

## Danish: Peace Plan Should not be Discussed in Absence of Government or Only on Foreigners' Demands

KABUL - Second vice president Sarwar Danish said that Afghanistan will support rational plan for bringing in peace, but no plan should be discussed in the absence of the Afghan government or only on the demands of foreigners. Speaking at the 26th anniversary of the martyrdom of Abdul Ali Mazari, the martyr of national unity, on Thursday in Kabul, Danish reiterated that the peace plan should be discussed within the framework of protecting the political system and maintaining the Constitution.

He added that the plan for the formation of an interim setup will be a backpedaling and means the collapse of the system, reiterating that if a plan leads to the collapse of the current system and elimination of the Constitution, it will not be acceptable. Danish called on all political figures and parties to strengthen their support to the republic system and warned that the Taliban are asking all, formally or informally, to pledge allegiance to emirate system, and there is no indication if the Taliban have moderated their mindset.



He stressed that the Taliban are unlikely to be decisive for achieving peace and it will not emerge through the government's one-sided efforts. Danish stated that peace will not emerge through pleading and declaration of one-sided peace means nothing than submission, which will be void of honor and justice and will not last long. The vice president warned that

Afghanistan should not change into the center of international terrorism, and it is the common responsibility of the nation and state as well as the international community not to let this happen. For materialization of peace, he maintained that the Taliban, regional states and the international community have to guarantee that Afghanistan's independence and integrity will be

immune from terrorist attacks and proxy war. According to Danish, the followers of Abdul Ali Mazari and all the Shia and Hazara in Afghanistan consider peace a dire need for the country and will never support prolongation of war and violence. However, they will never ever accept monopolization or marginalization, he emphasized. (Monitoring Desk)

## Ghani Calls for ECO's Active Role in Afghan Peace Process



KABUL - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has called on members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), an Asian political and economic intergovernmental organization, to play role in supporting a durable peace in Afghanistan. Addressing the 14th ECO Summit on Thursday, Ghani stated that Afghanistan is in "a truly historic open moment to make a just in lasting peace to a political Agreement to eradicate violence by achieving the in-state of a sovereign democratic in united Afghanistan." Ghani told the members of the ECO: "We count on and need your support to secure international and regional guarantees for securing Afghanistan's future." "Pakistan is an especially significant role to play in supporting a lasting peace process for it is the country more likely most likely

to suffer from the adverse Consequences god forbid of a failed peace process." He said. President Ghani emphasized the urgency for building peace in the war-weary country. "For 42 years we the people of Afghanistan have been denied the foundational right to peace it is time to stop the violence that has turned our beautiful country into a killing field," Ghani noted. He pointed out that ECO members' support for a comprehensive ceasefire and to accelerate the negotiations in Doha is crucial. "We, the people and government of Afghanistan and our international partners, have a true sense of urgency to make and build peace. Your support for a comprehensive ceasefire to accelerate the negotiations in Doha is essential," Ghani stated. Meanwhile, Ghani has...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (1)

## Violence in Afghanistan 'Must End', EU Condemns Targeted Killings



European Union Condemned the targeted attacks on media workers, journalists, and women in Afghanistan.

EU also called on all of the warring parties to end the violence and that "the violence in Afghanistan must stop".

According to European Union, the atrocious, planned assassination of three young female media workers deprived them of their future, their families, friends, love ones, and colleagues.

"The Taliban remain responsible for the majority of civilian casualties and targeted assassinations, either directly or by opposing a ceasefire. Targeting journalists must stop. Targeting women must stop. The violence in Afghanistan must stop," the statement indicated.

The European Union expects transparent and thorough investigations of all these attacks and assassinations, the statement said, reiterating the European Union's resolve to support media and the freedom of speech in Afghanistan.

EU hoped for a transparent and thorough investigation of all such attacks, targeted killings and reiterated the EU's support to media and freedom of speech in Afghanistan.

These attacks illustrate the vulnerable and dangerous situation that female media workers face. "It also continues a worrying trend of systematic, targeted attacks and killings of journalists, human rights defenders, civil society representatives and civil..."

More on (Page 4)  
Num (2)

## Moscow May Be New Venue for Afghan Peace Talks

KABUL - Russia has hinted at hosting next rounds of the ongoing intra-Afghan peace negotiations, which remain snail-paced over the past two months. President Putin's special envoy for Afghanistan said on Wednesday: "Despite reports on the resumption of meetings by the negotiating teams after a 45-day lull, we need to acknowledge that there is still an impasse in Doha."

A Russian media outlet quoted Zamir Kabulov as saying: "We call on the two sides to show flexibility and give mutual privileges with the aim of promoting peaceful negotiations."



A new venue for negotiations should be chosen by the negotiation delegations, he suggested, saying Moscow could be one of places for hosting the intra-Afghan dialogue. Taliban's representatives have visited Moscow...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (3)

## Seven Factory Workers "Brutally" Killed in Nangarhar

NANGARHAR - Unknown armed men have "brutally" killed seven "Hazara" workers of a plaster factory in Surkhrood district of the eastern Nangarhar province, according to local officials.

The factory workers were reported from Bamyan province.

Attaullah Khogyani, the spokesperson for Nangarhar governor, told Kabul Now that the assailants have "brutally" killed the factory workers. The incident took place last night, Wednesday, March 03, in Bawli village of Surkhrood district.

Jumagul Hemmat, Nangarhar governor, told Kabul Now that the police forces have arrested four



suspects in connection to the mass murder.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Ajmal Omer, the deputy head of Nangarhar Provincial Council, confirmed that slain...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (4)

## Qatar, Pakistan Discuss Afghan Peace Process



PESHAWAR - Top military commanders of Pakistan and Qatar have exchanged views on the peace process in Afghanistan. Qatari land forces commander Maj Gen Saeed Hassen Mohammad Al-Khayareen and Pakistan army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa

also discussed bilateral security cooperation. In addition to enjoying strong political, economic and security links, Pakistan and Qatar are closely cooperating with efforts for peace in Afghanistan. The regional security situation, including the Afghan peace process

and enhanced bilateral defence and security cooperation, came up for discussion at Wednesday's meeting. "The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Army's sincere efforts for regional peace," the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement after the meeting. In late February, special envoy of Qatar's foreign minister Dr Mutlaq bin Majed Al-Qahtani visited Pakistan and met the army chief.

The two sides had focused on enhanced cooperation on peace in Afghanistan, where violence has significantly spiked since the start of peace talks in September. (Pajhwok)

## Afghan General Aims to Reform, Strengthen Security Forces

KABUL - Sami Sadat, a young general heading the Army's 215 Maiwand Corps in Helmand, is making efforts to bring reform to the security forces and to prepare for the fight against the Taliban as the warm-weather "fighting season" approaches.

Gen. Sadat, in an interview with TOLONews, said Helmand is one of the main Taliban hubs where an al-Qaeda presence is seen, but added that his forces are fully prepared to face the militants if the peace efforts do not end in a reduction in violence.

Local officials said five out of 14 districts in Helmand, including Musa Qala, Baghran, Dicho and Khanashin, are out of the government's control.

The Taliban launched major offensives in eight other districts of Helmand,...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (5)



## 16 People Killed in Badakhshan Avalanche: Official

BADAKHSHAN - At least 16 people were killed following a major avalanche in the Raghistan district in the north-eastern province of Badakhshan on Thursday, local officials said. Badakhshan governor's spokesman Nek Mohammad Nazari said five more people were wounded in the avalanche that happened in the Zarandab village in the district. He said the area is under Taliban control, but added that efforts are underway to help those trapped. In the other hand Bashir Samim, head of the Badakhshan provincial council, said that 16 people were killed and six others were injured in an avalanche in the Zarandab area, which is located in the middle of Raghistan district. According to Samim the inci-



dent happened at around 09:30 am local time. Samim asked the government to provide emergency assistance to the victims in the area. (ATN)

## Seven People in Sweden Stabbed in Afghan Migrant's Rampage

Swedish police were still in the dark on Thursday over the motive for a knife attack in the southern town of Vetlanda which left seven people wounded and forced police to shoot a suspect.

Reuters reported that a lone attacker, a 22-year-old man from Afghanistan, went on a 15-minute rampage in the town of about 13,000 inhabitants on Wednesday afternoon, stabbing seven people.

Five of the victims had to be treated in intensive care but local authorities said they all were in stable condition.

"All victims are from Vetlanda and they are all male," said Vetlanda police chief Jonas Lindell. "There is, to our knowledge, no connection between the perpetrator and the victims."

The attack is being investigated as attempted murder but police



were not sure of the motive for the attack.

"We are investigating a possible terrorism motive and we are investigating it thoroughly," said Malena Grann, head of police in Jonkoping region, without offering any details, Reuters reported.

Police said the suspect was a 22-year old man from Afghanistan. He was armed with a knife when police shot him in the leg ...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (10)

## Parwan Projects Delayed Due to Corruption

CHARIKAR - Some sources have complained about years-long delay in implementation of a drinking water and a hospital projects in central Parwan province. While corruption is viewed as main factor behind the years long delay in implementation of these projects but relevant authorities and individuals reject any wrongdoing. Drinking Water Project The Salang Drinking Water Project, which aims to supply Salang water to Charikar City, was ex-



pected to be completed in January 2018 but the key project is still incomplete.

