

Iranian, Indian women worry about Afghan women fate

As the Taliban group intensifies offensives in many parts of the country, thousands of Iranian and Indian women activists expressed their concern about the fate and future of women and girls in Afghanistan. They, through gatherings, expressed their support for women and girls against the re-emergence of the Taliban extremists and their intensification of attacks and possibly rising to violent power.

"We, the Iranian women, are concerned about the re-emergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the implementation of non-religious and intolerant interpretations in the name of Islam, especially on Afghan women and girls," a statement from the Iranian women activists said.

The women activists during a gathering asked the Iranian politicians and leaders not to let Afghan women alone and support the people of Afghanistan in the prevention of the Taliban re-taking power. "We Iranian women will spare no effort to convey the voice of

Afghan women to regional and international policymakers who are watching an alarming silence the decline of a nation's human values," the statement noted.

They called on the Iranian government to work with the Afghan people to prevent the re-establishment of the Taliban military power and said the Iranian women expect policymakers and government officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to use all their effective capacities to prevent the Taliban's sovereignty and stability.

Likewise, dozens of women in the Indian city of Mumbai condemned the targeted killing of women in Afghanistan and during a news conference entitled Indian Women's Solidarity in condemning the murder of Afghan women and children and the loss of civilian lives and calling for an immediate ceasefire and a truce in the United Nations to address the situation, experts claimed to media and went on to call on social media.

During a gathering, the Indian women emphasized on preserving the achievements of Afghanistan in the last two decades and stressed that they will always stand by the people of Afghanistan and maintain the republican system, according to the report.

The Indian and Iranian women came across after women rights activists, civil society and media activists, university professors at a meeting collected half a million signatures to call for immediate ceasefire and peace resolution in the war-torn nation. By collecting these signatures, they expressed their support for the peace process and the protection of women's rights, said Sushila Seshu, communication director for the Human Provincial Department of Women's Affairs.

A number of civil society and women's rights groups in Afghanistan also believe that Afghan women have suffered much during the Taliban regime, so they want to raise all issues relating to women and want talks with the Taliban. However, Sushu, a woman's

rights activist and member of civil society said that it was an obvious fact that women have made significant achievements in all areas in recent years and want all these achievements to be preserved in the peace negotiations.

The 90,000 Afghan women, are concerned about the future of these talks and want to see the government, the international community and the parties involved in preserving the achievements of women in the peace talks and that these achievements should not be challenged," the activists stressed.

Now that peace talks have made hot media topic, the Afghan government and a number of countries in the world and the region are working in this area and that women want all peace issues to be shared with them. The activists also said that the government leadership had repeatedly said it has always

periodized peace efforts in consultation with various segments of the country and that the role of civil society and women has not been overlooked. **Suraya Razaee**

Future of Afghanistan cannot be its past: Jaishankar at SCO meet

The future of Afghanistan cannot be its past and the world is against seizure of power by violence and force, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday at a key meeting of the SCO in the backdrop of Taliban fighters gaining control over large parts of the conflict-ridden country.

He, in his address at the meeting of the SCO foreign ministers' contact group on Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Mr. Jaishankar also emphasized the need for ensuring that Kabul's neighbors are not "threatened by terrorism, separatism and extremism."

The meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's contact group took place in the midst of growing global concerns over escalating violence in Afghanistan as the US seeks to complete withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan by August-end, ending a nearly two-decade of its military presence in the war-torn country. **Russian Foreign Minister**

Sergey Lavrov, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Taliban Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Oreshki and Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar were among those who participated at the meeting.

Presenting India's views on Afghanistan, Mr. Jaishankar said the world, the region and the Afghan people all want an "inclusive, democratic, unified, peaceful, democratic and prosperous nation".

"Peace negotiations in earnest is the only answer. An acceptable compromise that reflects the interests of all stakeholders," he stressed.

"A whole new generation has different expectations. We should not let them down," Mr. Jaishankar added.

The Delhi process, Moscow format and Istanbul process are separate frameworks for dialogue to resolve the conflict in Afghanistan.

"The challenge is to act seriously and sincerely on these behalfs, because there are forces at work with a very different agenda. The world is against seizure of power by violence and force. It will not legitimize such actions," Mr. Jaishankar said.

He also called for curbing violence and terrorist attacks against civilians and state representatives and pushed for settling conflict through political dialogue, and by respecting the interests of all stakeholders.

Afghanistan witnessed a series of terror attacks in the last few weeks in the U.S. aimed to complete the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan by August-end, ending a nearly two-decade of its military presence in the war-torn country.



China asks Taliban to make 'clean break' from terrorists, return to mainstream

China has asked the Islamist militant group to make a "clean break" from all terrorist forces, including the Taliban, and return to the mainstream, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday pushed for ensuring intra-Afghan negotiations and prevention of all kinds of terrorist forces gaining ground in the war-torn region. Wang said that the Taliban should make a "clean break" with all terrorist forces and return to the mainstream of Afghan politics.

