

(1) Enemy Wants...

the current time wanted to turn Afghanistan into another Karbala by staging terrorist attacks on mosques, worship places, schools, academic and social centers.

Ghani said innocent and defenseless citizens were massacred in recent attacks in Zabol, Helmand, Paktia, Nangarhar and more recently in Momand Dara and Barchi area of Kabul.

He said the enemies of Afghanistan wanted to give these attacks the name secretariat strife, something dangerous for the Afghans. "We can defeat this threat in cooperation with the people."

The president urged the people to stand together in the fight against enemy designs and take wise steps against those fueling hatred in the name of religion, language and tribe.

"The blood of a Shia and a Sunni has the same color, in this country the Pashtuns and the Tajiks have the same fate. The honor of Hazara and Uzbeks is the honor of all."

He said despite repeated enemy attacks, the religious harmony in Afghanistan remained a model for others.

The president said his government was fully prepared to deal with the enemy and dividing Kabul into four security zones, categorizing threats, consulting different sections of the society in this regard and focusing the Kabul's west were part of those measures.

He said police and intelligence cover had been increased in the Kabul's west where operations were ongoing in affected areas.

"Our success in the war against terrorism depends on mutual cooperation between the government and the people, as seen in developed countries." (Pajhwok)

(2) UN Calls for...

the dialogue to take place with productive results.

"I know it is complex. I know it's difficult, but it's also the only way possible to be able to more effectively combat terrorist organisations that operate in the country," he said.

"On the other hand, we are not organising the elections, and we do not have, presence of peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan, but we'll do everything that we can in order to support a process to make it successful. But we know that our capacity in that regard is obviously limited. We don't have, as I said, a security presence in Afghanistan," Guterres said. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani is scheduled to address the 7rd session of the UN General Assembly on September 26, a day after Guterres presents his report to the world body and kicks off the general debate. US President Donald Trump is scheduled to address the General assembly on September 25. (Pajhwok)

(3) Pakistan Not...

The department said Afghanistan continued to experience aggressive and coordinated attacks by the Taliban, including the affiliated Haqqani network and other insurgent and terrorist groups.

"A number of these attacks were planned and launched from safe havens in Pakistan," the US State Department said in an annual country report on counterterrorism and countering violent extremism for 2017.

The report says the Pakistani military and security forces undertook operations against groups that conducted attacks within Pakistan, such as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and also commended that such operations in the Fata area seriously degraded al-Qaeda's presence in the region and the group's freedom to operate.

However, the report said that "remnants of AQ's global leadership as well as its regional affiliate al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), continued to operate from remote locations in the region that historically have been exploited as safe havens".

The report, which was released on September 19, says the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) retained full responsibility for security in Afghanistan. In partnership, the ANDSF and coalition forces took aggressive action against terrorist elements across Afghanistan, including against Daesh's branch in the region, Islamic State's Khorasan Province (ISIS-K). The report says that Pakistan did not take sufficient action against other externally focused groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad in 2017, which continued to operate, train, organize and fundraise in Pakistan.

"Pakistan detained Hafiz Saeed, the leader of LeT and its front organization Jamaat-ul-Dawa in January 2017, but a Pakistani court ordered Hafiz Saeed released from house arrest in November 2017," the report said.

The US State Department's report says India continued to experience attacks, including by Pakistan-based terrorist organizations as well as tribal and Maoist insurgents, the report said.

"Indian authorities blamed Pakistan for cross-border attacks in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Over the course of 2017, the government of India sought to deepen counterterrorism cooperation and information sharing with the United States, including through the first-ever designations dialogue, held in Delhi in December," it added. According to the report, counterterrorism

cooperation between India and the United States increased in 2017. The two pledged to strengthen cooperation against terrorist threats from groups, including al-Qaeda (AQ), ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and D-company, the report said.

"The Taliban, the affiliated Haqqani Network (HQN) and groups claiming affiliation with the Islamic State's Khorasan Province (ISIS-K) increased high-profile terrorist attacks targeting Afghan government officials and members of the international community. Terrorist groups targeting Pakistan, such as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, exploit ungoverned spaces in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region, using them as safe havens to coordinate terrorist attacks inside Pakistan," the report said.

The US report said that the total number of terrorist attacks worldwide in 2017 decreased by 23 percent and total deaths due to terrorist attacks decreased by 27 percent, compared to 2016.

"Although terrorist attacks took place in 100 countries in 2017, they were concentrated geographically. Fifty-nine percent of all attacks took place in five countries (Afghanistan, India, Iraq, Pakistan, and the Philippines), and 70 percent of all deaths due to terrorist attacks took place in five countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, and Syria)," said Nathan Sales, coordinator for counterterrorism at the department.

