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## 10,000 'jihadi' fighters have crossed into Afghanistan from Pakistan: President Ghani

KABUL: Addressing Central and South Asia connectivity conference held here on Friday in Tashkent, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said Pakistan has not severed its relationship with terror groups. President Ghani's remarks came against the neighboring country, as Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan sat a few feet away on stage at the conference.

In a hard-hitting speech, President Ghani said more than 10,000 'jihadi' fighters have crossed Afghanistan in the last month, according to intelligence reports, while the Pakistan government had failed to convince the Taliban to participate "seriously" in the peace talks.

Country to repeated assurances by Prime Minister Khan and his General that Pakistan does not find Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in Pakistan's interest and fell short of use of force and its power and influence to make the Taliban negotiate seriously, negotiate and registration supporting the Taliban are openly condemning the destruction of the assets and cap-



ilities of the Afghan people and State," President Ghani said at the inaugural ceremony of the conference, which listed the challenges and threats to regional connectivity. The President said that Afghanistan was ready to counter Taliban and their supporters, as long as they realize that political solution is the only way forward.

On Thursday, first Vice President Amrullah Saleh said that the Pakistan military had threatened missile launches against the Afghan Air Force if it targeted Taliban militias that had damaged border checkpoints at Spin Boldak. In a statement, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry denied the claim.

It said Pakistan acknowledged Afghanistan's sovereignty. During the conference,

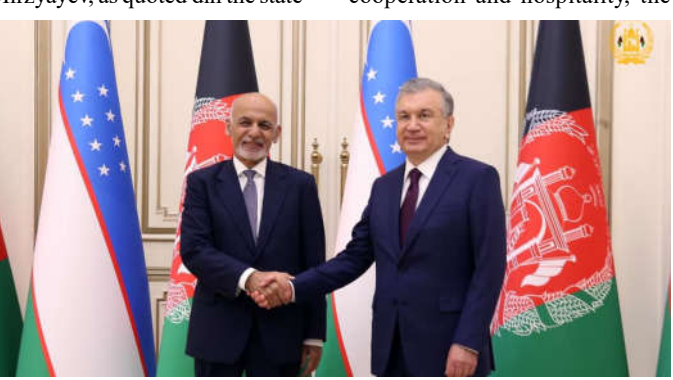
## President Ghani seeks Uzbekistan's crucial role for peace in Afghanistan

KABUL: President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met with his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the first day of his visit to Uzbekistan on Thursday at Kokovay Presidential Palace in Tashkent.

Both presidents discussed bilateral relationship, trade and transit within the framework of new chapter of relations between Afghanistan and other countries, as well as the significance of Afghanistan in regional connectivity, according to presidential palace statement.

President Ghani talked over the history of Afghanistan and its role in the regional roundabout and said a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan will be in the interest of its neighboring countries and the entire region.

He underscored that the role and cooperation of all countries, including Uzbekistan, will be significant and crucial for ensuring peace in Afghanistan, the state-gratitude to President Mirziyoyev for his goodwill, commitment to cooperation and hospitality, the



statement concluded.

## 'Pakistan Air Force supporting Taliban, threatening to down Afghan aircraft'



KABUL: After several evidence showed Pakistan's direct support of Taliban in Afghanistan,

VP Saleh tweeted on Thursday night, "Thinking Pakistan air force has issued official warning getting shot down." "If anyone doesn't stop, Pakistan Air Force will be ready to shoot evidence through UNL. Afghan aircrafts as far as 10 kilometers from Spin Boldak is a small check-off or the air is at its missiles. Afghanistan is being the mislead." VP Saleh tweeted.

Meanwhile in response to rejection of Taliban's demand for the existence of Qabala Shura or presence of Taliban leaders in its soil. Those familiar with this pattern, Afghan or foreign, have exactly that issuing a statement of denial is just a pre-written paragraph. "Spin Boldak is a key town in Kandahar province that lies on the Dehrawil Line with Pakistan and is a major road link to Qabala."

