

6-month security plan declared for security in Afghanistan, region



By: Suray Roshana

Following surge in Taliban attacks and increasing violence by the group in many parts of Afghanistan, government has proposed a 6-month security plan for the security of the country region and world. The security plan declared and introduced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) last week to 35 foreign embassies, representatives and international organizations in Kabul.

According to officials for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kabul security plan will be significant for both Afghanistan government and the regional and world countries. "This security plan will aid the region and world from increasing threats in foreign countries like,

ing with Taliban are currently trying to create safe havens in the country," said Mohammad Hafeez Attari, minister of foreign affairs.

Afghanistan government officials are asking the international community to exert necessary pressure on the Taliban group to accept ceasefire and negotiations based on ongoing war in the country. The government has prepared a six-month security plan to address security challenges in the country, and address security challenges in the country.

According to Ministry of Defense, the six-month security plan is a complete plan to address the security challenges and uncertainties. The plan will focus on strengthening intelligence and security forces, creating close coordination between defense and security organs and identifying security challenges and addressing them.

Afghan military experts believe the security plan will be productive only when it has implementing perspective and helps

security organs to prevent from any threat. If posed by terrorist groups in the country's border areas.

"If we do not bring reforms in the country's armed forces and not change the people's thoughts in connection with the enemy, such security plan won't address security challenges in the country," said Atiqullah Amiri, an Afghan military expert.

He added that besides suggesting a six-month security plan, the government should ask the international community particularly the US and NATO to exert further pressure on countries supporting the Taliban.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in his recent interview in connection with increasing tensions and violence and all preparations have been taken to repel the enemy's attacks and address increasing uncertainties in the country within six months. "Afghan National Army will focus on other

and actions, while Afghan National Police will provide security in cities and districts. Besides, National Directorate of Security and National Security Council will coordinate and run people's mobilization in the country," President Ghani said.

According to the country's defense and military experts, the country's defense and security organs have the responsibility to timely and increase supplies and military equipment to ANSF in remote parts of the country to fight the enemies.

Has come amid increasing uncertainties and surge in Taliban attacks and violence by the Taliban group in key provinces of the country as Helmand, Kandahar, Ghazni, Kunar, Paktia, Paktiya, Khost, and Takhar. The country's defense and security forces have repelled all attacks of the Taliban fighters on the provincial cities of the respective provinces in recent days. There is hope that with implementation of the six-month security plan, security situation will get improved within the coming six months.

Taliban shuts down free media in newly gained territory



Taliban fighters in a newly gained territory.

Afghanistan's thriving media sector has been hauled as

achievements of the past 20 years, following the Taliban's ban of independent media during its brutal 1996-2001 rule.

But the resurgence of Taliban is rapidly reversing these gains by stripping the press in the suburbs of sanctuary it has seized from government forces in recent months.

The militant group has already shut down dozens of local radio stations, newspapers, and broadcasters in the scores of districts it has captured since the start of the U.S.-led foreign military withdrawal on May 1.

Other media outlets have closed in fear of Taliban reprisals, with many of their journalists fleeing their homes or going underground. The Taliban has been blamed for killing dozens of reporters and media workers in recent years.

The few outlets allowed to operate have been forced to broadcast Taliban propaganda. They have been banned from airing music or women's voices. News reports have been replaced by Taliban-approved bulletins, exhortations from the Koran, and Islamic sermons.

Forced to work for the Taliban, Newshar Radio, a commercial station based in Balkh, a district in the northern province of the same name, shut its doors last month when the Taliban seized control of the area.

Many of its 18 employees, including four women, fled or went underground. Only technicians remained behind. Within days, the station was broadcasting again, but much of the staff was in charge of the station was in charge of the provincial capital, Mazar-i-Sharif.

"These" who stayed were forced to work and broadcast for the Taliban," said a former employee of the station who fled to the provincial capital, Mazar-i-Sharif.

The employees, who spoke in REFUGEE Radio Radio on condition of anonymity, said the station has become a no-man's-land for the Taliban.

"The Taliban uses the radio station to spread propaganda against the government," a former employee said. "It also broadcasts religious sermons. Music and entertainment shows have been banned from the air."

In other areas it has captured, the Taliban has permitted radio stations to operate but have imposed restrictions on their content.

Scholar Kakaia Radio, a private station in the Jom district of the northern province of Badkhash, was banned from broadcasting some of its shows. The inspection board found that employees from coming to work.

"We are currently broadcasting agricultural, health, and housing programs," says Nasir Ahmad Akbar, the director of the station. "Only men are working at the station."

For the past seven years, Radio Dabawand broadcast news and current affairs programs as well as cultural and entertainment shows. But when Taliban militants captured the Dabawand district in the western province of Uruzgan last month, the radio station fell silent.