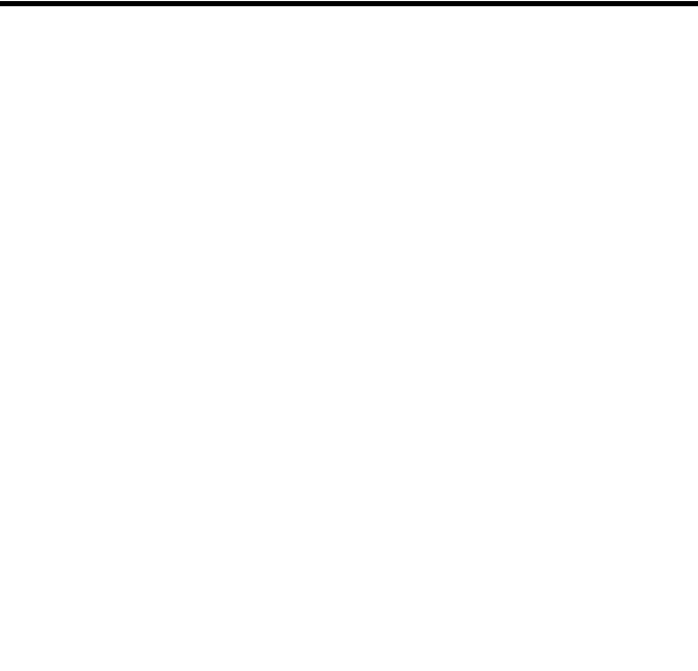
Alongside the push for the Afghan government which is fighting the Taliban fighters to defeat its terrorists, the Chinese foreign minister said that the government should also ensure that the Taliban fighters do not "take advantage of the situation to expand their control over the country."

Wang's statement on the future of Afghanistan was made during a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Dushanbe. The issue of Afghanistan dominated the meeting on Wednesday where external affairs minister S. Jaishankar joined his counterparts from the SCO nations.

China, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

"Afghanistan, public health and economic recovery are pressing issues. Continuing terrorist attacks, continuing terrorism and extremism is a major obstacle to the development of the country and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

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Government asked to change market for people's interest

A number of residents of Kabul city who are living in poor conditions of life are asking the government to change the market to the benefit of ordinary people in the country.

Following unprecedentedly falling of the value of Afghan against the US dollar, ordinary Afghans have faced with challenges in Afghanistan markets. A number of Afghans say with the Afghan income they cannot afford to pay for all expenditures.

Currently, Afghan businessmen need to provide US dollar for renting house or apartment in big cities including Kabul, the capital. Besides, most trade transactions and dealings are finalized with US dollar rather than the Afghan, So, for no relevant government institutions have taken any steps towards addressing the problem.

Following unprecedentedly the value of Afghan against US dollar has created increasing concern among the country's ordinary people. A number of Afghan businessmen, who are engaged in various businesses, have expressed their concern about the future of the Afghan economy.

They said that the value of the Afghan against the US dollar has fallen to its lowest level in the history of the Afghan economy. This has led to a sharp increase in the price of various goods and services, which has caused a significant increase in the cost of living for the ordinary people.

They also said that the government should take immediate steps to address the problem, such as by increasing the supply of US dollars and by stabilizing the value of the Afghan against the US dollar.

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each month we need to first change Afghan to US dollar to pay for the rent of the house we are living in."

With the rise of US dollar's value, the price of foodstuffs has increased recently and people cannot afford to buy them in markets as most families and employees of government offices and private companies can now in Afghanistan.

The rising value of the dollar allows them to meet their lower needs with the income of the Afghan currency.

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to Program of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in a Kandahar village, Balkh province, said that the Taliban fighters have taken control of the province, according to the agency.

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MRRD provides safe drinking water for 230 families in Nangarhar

KABUL: The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) through Water Sanitation and Hygiene Program, constructed water supply network in Osmankhel Village, Nangarhar district. The Ministry said in a statement.

The water supply network, implemented with a cost of 1.4 million Afghanis and 230 families were provided access to safe drinking water.

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School building inaugurated in Balkh

KABUL: With the completion of the construction of new school building in Kandahar village, Balkh province, said that the Taliban fighters have taken control of the province, according to the agency.

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270 families provided potable water in Takhar

KABUL: The Water Sanitation and Hygiene Program of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) constructed water supply network in Takhar province. The Ministry said in a statement.

The water supply network, implemented with a cost of 1.4 million Afghanis and 270 families were provided access to safe drinking water.

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Turkish police detain 12 Pakistani citizens claiming to be Afghans

KABUL: Turkish police on July 14 detained 12 Pakistani citizens who claimed to be Afghans during their controls in the Kandahar district of the Central Asian country of Kyrgyzstan.

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