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THE KABUL TIMES
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Afghanistan – Pakistan talks on counter terrorism & peace

Afghanistan and Pakistan officials have not reached an agreement on issues that are in the priority for Kabul. Several rounds of Afghanistan – Pakistan talks on counter terrorism, peace and decreasing of violence ended without any results thus, no decision has been made so far for continuation of such talks.

Afghanistan high-ranking civil and military delegation led by deputy minister of foreign affairs, Hezmat Khalil Karzai, paid a visit to Islamabad to participate the meeting of what is named the Afghanistan – Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Stability (APPPS). The Pakistani delegation was led by the country's foreign secretary, Tahsin Jafar.

According to a spokesperson to ministry of foreign affairs, Ahmad Nadeem Khan, the Afghan delegation on its visit to Islamabad asked the Pakistani side that they do not want to

open their time in creating mechanisms, procedure and ratification of documents, but they want practical steps and implementation of the action plans.

"While some progress was made on the mechanism of cooperation, no progress was achieved on specific, result-oriented, time-bound measures in the APPPS, particularly in the areas of counter-terrorism, reduction of violence, peace and reconciliation to meet the priorities of Afghanistan," Ministerial added.

In the past two weeks, three meetings have been held between Kabul and Islamabad under APPPS and the last meeting was held in Islamabad. But who remain vital of the two countries' officials to each other's countries, have ended without progress? Do other issues carry double politics of Pakistan have role in this regard?

An Afghan former diplomat

to Pakistan Ahmad Sayyid answered the questions and said, "The issue of Afghanistan is a big issue as well as an Afghan, regional and international issue. Most of countries as Russia, China, Iran, US, Saudi Arabia and others are involved in this issue that cannot be resolved until talks are not held in very high level."

The Afghan government alleges the Taliban are sanctuaries in Pakistan and to plot insurgent attacks and claimed last week's bloody attacks in Kabul were planned in the neighboring country. Afghan officials also shared what they called "evidence" with Islamabad and demanded swift action against the perpetrators.

Pakistan has been always accused by Afghanistan for supporting terrorism and having double politics in the region. Now the United States has also increased pressure on Pakistan to take action against alleged

sanctuary, including those of the Haqqani terrorist network.

Increasing of world pressure on Pakistan and making the country for cooperation with Afghanistan and the international community in counter terrorism effort and Afghan peace process is the best option that should be followed by Afghanistan.

Concerns of Afghanistan are more about deteriorating situation and increasing of violence by extremists and terrorists that have safe sanctuaries beyond Afghanistan borders.

Counter terrorism and extradition in Afghanistan cannot be separated from drug trafficking and narcotics that also increase violence in the country and region. Peace and stability, regional security, democracy, development and infrastructure, migration and ending cooperation are key issues. Lailuma Noori

Editorial

Pakistan should sanction those groups fueling insurgency in Afghanistan

The Pakistan government has proscribed the organizations that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has put on the terrorist list.

Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain on Sunday issued an ordinance amending the Anti-Terrorism Act to declare as terrorist the organizations sanctioned by the UNSC. As the result of the ordinance, approved by the Pakistani president and issued by the country's Law Ministry, the neighboring country's government will be able to take action against these organizations.

A special UNSC team visited Pakistan last month to assess the implementation of sanctions on Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JUD), Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) and other proscribed outfits.

Meanwhile, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) said companies had been barred from donating cash to the entities and individuals listed under the UNSC sanctions committee's consolidated list.

The list includes Al-Qaeda, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, JUD, FIF, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other organizations and individuals.

The Trump administration had earlier slapped sanctions on four Taliban and two Haqqani network leaders for terrorist activities and asked Pakistan to work with the US to deny the terror groups safe haven on its soil and target their funding.

Meanwhile, the government of Afghanistan has time and again called on UN and the US to sanction those terrorists enjoying safe havens in Pakistan and carrying out destructive activities in Afghanistan. Some Afghan politicians and Jihad leaders even has asked UN to put sanctions on Pakistani military and intelligence officials too.

The National Unity Government seeks peace through imposing sanctions and increasing pressures on the armed oppositions of the government. The government believes that with the inclusion of the names of the leaders of the Taliban the way for peace will be paved.

Pakistan announced to support the international community in the war against terrorism. The pledge was made at the stage but behind the curtain, Islamabad is still harboring and supporting trans-regional terrorist organizations.

The Taliban and Haqqani Network are no exception. These trans-regional insurgent groups have not only attacked civilians and military installations in Afghanistan but also in India, China, Iran, Central Asia and Russia.

If the global community is serious in eliminating terrorism, then it should start from Pakistan. They shall build crippling pressure over Islamabad to eliminate all those non-state actors who are killing people in the region.

If the neighboring country does not handover the militants to Kabul then Afghanistan shall approach the UN Security Council, besides asking the US, Russia and China for sanctions against Pakistan. Sanctions will force the latter to put aside its expansionist designs by eliminating the mercenaries.

E-ID cards distribution process should be supported

Struggle against the current challenges and problems which reacted in a critical phase needs adopting urgent national measures, one of the measures could be the distribution of electronic identity cards, needs to be started as soon as possible.

INA social affairs analyst commenting on the issue writes concerning the current problems that have already drawn the country to a critical situation, needs adopting urgent and practical measures to lead the country toward peace and stability.