Eng. Abdul Karim Naderi, deputy head of Rural Rehabilitation Department, said the National Procurement Commission had...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (11)

## Corona Vaccine Highly Safe, Has No Side Effects

KABUL - After introduction of the coronavirus vaccine in the country, a number of Facebook users and doctors said the use of the vaccine was dangerous and could lead to worsening health conditions and even death.

However, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), rejecting the allegations, said that the vaccine has no side effects. This comes after India donated 500,000 doses of vaccine to Afghanistan last month.

A Pajhwok report says the process of vaccination against



coronavirus in Afghanistan has started in Kabul and other provinces.

Facebook posts regarding the vaccine

Some Facebook users have recently published content claiming that the vaccine could pose a...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (12)

## Govt's Agreement with Australian Company Sparks Controversy

KABUL - A document seen by TOLONews shows that the Afghan government has awarded a five-year "framework agreement" for the development of mining in Afghanistan to an Australian company, giving it access to gold, copper, iron, lithium, and other rare minerals resources in the country.

The "framework agreement" has been signed in 2020 September with the Australian Fortescue Future Industries Pty Ltd company, the document shows. Based on the document, the



Afghan government has committed to not allow any other company or individual to have access to those mineral resources in the country in the next five years. "The Afghan government...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (13)

## 2nd Round of Buzkashi League Starts in Kabul

KABUL - The second round of the Buzkashi League kicked off in Kabul on Friday.

The competition is sponsored by the National Buzkashi and Local Sports Federation of Afghanistan and the Afghan National Radio and Television.

According to the National Television's Facebook page, the games will take place in the Yaka Tut area of Kabul's Pul-e-

Charkhi and will last for three days.

Buzkashi teams from nine provinces are taking part in the competition, which was divided into four groups.

Each of these groups will compete against each other and then the winning team from each group will advance to the semi-finals, after which they will...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (14)

## 8 Taliban Killed, 4 Injured in Kunduz Raid

KABUL - Eight Taliban insurgents were killed and four others wounded during a security operation in northern Kunduz province, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said on Friday.

The ministry in a statement said the operation was carried out last night in the village of Baz Kandahari in Kunduz city, the provincial capital, in coordina-

tion with security and defense forces.

Eight Taliban insurgents were killed and four others wounded in the operation, the statement added.

Ammunitions were also seized from the Taliban during the operation.

The Taliban have not yet commented in this regard. (Pajhwok)

## Punish Youth's Killers, Jawzjan Governor Told

SHIBERGHAN - The residents of northern Jawzjan province on Thursday claimed a young innocent man was killed by armed men of the provincial governor, demanding justice for the victim.

However, the governor denied security forces were involved in the murder and said those involved would be brought to justice.

The protesting residents said an 18 years old man, Inzar Gul, was shot dead by 'armed men of Jawzjan governor' while grazing sheep near Chaharjuft village in Shiberghan, the provincial capital, today.

They said that the armed men related to the governor were deployed in a security post in the area. The security men manning...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (15)

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Mar 6, 2021 - A new and previously unacknowledged talent for working in social, humanitarian, or spiritual fields could come to light today, Aries. This could have you thinking seriously about changing jobs or pursuing an entirely new career. The opportunities are there if you look. If you're serious about this change, it's best to pursue it now. If you wait too long, the process might prove more difficult.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Mar 6, 2021 - Increased intuition, imagination, and spiritual insight could inspire you to either undertake a course of study or move ahead with related creative projects, Taurus. You might be very pleasantly surprised at what you learn or produce, and so be motivated to continue with whatever you're doing. This could be an inspiring and productive time for you. Make the most of it!

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Mar 6, 2021 - Recent new ideas, insights, and visions could motivate you to invite friends with similar interests over today, Gemini. You will want to share your experiences, listen to their stories, and try to make sense of it all. This may be an important process, even if some of what's said doesn't seem to make sense. Write down your thoughts and go over them later.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Mar 6, 2021 - An invitation to a social event in your neighborhood could put you in touch with artistic or spiritually inclined people. There could be some fascinating exchanges. Cancer. The event might continue into the night. No matter how late, no matter how tired you are when you get home, try to get a little exercise to clear your head and quiet your mind. You might have trouble getting to sleep otherwise.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Mar 6, 2021 - Spiritual insights you received over the past few days could turn your thoughts to serving others. You might have a talent for teaching and choose to share what you've learned in this way, Leo. You should feel especially healthy and energetic, so you may be tempted to plunge ahead. Plan carefully. Even the most admirable of enterprises needs to be faced in a practical frame of mind.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Mar 6, 2021 - Romance should pick up speed today, Virgo. You could discover that you and a current or potential romantic partner have many spiritual interests in common. You might attend some lectures or workshops on one of these subjects together. Take care not to plan too much at once. One or both of you could run into conflicts and end up disappointing the other. Schedule a few and stick to your plans.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Mar 6, 2021 - You might have intense dreams and visions tonight that could be almost prophetic, Libra. These premonitions could be personal, but they're apt to be more worldly, such as political events or something in the life of a celebrity you admire. What you sense should be positive, so there are no warnings involved. Write them down so you can verify them later. You might be surprised!

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Mar 6, 2021 - A lecture given by a magnetic speaker could excite your imagination and interest you in a new and intriguing field, Scorpio. You could also learn about some books on the subject that you want to read. This could give you new motivation to pursue some cherished goals that you've let slide for a while, perhaps inspiring some writing of your own. Friends could prove supportive in this enterprise.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Mar 6, 2021 - A friend or colleague could introduce you to a way to increase your income by doing what you love most, Sagittarius. This may involve the creative arts, healing, or spiritual or metaphysical matters. Although this might take weeks or months of preparation to put into effect, it should be worth the effort. Check out the facts and think about it. If you still like it, go for it!

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



Mar 6, 2021 - Enthusiasm for spiritual and metaphysical studies could have you feeling optimistic about the future. Your physical energy is high, Capricorn, and this suggests that you want to try yoga, tai chi, or another discipline that combines physical exercise with developing psychic and spiritual faculties. Friends could want to join you in this activity. Let the insights flow, and write them down.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

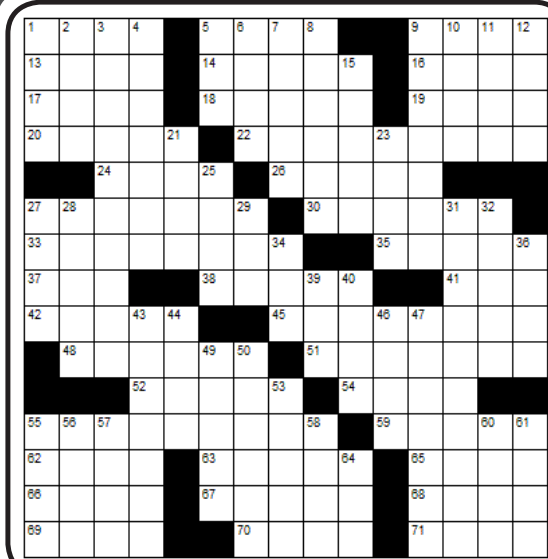


Mar 6, 2021 - Today you might want to host a meeting of your metaphysically inclined friends, Aquarius. Discussions could lead to insights that none of you would have come up with alone. Your minds will be going a thousand miles an hour. None of you may ever be the same! Don't forget to take notes of your discussions. You won't want to forget a thing you've heard or said.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Mar 6, 2021 - Books or lectures on spiritual or metaphysical matters could inspire you to pursue a subject and perhaps do some writing, Pisces. Contact with friends or colleagues with similar interests could result in fascinating discussions. You might receive some insights about how to pursue your goals more effectively. It will advance you materially as well as intellectually and spiritually.



