MoHR strongly reacts to Mujib Rahman Ansari's remarks

By: Lailuma Noori

Mawlavi Mujib Rahman Ansari, a religious scholar and imam of Herat's Guzargah mosque during Friday's prayer has somehow declared support to the Taliban group.

Mohammad Qasim Halimi, Minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs, in a news conference in Kabul has said that a number of religious ulamas who are supporting the Taliban group are evil, vicious and coward, asking the government to arrest them.

"Response to ignorant people wearing the clothes of religious ulmas will be given and from now on, no ignorant person will raise their voice in support of the enemy in mosques," Mawlavi said, adding that these ignorant people are those who are getting salaries from the government, but raising their voice for the support of the enemy.

Mawlavi Mujib Rahman Ansary, the religious figure in Herat's Guzargah mosque, had said that in current government of Afghanistan, everything could be found except Islam. Minister of Hajj has rejected Ansari's remark and called him a hypocrite.

Mohammad Qasim Halimi said that any religious scholars who preach against the government and propagate for the enemy should be arrested as soon as possible. He asked the government that clerics who do not offer funeral prayers of the martyrs of the security forces should be sent to prison.

The minister further said that Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Ansari, the Khateeb of Guzargah Mosque in Herat, had recently said that the veteran politician of the province, Ismail Khan, should not fight against the Taliban, and let the insurgents bring a 'true Islamic' system in the country.

Mawlavi Halimi has also asked chairman of Pakistan's Ulama Council and Ulama-e-Haqqania to prevent the Punjab government from interfering in internal affairs of Afghanistan. A number of Afghan religious ulamas and scholars in reaction to recent remarks of Mawlavi Ansari said that Ansari's remarks are not acceptable and even call it against human and Islamic values.

"Mawlavi Ansari's remarks and preaches are against the country's national interests," said Abdul Ali Kohi, a religious scholar and university lecturer.

He told the media that Taliban was a vicious and dangerous phenomenon as they were against all values of humanity and enemy of development and civilization.

A number of Afghan citizens have also reacted to the recent remarks of Mawlavi Mujib Rahman Ansari. The Afghan citizens said that those individuals such as Mawlavi Ansari, standing against the government and people, could pose threat to the country's national security, asking for arresting and punishing them as soon as possible. "Recent remarks of Mawlavi Ansari and his supporters show that the problem of Afghanistan is not only the 70,000 Taliban but the vision of Talibanism and extremism among some people in the country," said Mohammad Salihi, an Afghan social activist. Another Afghan social activist says it is time that all those religious scholars and people who are somehow supporting the Taliban and currently working with the government should be sacked and fired. Afghans are asking the government to take serious action against all those who are somehow supporting and raising their voices in support of the Taliban group. This comes amid increasing insecurities and surge in Taliban attacks in western Herat province.

How can Bangladesh take part in the development process in Afghanistan?

By: MD Pathik Hasan

Bangladesh and Afghanistan both situated in South Asia geographically. They share a common regional platform like SAARC. There are some harmonies between Afghanistan in sphere of religion, culture.

But Afghanistan has suffered many. From the independence from Britain to Present, there had and have a lot of problems in Afghanistan for power struggle. From King Jahir Shah to Soviet invasion, installation of Taliban regime in 1996 to US invasion in Afghanistan, now US troops withdrawal from Afghanistan, the people of Afghanis has been suffering. Now time will say, what is Afghanistan going to see in near future.

Now Afghan Peace Process' is going on after the sign of Doha Agreement. There may be some internal problems in Afghanistan between Taliban and The Afghan government in case of capturing state power. Taliban is conducting struggle to fulfill their goals. On the other hands, a civil Afghan government is also operating the country. But after the US troops post withdral, struggle for power is continuing. No one know what is the future of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh understands the situation of Afghanistan, it's people. Bangladesh is a peace lover, democratic country in South Asia. Peace lover and rising economic star in South Asia, Bangladesh always would like see the permanent peace in Afghanistan. Bangladesh was also a war ravaged country after the independence from Pakistan in 1971. Bangladesh had extreme poverty, unemployment, diseases, returnee refugees from India, gap of infrastructural development. Bangladesh had to struggle to overcome this. The current ruling party, Bangladesh Awami league have huge contribution to rebuild the war torn country.

