Afghans Deserve an End to Senseless Acts of Violence, Pompeo Says after Bagram Attack

WASHINGTON - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has strongly condemned Taliban’s coordinated attack near military base in Afghanistan’s Bagram district on Wednesday. The attack involving a truck bombing and gunfight killed two civilians and wounded 73 Afghan civilians and five Georgian soldiers.

Pompeo told a press conference that the attack seriously damaged a hospital that was being rebuilt for the Afghan people. "This is precisely the kind of activity that we’re working to reduce through the efforts that we’re undertaking," Pompeo said.

"The people of Afghanistan deserve an end to these senseless acts of violence," Pompeo said. "The United States stands with the Afghan people, their security forces, and their desire to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan." (1TV NEWS)

DOHA - US officials have announced a “brief pause” in talks with the Taliban after the armed group launched a suicide attack on a US base in Afghanistan, killing two civilians.

Special Envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad on Friday expressed "outrage about attack in Bagram" and said the talks in the Qatari capital Doha would resume after the Taliban "con-sult their leadership on this essential topic." Khalilzad said the talks after a few days of "break for consultation," he said. The assault on Bagram airbase came despite the resumption of talks between the US and the group, days before in Doha.

Peace negotiations began earlier this year but were suspended in September after an American soldier was killed in a suicide attack claimed by the Taliban. (ALJAZEERA)

Kazakh Company to Construct 43-Km Railway in Herat

HERAT - Afghanistan Railway Authority on Thursday signed a contract with Kazakh company to build a 43-kilometer rail track in western Herat province.

It is part of last phase of a four-phase 225-km railway project that connects Afghanistan with Iran. Transport Minister Yama Yari said at a press conference in Kabul.

The projects begin from Iran’s Khaf city and ends in industrial park of Afghanistan’s Herat city. Two phases of the project, covering 76 km have been completed inside Iran and the third, covering 82 km, has been completed 95 percent inside Afghanistan.

The contract signed with Kazakhstan’s company to build 43 km of the project would bring $64 million in revenue annually. Nearly 6.5 million tonnes of goods are expected to be transported via the railway in five years. (1TV NEWS)
 Bali bom attack in central province of Parwan leaves 10 dead and dozens wounded. The peace negotiations between the US and the Taliban were passing behind the attack in the region.

Gazette - A roadside bomb blast in the central province of Ghazni left at least 10 people dead and six others wounded. Provincial spokesman Sediq Safi confirmed the casualties and said two said they were villagers who were traveling in a vehicle. In his tweet, he blamed the Taliban for this blast.

Kabul - Casulties among Afghanistan's security forces have declined by 10 percent this year, the country's acting Interior Minister Masoom Andarabi said on Thursday. Addressing a gathering of Women's Advocacy Committee on Peace, Andarabi said that casualties among Afghan forces declined despite the Taliban increasing their attacks by 12 percent this year. Recently, the Washington Post in a report said that the United States flooded Afghanistan with 10,000 troops.

Herat Protestors Warn Tehran Is Pushing Afghanistan to be World's Next Syria

Herat - More than 100 civil society activists and demonstrators gathered on Monday (December 9) in Herat city to protest the Iranian regime's destructive activities in Afghanistan. The protesters accused Tehran of supplying arms and funding armed groups and destroying infrastructure projects in the country. Iran directly interferes in Afghan across to start terror activities and other nuclear resources, said Mbrahim Sayyaf, a resident of Herat city who attended the protest. "Iran's recruiting fighters for the Fatemiyoun Division is one of the concerns that pushes Afghanistan to become the second Syria," he added, referring to an Iranian militia recruited from Afghan refugees and migrants that was sent to fight in Syria.

We can call on Iranian authorities to tell them that we don't allow the proliferation of arms to the 1980s and 1990s," added Sayyaf. We want the international community to take the same step against Iran as against Iraq, which creates a nuclear weapon. We have to save Afghanistan, said Mbrahim Sayyaf, a resident of Herat city who attended the protest. "Iran's recruiting fighters for the Fatemiyoun Division is one of the concerns that pushes Afghanistan to become the second Syria," he added, referring to an Iranian militia recruited from Afghan refugees and migrants that was sent to fight in Syria.

"We can call on Iranian authorities to tell them that we don't allow the proliferation of arms to the 1980s and 1990s," added Sayyaf. We want the international community to take the same step against Iran as against Iraq, which creates a nuclear weapon. We have to save Afghanistan, said Mbrahim Sayyaf, a resident of Herat city who attended the protest. "Iran's recruiting fighters for the Fatemiyoun Division is one of the concerns that pushes Afghanistan to become the second Syria," he added, referring to an Iranian militia recruited from Afghan refugees and migrants that was sent to fight in Syria.

