak. As many as 150,000 students, including 40,000 girls, are enrolled in 307 schools across Logar. (Pajhwok)

**(11) 5 Policemen, As...**

Twelve insurgents were also killed, he added.

But the Taliban said only one rebel was killed and two others were wounded during the firefight. The group claimed killing 10 security forces and wounding as many others.

Three tanks and four pick-ups belonging to the Afghan forces were damaged, the militants said. But the governor's spokesman rejected the claim as groundless. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Coordinated...**

in control of several areas of the district, he said, adding: "The enemy has lost the ability to fight against security personnel."

Nabi, one of the soldiers who sustained injuries during the firefight, said: "The militants were beaten and forced into fleeing to the mountains last night."

He said at least 12 insurgent suffered casualties and only three security personnel were wounded.

A military chopper evacuated seven injured security personnel from the district to Civil Hospital and their condition was said to be stable.

Earlier, according to some reports, the militants are planning to capture some western districts of the province. The Taliban have not yet commented in this regard. (Pajhwok)