### Across

1. Slang for Father, 5. Astringent, 9. Ho-hum, 13. Sweeping story, 14. Dads, 16. Hum-dinger, 17. Existence, 18. Affair, 19. Portent, 20. Religious splinter groups, 22. Hartebeests, 24. Tardy, 26. Nightmare, 27. Food turner, 30. Per, 33. Disunite, 35. Doctrine, 37. Some people chew this, 38. Afresh, 41. Bro or sis, 42. Alpha's opposite, 45. Disappear gradually, 48. Tree limb, 51. Senselessness, 52. Naughts, 54. Prefix meaning 1000, 55. An anticid, 59. Decorative, 62. By mouth, 63. Strips of potato, 65. Unusual, 66. Head covering, 67. Notes, 68. Got bigger, 69. Feudal worker, 70. Expunge, 71. Visual organs

### Down

1. D D D D, 2. Church alcove, 3. Disavowal, 4. Film material, 5. Copy, 6. Magma, 7. Flip over, 8. Slogan, 9. Flower, 10. Chunk, 11. Away from the wind, 12. Vandals, 15. Precipitous, 21. Render unconscious, 23. Nonclerical, 25. Dash, 27. Palm starch, 28. Perpendicular, 29. Consumed food, 31. An assignee by conveyance, 32. Decree, 34. Female sheep, 36. Comply with, 39. 56 in Roman numerals, 40. Pull, 43. Antelope, 44. Once more, 46. Childlike, 47. Make larger, 49. Skill, 50. A souped-up car, 53. A river through Paris, 55. Great affection, 56. Angers, 57. Principal, 58. Bobbin, 60. Algonquian Indian, 61. Evergreens, 64. South southeast

### Yesterday's Solution

Y A U I P T I A R P D E L A Y  
A X L E A G U E A P A R A  
W I N D S W E P T C H I M P  
P L A I N N E U T R O N S  
G E O R G I A I O B R A  
A R R E S T T A U T E A R  
B R A E A M A S S R I V E  
L O T S R O C K L A N E T  
E R E C I L W R A N G L E  
P R E E X I S T I S  
P A R T I S H E S E M B E D  
E E R I E T I M E R I A T E  
O R I O N L I N E T R U E  
S T A R T L A T E S N I P  
afraid amass amen attract  
cease certain degree  
desist domination fetish  
future garden gene  
grateful guilty hide incur  
infection information  
lurch manage northern  
otter patio ponder rabid  
rainbow shortage swift

R T O R M E N T J N Q E W  
Z A W U E G R C I C M S I  
N A I C M A N A G E F U N  
O D N N B T T R G O E O D  
I O E I B R F T R M T H Y  
T M D S E O I T A P I E P  
A I R C I H W A T D S R T  
M N A M A S S A E E H A R  
R A G U I L T Y F G C W I  
O T T E R F U T U R E I V  
F I P O N D E R L E A U I  
N O R T H E R N C E S I A  
I N F E C T I O N H E Y D



In the Name of God, the Most Merciful,  
the Most Kind



## National and International Consensus to be Achieved on Post-peace Administration

US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad had met with Afghan high-ranking officials, including President Ashraf Ghani, in his three-day visit to Kabul to discuss the peace process. What makes this trip of Khalilzad different is that he entered Kabul with the proposal of establishing an interim government with the integration of the Taliban and handed Afghan leaders a draft of the participatory plan, asking them to share their views over it. It was his first trip after Joe Biden took the office. Subsequently, he traveled to Doha and met with members of the Afghan republic team.

It is said that an international conference, similar to that of the Bonn, will be held in Turkey with the participation of the negotiating sides, international community, representatives of international organizations, and regional and global stakeholders to discuss the prospect of a participatory government. Khalilzad said on a tweet, "The Islamic Republic and the Taliban must find a path to a political settlement and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire. In Kabul I discussed various options/alternatives to propel the process forward." He added, "I was encouraged by what I heard. There is widespread support for the need to move more quickly and deliver a just and durable peace that Afghans demand and deserve." Khalilzad's statements indicate that Afghan officials may have signaled positively to his draft plan, based on which the Taliban have to shift all their setup to the country. The draft suggests an amendment to the constitution on the condition that the general framework had to be protected and neither of the sides would be allowed to prosecute members of each other on charges of crime. It also proposes that a High Council of Islamic Jurisprudence with 15 members will be formed, which would be tasked to provide guidelines concerning social and cultural issues. The council will also go through laws and decrees to ensure that they are in accordance with Islamic tenets.

It is self-explanatory that the post-peace political structure is a highly crucial issue to be discussed and agreed upon. In other words, the negotiating sides have to step up their struggle to reach a consensus over the structure in the post-peace administration, which needs to be inclusive and comprehensive with all ethnic and political groups on board. After more than two decades of conflict, the process of legitimacy in Afghanistan started from international consensus in Bonn Conference and ended in national agreement. Both the Bonn Conference and Loya Jirga, conducted for the endorsement of the Constitution, were the sources of legitimacy for the post-Taliban administration. But the Taliban was not on board in the Bonn Conference, therefore, emerged as a terrorist group, killing a large number of Afghan soldiers and civilians in the last couple of decades.

The people of Afghanistan are likely to have no problem with the establishment of interim government. However, they are concerned that the framework of the Constitution – mainly human rights, women's rights and liberties, democratic principles, and the achievements made in the past two decades – have to be safeguarded since Afghans paid heavy casualties in achieving all. In short, the national achievements should not be compromised at the table. The second disconcerting issue is that Afghans fear that the Taliban may enter the country with the radical mindset. In such a case, the rights and freedoms of women will be particularly at stake, in addition to strides made in democracy and human rights. With this in mind, a strong international guarantee is needed so that the Taliban will not undo the past achievements and do not impose their strict sharia law on the people. In short, the republic and democracy have to be maintained. Violence has to come to an end and the post-peace structure needs to be based on democratic values in order to be acceptable to the masses.

What seems to be lacking in Khalilzad's draft plan is no mentioning of reduction in violence and declaration of ceasefire. It appears that neither the United States nor the Afghan side could persuade the Taliban to declare ceasefire. But the neighboring countries, which have strong leverage on the Taliban leadership, did not put pressure on the Taliban in this case.

Meanwhile, it is believed that if main issues are not resolved in the ongoing dialogue in Qatar, the international conference, which is said to be held in Turkey, will be controversial and reaching an agreement is likely to be time-consuming. Hence, the negotiating sides have to resolve the controversial issues and regional and global stakeholders have to engage more actively to step up the process and pave the ground for the upcoming international conference.

## The Political Message of Target Killings in Afghanistan

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

On the eve of the warm and spring season, the terrorist fighters once again refreshed their commitment to war and bloodshed and no to peace with killing three women media workers in the eastern part of Afghanistan, in the bustling city of Jalalabad. They also want to persist that they pay no importance to modern values including freedom of media, freedom of expression, human rights, women rights, and overall modern values. In addition, they want to show the weakness of security forces with successive attacks on the heart of the large cities of the country killing dozens of journalists and scholars who are the real capital of the country. Earlier, Malalai Maiwad, a journalist and a social activist, and her driver were killed in the same city who worked at the same media. The media supporting organizations always complain about the weakness of security officials and question the will of the government in taking preventive measures and also pursuing the journalist's cases in the justice system. A large number of journalists and social activists, who were the actual capital of the country, have been mysteriously killed, but their killers have not transparently punished in Afghanistan.

According to political experts, lack of political will, lack of capacity in the government apparatus, and rise of violence are the most important factors in the slow pace of prosecuting journalists' cases in Afghanistan. The Afghan government all the time put blame on the Taliban for such targeted-killings, but the Taliban do not waste a minute to deny their involvement. Meanwhile, neither the Afghan government has properly identified the perpetrators of these killings, nor has the Taliban proved its neutrality and impartiality in the successive target killings. The people of Afghanistan expect the government of Afghanistan to properly do its responsibility against citizens of the country. In fact, the responsibility of the government is more than the blame game, condolences, and wishing paradise for the martyred while with every moment the number of widows, orphans, and disabled is increased in the already poor and war-torn country. Undoubtedly, the attacks on media workers in Jalalabad are part of the recent targeted-killings around the county, which continued for the past more than one year and it has been accelerated with the start of intra-Afghan talks in Doha. Such deliberate attacks continue to take a toll on journalists, civil society activists, intellectuals, religious leaders, female employees, judges, doctors, and of course the members of Afghan security forces. Based on a UN report which was released in February, at least 65 media professionals and human rights activists have been killed in a series of targeted killings across Afghanistan, from 2018 through the first month of the current year. The targeted killing of journalists has not only caused a state of fear in the journalistic community but also led to self-censorship, abandonment of media activities, and

even leaving the country. It said that a number of journalists and political activists have already started planning to leave the country while democracy or republican system is meaningless without freedom of media and freedom of expression. In democratic systems media considered as the fourth pillar of a government; According to international conventions to which Afghanistan is a signatory and according to Article 50 of the Afghan Constitution, "Right to Know" or "Right of Access to Information" is a fundamental human right for every Afghan citizen. It can play an important role in the fight against corruption and the right to access information increases transparency, accountability, public participation, and democracy development. So, it is expected that the government, human rights org, and international allies to rescue the media from the current critical situation of fear and terror. The government, instead of repeating condolence, must overtly and seriously punish the perpetrators of the crimes so that no one dares to carry out such attacks in the future. The International allies and humanitarian organizations should also not waste a minute in putting pressure on terrorist and terrorist supporters to stop killing civilians, in particular journalists and media workers in the country. As aforementioned, commencing the warm season with the killing and shedding the blood of the best youths of this land is not a good presage for the New Year. The security forces must be more cautious and more active because the successive act of terror conveys a clear message that the enemies of this land have no factual will for peace and that there has been no change in their violent nature. Since the beginning of the Qatar peace talks up to the date, the war and violence have steadily intensified in the country. If we compare this period with a time when the US-Taliban peace talks had not started, even when the intra-Afghan talks were not started, we can see much more intensification in the later period. This trend questionably raised the concerns that the insurgent fighters have no serious will for peace in the country. In fact, they expect the people, the government, and even international allies to surrender but it shows the unrealistic calculation of Taliban and Taliban supporters from political facts of modern Afghanistan. It is true that the Taliban has gained some confidence during the Doha peace process, their deeds will never be eliminated from the historical memory of Afghanistan. Therefore, the people of Afghanistan and brave security forces will not allow such a group to dominate the country. Afghan security forces, regardless of ethnical difference, they are considered as strong deterrent power. Afghan security forces have not only protected the country from the clutches of terrorist groups but also thwarted the nightmares of those who dreamt of destabilizing the world and the Green Continent.

