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## US officials asking for change in Pakistan policy

US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has called a visit to Islamabad, capital city of Pakistan, to discuss the country's role in the fight against terrorism. The US Defense Secretary met with Pakistani officials and discussed the role of terrorism in the region. Mattis said: "We have heard from Pakistan leaders that they do not support terrorism. We expect to see that our actions reflect in their policies."

Washington in past has put pressure on Pakistan for providing safe haven and supporting Taliban and Haqqani networks. Since the start of the war in Afghanistan, militants in Pakistan have crossed the international border to wage attacks against US, Afghan and allied forces. They then would return to their safe havens in Pakistan, where they have had a long-standing relationship with the ISI, the Pakistan intelligence agency, but Pakistan is rejecting the claim. US President Donald Trump has accused Pakistan of providing safe havens to terrorism and judged if Pakistan did not change its policy, it would face serious consequences by the US administration. US Defense Secretary in his meeting with Pakistani officials stressed on President Trump's demand for action against safe havens of terrorist groups.

The US defense secretary trip to Islamabad came amid increasing of US pressure on Pakistan for action against Taliban and Haqqani network.

## Editorial

### Taliban, backers on the merge of collapse, but IS still a threat

The country's local media, the other day reported that a senior al-Qaeda leader, along with up to 80 members were killed during a joint counterterrorism operation in the country's east and southern provinces.

A statement from the country's National Directorate of Security (NDS) confirmed the death of top terrorist leader and 80 of its associates in the joint yesterday's offensives launched by Afghan security and defense forces in cooperation with NATO's Resolute Support Mission troops in some restive areas of the country.

The death of the terrorists, including Omar Khatab, the senior leader come after their hideouts were destroyed during the operation, during which, 27 members of the terrorist networks were also arrested and five of their hideouts were abolished.

Key members of the outfit fighting the country's security forces and international troops since 2015, including Qasem, known as Khuram Kayani, Hussan Hamza, Mustafa, a military commander, three Pakistani militants and two local Taliban were among the dead.

The Al-Qaeda insurgents were also providing communication support and training for the Afghan and foreign Taliban militants along the Afghan-Pak borders and had safe asylum in the neighboring country.

This is a good news that one of the most dangerous terrorist network is going towards full elimination after their top leader was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Pakistan, and the war-weary Afghan forces and the international troops should focus on the main hideouts of the so-called Islamic State (IS) in the insecure provinces of the country.

Daesh or the Islamic State militants, who are operative in some parts of the country, still remained a biggest threat. They are killing innocent Afghans including women and children. They are killing Afghan security forces and the international peace-keeping troops. They spare no effort to defame the holy Islam and finally they are those nefarious elements, abiding by no law and rules.

The people of Afghanistan are fed up with so-long insurgency and can't tolerate barbaric acts from the growing militancy in the country.

The more extremist than the Taliban and al-Qaeda, Daesh can pose a huge threat on the government and people of Afghanistan as well as on the people worldwide, and the international community, particularly the US should step up against them timely and prior to go out of control, like those in Syria and Iraq.

However, Afghanistan would never turn to IS center, because of two reasons: this land is not prepared for growing these alien element on one hand and on the other the international community's presence will not allow them arise and expand activities, but some foreign circles are fully cooperating with them and providing them with training centers and military equipment and sending them to other countries, like Afghanistan to launch terrorist activities.

## Kabul calls important expansion of Chabahar port for export-import of Afghanistan

The government of Afghanistan welcomes the official inauguration of expansion of Chabahar port and regards very important for the import and export of Afghanistan. The expansion of Chabahar port is not remains limited to one road and one country. We made offer to open new ways for our import and export and based on the same, Afghanistan and India began their work on Chabahar project.



The view from the port of Chabahar, India, showing the port facility and surrounding infrastructure.

that the free port of Chabahar was recently entered into Afghanistan. Chabahar is a cheap way for the import and export of Afghanistan.

Minister added that despite cooperation with India and Iran, through Chabahar port, Afghanistan has contacts and cooperation with central Asia in the sector of trade and transport as a result of these contacts, it got access to outside world.



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According to NATO IS commander in Afghanistan Gen. Nicholson, there have been no changes in Pakistan's support for militant networks. "They identified certain steps that they were going to take. We've not yet seen those steps about our," Gen. Nicholson said in his recent briefing. He said that US has been very direct about what it expects Pakistan to do in the fight against the Taliban. Pakistan has not taken any step in deterring terrorist centers in its soil. Instead, the country has recently released leader of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba Hafiz Saeed. The US administration has warned if Hafiz Saeed was not detained again, the country would face with serious consequences, in case that Pakistan by depending on its new region.

## Chabahar port for export-import of Afghanistan

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Expansion of Chabahar port highlighted several folds the volume of the cargo that in the past was 2.5 million ton annually, now this volume increases to 8.5 million ton.

The construction work of this project presented by Khatami's office and few small contracted companies including an Indian national company.

The opening process of construction of this commercial port would be completed within in upcoming 14 years.

The witnesses say that Chabahar can be a challenge for Gwadar port of Pakistan that is located 80 km far from Chabahar port and would be expanded with the investment of China.

But, president Rahani showed meeting with competition and asserted that Chabahar port would establish further cooperation and unity among regional countries.

Shahria Rahmat





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