Bangladesh is friendly helpful country for anyone in the world. Bangladesh is recognized as a humanitarian state for giving shelter the Rohingyas (Displaced people of Myanmar by it's own government). There, Bangladesh understands the all humanitarian aspects of all issues. Afghan refugee problem is one of the problem for the region. These refugees will return Afghanistan one-day. But Afghanistan has no experience to deal with it. Bangladesh can help Afghanistan in this regard in case of refugee treatment.

Bangladesh is a full fledged democratic country in South Asia. It is unnecessary to say that Bangladesh would work with whom. Taliban or current Afghan government. Obviously, Bangladesh will work with people mandated regime. It can be Taliban or current Afghan regime. There is no problem for Bangladesh in this regard. 'Friendship to all, Malice to none ' is the basic principle of it's foreign policy. If Taliban forms government, then Bangladesh will work with them. But at this moment, Bangladesh government works with current government for it's constitinual obligation. But this is not a issue. The state minister for foreign affairs of Bangladesh clearly stated that Bangladesh government will work with all legitimate actors in the world. Although US urged Bangladesh to join its military with US military in 2010, Bangladesh refused the invitation. Bangladesh keeps it's neutrality. It is the core strategy of Bangladesh. For this everyone praises and louds Bangladesh. I think Bangladesh is a truly peace lover But that is not a main issue of my article. Bangladesh is interstated to promote the socio economic condition of Afghan people. Off course, Bangladesh will invest huge according to it's capacity if the situation is stagnant in Afghanistan to rebuild the state.

Ties between Afghanistan and Bangladesh goes back before the emergence of their modern political borders sharing historical, cultural and trade relations. In 1971, the Kingdom of Afghanistan was one of the first Muslim countries to recognise the independence of Bangladesh, along with Turkey, Malaysia and Indonesia. They share similar views on international issues such as combating terrorism and increased regional cooperation. A Bangladeshi NGO, BRAC is a part of the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan particularly in microfinance and in 2007 the Afghan ambassador to Bangladesh, Ahmed Karim Nawabi had stated that Afghanistan is interested in recruiting manpower from Bangladesh. Afghanistan is interested to recruit manpower from Bangladesh to rebuild the war-ravaged country. Bangladesh can certainly send manpower to Afghanistan, which will be win-win deal for both the countries. Bangladesh wants to help Afghanistan achieve socio-economic growth and will be happy to help the country. BRAC is working in various areas including microfinance. Afghanistan can import high quality goods like tea, pharmaceutical items, ceramics, plastic items and leather products from Bangladesh. Likewise, Bangladesh can import dry food from Afghanistan. Afghanistan wants to increase trade and economic relations with Bangladesh. Terrorism, drug and narcotics are major problems in Afghanistan.. All states (Bangladesh-Afghanistan) should work collectively to combat against terrorism for security in this region as terrorism undermines socio-economic growth.

According to some Bangladeshi media, The prime Minister Sheikh Hasina already stated that non government organizations like Brac are working for the socio-economic development of Afghanistan. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered help to Afghanistan in their efforts for development, stressing that peace is a must for progress. "Peace is a must for development," she said when outgoing Afghan Ambassador Abdul Qayoom Malikzad met her at her official residence Ganabhaban in April in 2021. Bangladesh imports a huge amount of dry foods from Afghanistan every year and Afghanistan can import high quality medicine from Bangladesh

"Afghanistan can use Bangladesh's experiences in many development sectors, including women empowerment, basic education, healthcare, sanitation and human resources," According to Brack International website, In 2002, BRAC started its first international operation by venturing into Afghanistan. Since then, we have continued to play a significant role in the country's development. We provide essential services and support in 95 districts under 14 provinces and hard to reach communities. Bangladesh can also seek support from Afghanis at every common international form in favor of Rohingya repatriation. Afghanistan can support also in this regard. Bangladesh is a humanitarian state. It is natural that Bangladesh will participate in the development process in Afghanistan because Bangladesh is going to a rising South Asian peace keeper.

Thousands of Afghans return home from Iran, Pakistan in 2 weeks, official

By: Suraya Raiszada

The country's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriates said the other day that over the past two weeks, 12,000 Afghan refugees, most of them have returned home from Iran and Pakistan.

Many of the disparate people have been taken out of the country through human traffickers, after they wanted to shoulder the burden of journey to find work in other countries, through Iran, Mohammad Reza Bayer, the ministry's deputy spokesman told The Kabul Times. Out of 12 thousand returnees to Afghanistan, only 31 of them have returned from Pakistan and the remaining all from Iran, the spokesman said.