Mohammad Zahir Akbari is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at mohammadzahirakbari@gmail.com

## China addresses disparities in COVID-19 vaccine distribution

By: Xinhua writers Liu Tian, Mao Pengfei, Hao Yalin

"United we stand, divided we fall" – the choice that was put in front of the international community time and again now popped up once more in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic that has claimed more than 2 million lives worldwide. Although the successful development of vaccines in less than a year has been a "stunning scientific achievement" that is giving the world hope to end the pandemic, it has at the same time added a "brick in the wall of inequality between the world's haves and have-nots," said World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. To fight together with the international community in solidarity against the common health crisis, China has been making an all-out effort to promote the fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, honoring its commitment to making Chinese COVID-19 vaccines a "global public good" accessible and affordable to people around the world.

### EMERGING VACCINE NATIONALISM

Last month, Japan kicked off its vaccination campaign with imported vaccines. While healthcare workers and elderly citizens are put in the first place to be inoculated, others have to wait until summer, if only vaccine import could be stable. According to a report in early February by Japanese news agency Kyodo News, Taro Kono, Japan's minister in charge of vaccination efforts, said the restriction the European Union (EU) put on vaccine export may delay Japan's vaccination plan. Growing nationalism over supplies of COVID-19 vaccine shots could lead to retaliation and disruptions to global supplies, Kono said, adding if the public cannot receive the shots as planned, the Japanese government will face a great challenge on how to inaugurate the already delayed Tokyo Olympics in July. Japan is not the only country struggling for a stable vaccine supply. In January, the EU said AstraZeneca's new schedule in which the British company's supply of COVID-19 vaccine would fall short of expectation was "not acceptable," and threatened to use legal actions to address the issue. In the face of production shortfalls across the world, some rich countries are hoarding vaccines, leaving poorer ones defenseless in the face of the deadly pathogen. According to Duke University's Global Health Innovation Center, as of mid-January, high-income countries, which represent only 16 percent of the world's population, had taken 60 percent of available doses. Vaccine nationalism and over-stocking of all sorts of necessary supplies to the disbenefit of others are among the clear weaknesses in how the international community has dealt with a range of important issues ever since the outbreak, said Anthony Zwi, a professor of global health and development at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

Some countries have demonstrated "a high degree of selfishness" in how they have used their power and resources, said Zwi, adding that pandemic control is a global public health issue that needs a shared responsibility and global cooperation at different levels and in different ways to achieve.

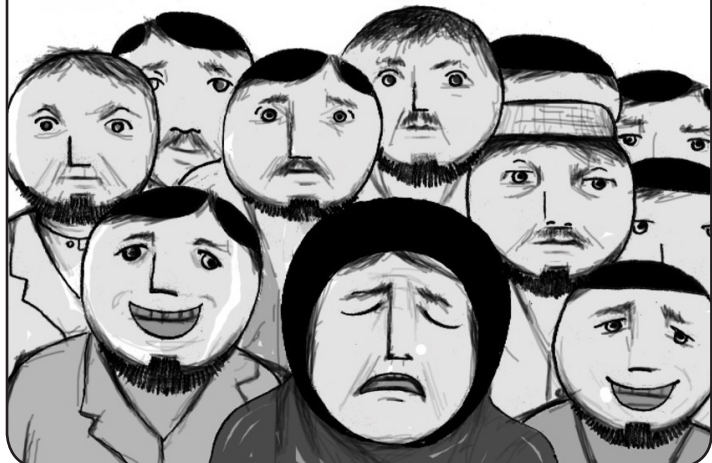
### DEEPENING IMMUNITY

GAPJunaid Iqbal, a 29-year-old young doctor, joined a field hospital last year in northern Pakistan's Gilgit to fight the pandemic, and his battle has lasted for almost one year. "Never in my life had I wished to be vaccinated and immune from the virus like I did in the hardest of those days," Iqbal told Xinhua, recalling the time when his mother was infected with the virus at home, but he could not go back to look after her. However, when he realized that rich countries had started rolling out vaccinations for their citizens, he became concerned that it would take a long time for him, a frontline health worker in a third-world country, to be vaccinated. What concerns Iqbal has also worried Tedros, who noted in January that the comparison between administered doses in higher-income countries and one

of the lowest-income countries had been 39 million versus 25. "Not 25 million, not 25,000, just 25," he said. "The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure," and it will be paid "with lives and livelihoods in the world's poorest countries," he has warned. "We can't beat COVID without vaccine equity. Our world will not recover fast enough without vaccine equity." "It's very surprising. It's very unjust that Western countries are having piles of vaccine which they don't require," said Talat Shabbir, a senior researcher at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Pakistan. Experts said closing the immunity gap is not only about morality and conscience, but also the key to stopping the pandemic by cutting risk of more new variants. "It's a moment of help, the moment that we need to help countries or those who cannot afford a vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine has to be inclusive. It's just humanitarian to have it inclusive," said Shabbir. Margaret Chan, a former WHO chief, said COVID-19 vaccines are in short supply, but equitable vaccine distribution, especially to developing countries, is critical as the pandemic will not be controlled until it is controlled everywhere. "In a globalized world, our vulnerability is universal and the international community must work together in solidarity in the face of a common health crisis," she said.

### PROMOTING FAIR DISTRIBUTION

A batch of the Sinovac vaccines donated by China arrived in the Philippines on Sunday, the first COVID-19 vaccine to reach the Southeast Asian country. President Rodrigo Duterte went to the airport to welcome the arrival of the vaccines. Duterte said receiving the vaccines from China made another step forward in the Philippines' ongoing fight against COVID-19. "I convey my sincere gratitude to the Chinese people and the government of China for this gesture of friendship and solidarity – the hallmark of the Philippines-China partnership." A day before, Malaysia also received its first delivery of China's Sinovac vaccine, days after the country kicked off its inoculation program, which aims to inoculate at least 80 percent of the country's total population. Zulkarnain Md Eusope, managing director of Malaysia's leading pharmaceutical company Pharmaniaga which inked a deal in January with Sinovac for delivery of its inactivated vaccine to the country, called the arrival "a historic moment for Malaysia and an important milestone for the company's venture into vaccine manufacturing." Last month, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan approved the single-dose vaccine developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company CanSino Biologics for emergency use. The third phase trials of the vaccine were carried out in Pakistan, which offered a new experience to many Pakistani doctors, and helped the country work on its vaccine development. In fact, Pakistan already approved China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use in January 2020 after evaluating its safety and quality. The country officially launched its vaccination drive on Feb. 3 after receiving China-donated COVID-19 vaccines. In the spirit of "working together as one global family," China is actively cooperating with other countries to speed up vaccine development and production, so as to help relieve the global shortfalls of life-saving vaccines and address disparities in vaccine distribution. As of Feb. 25, China has provided vaccine assistance to 53 developing countries in need, and is exporting vaccines to 27 countries. It has also decided to provide 10 million vaccine doses to multilateral vaccine alliance COVAX to meet the urgent needs of developing countries. Regarding vaccine cooperation with other countries, mostly with developing ones, China has demonstrated an approach that acts on human development and the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, which is different from the zero-sum mentality of some countries, said Khalid Rehman, director-general of Islamabad-based think tank Institute of Policy Studies.



Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019

www.outlookafghanistan.net



The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.



### (1) Ghani Calls...

also called on the Taliban to condemn the recent violence across the country. "The Taliban have a moral responsibility to condemn the violence and socialize peace to their commanders in their rank and file when we are ready to make peace their Violence has no religious justification as pointed out by some of the most prominent Muslim scholars," Ghani said. (ATN)

### (2) Violence in Afghanistan ...

servants, which cost the lives of 1,200 civilians in 2020, a 45% increase compared to 2019" the statement read. (Khaama Press)

### (3) Moscow May Be ...

several times in recent years, despite the fact that Russia declared the movement as a terrorist group in 2003. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Seven Factory ...

factory workers were Hazaras. He said that fighters of the Islamic State Khurasan Province have tortured to death the seven Hazara factory workers. President Ghani has condemned the act in a statement issued today, Thursday, March 04, indirectly blaming the Taliban. "The Taliban have proved once again by intensifying the violence that they do not believe in peace and are seeking to kill our innocent people," the statement said. As stated in the statement, he has ordered the local Nangarhar officials to identify and bring perpetrators of the deadly attack to justice. (Kabul Now)

### (5) Afghan General ...

including the city of Lashkargah, five months ago, during which some territory fell to the militants, but the government has now deployed Gen. Sadat, one of the youngest generals, to the southern province to thwart the Taliban's threat. "We will retake the territories, but they have lost their key commanders and they will not get them back," Gen. Sadat said. "Therefore, the situation is in our favor on the battlefield. We are moving in the right direction. The security forces' casualties have reduced significantly, even to zero, I can say. The Taliban casualties have increased."

