Ghani Issues New Combat Orders to Curb Civilian Casualties

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has issued fresh combat orders to government officials, particularly the security forces, in an effort to curb civilian casualties in the ongoing war. President Ghani made the remarks during a special meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) on Friday, asking the Afghan defense and security institutions to work jointly with the United Nations (UN) in Kabul and probe the civilian death toll in the country.

In a statement, the presidential palace said the government was considering an inclusive peace plan containing ceasefire of the procedures during the military operations, combat order and support for war victims. The decision comes just a few weeks after deadly suicide bombings in major Afghan cities, particularly the nation's capital Kabul in which dozens of Afghan civilians including women and children were killed and hundreds of others were wounded.

The meeting of security council, president as supreme commander of the armed forces instructed the defense and security forces to take initiatives in the battle field and prevent civilian casualties," deputy presidential spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi said.

The Afghan government is considering new military war principles at a time that casualties among Afghan children is still on the rise which may blame on the Taliban.

Controversy meanwhile around civilian deaths in Afghanistan after the new Taliban leadership declared all-out war against the Afghan government and foreign forces in the country following the death of Taliban's ex-rebel leader Mullah Omar's death.

Apparently, the recent spike of security forces and Taliban suicide attacks and destructors "More on P4-6..."

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani, not satisfied with the job of his ministers, has warned them to be fired if they fail to improve their performance, a source in the Presidential Palace said on Saturday.

The source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News President Ghani had started evaluating progress with regard to the first 100-day action plans of ministers and meeting ministers on a daily basis over the last two months.

He did not go into details but Ghani had so far evaluated the performance of many ministers, a process ongoing. "Zalbe...More on P6-9...

India Rejects to Revive Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan

NEW DELHI - India has turned down another invitation from Afghanistan to hold a meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) which may revive the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in 2011, said local media Saturday.

The local daily The Hindu quoted diplomatic sources at the highest level as saying that New Delhi has conveyed its inability to hold the meeting that would be chaired by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Afghan counterpart Salahuddin Rabbani.

New Delhi has also conveyed that Swaraj will not attend the upcoming Regional Economic Co-operation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) in Kabul on Sept. 3-4, and instead, Sujata Mehta, Secretary of Multilateral and Economic Relations, will represent India at the conference, the report said.

But India’s low-level attendance at the RECCA may not affect relations given India’s 2.3 billion U.S. dollars commitment to aid to Afghanistan..."More on P6-9..."

UN Official

Kabul Asks Islamabad to Treat Taliban as it Would its own Enemies

Kabul, Sunday, called on Islamabad to treat insurgents in its country the same as it would treat its own enemies and not support those who declare war on Afghanistan.

The Afghan president’s deputy spokesman, Sayed Zafar Hashemi reiterated that Kabul’s stance towards Islamab had changed and it claims that Pakistan should fulfill its promises, it has made to Afghanistan in the past.

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