The Kabul Times

## President Ghani, US delegation discuss support to ANDSF, peace process



KABUL: President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met with a US delegation led by Elizabeth Theobald-Randall, Assistant to the

President for Homeland Security and Deputy National Security Advisor of the United States, on Thursday afternoon in Tashkent.

Uzbekistan, a presidential palace statement said yesterday.

The two sides talked over the various aspects of the U.S. commitments on support for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, its assistance in development and humanitarian efforts and efforts to expedite the Afghan peace process, the statement added.

The U.S. delegation assured President Ghani that the country would deliver on every commitment they have made in these areas. They reiterated that the United States will firmly move forward

with Afghanistan and exercise its most efforts to accelerate the peace process and emerge with regional diplomatic efforts.

President Ghani expressed gratitude to the United States for its assistance with Afghanistan and said peace is the paramount prize of the Afghan government and the greatest ambition and demand of all Afghans.

During his stay in Tashkent, the president also met with Taliban and Indian foreign ministers, where both countries issued full support to Afghanistan peace and stability. The Kabul Times

## Taliban destroyed public infrastructures in 116 districts: Nadery

KABUL: The chairman of the Independent Administrative Regions and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC), Ahmad Nadery, on Thursday said that the Taliban's policy is to destroy the districts recently seized by the Taliban, especially government services have been shut and the number of civil servants have been harmed, as displaced from their areas in provincial capitals.

According to Nadery, the Taliban have destroyed 260 government buildings and as many as 116 districts. Nadery said that 13 million Afghans have been displaced or killed because of the threat of the Taliban.

There are more than 13 million people living in areas and districts recently captured by the Taliban, who currently have no

access to public services. In these areas, hundreds of development projects such as the reconstruction of water supply networks, roads, retaining walls, the construction of schools, bridges, hospitals, markets, cold storage facilities, electricity wells, etc., have been shut down. For example, in the Taliban-controlled districts of Takhar province alone, 112 ongoing development projects have now been completely stopped," said IARCSC chair Ahmad Nadery. He also said that the damage done by the Taliban on state institutions is estimated to be around \$500 million. He said that 400 public services employees have evacuated their areas in provincial capitals due to the fear of the Taliban.

"Attacks on civilian targets, including civilian infrastructures, is a clear breach of international humanitarian laws. These crimes must stop. A peaceful settlement of conflict and a shared future for our people is the only path to stop the destruction and suffering of our country and people," said Nadery.

In districts under Taliban control in Pakistan province, only those women working in government are permitted to work, but they must wear a hijab and be accompanied by a Mahram," he added.

"As the Taliban took control of the districts, more than 90,000 civil servants are unable to perform their duties and live in a humanitarian situation. Nearly 4,000 of the districts were shut down, which have either been burned or destroyed. The Taliban have displaced from their areas in provincial capitals due to the fear of the Taliban."

Nadery said, "Millions of Afghan people have been forced to flee their homes without valid and guards," said Zafarullah Farhadi, a spokesman for the AHRIC.

## Reuters journalist killed covering clash near crossing with Pakistan

KABUL: Reuters journalist Danish Siddiqui was killed on Friday while covering a clash between Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters near a border crossing with Pakistan, an Afghan commander said.

Afghan special forces had been fighting to retake the main market area of Spin Boldak when Siddiqui and a senior Afghan officer were killed in what they described as Taliban snipers, the official told Reuters.

Siddiqui had been embedded as a journalist since after this week with Afghan special forces based in the southern province of Kandahar and had been reporting on fighting between Afghan commandos and Taliban fighters.

"We are urgently seeking more

information, working with authorities in the region," Reuters President Michael Fendley and Editor-in-Chief Alexander Clifton said in a statement.

Siddiqui said Reuters he had been wounded in the ambush late last night on Friday while reporting on the clash. He was treated and had been recovering when Taliban fighters entered from the north and killed him.

The Presidential police condemned the attack and quoted the president, saying he was deeply saddened to hear about his loss.

The Presidential police extended support for the press and free media activity in the country.

Siddiqui had been talking to shopkeepers when the Taliban attacked again, the Afghan commander



The Kabul Times