Sadat, 35, has studied in Poland, Germany and Britain and, along with military training, has also studied management and administration. Gen. Sadat believes that Helmand has strategic importance from a military point of view both to the government and the Taliban. According to him, complex activities by drug networks, its borders with Iran and Pakistan and the presence of al-Qaeda are main challenges for Helmand and the south of the country. "Al-Qaeda has established many training hubs for the Taliban in Helmand. In other words, the Taliban-al Qaeda cooperation has increased in Helmand over the last year," he explained.

Meanwhile, some army officers said that corruption, weak management, delay in supplying army forces in remote areas are some of the main problems that have existed in the 215 Maiwand Corps for years. "He (Sadat) has achieved progress in Helmand over the last two to three months of his appointment. He takes part in operations himself," said Ezatullah Musazai, an army officer. "So far, during his appointment, he has given a harsh response to the enemy and he will have more achievements going forward," said Mohammad Yahya, an army officer.

Helmand has witnessed heavy clashes between the government forces and the Taliban over the last few months in which the security agencies have said that dozens of Taliban fighters, including their commanders, have been killed. (TOLO NEWS)

### (6) US to Present Honorary ...

Enikas Radio and TV, was shot and killed, along with her driver, by a gunman on December 10, 2020, in an attack on her vehicle in Jalalabad. Malalai was not the first in her family to be targeted. Five years earlier, her mother, an activist, was also killed by unknown gunmen.

Freshta Kohistani, a 29-year-old women's rights and democracy activist, was assassinated by unknown gunmen near her home in Kapsia province on December 24, 2020. Kohistani regularly organized events advocating for women's rights in Afghanistan and used social media as a platform for her messaging. (TOLO NEWS)

### (7) Using Pulpits ...

scholars of nine formal seminaries, depriving 7,500 students of education. Mohib told the meeting that lists and procedures should be prepared for listening to problems and suggestions of the ulema. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that pulpits were centers of religious preaching and invitation and anyone who used them to destroy the system would be dealt with severely under the law. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Foreign Rebels ...

they had enough fighters and did not need foreign rebels. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Hekmatyar Gives ...

of the current government officials." From now on, he said, the country will not be left to "the killers, secularists or communists." Hekmatyar accused the government and officials of blocking people from joining their protest at the gates of Kabul. "The government should know that nothing can be achieved by doing this," he said. He said the Presidential Palace should abandon the path of treachery and fully implement the agreement reached with Hezb-e-Islami.

"We give the presidential palace ten days to implement our demands." (Pajhwok)

### (10) Seven People ...

and overpowered him. He was being treated at hospital for his injuries but was conscious and had been interrogated. Police also said the suspect's apartment had been searched but could not give any details on the findings. He is previously known for minor crimes and there are no indications that anyone else was involved, police said. "We are a community in shock," Vetlanda mayor Henrik Tvarno told a news conference. "It's a nightmare. This is incredibly tough for the relatives of the victims and for all of us." Earlier on Thursday Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said fear would be allowed to dictate daily life in Sweden.

"A lot is still uncertain but one thing is certain, and that is that every attack against innocents will be met by all of Sweden's united force," he said. "Anyone who harms Sweden, anyone who injures people here, will be found and brought to justice."

We are deeply saddened to learn that an assailant has attacked civilians with a weapon in central Vetlanda, Jönköping on Wednesday afternoon, injuring seven people.

The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on Thursday night condemning the attack.

"We strongly condemn this criminal act and offer our sympathies to the families of the victims," the statement read, adding that they "wish to see the criminal, who was injured and arrested during encounter with police, brought to justice". (ATN)

### (11) Parwan Projects ...

inked the contracts of these projects with NaveedBagramwal in 2016. The 623 million afs project was expected to be completed in 18 months. He said the Presidential Palace had extended the project completion time for another 18 months but work was underway at a slow-pace which is unsatisfactory.

He said two percent work on the project is remaining and if the company wants, it can complete it in one month or 45 days. Delay in the project has angered local residents and according to the Water Supply Authority, of total 20,000 families in Charikar City, 16,000 families have no access to clean drinking water. Haji Mohammad Khalil Fazli, the Provincial Council member who monitors the project, accused Bagramwal Company of negligence and lacking the ability to complete the project and said: "The company has done injustice with people."

He was optimistic that the project would be completed in coming 20 days and said: "The legal aspect is a separate subject that the company would be held accountable, but it cannot free itself from us. Bagramwal should know that the money on which it strengthens personal business belongs to the nation. You did injustice with the people living in this city by delaying the water project."

He demanded relevant legal authorities in to investigate the NaveedBagramwal Company.

SheiqQasemi, the Integrity Watch Auditor in Parwan, said that NaveedBagramwal Company delayed the drinking water project because he enjoyed cordial relations with Parwan Governor Fazal Din Ayaar, Speaker Mir RhmanRahmani and other high ranking officials in Parwan. Rahmani views to come .....

Without going into detail, Qasemi said that he had evidence that Bagramwal offered Land Cruisers to some officials in Parwan in order to keep mum over the delay of the project.

But Eng. Mohammad Hanifurata, technical in-charge of NaveedBagramwal Company, rejected allegation that this company delayed the drinking water project and offered bribe to high ranking officials in Parwan.

He said the delay in the drinking water project was caused by some social barriers, construction of 13 steel bridges, acquisition of some lands, supply of needed pipe and some other challenges.

Governor Fazal Din Ayaar also termed allegation against him in the project as baseless and said social, technical and other barriers hit the project and caused the delay.

However, he said that the project would be completed in the near future.

Mohammad Ali Raqim, sectorial director of Parwan said that the project was stopped in Bagh Ali Mardan area due to complaint of one of the house owners who demanded a land plot from the government, but the

problem was solved on Tuesday and work on the project resumed.

Parwan governor criticized the nature of contracts signed before his appointment as the province's governor and said, "Definitely deals are made, we ask the ministry to inform us whenever it starts a project in Parwan."

Parwan's 200-bed hospital: The contract for construction of a 200-bed civil hospital in Parwan was given to NawidBagramwal in 2016, but it is currently stopped and incomplete.

SafiullahWarasta, Parwan public health director, said that the hospital's project worth 276.4 million afghanis had to be completed within 18 months since its launch.

However, he said that the project was twice suspended, each time 18 months and it was still only 70 percent completed.

He said he had no information about the details of the project as it was signed between the National Procurement Authority and Nawid Bagramwal Company.

"We have several times contacted the company for completion of the project, former and current public health ministers are aware about the issue, the company owner had promised to complete the project, but it was yet to be completed," he added. Warasta said that FazaldinAyar had informed the president in a video conference about the stoppage of the project and the president directed that the project should be handed over to the National Development Department of the Presidential Palace if the company failed to complete the scheme on time.

Ayar said that the project marred by corruption and problems was delayed for long time.

"Required facilities are not considered in this building as it lacks oxygen pipes and heating system," he added, saying the remaining part of the project would be given to another company as the current one failed to do its job.

ShayeqQasemi, Integrity Monitoring Network of Afghanistan official in Parwan, also said that their assessments show construction of the hospital project was not based on the proposal.

"Based on the proposal and design, the hospital should have four gates, but only one is made, the oxygen room should have been in the first floor, but it was built on the fourth and fifth floors, there is no piping system placed and no facilities for people with disabilities created," he added.

He added that the quality of cement used and tiling in the building were also not based on the proposal.

Mohammad Khalil Fazli, a provincial council member of Parwan, claimed that Nawid Bagramwal Company had received the project's contract based on its close relations with a number of officials of Parwan. However, he did not provide details.

He said that the owner of the company embezzled the money of water supply network and the hospital building and now lived in Turkey, while Parwan people still had no access to potable water and health services.

On the other hand, Eng. Mohammad Hanifurata, technical in charge of Nawid-Bagramwal Company, said that the project was scheduled to complete in 36 months and it was once extended for 18 months.

He said the company had completed 89 percent of the project work while received 85 percent of the project money.

Jurat said that the project work was done in accordance with the public health ministry's plan and design; however, the work of the project was stopped in 2020 due to absence of the government's supervisor.

According to Dr. Abdul QasimSangin, director of Parwan's 100-bed civil hospital; lack of proper space, lack of working rooms, a hostel for doctors on duty, shortage of beds in the surgery section and lack of car park were the problems the hospital project faced. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Corona Vaccine ...

major problem for men. Ansar Yari, a Facebook user, published an article titled "Corona vaccine poses a major problem for men."

He said he would not inject the vaccine until Dr. Fazal Mahmood Fazli, the director of the Presidential Administration, administered it to himself.

Dr. Abdul Basit Amal on his Facebook page criticized the negative effects of the corona vaccine on a number of doctors.

He wrote that the health condition of some of his colleagues deteriorated after being injected the corona vaccine.

He said several of his relatives and colleagues developed severe fever, pain and dizziness after receiving the corona vaccine and even worse as one of them was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of a hospital in Kabul last night.

"Unfortunately, we are a nation where everything is being tested on us and there is no one to question," he said, referring to the implementation of the Indian vaccine and some tests.

