

## Taliban carry out more than 1400 attacks since beginning of foreign troops withdrawal: NSC

KABUL: Simultaneous with US and NATO troops withdrawal from Afghanistan, Taliban have also intensified their offensives and according to National Security Council (NSC) since the onset of troops withdrawal, Taliban have carried out over 1455 attacks.

In his fresh message to media, NSC spokesman Rahmattullah Andar said that Taliban have sustained heavy casualties while during the last month, ANDSF have prevented 56 explosions in different parts of the country.

Andar added that following the peace agreement between Taliban and the US, the group has strongly committed to continue wars instead of pursuing peace talks and as a result, civilians have received heavy casualties.

Based on NSC information in recent week, 62 civilians were killed and 120 injured during Taliban attacks and roadside mine explosions in 27 provinces of the coun-

try that includes women and children.

Talking on Taliban relations with al-Qaeda, NSC spokesman Andar went on to say, coining Taliban relations with al-Qaeda is difficult because besides their common interests, these two have strong and profound ideological ties.

He added, the equation of Taliban power in Afghanistan has been mistakenly described and overestimated. Now the Afghan are sending a message that system, as a nation and that society here, is not only Taliban, but is the one that empowers a dictatorship on them."

Peace talks have continued expressions of Afghanistan NSC, in no recent report, the NSC has said that al-Qaeda presence in at least 15 Afghanistan provinces mainly in eastern, southern and southwestern regions have been confirmed.

Expressing concern on civilian casualties and increasing vio-

lence by Taliban, AHRIC has also said that most civilian casualties have been due to some incidents.

Chairwoman of AHRIC Shafiqat Akbar said that if Taliban are committed to prevent civilian casualties, they should stop use of mines and attacks.

Once again emphasizing on establishing of ceasefire, she said that both sides should continue peace talks instead of continuing of violence.

Recently, Mafi authorities said that the Afghan Air Force have carried out many operations against Taliban and al-Qaeda hideouts in Nangarhar, Helmand Province and inflicted heavy casualties on terrorists.

Expressing concern on Taliban increasing violence, the House Commission on Defense and Terrorism Integrity Affairs said, according to current situation of Afghanistan, withdrawal of foreign troops is a source of concern, as their presence was based on an agreement in Afghanistan, their

withdrawal should also take place responsibly.

Appreciating sincere struggle of ANDSF against terrorism, experts said, we witness their capability, ability and efficiency but they need further resources and equipment in the battlefields to enable them to fight enemies' attacks and plans in its origin plus and further development of coordination is needed among ANDSF to suppress terrorists completely.

While the Afghan authorities talk on increasing Taliban attacks, peace efforts have been intensified with this factor in mind and international arena.

Taliban's increasing attacks show that they still don't believe in Afghanistan and peace.

Based on a peace agreement with Taliban, the US and NATO have started their troops withdrawal since May 2021 and are expected to leave Afghanistan completely at the end of this year.

Surya Raiwala



## What to do in absence of regional consensus?



should be smart and awake, not to be deceived by enemies and self-interest alone.

On 29, 2020 an agreement was signed between the US and the Taliban representatives. The Afghan peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and the Taliban representative Mullah Abdul Ghani Hekmatyar in Doha, with the presence of 50 countries, senior diplomats.

But neither violence, de-escalation or war stopped and talks didn't result in ceasefire. Today, the Afghan government shows and more than 1,000 deaths and prisoners as majority of them returned to battlefield and resumed war against their people.

Due to interference of regional powers and international community, a secure peace was not possible. Current regional countries, even didn't help to have small steps to reduce violence, but generated the political development and further shed the blood of innocent Afghan.

our historical army. Our government bodies were destroyed or used to be ground, our highways, bridges, schools, hospitals were destroyed, our national economy was annihilated, our children were deprived of education and resources. Our country was globally isolated.