"At first, the Taliban didn't allow us to use the radio station," says Mohammad Omer Wasi, the director of Radio Dabawand, who had since fled the district. "Then the equipment or the station was looted. A few days later, the radio station was destroyed."

The Taliban claimed the station was used for broadcasting militant propaganda. The Taliban group captured the district in 2001. But it is the deadliest of the Taliban's five-year reign over the country, the media sector has been shut.

Afghanistan now has an estimated 170 radio stations, more than 100 newspapers, and dozens of TV stations.

Under the Taliban regime there was only state-owned radio, the Taliban's Voice of Shariat, which was dominated by calls to prayer and religious teachings.

Taliban imposes Repressive Laws. The Taliban's reinstatement of press freedom comes as the extremist group has imposed many of the repressive laws and measures since 1996-2001 rule. When it controlled Afghanistan, the Taliban forced women to cover themselves from head to toe, banned them from working outside the home, severely limited girls' education, and required women to be accompanied by a male relative if they left their homes. Meanwhile, men were banned from wearing or showing their beards.

The Taliban also killed dozens of journalists and targeted independent media outlets to prevent them from reporting on the war. At least 12 Afghan journalists and media workers have been murdered in the past five years, with many of the killings blamed on the Taliban.

In May, the Taliban accused independent media outlets of "widespread propaganda" and threatened

journalists with "consequences."

Deputy Of Media Outlets, Shomrud.

At least 13 media outlets have shut down since the Taliban launched its offensive on May 1, according to Afghanistan's Information and Culture Ministry. It was not clear how many of the outlets were self-imposed or forced by the Taliban.

So other private media outlets have been seized and are now being run by the Taliban, the ministry says.

The NA said it has shown that 13 media outlets have shut down since April 14 radio stations, five television stations, one media center, and a news agency.

Most of the closures have occurred in provinces that have been the target of Taliban attacks, including the northern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand as well as the northern provinces of Badkhash, Takhar, Baghlan, Samangan, Faryab, and Badkhash.

More than 1,000 journalists and media workers, including 190 women, have lost or left their jobs since April, according to the NA.

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Regional connectivity in South and Central Asia

KABUL: A regional connectivity conference was held in Kabul on July 15 and 16 to promote economic, security, and regional connectivity in South and Central Asia.

Delegates from the United States, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the United Nations, the European Union, Russia, China, Turkey, and Iran, among others, were in attendance. Delegates from the United States and the five Central Asian countries met in the CSTO format to affirm their commitment to strengthen regional connectivity via trade, transport, and energy links.

Assistant to President John Biden for Homeland Security, Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, delivered opening remarks recognizing 30 years of partnership between the United States and the countries of Central Asia. She reaffirmed U.S. government commitment to realizing the region's



Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Assistant to President John Biden for Homeland Security, speaking at the regional connectivity conference.

bilateral meetings with senior officials of the region, including Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and India, to identify concrete opportunities to enhance connectivity in the region, address humanitarian concerns, and increase cooperation in the fight against Covid-19. She was joined by U.S.

Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan Daniel Rostowinski.

The delegation also met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Afghan Foreign Minister Hamed Shmar to discuss the evolving security situation in Afghanistan.

China eyes Afghanistan at a pivotal moment

KABUL: The United States and NATO poised to withdraw military forces from Afghanistan are watching the resurgence of Taliban as a critical moment in the region's future.

Regional observers are anxious to see whether a renewed civil war will finally take over the country, or if a new era of stability can be seen. While China has long had a much more limited role in the Afghan war, its rising interest in Central Asia means that it is more likely to play an important part in determining the future of Afghanistan. Even China has no serious interest in taking the lead of a new Afghan government, but its support for Taliban resistance, its economic interests in Afghanistan's natural resources, the country's central position on the border of Belt and Road network, and

its war in Afghanistan mean it is a major U.S. interest. China is likely to adopt a pragmatic approach that acknowledges the Taliban's military ascendancy. The U.S. aims to withdraw most of its troops from Afghanistan by the end of the year, but the U.S. will not leave until it is sure that the U.S. can protect its interests in the region.

The U.S. has been able to stand on its own in the region, but the Afghan public's government has struggled to establish basic legitimacy and economic cooperation in most areas. Meanwhile, Taliban efforts have grown increasingly sophisticated, and the number of recent attacks, Afghan Army forces have abandoned their posts with a fight—a clear sign of an emerging civil war.

The Taliban's present position is a precarious one. It has been in power for only a few months, and its government control is limited to the major cities.

The military reality here is that the Taliban's forces are still in the region, and the U.S. is still in the region. The Taliban's forces are still in the region, and the U.S. is still in the region.

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