When asked about how many Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan this year, the spokesman said during the solar 1400, the total number of refugees returning to Afghanistan was 580,000, of whom 567 returned home, half of them voluntarily and the remaining deported.

He added that Pakistan was the second country after Iran from where about 4,500 Afghans returned home recently while some 8,000 others have returned from Turkey.

According to him, there are Afghan workers who leave for Iran to work voluntarily and return to Afghanistan voluntarily after a while, while those deported from Iran are living in that country illegally.

About the Pakistan authorities' allegedly assertions that Afghans refugees should leave the country, the spokesman said they had not received such a report yet, and that in 1400 and in 1399 (Afghan solar calendar), those who came to Afghanistan were all volunteers.

He said that due to the recent insecurities, large number of Afghan citizens have been displaced from their provinces.

The spokesman also gave details about the program of the ministry as saying: "We are worried about this. We therefore call on the United Nations, and the embassies operating in Afghanistan and Afghanistan partners, to assist the Afghan government in resettlement of the internally displaced persons and refugees, and the host countries, especially Europe, to end the forced deportation of Afghan refugees as Afghanistan cannot currently welcome migrants. "We call on all countries to accept Afghans as refugees, given the current situation in Afghanistan," he said. The escalation of the war in the country has made life difficult for the citizens and officials from the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations also say that more than 50,000 families have been displaced this year as a result of fighting between security forces and the Taliban across the country. Statistics from the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations show that only over the last 15 days, more than 14,000 families have fled their homes due to the war and moved to safer areas. The official went on as saying a total of 51,000 families were displaced from their homes in 1400 (this year) due to Taliban violence and came to the areas under the government control. "Our services are running at the same time and we have been able to assist 72,000 families, consisting 400,000 people, and in the last two weeks, the displaced people have reached about 14,000 families," he said. The ministry warned that continuation of violence will help increase the number of displaced people in the country, which will cause a major humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, where the relief process will be hampered. According to the ministry's spokesman, most of the IDPs were from Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Jawzjan, Helmand, Laghman, Paktia and Ghazni provinces.

© picture-alliance/Tom Koene

Complains over increasing price of gas & fuel in northern provinces

By: Shukria Kohistani

A number of residents of the country's north are complaining of hiking the price of gas and fuel, saying that with increasing insecurities and surge in Taliban attacks, the price of gas and fuel has increased in recent days.

They are asking the government to pay serious attention to addressing problems of residents of the country's north. Increasing insecurities and surge in Taliban attacks have resulted in reduction in imports of fuel and gas from Hairatan and Aqina ports. Currently, the price of each liter of petrol fuel and each kg of gas have increased by 20 – 25 AFG.

Local officials of provincial chamber of commerce and industries in Balkh have considered increasing price of fuel in the world, increased dollar against AFG, falling of trade ports to the Taliban, security threats in Hairatan and Aqina ports and insecurities along the country's highways as main reasons of increased price of fuel and gas in the country's north.

A number of truck drivers are complaining of lack of the government's control on the price of fuel and gas in the country particularly Balkh province, saying that increasing insecurities have caused hiking the price of gas and fuel in the country.

According to Afghan truck drivers and some traders, Taliban do not let gas and fuel to be transported to cities. They say in all situation, truck drivers and traders are in the loss.

Meanwhile, the Union of Fuel and Gas Companies called on the Ministry of Industry and Trade to curb the price gouging in the country's fuel markets.

Officials at the union say rising taxes and insecurity have caused problems with fuel imports recently, and importers complain that selling one liter of petrol for 63 Afghanis in Kabul after buying it for 43 Afghanis at a border area is exploitative. This comes after Taliban fighters have recently taken the control of key trade ports in the country. Currently, Islam Qala and Torghundi ports in Herat, Abo Nasr-i- Farahi port in Farah, Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Aikhanum in Takhar, Pattan port in Paktia and Shir Khan port in Kunduz are under the control of the Taliban group. Afghanistan ministry of finance says the country has lost millions in AFG incomes in the past two months. In recent days, a number of national traders and businessmen have asked the government to take necessary steps in retaking the country's fallen trade ports, saying that they are facing with lots of problems in customhouses as most of ports are under the control of the Taliban insurgent group. It is worth mentioning that in such circumstances as the situation of the country is not good and prices are high, it is very hard for traders, businessmen and poor people to deal with the situation. The government should address all complaints and problems of the people, traders and entrepreneurs in the country.