The self-interest countries merely exploited this situation and put fuel to fire of the devastating conflict. The result is nothing but devastation, misdeeds

and meaningless fire of change sacrifices!

During this period millions of people were killed, injured, displaced, distressed, migrated around the world. Their lives took place, our youth affected with addiction, mourning for their children, thousands young ladies became widows.

Exploiting the last over forty years' experiences, today we

The Afghan noble people are unhappy for the genre of some regional countries and no longer believe them.

We expected them specially Pakistan to stretch the hand of Islamic brotherhood toward us and express sincerity because we too had already extended many helps with her in last days but they have forgotten everything. We need honest step not false commitment.

Abdul Hadi Quraishi

## Vaccine delay and surging COVID death tolls in Afghanistan



Afghanistan is facing a brutal surge in COVID-19 infections as health officials plead for vaccines, only to be told by the World Health Organization that the virus is spreading unchecked.

Only recently, the government tried to take steps to clamp down on the surge. It closed schools, universities and colleges for two weeks. It also shut down wedding halls, which had been opening hundreds throughout the country.

But it is not so simple as wearing a mask in the streets, and strictly enforced, are necessary, like in government offices, the media and public places.

As many as 10 flights arrive daily from India, packed with Afghans, particularly students and people who had gone to India for medical treatment.

Nazari said human flights was not an option since many Afghans cannot afford to be stranded in India and the government cannot prevent citizens from returning to their own country.

For vaccines, Afghanistan is far behind the 40 nations of AsiaZones does from India and their purchases of Sinopharm from China.

About 600,000 people have had at least one dose, about 1.6 percent of the population of 38 million. But the number to have received a second dose is minute.

"So few I couldn't even say any percentage," Nazari said.

Last month, the ministry received a letter from the WHO regarding the expected shipment of three million vaccine doses will not arrive until August due to supply problems. Nazari said that only makes a more dangerous situation.

With 15,000 vaccine doses as remaining in the country, the authorities were forced to stop giving first jobs to not remaining supplies to give second jobs, he said.

Poor countries around the world have been pleading for vaccines even as developed nations have been able to inoculate significant portions of their populations.

COVAX, set up with United Nations help to try to prevent vaccine inequities, has struggled to fill the gap. It faced a major setback when its biggest supplier, the Serum Institute of India, announced last month that it would not export any vaccine until the end of the year because of the surge in the country.

"Honestly speaking, I lost my faith in COVAX," Nazari said.

Unfortunately, there are countries who vaccinated more than their 50 percent or 60 percent of the population, and there are countries who did not receive vaccines to even vaccinate one percent of their population.

On Thursday, the administration of United States President Joe Biden announced its plans to share with the world about 25 million unused COVID-19 vaccine doses. The US-backed COVAX global vaccine sharing program had received 75 percent of those doses, while the rest will go directly to US allies.

More than 63 percent of adults in the US have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

At the Afghan-Impar Communicable Disease Hospital, Kabul's only hospital dedicated solely to COVID treatment, all 174 beds are full. The health ministry opened roughly 350 more beds for coronavirus patients in another three hospitals, but they too quickly filled up. This week, people were turned away.

Each day three or four people die of COVID at the Afghan-Impar Hospital, said hospital administrator Dr. Jalil Rahmani.

Doctors say they are struggling with the public's refusal to take precautions and follow advice to protect. "One people believe it is fake, especially in the countryside," Rahmani said. "As they are religious and believe God will save them."

In the hospital's intensive care unit, Dr. Rahmani, Molavi, said that only makes a more dangerous situation.

"I am here to help," he said. "I listen to people and they say it's fake. Then they come back."

The health ministry has recruited prominent religious leaders and local elites to encourage vaccination and anti-coronavirus precautions.

The worsening COVID situation prompted the US embassy on Thursday to issue a health alert warning of shortages of supplies, oxygen and beds at hospitals and urging American citizens to "be aware of the situation as soon as possible."

