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Editorial

Taliban cannot win through violence, bloodshed

The US special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad who was leading an inter-agency US delegation, arrived on Sunday in Kabul and met with a number of politicians, including the Afghan president, chairman of the high council for national reconciliation and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Subsequently, for the second time the delegation met President Ghani, vice president and a number of cabinet members, discussing the new chapter of cooperation between Afghanistan and the US as well as continuation of political, economic, diplomatic and security relations.

Calling unacceptable reaching of Taliban to power through forceful way, the delegation asked both sides particularly, Taliban to shut violence and seek a peaceful approach to the ongoing bloodshed in the war-torn country as well as end the suffering of the Afghan masses.

The US delegation emphasized that they are committed in war on terror, supporting of Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and economic aids to Afghanistan in different sectors, including that of the human rights protection.

The delegation's meeting comes at a time that violence in Afghanistan has reached its peak and negatively affecting the country's economic developments and even has disturbed electricity of the capital city, with unknown group blowing the power pylons.

While according to agreement between NATO-Washington-Kabul, the US and allies are obliged to act to their commitments and no longer supervise the situation. They are needed to find ways to ease the situation and further support the Afghan forces in war on terror so that to contain the ongoing bloodshed.

Although the ANDSF have the capability to safeguard sovereignty and protect the system, but according to an agreement reached between US and Taliban, silence of the US on intensification of violence by Taliban and killing of the innocent people are questionable.

Although continuation of war and violence in recent years showed that Taliban can't reach power through military pressure and by force in Afghanistan, but the raising militancy has further concerned the Afghan masses and displaced thousands of the families in rural areas.

Continuation of this situation would probably delay timetable of foreign troops withdrawal from Afghanistan or would bring change in their approaches towards war in Afghanistan. Indeed, foreign troops would leave Afghanistan one day and our people should know that no country can shoulder their responsibility forever and they need to stand on their own feet.

Indeed, such day has arrived, so the Afghan people should use the new chapter of cooperation with the international community and change the current war scenario to an occasion for economic development, peace and prosperity of the war-torn country.

Therefore, the terrorist groups particularly those who intend to implement strategic goals of external countries in Afghanistan with deteriorating situation, should know that our people are today at a stage that analyze situation, distinguish friend and foe better than every time and would not remain silent against injustice and oppressions of alien's agents.

They expect the Republican system to prevent advance of terror groups, because continuation of this situation and its underestimating would result in dangerous consequences and certainly, the Afghan people would pay the price.

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Biden tells Congress US will continue to support Afghanistan and its peace process



US President Joe Biden said in a letter to Congress on Tuesday that Washington will continue to fully support peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban and will encourage other nations in the region, especially Pakistan, to do more to support Afghanistan and to support stability in the country.

In his letter he stated that over the past few decades, the United States and its partners have trained hundreds of thousands of Afghan troops and that the US will with the support of Congress, "continue to support the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces."

"We will also continue to support the rights of Afghan women and girls and to maintain significant humanitarian and development assistance to Afghanistan."

"We will continue to pursue diplomacy and fully support peace talks between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban, facilitated by the United Nations. And we will encourage other nations in the region, especially Pakistan, to do more to support Afghanistan and to support stability in the country," Biden stated in the letter.

But we will not allow United States troops to be a bargaining chip between warring parties in other countries. That is a recipe for staying indefinitely in Afghanistan," he said.

He also stated the US will withdraw responsibly, deliberately, and safely, from Afghanistan, in full coordination with its allies and partners.

"Our NATO allies and operational partners, who have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us for almost 20 years and who have also



make great sacrifices, will now withdraw despite our focus as we stand by our enduring principle of "no separate, no together."

Giving background on his decision to leave Afghanistan, Biden stated that he reached this conclusion "after conducting a rigorous policy review process and consulting closely with our allies and partners, with our military, law and intelligence personnel, with our diplomats and our development experts, with the Congress and the Vice President, and with the President of Afghanistan and many other leaders around the world."

He noted however that over the last 20 years, the terrorist threat to the United States has become more dispersed around the globe and that keeping thousands of troops concentrated on the ground in Afghanistan "no longer

makes sense as the most effective counterterrorism strategy when the threat has metastasized across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia."

"Our focus and posture need to adapt accordingly," he said.

But according to him, the US will not take its eye off the terrorist threat in Afghanistan.

"The United States will recognize our counterterrorism capabilities and assets in the region to prevent the reemergence of a terrorist threat in Afghanistan."

"We will hold the Taliban and the Afghan government accountable to their commitments not to allow terrorists to threaten the United States or its allies from Afghanistan. And we will refine our national strategy to monitor and disrupt terrorist threats wherever they arise," he said to Congress.