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Editorial

Extensive efforts needed to fight corruption

There is no doubt in the fact that corruption hampers development, peace and security and Afghanistan stands as a clear example. Rampant corruption in the country has hampered development work and given rise to many social evils. It has also fueled instability and supported the insurgents, particularly through drug production and smuggling.

It has incapacitated government institutions and made them rely on repression and favoritism. The skills and capacities of the talented youngsters have not been utilized and, therefore, the trust and confidence in the institutions have further eroded. International community, which has been funding Afghanistan since 2001, has demanded Afghan officials to tackle widespread corruption. Many countries including Afghanistan's biggest donor, the United States, have warned of cutting their financial aid to the war-torn nation if it does not take concrete actions against graft.

The National Unity Government since its inauguration has taken firm steps in fight against such ugly phenomenon, where establishing of the anti-corruption judicial and justice center as well as firing of hundreds of judges in the Supreme Court could be a clear example. But still it is believed that the country's government needs to do more to eliminate the practice of corruption, which would go a long way in retaining international financial support.

Lanching an third theme of 2017 anticorruption campaign which is focusing on prevention of corruption in Afghanistan, the European Union (EU) in a statement on Sunday said it believed in new generation of the war-torn country with new attitude.

The EU termed corruption as a threat for Afghanistan's self-reliance and stressed the need for its elimination citing President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani who earlier said: "The hope lies with the new generation of young Afghans who want to break away from the culture of patronage and corruption."

According to EU mission in Kabul, the fight against corruption has to be fought in multiple arenas at the same time. Alongside ending impunity it is needed to do more to prevent corruption. Fighting corruption must be fought from the top will need support from below by the Afghan people.

The Government must make sure that proper integrity measures for the civil service employees are introduced, that robust oversight mechanisms were in place and that there was transparency into the work of the public administration.

"Prevention is also more important and about giving Afghans - also in the rural area - better tools to report corruption without having to fear repercussions. Good things are happening, but more is needed to improve the fight against corruption. A strong implementation of the Access to Information Law must be given priority" stated EU Ambassador Matthias in a statement released by EU on Sunday.

Corruption in Afghanistan is now a complex phenomenon that requires extensive efforts from both national and international authorities to be comprehended and resolved. Definitely, the anti-corruption institutions, equipped with authority and facilities can be major contributors in curbing it and Afghan government needs to support them appropriately.

International community on other hand must also ensure that the aid they provide through different NGOs should not be misused. There should be strong control and monitoring mechanism and it should be made sure that the aid money must reach the needy and deserving people of Afghanistan; otherwise, the aid would further deteriorate Afghanistan society instead of doing it any good.

Press Review

The Irish daily: Considering visit of U.S. Senator, Mark Warner to Afghanistan, the state-run paper in its editorial said that this visit in fact would mark a new chapter of relations between Afghanistan and US, also it could be a green light for the government and the people of Afghanistan.

The Urdu daily: The state-run paper in its editorial called Moscow meeting important and full of achievements, adding that for aims of the participating countries in this meeting was consistent peace in Afghanistan.

The Afghan officials emphasizing that the neighboring countries for ensuring of peace in this country should take practical and honest steps, the paper added.

The Herald daily: The state-run paper in an article called for intensifying of operations by Afghan security forces, adding that ANSF has conducted mopping-up operations to suppress and completely eliminate Taliban and Daesh in a number of provinces of the country.

Undoubtedly, the Afghan nation have full trust on ANSF that they can defend the country and people live in hardest situations, the paper added.

The West daily: Expressing concern over Pakistan's military forcing along Derand Line, the press paper in an article said that the Pakistan military in addition of border barriers also wants to construct hundred of check posts along this Line. This step of Pakistan would affect the relations between the two countries, the paper added.

Desk of Reporters

Pakistan supporting insurgency to achieve plans in region

Pakistan is missing of Afghanistan friendly relations, from one side, Pakistan would like to normalize its relations with Afghanistan through preliminary dialogues started between the two countries. From other side, the country has changed bordering areas in its battlefield with extension process of barbed line along Derand line to be completed by Pak army.

Afghanistan government has condemned extension of barbed line along Derand line by Pakistan army and considered as unilateral and against the people of the region. Officials of Afghanistan ministry of borders and tribal affairs have said media that Pakistan military has taken unacceptable and unilateral steps along the border, while the people of both sides have not been informed of such steps.

Officials for national unity government insisted that Afghanistan would not accept barbed line along the Derand line, hoping that the barbed line and obstacles would be soon removed from the bordering areas.

A spokesperson to Pakistan army Asif Ghaffoor has said media that Pakistan army has started installing barbed obstacles in Khyber valley border with Afghanistan, hoping that Afghanistan would perceive that border control would be beneficial for both countries.

Pakistan government argues that it will increase security measures along bordering areas in particular Turkhan and Chaman gates in order to prevent from activities of insurgents entering to Pakistan from Afghanistan. Pakistan should accept that upon reopening Srin Boldak and Turkhan gates, a number of vehicles and trucks laden with explosives in Pakistan have been seized by Afghan police soon after they entered to Afghanistan.

If Pakistan really wants to prevent from terrorism, it should first take serious steps against those terrorist groups having safe havens and training centers inside Pakistan and send their individuals to Pakistan to kill the people and government officials of Afghanistan.

All those areas bordering with Pakistan have security problems as terrorists cross the border and enter Afghanistan to create security problems for the people and government of Afghanistan. Besides, all the people living in bordering areas are victims of terrorism funded by Pakistan army.

It is worth mentioning that Pakistan has always supported continued war and increasing insurgency in Afghanistan including Taliban. In the past, Pakistan is accused of creating war and terrorism, but its recent steps have shown that Pakistan can commit any kinds of crimes in its region to reach its short-term or long-term goals. Starting work on barbed line and obstacles along the border by Pakistan government has come after Afghanistan had previously shown serious reactions related to construction of a gate in Turkhan and in a result clashes erupted between security forces of both countries and all Afghans shows readiness to start fight against Pakistan.

Hamidullah Arefi

Khalid Operation kicks off to suppress insurgents, MoD



Officials of the ministry for defense (MoD) said that the Khalid 2 Operation, to curb the terrorist attacks, has been conducted across the country as a move to follow with success and achievement.

First Deputy Army Chief Staff, Gen. Murod Ali Murod said the operation would be conducted as effective in all parts of the country and it is hoped it can diminish the threat level.

The proclaimed operation began on Sunday in high risk areas, where have been threatened by terrorists, he added.

Under the operation, the government of Afghanistan said the Afghan National Defense and Security Force (ANDSF) would fight against 20 terrorist groups being supported by a number of regional countries.

While reporting to say any of the most important impact on armed operations during last operation, the Afghan officials stressed that hundreds of insurgents have been killed and their bases destroyed have been found.

In Khalid Operation, the provinces have been already identified and necessary measures taken to equip and support the Afghan security forces, according to the ministry of defense.

The MoD spokesperson, Brig. General Davood Murod said the Afghan security forces would enjoy foreign based backup and advice, aims at better ensuring security to the people of Afghanistan.

At the same time, a military expert, Anghita Amankhan said besides other issues, if the government of Afghanistan and international community will assist in supplies and procurement of the security forces, the Khalid Operation would help decrease the threat.

Nav P.A.



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