If we look at the depth of the problems, they have no social and legal aspects, but deeply rooted in using political intrigues and badly affected by political games.

Asking for political or ethnic privileges or distribution of electronic identity cards rate in time, the country suffering a critical situation and any ethical and political discrimination are not in the interests of our people and country.

In fact, democratic commitments where people practicing a democratic process, raising any political issues such as ethnicity, linguistic and political will not be for the benefit of people and the country.

In such communities, the focus should be made on recognition of social various strata and referring to law is the key for achieving this noble goal.

Today Afghanistan is suffering from numerous problems like, the activities of terrorist

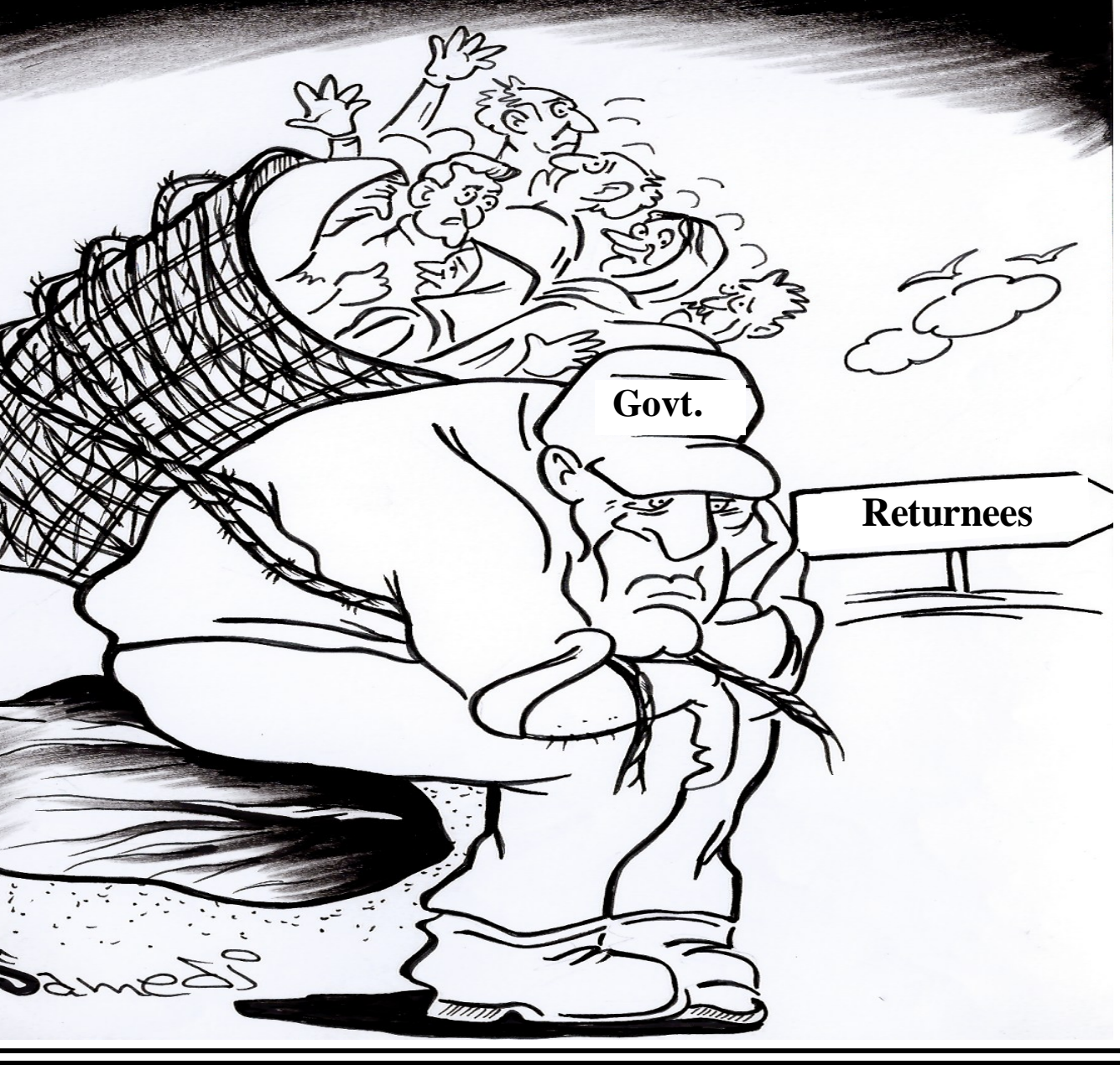
and extremist groups, money laundry, drug trafficking, organized crimes – are the key problems that Afghan are facing. Afghan security forces have repeatedly arrested terrorist and drug traffickers who were not Afghanis, they entered the country with artificial documents and conducting and leading terrorist attacks have killed Afghan innocent people and damaged their homeland. Some of these criminals have come in the name that they carried their own Pakistani identity cards.

Today, there are markets in Pakistan where have changed in printing and distributing Afghan identity cards. For solving this problem, the process of distributing electronic identity cards should be considered and implemented as a national process. In this way we can solve the problem of identity but the terrorism and their partners cannot prepare artificial Afghan identity cards anymore.

In addition, the process will solve many political problems including holding elections.

Seeing these facts through in identity cards, the political and technical barriers should not prevent the process, the relevant authorities should honestly respond to the demands of the people. Identity card is a national document, therefore, should be looked and supported as a national process.

Abdul Khalil Memoni



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