Three days ago, a local media outlet reported that a health worker in Bamyan province died after being vaccinated against coronavirus.

Mohammad Anwar Saadatyar, a Facebook user, wrote: "Some sources at the Bamyan

hospital say that a health worker at the hospital died after being injected with the corona vaccine."

Meanwhile, Nabil Paktin, an associate professor of internal medicine at the Rabia Balkhi Hospital in Kabul and a specialist in cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and critical care, posted on Facebook "Don't use the political vaccine !? "

He said he did not apply the corona vaccine to himself because the Afghans were not the creatures of a secret and unofficial research laboratory.

"No research on vaccines in the world is accurate, the main research on the effectiveness and safety of vaccines begins after its general application and licensing," he wrote.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News that political action had been taken against coronavirus and no good intentions had been shown by the authorities.

He added so far no vaccine had been approved by the World Health Organization, which had failed since the beginning and had been biased.

He said the Pfizer and British-American vaccines were relatively approved but the world is still researching on vaccine, therefore Afghanistan must not act too quickly.

Paktin said the corona vaccine has been administered only to doctors in some hospitals in India. But so far one percent of the country's population has not been vaccinated. "If the corona vaccine isn't good, it should not be harmful as well," he said. But vaccines in general have their own symptoms that children also experience in the course of a periodic vaccine application. Dr. Paktin added that the introduction of the corona vaccine in Afghanistan may be a survey of the results of the aid vaccine that is being applied to people in Afghanistan and around the world.

Fact Finding:

Health experts and the Ministry of Public Health say the publication of such content on Facebook is a rumor and so far no investigation into the corona vaccine has been conducted. Dr. Hakimullah Saleh, former director of the Afghan-Japanese Hospital, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the corona vaccine, like other vaccines, had very few side effects such as pain, fever and cold. How satisfactory is the Indian-funded vaccine, he said "Any vaccine approved by the World Health Organization is satisfactory." But it is said that the vaccine donated to Afghanistan has only been approved by the World Health Organization.

He called the publication of such content on Facebook a rumor and said that such baseless content has been published by the people in order to reduce the number of vaccine enthusiasts, defame the implementation of the process and create more viewers on Facebook pages.

He urged people not to believe the rumors spread by anyone other than the content of official and credible pages.

Dr. Baz Mohammad Sherzad also said that the posts have no scientific aspect and are empty rumors.

About the death of a health worker in Bamyan, he said the person had a heart problem and he did not die due to the vaccine. He said some health workers in Nangarhar province had been vaccinated by force due to negative mentality among people.

But the Ministry of Public Health says the effects of the coronavirus vaccine on men and women around the world have not been confirmed.

Dr. Ghulam Dastagir Nazari, a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health, said the Covid-19 vaccine does not have a negative effect on people and is highly safe.

He added: "The vaccine produced by India has been administered in" more than one country in the world and no adverse effects have been reported since its introduction." He said that despite the fact that the corona vaccine has no serious problem, the Indian-aided vaccine is a domestic product of the country and has recently been approved by the World Health Organization.

Vaccine and its function: Vaccination is a way to train the immune system on how to identify and eliminate an external factor.

Vaccines are usually given by injection. Most vaccines have two components, the first is the antigen or the cause of the disease that the body learns and recognizes, and the second is the adjuvant medicine that warns the body and strengthens the body's immune system.

Overall convulsions, fatigue, muscle weakness, sleep disturbances, memory loss, low or high fever, pain, swelling or redness of the application area, hearing loss or loss of sensation and body aches, paralysis have been described as most common side effects of the vaccine.

Conclusion: Allegations that the corona vaccine is dangerous and lethal" have been dismissed as a claim by the Ministry of Public Health and health experts, who say the corona vaccine is highly protective and has no side effects.

Rule: The corona vaccine is highly protective and has no side effects. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Govt's Agreement ...

does not have the authority to hand over the entire country of Afghanistan to a single company all of a sudden without

proper bidding and without an assessment and competition," said MP Khan Agha Rezayee.

Based on the document, Fortescue Future Industries Pty Ltd will undertake studies on iron resources in Bamiyan, Panjshir, Herat, Badakhshan and Kandahar provinces.

The studies for copper and gold will take place in Helmand, Kandahar, Logar, Herat, Badakhshan and Takhar provinces, the document shows, but it has not clarified whether the access will be for exploration or mining.

Under the document, the company will be given access to lithium and rare earth metals resources in Nuristan, Kunar, Parwan, Badakhshan, Daykundi, Herat, Nimroz, Ghazni and Helmand provinces.

Hours after the document was leaked to the media, the mines and petroleum minister Haroon Chakhansuri said the company will be given access for studies, not the extraction of the mineral resources.

"According to this document, the company has conducted its economic survey and has shown willingness to invest in the mines and the exploration... The extraction will take place in line with the laws of the country," said Aziz Gharwal, the head of the media department of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum.

Former legal director of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has said that according to the law, mining projects should be open to bidding at any stage, and, on the other hand, a part of the signed document guarantees the company exclusive rights in the extraction stage.

"They are given the exclusive right to study and explore Afghanistan's mines. Following their research, they will have the right to extract and use the mines under this agreement," said Sayed Zaman Hashemi, the head of Afghanistan's Chamber of Mines and Investment.

The Afghan government has signed five documents with the Australian company, including some for the construction of large dams.

"They will study the document and then practical work will start on the major dams. They will establish five major dams on the Kunar river, Helmand river and Amur river," said Nizamuddin Khpolwak, a spokesman for the National Water Regulatory Authority.

Former NDS chief Rahmatullah Nabil has criticized the agreement and has called it a "national treason."

Nabil has said that Fortescue Future Industries Pty Ltd is an Australian-Chinese firm. The Ministry of Mines rejected Nabil's remarks.

President Ashraf Ghani, Attaullah Nasib, the head of the Investment Facilitation Unit of the Administration Office of the President, as well as Haroon Chakhansuri, the minister of mines and petroleum, have signed the document. Dr. Andrew Forrest, the owner of the company and Julie Shuttleworth, a member of the company, have also signed the document. (TOLO NEWS)

### (14) 2nd Round of ...

advance to the finals.

Buzkashi teams from Kandahar, Panjshir, Parwan, Badakhshan, Bamyan, Samangan, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Takhar, Nuristan, Kabul, Logar, Baghlan, Sar-i-Pul, Balkh and Herat are participating in the tournament.

The first match of the league will be played between Kandahar and Panjshir today.

The games are broadcast live on national television.

Viewers of the games can buy tickets to enter the Buzkashi stadium from all of the Afghan Post Company's post offices in Kabul and from the venue in the Yakatoot area. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Punish Youth's ...

the post told Inzar Gul to give his telephone to them.

When Gul refused to give his phone, the armed men opened fire on him and shot him dead, they said.

Jumma Gul, an uncle of the victim who brought the corpse to the front of Jawzjan governor's house, said, "There are thousands of other youths in our village, if officials do not arrest the murderer of my nephew, we all will join the Taliban and take revenge."

"My nephew married two years ago and he was innocent, the governor of the province should tell us the reason of his murder," he said, while crying.

The mother of the victim, who was crying over her son's coffin, said, "They killed my son just for a mobile phone, what was his crime, his wife widowed, no one listens to our voice."

However, Governor Mohammad Hashem Raes, while visiting the protestors said that the case would be responded and anyone involved in the incident would be brought to justice.

"Anyone who violates the law we would no longer accept him as a soldier, we will arrest and punish him regardless of his rank," he said.

He ordered the detention of two men involved in the crime and they would be soon brought to justice. (Pajhwok)



# Iraq's President Welcomes Pope, Calls for Peace

Iraq's president has welcomed the first-ever papal visit to Iraq as an opportunity to improve Christian-Muslim relations, saying Pope Francis' decision to go ahead with the tour despite the coronavirus pandemic and security concerns had "doubled" its value.

President Barham Salih spoke Friday at a meeting at the presidential palace with Francis that was attended by other top Iraqi officials shortly after the pontiff's arrival.

Salih lamented that the Middle East was facing a "crisis of coexistence" owing to regional tensions and extremism. He stressed the importance of peaceful coexistence and the preservation of Iraq's nearly 2,000-year-



old Christian community.

He said "the East cannot be imagined without Christians," and that their continued migration will have "dire consequences."

He expressed support for the establishment of an Abraham House for Religious Dialogue, named for the shared patriarch of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Iraq was home to nearly 1.5 million Christians before the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein and plunged the country into chaos.

Church officials say only a few hundred thousand remain, following years of instability and militant attacks. (AP)

## Military Helicopter Crash in Southeast Turkey Kills 11



An army helicopter crashed in southeast Turkey on Thursday, killing 11 military personnel and injuring two others, the defence ministry said.