Speaking with reporters before launching the country counterterrorism report, he said that Iran remains state sponsor of terrorism. He said that the country brought resources across the globe to facilitate terrorist activities. "Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and is responsible for intensifying multiple conflicts and undermining US interests in Syria, in Yemen, in Iraq, in Bahrain, in Afghanistan, and in Lebanon, using a number of proxies and other instruments such as Lebanese Hizballah and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp's Quds Force. The threats posed by Iran's support for terrorism are not confined to the Middle East; they are truly global," he said. (Tolnews)

(4) NGOs Spent...

the minister added. NGOs spent \$ 884 million last year, \$ 591 million by foreign NGOs, and \$ 293 million by local NGOs.

According to the report, employment in NGOs has increased by %7 over the past two years, reaching 84,000, including 24,000 women.

(5) Import Ban Affects...

Ministry's decision. Some drivers from Farah said they are spending days and nights under a harsh weather over the past five days.

"Actually, we have no idea that why the road is closed? Neither government nor the people are asking about this," said Jalil Ahmad, a driver.

"Open the route. Your problem is with government. What is the sin of drivers? We have spent nights on dust," said Fazl Ahmad, a driver.

One member of Farah Provincial Council said the ban on the imports has resulted in an increase in goods prices in the local market and has affected employment in the province.

"One and a half million people who were fed through working in the port have lost their incomes," said Dadullah Qane, member of Farah Provincial Council.

"They (investors and workers) have no option except picking guns. We want our rights. This is our right and we want it," said Bismillah, an investor at Abu Nasr Farahi port. (Tolo news)

(6) Afghan Delegation...

peace talks on Afghanistan. Russia earlier invited 12 countries and the Taliban to Moscow for talks on September 4 but the conference was postponed following a request by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. (Tolo news)

(7) Children in Afghan...

urgently establish such a shelter to help parentless children feel comfortable and peaceful," principal Kharoot told Xinhua recently.

Highly proud of calling her orphanage a "mini-Afghanistan," she said a number of deserving children were unbiasedly collected from around the country through a board within the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled and sent to the orphanage, aimed at giving them the feeling and sense of a real and peaceful home.

Children of the secure center which provides academic studies, located in the Qasaba vicinity of the 15th municipality district of Kabul city, are not only enrolled in private and government schools free of charge, but are also provided with complementary subjects such as English language, computer programming and holy Quran studies, inside the -24hour dormitory.

They are also regularly taken on outdoor recreational trips.

"The Chinese embassy has been supporting Shamsa Children's Village in establishing a reading room and has provided books to the children here," Kharoot said.

According to Kharoot, Sino-Afghan relations in recent years have deepened and been

elevated to a higher level thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by China in 2013. The initiative has provided Shamsa Children's Village with the facilities to make children's dreams a reality.

One grade-5 student, Shahab, from Parwan, a province north of Kabul, who attends the Ufoq-e-Sabz private school, said he was delighted to live and study in the orphanage. "My father became a drug addict in Iran and died after returning home. My mother married another man and no one was looking after me. I was sent here, and through the help of this center, I am hopeful for a brighter future," said Shahab, adding that he hoped to become a doctor in the future.

Pari Gul, a grade 7 student who lost her father to a suicide attack said her mother remarried and could not support her, so her cousin took her here.

Each child becomes part of a -12member family of brothers and sisters at the center which is set to expand to accommodate more children.

The center not only helps orphans, but also aids vulnerable women who would have nowhere to go otherwise.

Nasima, a widow and mother of four children said she works as a foster mother in the orphanage. "Taliban insurgents killed my husband and I now work as a foster mother here. I have three daughters with me here but my son is in another orphanage," she said.

Kharoot urged all national and international donors to cooperate with the orphanage as it plans to widen its activity and help orphans around the country.

"We plan to travel to provinces and identify the needy children on our own to take them to the center, if we gain more assistance," she said.

Expressing her heartfelt appreciation for China's assistance, including the latest donation to the orphanage center, she said that China and Afghanistan are true friends. The Chinese embassy has donated lap-top computers, schoolbags, notebooks, toys and some other necessities, as well as providing a well-equipped library.

The embassy has also funded a wide-capacity water reservoir and rebuilt the center's boundary wall. (Xinhua)

(8) IEC Office...

the IEC office in Balkh has remained closed under similar circumstances.

One protestor, Nematullah, said the office of the IEC in Kandahar will remain closed until their demands are met. "We want the legitimate demands of the people and the provincial council to be addressed," Nematullah said.

