

## Afghan Ambassador asks India to send a ‘clear message to Taliban’

There has been a sharp escalation in violence in Afghanistan over the last few months. Even as intra-Afghan talks continue and the United States prepares to pull out its troops completely in September, there remains a question mark on the Taliban's sincerity. This has heightened India's concerns for the region.

Afghanistan's Ambassador to India Farid Mawdudiy, speaking to CNN News 1H, agreed that "India has legitimate concerns in Afghanistan". There are over 20 terror organisations that the Taliban supports with some that directly target India and Indian agencies. The Taliban is now sitting at the negotiating table and India is trying to get into its leadership in Doha. However, CNN News 1H has learnt from sources that India is yet to make any significant headway in being able to talk to the head of the Taliban's political office, Mullah Abdul Ghani Barter.

And even as India awaits this opening for a conversation, Ambassador Mawdudiy said that the Afghanistan government has expectations from India of sending "a clear message to the Taliban to let go of violence and preserve the gains of the last 20 years, particularly the democratic gains".

He said, "As the world's largest democracy, India has always stood for democratic values in Afghanistan and the government and people of Afghanistan expect New Delhi to continue supporting these principles".

During the Taliban regime in Afghanistan from 1996-2001, India withdrew but did not virtually exist. But since the fall of the Taliban, India has deeply invested in the region, India has undertaken about 400 develop-



ment programs in Afghanistan in 34 provinces. New Delhi recently announced the building of the Shahdost Dam in Kabul for providing safe drinking water. This being the second one after the Salma dam that was inaugurated in 2010.

However, with the Taliban making demands again, the situation seems alarming. The Taliban has taken over 93 out of 34 districts already. But sources say that does not mean that they can take control of the country. They stress that 60 per cent of the country and population and importantly the urban centres are governed by the Afghanistan government and fully in their control. Some districts that have been taken over are of little or no strategic significance.

The fact that the Taliban still continues to have ties with Al-Qaida remains a matter of grave concern as US troops withdraw. The latest report of the As-

sembly Support and Assistance Monitoring Team, submitted to the UN Security Council in May 2020 mentioned that relations between the Taliban and Al-Qaida "remain close". It said, "The Taliban regularly consulted with Al-Qaida during negotiations with the United States... The challenge will be to secure the counter-streaming gains to which the Taliban have been state. As a representative of the international power, it should make (viable and merely) use of its growing power to support the Taliban's efforts to reach a peaceful and stable region and let peace continue". A peaceful and stable region in Afghanistan and for this reason, New Delhi may seem to be on the periphery of the current developments but the region it will have to make the situation better.

The Kabul Times

## Public uprising against Taliban expanding in Afghanistan



Following surge in Taliban's attacks in various provinces and districts of Afghanistan, there is a growing demand that people have decided their support from Afghan National Front and security forces (ANF) to fight against Taliban attacks in the country.

Taliban has recently increased their attacks against the country's defence and security forces. Currently, fighting is ongoing in 20 provinces of Afghanistan. Recent surge in Taliban attacks in dozens of the country's districts has resulted in people's uprising, but there is concern over management of uprising for the sake.

Responsibility of leading and so has been taken by most regions in the country's south. Some cities in the country's south, some cities in the country's north, some

uprising. "People's uprising forces to have an internal background and have only taken arms to support ANF in fight against Taliban forces," said Farid Amiri, a spokesperson in the Ministry of Defence.

Amiri said that the uprising forces have taken arms to defend the country's security organs and military experts believe that recent uprising is aimed against Taliban attacks in the country.

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Rahim Dostin, former governor of Balkh and Mohammad Naei, leader of Herat, Mullah Shamsuddin Mohajeri and representative of Balkh people in Parliament.

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## QRCS eases community midwife training program in Afghanistan

KABUL, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has inaugurated a significant project to train community midwives in remote and underserved parts of Afghanistan. At a total cost of \$490,015 (around Q.R. 1.5m), the scheme is being implemented by the Afghan Red Crescent Society, Qatar.

The purpose of the project is to qualify 24 trainees as community midwives in the most and inaccessible areas of eight provinces: Badkhash, Badkhan, Faryab and Nuristan. QRCS has said as a statement.

During the 24-month training, the trainees will acquire the relevant knowledge and skills through theoretical and applied training programs at specialised hospitals and health centres. In accordance with the MoPH's training program, the trainees will receive a certificate upon completion.

After that, the trainees will receive graduation certification from Afghanistan's Supreme Council for Nursing and Midwifery.

The Kabul Times

The ceremony was attended by representatives of the MoPH, QRCS, Ministry of Economy, Supreme Council for Nursing and Midwifery, Shura Councils and health offices in target provinces. Other attendees included teachers, supervisors, trainers, trainees and local community leaders.

Zahidullah Qadri, MP for Badkhash, said: "I would like to thank QRCS and all partners and contributors for this vital project. The participants in this course are expected to play a major role in the future to alleviate the pain of many mothers and reduce neonatal deaths".

"I am lucky to be here in this excellent course. The women and men are going to do their best to reach us. I think of the suffering of the mothers in my neighbourhood due to lack of health services. I hope I will be able to help them in the future. Thank you QRCS for sponsoring this course and helping the poor parts of my country".

Karim Makhdoom



## CCNPP funded bridge connect tens of villages in Kabul

By Nurgulistan Ibrahim

A suspension bridge project worth more than A\$N 4.2 million, funded by the Chinese "One Belt One Road" initiative, is under construction in the northern province of Badkhash. The bridge, known as the "One Belt One Road" bridge, is expected to connect the province to the rest of the country.

The bridge project was handed over to the Chinese National Infrastructure Construction Corporation (CNIC) by the Afghan government. The bridge is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

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Which is crossing his outstretched and pleasure over the construction of the suspension bridge. Mr. Abdul Hamid Mawdudiy, the Afghan Minister of Economy, said: "The bridge is expected to connect the province to the rest of the country."

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