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"Massive influx of transnational terrorist networks gives the war new regional, intl' dimensions," President Ghani

KABUL: Addressing the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) meeting at the Presidential Palace on Wednesday, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said "We believe in the future of Afghanistan," adding that "today's Afghanistan has really changed."

"I offered a bridge to peace through the holding of early elections," President Ghani said. "The Loya Jirga took the unprecedented step of releasing 5,000 hardened Taliban fighters and some of the largest drug dealers under the assurance of good conduct by the international community."

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UN envoy warns Taliban of international isolation if continue atrocities, human rights violations

KABUL: Addressing the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) meeting at the Presidential Palace on Wednesday, Deborah Lyons, the UN secretary general's special representative for Afghanistan, said that if there is no progress in the peace talks, the world will not work with the Taliban.

"If there is no movement at the negotiating table, and instead human rights abuses and worse still atrocities occur in districts they control, the Taliban will not be seen as a viable partner for the international community," said Lyons.

Lyons said that the meeting takes place in extraordinary circumstances, with work to preserve the gains never more urgent or challenging.

"With the territory they have taken the Taliban have inherited responsibilities. The world is watching closely how they are acting, especially towards civilian populations, women, and minorities. The Taliban have gained a certain legitimacy in recent years through their negotiations in Doha, but this legitimacy is premised on their commitment to a political negotiation with the Government of Afghanistan, a commitment which their battle-focused strategy casts into doubt," said Lyons.

"No major donor will finance the repression of women, let me say that again, no major donor will finance the repression of women, nor any major donor will finance the discrimination of minorities, the denying of education to girls, or the decrees of an authoritarian government," said Lyons, adding: "They cannot do so, not only because these are against the norms of the United Nations and international community, but because a society built on these restrictions cannot and will not function for its citizens."

She added: "Eighteen million Afghans today are facing dire humanitarian needs. That is twice the number of the same category last year. It represents half the country. As we sit in this room today, we must have foremost on our minds these 18 million Afghans, who in the height of a hot summer, endure a fourth wave of COVID (like so many other countries around the world) endure a persistent drought, and intensified fighting that has killed among the highest number Afghans ever —as reported in our recent UNAMA Mid-term review on Protection of Civilians."

She also said that: "donors seek reassurance from Afghanistan government that it recognizes the nature of the current crisis and that it has a strategic outlook that addresses it."

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MoFA seeks support for Afghan peace process amid Taliban delegation's visit to China

KABUL: China told a visiting Taliban delegation on Wednesday it expected the insurgent group to play an important role in ending Afghanistan's war and rebuilding the country, the Chinese foreign ministry said.

Nine Taliban representatives met Foreign Minister Wang Yi in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin on a two-day visit during which the peace process and security issues were discussed, a Taliban spokesperson said.

Wang said the Taliban is expected to "play an important role in the process of peaceful reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan", according to a readout of the meeting from the foreign ministry. He also said that he hoped the Taliban would crackdown on the East Turkestan Islamic Movement as it was a "direct threat to China's national security," according to the readout, referring to a group China says is active in the Xinjiang region in China's far west.

Meanwhile Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that they have been consulted over Taliban delegation's visit to China, adding that the neighboring country has asked the group to seek negotiations over war in Afghanistan.

"The government of the People's Republic of China recently informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan that a Taliban delegation is scheduled to visit China. The invitation is intended to express China's concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, the presence of foreign fighters and terrorists alongside the Taliban, and the Chinese government's support for peace talks and political agreement," a MoFA statement said yesterday.

The statement further said: "During the meeting, the Chinese government expressed its deep concern over the recent Taliban attacks, which have resulted in the increasing killing of innocent people and the displacement of tens of thousands of people and called on the Taliban to accept a political solution and cut ties with regional terrorists."

The statement said: "Given the common security threats and common political and economic interests, and in the light of recent talks between the two presidents and foreign ministers, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan expects the Chinese government to play important role in strengthening regional consensus and put international pressures on the Taliban to end violence, declare ceasefire, ensure peace and end the presence of foreign terrorists in Afghanistan."

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Pakistan should not beat the drum for destruction of Afghanistan: Wafayezada

KABUL: Acting Minister of Information and Culture, Mohammad Qasim Wafayezada said Wednesday that Pakistan still imagines a stateless Afghanistan and that the neighboring country should not beat the drum for destruction, reacting to a recent tweet by Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who called for a ceasefire in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan's foreign minister tweeted the other day, calling for a ceasefire in Afghanistan. The tweet comes after the international community returned attention and support for the people and government of Afghanistan, following a campaign of bloodshed, violence and killings," Minister Wafayezada said in a written note on his Facebook page.

The minister went on saying that Qureshi's short tweet reveals the hidden intention and obvious goals of the Pakistani government, as it still imagines a stateless Afghanistan and calls anyone stakeholders.

"The war in Afghanistan is imposed by Pakistani and their backed Taliban agents who have accepted slavery of the ISI and this is a war of terrorism against the people of Afghanistan, not a war of few domestic political groups.

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Pakistan's proxy war destroyed Afghanistan, Pakhtunkhwa: Pashteen

KABUL: Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader Manzoor Pashteen at a gathering in South Waziristan on Tuesday called for peace and an end to the "proxy war" in Afghanistan.

"Let the Afghans decide their future by themselves through talking and voting," Pashteen said.

"PTM's strong stance against the war in Afghanistan is because not only has it destroyed Afghanistan but also Pakhtunkhwa and indeed has kept the region in poverty and stagnation," Pashteen said.

The people of Waziristan are against the war and insurgency, he said, adding that in "the case of Afghanistan, the land of Waziristan has always been used and encouraging the people to jihad."

"Negative interventions have ruined us all and Pakistan's interventions have led us to destruction," Pashteen said.

Meanwhile, in a tweet on Tuesday, Pashteen reacted to killing of a comedian in Kandahar, saying war continues in new form on Pashtoon Afghan soil.

"This is the dead body of an Afghan comedian Fazal Mohammad who was killed by Taliban. Since the results of Doha negotiations have become a fight, the world is silent on the cruelty of Taliban. There is no mention of Taliban's hideouts in the nominated negotiations. The war continues in a new form on Pashtoon Afghan soil," he tweeted.

This comes as many Pakistan citizens found death while fighting Afghan forces in different provinces and Afghan officials blaming Pakistani military establishment for supporting Taliban and sending thousands of terrorists into Afghanistan.

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