The Cougar-type helicopter crashed near the village of Cektepe, close to the town of Tatvan, in the predominantly Kurdish-populated Bitlis province. It was on its way to Tatvan from the nearby province of Bingol when authorities lost contact with it at

2:25pm (11:25 GMT), the ministry said. Nine of the victims died at the crash site, while two died of their injuries in hospital, officials said. The victims included Lieutenant-General Osman Erbas, an army corps commander, said Devlet Bahceli, the leader of Turkey's main nationalist party, on Twitter. The defence ministry described the crash as accidental but did not elaborate. Turkish media reports said Defence Min-

ister Hulusi Akar, Interior Minister Suleyman Soyly, and senior military figures were travelling to the site of the crash. The European Union and the United States immediately offered their condolences to the NATO ally. "We share the deep sorrow of Turkey for the loss of nine military personnel in Bitlis," said the EU's Turkey ambassador Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, whose bloc will review its relations with Ankara at a summit in Brussels later this month. "Our thoughts are with the families of all those affected, and we wish a rapid recovery to the injured," the US embassy said in a tweet. A Turkish diplomatic source said NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg offered his condolences in a telephone call with Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, and added the alliance "stood in solidarity with Turkey". (Aljazeera)

## France Could Follow Italy and Block Vaccine Shipments, Health Minister Says



the action.

This is the first time that such EU measures have been used for vaccines. AstraZeneca's supply chain includes a manufacturing plant in Anagni, Italy.

"We are closely discussing with Italians, as well as with all our European partners to have a European approach on the issue," Veran said.

"Since the first day, France has believed in a shared European approach," he added.

In late January, a public and acrimonious fight erupted between the EU and AstraZeneca over vaccine delays, after the company advised the bloc that it would deliver tens of millions fewer doses than agreed by the end of March. (CNN)

France said Friday it may follow Italy in blocking Covid-19 vaccine shipments as concerns about vaccine nationalism rise. Veran said during an interview with CNN affiliate BFM on Friday. "We could do the same thing," A spokesperson for the Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi told CNN that Italy and vaccine doses to Australia, in a dramatic

## US Job Growth likely Rose in February in Rebound from Slump

WASHINGTON- America's employers likely stepped up their hiring in February as confirmed viral cases declined, consumers spent big chunks of their government aid checks and the economy appeared to be sustaining a tentative recovery.

Economists have forecast that job growth reached 175,000 last month, according to data provider FactSet. That would mark a sharp improvement over an average of just 29,000 jobs a month from November through January. Yet with the nation still 10

million jobs short of its pre-pandemic level, monthly hiring would need to significantly accelerate to bring relief to the many people who remain laid off, especially at restaurants, hotels, entertainment venues and other areas of the hospitality industry that are far from recovered. The unemployment rate is predicted to have ticked up from 6.3% to 6.4% on the assumption that more Americans started looking for work in February and began to be counted as unemployed. (AP)

## Biden Signals Support to Replace War Power Authority

WASHINGTON- President Joe Biden on Friday signaled support to replace decades-old authorizations for the use of military force in the Middle East, a little more than a week after he relied on the authorizations to carry out a retaliatory airstrike against Iranian-backed militia in eastern Syria. The Biden administration announced its position after a bipartisan bill was introduced earlier this week that would repeal the 1991 and 2002 authorizations for the

wars in Iraq that presidents from both parties have relied on for legal justification to carry out strikes in the region. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden was committed to working with Congress to "ensure that the authorizations for the use of military force currently on the books are replaced with a narrow and specific framework that will ensure we can protect Americans from terrorist threats while ending the forever wars." (AP)

## YouTube removes Myanmar army channels; UN to meet on crisis

YANGON- YouTube removed five channels run by Myanmar's military for violating its guidelines, it announced Friday, as demonstrators defied growing violence by security forces and staged more anti-coup protests ahead of a special U.N. Security Council meeting on the country's political crisis. YouTube said it is watching for any further content that might violate its rules. It earlier pulled dozens of channels as part of an investigation into content

uploaded in a coordinated influence campaign. The decision by YouTube followed Facebook's earlier announcement that it has removed all Myanmar military-linked pages from its site and from Instagram, which it also owns. The escalation of violence by security forces has put pressure on the world community to act to restrain the junta, which seized power on Feb. 1 by ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. (AP)

## Ukraine Invites Uzbekistan to Crimea Platform Summit



Ukraine has invited Uzbekistan to Crimea Platform Summit, RIA Novosti reported with reference to the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky said earlier he had signed the order on certain measures aimed at "de-occupation and reintegration

of Crimea."

Zelensky said the government was tasked to organize and launch Crimea Platform, to adopt measures on development and support of Crimean-Tatar language, culture and protection of rights of Crimean residents. First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Emine Japarova met with Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Ukraine Alisher Kurmanov on March 3. "Emine Japarova confirmed that Ukraine would welcome participation of the President of Uzbekistan in celebrations of the 30th anniversary of independence of Ukraine and the Crimea Platform Summit," RIA Novosti cited the Foreign Ministry as saying. (Akipress)

## Saudi-led Coalition Says it Downed Six Houthi Drones Fired at Khams Mushait

DUBAI- The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthi group in Yemen said it had intercepted six explosive drones fired towards the kingdom on Friday, with the Houthis claiming to have launched attacks into southern Saudi Arabia since dawn. The Iran-aligned Houthis have recently stepped up cross-border drone and missile attacks on Saudi cities, mostly targeting the southern part of the country. The coalition says it intercepts most attacks. The Houthis fired the six intercepted drones towards Khams Mushait near the Yemen border in attacks since dawn, the coalition said in statements carried



by Saudi state news agency SPA and Ekhabriya TV. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said in Twitter posts on Friday that three drones had

been fired at dawn, and five in the afternoon. They hit Abha International Airport and King Khalid Air Base, in the Khams Mushait area, he said. (Reuters)

## Oil Hits Almost 14-month High after OPEC+ Extends Output Cuts

LONDON- Oil prices jumped more than 2% on Friday, hitting their highest in nearly 14 months after OPEC and its allies agreed not to increase supply in April as they await a more substantial recovery in demand. Brent crude futures were up \$1.52, or 2.3%, at \$68.26 a barrel by 1008 GMT and U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures climbed \$1.30, or 2%, to \$65.13 as both remained on track for weekly gains. Both contracts surged more than 4% on Thursday after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies, together known as OPEC+, extended oil output curbs into April, granting small exemptions to Russia



and Kazakhstan. "OPEC+ settled for a cautious approach ... opting to increase production by just 150,000 barrels per day (bpd) in April

while market participants looked for an increase of 1.5 million bpd," said UBS oil analyst Giovanni Staunovo. (Reuters)

## Little damage from huge Pacific quake; tsunami threat passes

WELLINGTON- One of the strongest earthquakes to hit the South Pacific in modern history triggered tsunami warnings across the ocean and forced thousands of people in New Zealand to evacuate coastal areas Friday. Small tsunami waves were seen, but little damage was apparent hours later.

The magnitude 8.1 quake in the Kermadec Islands region about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from New Zealand's two main islands was the largest in a series of tremors over several hours, including two earlier quakes that registered magnitude 7.4 and magni-

tude 7.3. The tsunami threat caused traffic jams and some chaos in New Zealand as people scrambled to get to higher ground.

Residents recorded videos of small wave surges in some places, including at Tokomaru Bay near Gisborne. In the afternoon, the National Emergency Management Agency said the threat had passed and people could return to their homes, although they should continue avoiding beaches. One of the earlier quakes hit much closer to New Zealand and awoke many people as they felt a long, rumbling shaking. (AP)

## Shares slip in Asia after bond yield spike hits Wall St

Asian shares slipped Friday after surging U.S. bond yields renewed pressure on high-flying technology companies.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index dropped as much as 2% and shares fell in most other markets.

Investors were disappointed with remarks by Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Thursday when he said inflation will likely pick up in the coming months, though he cautioned that the increase would be temporary and would not be enough for the Fed to alter low-interest rate

policies set to help the economy recover from the pandemic.

Powell did not indicate the Fed might seek to rein in rising bond yields, which tend to draw money out of stocks into less risky bonds. Investors were hoping for "a little more hand holding" from Powell, Stephen Innes of Axi said in a commentary.

"Powell is doing the bare minimum here while simultaneously hinting at a lift-off level that could be a lot nearer on the horizon than suspected only a few weeks ago." (AP)

## California to give 40% of vaccine to Latino, high-risk areas

SACRAMENTO- California will begin sending 40% of all vaccine doses to the most vulnerable neighborhoods in the state to try to inoculate people most at risk from the coronavirus and get the state's economy open more quickly, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Thursday in the latest shake-up to the state's rules. The doses will be spread among 400 ZIP codes where there are about 8 million people eligible for shots, said Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state's health and human services secretary. Many of the neighborhoods are in Los Angeles County and the central valley, which have had among the highest rates of infection. The areas are considered most vulnerable based on metrics such as house-

hold income, education level and access to health care. Newsom said that not only is this the right thing to do, it's critical to opening up more of the state's economy. "It is a race against the variants. It's a race against exhaustion. It's a race to safely, thoughtfully open our economy, mindful that it has to be an economy that doesn't leave people behind, that is truly inclusive," Newsom, a Democrat, said at a news conference. He also encouraged people to wear two masks. The announcement is the latest change in an evolving approach to getting nearly 40 million residents vaccinated, adding to ongoing confusion among people clamoring for shots. (AP)

## Al Shabaab militants storm Somali jail, seven soldiers killed

BOSASO- At least seven soldiers were killed when fighters of the Somali Islamist group al Shabaab stormed a jail in the semi-autonomous state of Puntland early on Friday, police and the group said.