"We have seen that one person has even got up to ten identity cards therefore we want every person to cast one vote and should use that vote for their favorite candidate," said Khudai Nazar, another protestor from Kandahar.

The protestors insisted that they will continue their demonstration until their demands are met.

"We will continue our move even if government uses force against us," said Mohammad Ekhlis, a protestor.

Kandahar police meanwhile said they are looking for a solution to the problem through talks with the protestors.

"We have held talks instead of using force so that we can find a solution for this problem and open the election commission office," said Zia Durrani, spokesman for Kandahar Police Headquarters.

This comes after supporters of the coalition closed the offices of the Independent Election Commission in Balkh, Kandahar and Herat provinces on Saturday over demands for a transparent election and a change in the electoral system.

The political parties that operate under the Grand National Coalition have threatened to also close IEC offices in Nangarhar, Kunduz, Bamian, Panjsher, Faryab and Jawzjan provinces if their demands are not met.

Supporters of the coalition established sit-in camps near the IEC office in Balkh on Saturday morning, insisting the demands of the political parties be met, including the use of a biometric system for elections, a change in election system and transparent polls across the country.

The political parties have set deadlines for government a few times for their demands to be addressed.

On August 10, these parties set a -10day deadline for a response from government to meet their demands on a change in the country's election system and ensure that a biometric system is used on the day of voting. The parties include the Council for the Protection and Stability in Afghanistan, Jamiat-e-Islami party of Afghanistan, the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, Hizb-e-Wahdat Islami Mardum-e-Afghanistan and some political movements including Mehwar-e-Mardum-e-Afghanistan.

IEC Reacts To Office Closure

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, Gulajam Abdulbadi Sayyad, head of Independent Election Commission, called on the coalition of political parties to instead share their list of demands with the commission so that a legal solution can be sought.

He said political parties and observer institutions are not attending IEC meetings nor are they cooperating with the commission - yet they constantly level criticism at the IEC.

"The culture of closing offices must end, and those who are closing offices in the centers and then in the provinces will be responsible for delaying the elections, they do not want to hold elections on time," said Sayyad. "We request all of them to share their legal demands in the framework of the law with the commission and to find a legal solution for their concerns regarding the transparency of the elections."

Govt Considers SMTV System For Elections
The Afghan government is considering the Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV) system for the elections, however political parties and movements have asked for the use of the multi-dimensional representation (MDR) for the elections.

The SNTV is an electoral system used in multi-member constituency elections. In any election, each voter casts one vote for one candidate in a multi-candidate race for multiple offices. Posts are filled by the candidates with the most votes. Thus, in a three-seat constituency, the three candidates receiving the largest number of votes would win office.

The cost of the SNTV system is less but analysts said it has more defects.

It is believed that the system will mostly benefit independent candidates.

With the MDR system, a vote can be transferred from one candidate to another which makes it different from the SNTV system. In this system, political parties and independent candidates will compete. In this system, political parties can have one candidate or they can introduce a candidate in coalition with other parties.

Independent candidates meanwhile can compete alone or they can take part in the election in collaboration with other independent candidates.

With the MDR system, if a party has at least 10 candidates, their candidates votes that exceed the required number- can be transferred to other candidates from the same party. The same can be applied to independent candidates if they make an agreement.

Electoral watchdog organizations said the MDR system has its complications and is not applicable considering the little time remaining to October parliamentary elections. Use Of 'Modern Technology' For Elections
President Ashraf Ghani last month directed the Central Statistic Organization (CSO) to use "modern technology" to specify the exact number of voters who will cast their votes at polling stations on election day.

According to Ghani's decree issued in August, the CSO should cooperate with the Independent Election Commission (IEC), security agencies and other relevant institutions in determining the exact number of registered voters.

In the decree, the Ministry of Finance and the National Procurement Authority have been ordered to cooperate with the CSO and other departments in the allocation of budget and procurement for the technology.

Afghanistan's Central Civil Registration Authority (ACCRA) has said that they are ready to help the CSO determine the voter numbers.

The decree does not state details about whether a biometric system will be used to identify voters on election day.

According to the Independent Election Commission, over nine million voters have registered their names for the upcoming elections. (Tolo news)

(9) Insecurity, Drought...

The report says that 2.2 million people have been affected by drought in Afghanistan. According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), recently 120,000 people have been displaced only in Badghis province due to droughts.

Among displaced families in the provinces of the Western Region, the situation is even more dire with 82 percent of the families having a poor food consumption score and 72 per cent having had to resort to negative coping mechanisms like reducing food intake or the number of meals, according to the Drought Impact and Needs Assessment (DINA) conducted by OCHA, UNDP and partners. (Tolo news)

(10) Concerns Raised...

