It's Time for Everyone to Get Onboard, End Afghan War: Mattis

KABUL - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Friday wrote to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, saying it is necessary and possible for Pakistan to support peace in Afghanistan, as women's meaningful participation in peace processes is as peace builders.

The Asia Foundation Launches the 2018 Survey of The Afghane People

KABUL - The Asia Foundation – Afghanistan, with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), launched the 14th annual Survey of the Afghan People (SAP). First launched in 2004, the Survey gathered the opinions of more than 10,000 Afghans across the country on elections, corruption, security, women’s rights, service delivery, the economy, migration, and peace and reconciliation. It is the broadest and longest-running nationwide survey of Afghan attitudes and opinions.

The 2018 SAP reveals some improvements in the confidence of the Afghan people regarding security, rebuilding, governance, women’s rights and the economy: The percentage of Afghans who believe that reconciliation between the Afghan government and the Taliban is possible has increased slightly by 1.1 percentage points compared to 2017.

This year, the proportion of Afghans who say the country is moving in the right direction is the same as last year (52.8%). Similarly, there is little difference between the number of Afghans this year who say the country is moving in the wrong direction (48.5%) and last year (49.5%).

The findings of the Survey show that Afghans continue to be concerned about the economic situation of their households and Afghanistan as a whole. Among those Afghans who think the country is moving in the wrong direction, a majority express concerns about such things as unemployment (34.7%), a bad economy (12.1%), high prices (3.6%), and other economic problems facing youth, more than three-fourths (76.2%) of Afghan women believe their lives have improved over the past year, compared to 45.2% in 2017; Meanwhile, 56.1% of Afghan women believe their lives have improved over the past year.

UN Calls for Women's Meaningful Participation in Afghan Peace

KABUL - The UN envoy Khalid Agha and UN Women's Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka have called for meaningful participation of Afghan women in the ongoing peace talks with the Taliban.

“We are looking for every responsible nation to support peace in the subcontinent and across this war in Afghanistan,” said Mlambo-Ngcuka. “We will define lots for the Taliban in the next round of peace talks,” a member of the Doha office told the Telegraph. “We will go word by word through the process of peace talks with the top leaders. We will get their consultation on many issues so as to be in a better position in next,” (More on P4, 10)

KABUL - The Korean Ambassador in Kabul Bho Rong Hyeon on Monday inaugurated a library at the Kabul University to promote Korean culture and literature. The ambassador, addressing at the inauguration event, said the library would help familiarize the people of Afghanistan with Korean culture, society and politics. University teachers, students of Korean language attended the event. The library will have 1,000 books in Korean language. Recalling history, the envoy said his country had been in social, political and economic crisis like Afghanistan of today but now Korea has attained stability. He added the new generation of Afghanistan could learn from Korean experience of achieving self-reliance and pulling Afghanistan out. (More on P4,10)

KABUL - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani ordered an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse of female athletes, saying that any kind of misconduct against athletes, male or female, was unacceptable. The White House releases a Ghana report last Friday about sexual abuse of Afghan female soccer player, while the report cited senior Afghan women associated with the team as saying the abuse took place at the Afghan Football Federation headquarters in Kabul and a training camp in Jordan last February. The Guardian also cited Khalida Popal, a former head of the women's soccer at the federation's headquarters in Kabul and at a training camp in Jordan last February. (More on P4, 10)

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KABUL - US Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad arrives in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD - US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday to hold talks with the political and military leadership of the country to discuss an intra-Afghan peace process. Khalilzad leads an inter-agency delegation which is also scheduled to visit Afghanistan, Cambodia, Belgium, Turkmenistan, Russia, Qatar and the UAE between December 2 and 20.

According to a press release by the US State Department, “Special Representative Khalilzad will be in communication with President Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah, and other Afghan stakeholders to coordinate closely on efforts to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table with the Afghan government and other Afghans.” He will meet with Afghan government officials and other interested parties to support and facilitate an inclusive peace process in Afghanistan, empowering the Afghan people to decide their nation’s fate,” the press release added.

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