Al Shabaab said it had freed at least 400 prisoners, many of them its members, in its assault on the main prison in Bosaso, Puntland's largest city, in the early hours of Friday. The authorities did not confirm that figure.

"Last night many well-armed men attacked us from various directions. We fought back but finally they entered the central jail by force using explosions. They freed the prisoners and took most with them," Mohamed Abdi,

a prison guard, told Reuters.

"There was a hellish battle... As I fought inside, we lost five soldiers."

He said two other soldiers who had been sent to reinforce the regular prison guards were killed in their car which was set on fire.

Al Shabaab confirmed that its fighters had carried out the attack and said they had freed at least 400 prisoners. The group often exaggerates its successes in such assaults.

"The prisoners included men and women who were al Shabaab members and were in jail for over 10 years," Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab's military operations spokesman, told Reuters. (Reuters)



**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**



<b>Kabul</b>	Rain	<b>Bamiyan</b>	Rain	<b>Herat</b>	Scattered showers	<b>Mazar</b>	Rain	<b>Kandahar</b>	Cloudy	<b>Ghazni</b>	Scattered showers	<b>Jalalabad</b>	Cloudy
14°C 4°C		8°C -7°C		16°C 1°C		16°C 5°C		29°C 7°C		16°C 0°C		24°C 12°C	



## Khalilzad Meets Afghan Negotiators in Doha

DOHA - The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad arrived in Doha on Thursday, Reuters reported. He met with the negotiating team from the republic side, according to Fawzia Koofi, a republic-side negotiator, and is expected to meet with the Taliban.

Fawzia Koofi, a negotiator for the republic's side in Doha talks, tweeted that she and the team had a "fruitful meeting" with Khalilzad "on the prospect of peace and the way forward." She continued: "Once again emphasized on the important role women and new generation can play through the process and



post peace agreement." Khalilzad's trip to Doha marks his first diplomatic tour to the region since US President Joe Biden took office. Prior his trip to Doha, Khalilzad spent three

days in Kabul where he met Afghan political leaders including President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, the head of High Council of National Reconciliation. (TOLO NEWS)

## Using Pulpits to Destroy System Punishable: NSC

KABUL - The National Security Council (NSC) on Thursday said the pulpits of mosques were for religious preaching and anyone who used them to destroy the system would be dealt with severely.

Maulvi Rahmatullah Andar, NSC spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the committee for the protection and security of religious scholars was met with National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib in the chair.

Security threats against religious scholars were assessed and discussed during the meeting. He added security officials told the meeting in their reports that they had implemented special



security measures for religious scholars who faced serious threat.

The officials said the country has special mechanisms to address obstacles against religious scholars and coordinate with

them time to time through face-to-face meetings with religious scholars.

It was also said in the meeting that the Taliban in Logar province had threatened families and religious...

More on (Page 4) Num (7)

## US to Present Honorary Award to Slain Afghan Women

KABUL - Seven Afghan women leaders and activists, who were assassinated in 2020, will be presented an honorary International Women of Courage (IWOC) award for their efforts in improving the lives of Afghans, the US Department of State says.

According to the US Department of State, on March 8, Secretary of State Antony Blinken will host the annual IWOC awards virtual ceremony to honor a group of extraordinary women from around the world, including an honorary award for seven women leaders and activists from Afghanistan who were assassinated last year.

The US First Lady Jill Biden will deliver remarks to recognize the courageous accomplishments of these women, the statement said.

The women include: Fatema Natasha Khalil, an official with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission who was killed, along with her driver, in June 2020 by an IED in Kabul, on her way to her office.

General Sharmila Frough, the head of the Gender Unit in the National Directorate of Security (NDS) was one of the longest-serving female NDS officers, having served as chief of the anti-kidnapping division and working undercover combating criminal networks. General Frough was assassinated in an IED explosion targeting her vehicle in March 2020 in Kabul.

Maryam Noorzad, a midwife who served remote locations in Wardak and Bamiyan provinces before working for Médecins Sans Frontières Kabul PD13 hospital. On May 12, 2020, three gunmen attacked the maternity ward of the hospital, but Maryam refused to leave her patient, who was in labor. Maryam, her patient, and the newborn baby were killed in the delivery suite.

Fatima Rajabi, a 23-year-old police officer originally from Ghazni province and a member of the anti-narcotics division. She was traveling to her home village in Jaghori district in a civilian minibus in July 2020 when the Taliban



stopped the vehicle and took her captive. Two weeks later, the Taliban killed her and sent her remains, which had gunshot wounds and signs of torture, to her family. Freshta, daughter of Amir Mohamed, a 35-year-old prison guard with the Office

of Prison Administration. She was walking from her residence in Kandahar City to a taxi on her way to work when she was murdered by an unknown gunman on October 25, 2020.

Malalai Maiwand, a reporter at...

More on (Page 4) Num (6)

## Foreign Rebels Want to Disrupt Badakhshan Security

KABUL - National Directorate of Security (NDS) chief Ahmad Zia Saraj during his trip to northeastern Badakhshan province on Thursday said foreign insurgents wanted to disrupt the security of some areas of the province in coordination with Taliban in spring.

Ahmad Zia Saraj, who arrived in Badakhshan for assessing the province's security, told reporters that people's solidarity with security forces was the only way to eliminate insurgent groups.

He claimed the Taliban had no interest in negotiations or establishment of peace in the country.

"Taliban have proven it on the negotiating table that they have no interest in peace. The Taliban want all things in their control, they do not accept a partnership government despite the Afghan government's many sacrifices for the arrival of peace," he said.

The release of 5,000 Taliban insurgents and reduction in violence were good gesture from the government towards the Taliban, Saraj said.

Abdullah Naji Nazari, a provincial council member of Badakhshan, said, "Unfortunately hundreds of foreign terrorists from different countries exist in Badakhshan besides the Taliban, we may face a deadly spring if the security of the province is not paid attention."



Badakhshan governor Mohamad Zakaria Sawda also expressed concern over presence of foreign militants and said, "We are worried; but it does not mean the terrorists would succeed in their designs, Taliban are trying but they would be defeated like past years."

According to local officials, NDS chief would stay in Badakhshan for a few days to create coordination among security forces.

Local officials say more than 40 percent of Badakhshan territory was currently being controlled by the Taliban.

They believe around 800 foreign rebels fight alongside the Taliban in the province.

However, a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid rejected presence of foreign militants in the province and said...

More on (Page 4) Num (6)

## Report About Hunting of 300 Deer Baseless: Dadfar

BAMYAN CITY - The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) head for central Bamiyan province on Thursday rejected hunting of 300 deer in the province.

EPA Head Ibrahim Dadfar told reporters here that two incidents of deer hunting took place this year in the province and rubbish media reports regarding the hunting of 300 deer.

Mohammad Akbar Saighani, the provincial head of Wildlife Protection Organisation, said that his statement was perceived wrongly regarding the hunting of 300 deer which did not happen.

Police Spokesperson Mohammad Raza Yousufi said 10 people had been arrested in connection with the hunting of deer and other rare animals. (Pajhwok)



## MoPh Reports 13 New Covid-19 Cases, No Death

KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on Friday announced registering 13 new Covid-19 infection cases during the past 24 hours.

The new cases pushed the overall nationwide tally to 55840, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said 1430 suspected cases of the corona virus were tested in laboratories across the country, with 13 testing positive.

The new cases include four in Nangarhar, three in Herat, one each in Kabul, Kandahar, Takhar, Logar, Kunar and Uruzgan provinces.

During the period, nine people recovered from the virus, taking the total recoveries to 49365, the statement said.

The Ministry of Public Health said no one died from the disease in the past 24 hours, but the infection has so far killed 2449 people in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)



## Hekmatyar Gives Govt 10 Days to Accept Demands



KABUL - Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on Friday set the government a 10-day deadline to meet their demands or they would continue protests.

Hundreds of HIA supporters marched from Darulaman area of Kabul and assembled at Deh Afghanistan locality, a Pajhwok reporter said. Shortly after the protest began, Hekmatyar arrived and joined the protesters.

Protesters chanted slogans such as "Our goal is peace, our voice is peace" and "Death to the murderers of the nation, death to the traitorous rulers and death to the enemies of the ulema."

peaceful protests, which began in Kabul today, would continue until the current crisis in the country was resolved.

He called on the government to stop targeted assassinations immediately, stop opposing peace and stop distribution of weapons and insisting on the presence of foreign troops.

He said the United States and the Taliban should remain committed to their Doha accord, which would see the withdrawal of foreign troops and the transfer of power to a new administration.

He said all parties must agree to a ceasefire and the formation of a new government.

He called for an end to the transfer of national assets abroad.

Hekmatyar also called on the Taliban to find a way to end the current war and to hold talks with the affected parties in Doha instead of holding lengthy talks. The jihadi leader said: "If the government does not implement our demands, our future protests will be for the resignations..."

More on (Page 4) Num (9)