Samim Sarem an economist. But the Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank (Central Bank) Khalil Siddique said that the main reason for the increase in the circulation of foreign currency in bordering provinces is because these regions depend on goods imported from these countries. The bank said the only way to find a sustainable solution to the problem was for the domestic economy to be strengthened and to decrease imports which in turn would lead to a stronger Afghani.

"Why is the dollar so strong? Because the US economy is strong. Due to the war we unfortunately do not have a good economy, our production (levels) are low. Therefore, we cannot speak of a strong Afghani," said Siddique.

"Economically, you cannot prove this. Again, I would say that the devaluation of the Afghani is not definitive in terms of our monetary situation. The amount of money we have in the economy is lower than the target we set. Therefore, the central bank's

monetary policy proceeds accurately," Siddique added.

In the past month, campaigns have been launched in Nangarhar and in particular in Jalalabad to encourage locals to use Afghani opposed to Rupees. (Tolo news)

(11) Afghan Journalists...

Haidary had gone to the scene of the explosion that killed Faramarz and Ahmadi, but returned to his office minutes before the second bomb detonated.

"It is already too much for us," agreed Lotfullah Najafizada, director of Tolo, which is Afghanistan's largest private broadcaster.

As security in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate, the fear and anxiety is ever-present, he added.

"It is not just about the blast site, it is going to a province, it is coming to the office or being in the office -- they all are attached to risks and it is difficult sometimes to minimize all of them to zero."

Sixty journalists and media workers have been killed in Afghanistan since the US-led invasion in 2001 that toppled the Taliban regime and enabled independent media to blossom in its wake -- an average of around three a year, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

Afghan media support group NAI gave an even higher toll of 95.

But the departure of NATO combat troops at the end of 2014 marked a turning point, RSF figures show: 39 journalists and media workers -- over half of the total -- have been killed since then as a resurgent Taliban and the newly-emerged Islamic State group terrorise the country.

Media outlets have already scaled back coverage on the battlefield. But until this year, suicide attacks in urban centres remained a staple for newsrooms.

A double bomb attack in the Afghan capital on April 30 changed that.

Nine journalists, including Agence France-Presse chief photographer Shah Marai, were killed in the twin blasts -- the most lethal attack on the media since the fall of the Taliban.

Less than three months later AFP driver Mohammad Akhtar was killed in another suicide attack on his way to work, followed in September by Faramarz and Ahmadi.

The deaths are forcing outlets to ask themselves hard questions about how they work, especially as the country braces for more violence ahead of parliamentary elections in October. Much of the blame for the journalist deaths has been heaped on the Afghan government and its beleaguered security forces for failing to protect them.

But media outlets also have been criticised for repeatedly putting their staff in danger. Journalists in similar events one after another and not learning from the mistakes is bad management both on the part of the media organisations and the government," said Sayed Ikram Afzali, executive director of Afghan advocacy group Integrity Watch.

Militants make headlines for killing civilians, security forces and first responders, including journalists.

But a total ban on covering suicide attacks "would be disrespecting the fallen," said BBC bureau chief Shoaib Sharifi.

The British broadcaster goes to great lengths to minimise the risks. "We literally evaluate and monitor every step outside the office," he said.

For now Afghan broadcaster 1TV, which has had several people killed or wounded in this year's bombings, will continue to go to the scene of suicide attacks, said head of news and current affairs Abdullah Khenjani.

I think people deserve to know what is happening in their country," he added.

But they no longer rush to be the first at the scene, and wearing flak jackets and helmets is mandatory.

The New York Times' "default position is 'don't go' unless ... we agree there is some exceptional reason why you should," bureau chief Rod Nordland said.

"In most cases we're saying there is no exceptional reason."

The newspaper instead goes to hospitals or the homes of victims' families to show the human suffering caused by such attacks, as it continues to seek ways of telling the story even without going to the scene.

Agence France-Presse has adopted a similar policy.

"The risk now of going to a bomb site, of getting hit by a second bomb... outweighs the journalistic value in doing that," Nordland said. (AFP)

(12) ALP Forces Based in...

Afghan National Army (ANA) forces, National Directorate of Security (NDS), border forces and public order forces.

The team would travel to Achin district and comprehensively investigate the local police forces there, he added.

After the investigation completed, all relatives or friends of Bilal Pacha working in ALP form would be fired and replaced by other people by the police headquarter, Khogyani said.

Efforts for arresting Jalal Pacha, father of Bilal Pacha have been accelerated after security organs were ordered to do so. (Pajhwok)