"We can call on Iranian authorities to tell them that we don't allow the proliferation of arms to the 1980s and 1990s," added Sayyaf. We want the international community to take the same step against Iran as against Iraq, which creates a nuclear weapon. We have to save Afghanistan, said Mbrahim Sayyaf, a resident of Herat city who attended the protest. "Iran's recruiting fighters for the Fatemiyoun Division is one of the concerns that pushes Afghanistan to become the second Syria," he added, referring to an Iranian militia recruited from Afghan refugees and migrants that was sent to fight in Syria.

"We can call on Iranian authorities to tell them that we don't allow the proliferation of arms to the 1980s and 1990s," added Sayyaf. We want the international community to take the same step against Iran as against Iraq, which creates a nuclear weapon. We have to save Afghanistan, said Mbrahim Sayyaf, a resident of Herat city who attended the protest. "Iran's recruiting fighters for the Fatemiyoun Division is one of the concerns that pushes Afghanistan to become the second Syria," he added, referring to an Iranian militia recruited from Afghan refugees and migrants that was sent to fight in Syria.

Pakistan: The Safe Haven of the Terrorist Groups

Taliban announced on December 10, 2019 that they will end their fight against the US forces, but they still will continue fighting the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. This announcement received mixed reactions, while the international community, especially the United States welcomed the act, Afghanistan welcomed not attacking the US forces, but they strongly condemned continuing attacking on ANDSF. Further, Senator Lindsey Graham stated on the same day that the war would end in few weeks if Pakistan denied the Taliban safe haven in its territory. Then he suggested the US to negotiate with Pakistan and not Taliban to end the war in Afghanistan.

According to the official statement released by the Taliban on December 10, 2019, they stated the reasons behind this announcement. The Taliban emphasized the benefits of peace talks and the willingness of the Taliban to reach a political solution. The Taliban also emphasized their commitment to the principles of Islamic moderation, the protection of human rights, and the establishment of a democratic system.

The US peace talks with the Taliban has been resumed since September 2020, and the Taliban has agreed to participate in the negotiations. However, the talks have faced various challenges, including the lack of trust between the sides and the disagreement on key issues like the Taliban’s role in governance and the rights of women.

As a result, the Taliban’s announcement may be seen as a positive step towards ending the war in Afghanistan. However, the international community will need to carefully monitor the situation and ensure that the Taliban follow through with their commitments.

Is an Interim Government a Good Option?

The IEC has just added to the problem by failing to satisfy Abdullah’s team about the vote counts – which are both key producers and users of data – to address issues concerning data creation and protection. Moreover, data is a lifeblood for financial institutions and businesses, and technologies are constantly changing the landscape of financial services.

For financial institutions, data is critical for making informed decisions, assessing risks, and implementing effective strategies. In today’s digital age, data is everywhere and is constantly being generated and collected in various forms. Financial institutions need to be able to manage and analyze this data effectively to stay competitive and make informed decisions.

The influence of the conscious or unconscious preferences of algorithms' impact on financial services is immense. There are numerous examples where AI-driven models have been used to discriminate against women, leading the company to abandon it in 2017. More recently, Apple and Goldman Sachs launched a credit card that some have accused of being sexist. For a married couple who both join the same company, the husband automatically gets a credit limit 20 times higher than that of his wife.

There are concerns that these technologies’ impact on their employees and customers could be significant. For example, they have the potential to reduce the number of employees and increase the use of automation. This could lead to job losses and pose a significant challenge to financial institutions.

The influence of the conscious or unconscious preferences of algorithms is immense. There are numerous examples where AI-driven models have been used to discriminate against women, leading the company to abandon it in 2017. More recently, Apple and Goldman Sachs launched a credit card that some have accused of being sexist. For a married couple who both join the same company, the husband automatically gets a credit limit 20 times higher than that of his wife.

There are concerns that these technologies’ impact on their employees and customers could be significant. For example, they have the potential to reduce the number of employees and increase the use of automation. This could lead to job losses and pose a significant challenge to financial institutions.

The influence of the conscious or unconscious preferences of algorithms' impact on financial services is immense. There are numerous examples where AI-driven models have been used to discriminate against women, leading the company to abandon it in 2017. More recently, Apple and Goldman Sachs launched a credit card that some have accused of being sexist. For a married couple who both join the same company, the husband automatically gets a credit limit 20 times higher than that of his wife.

There are concerns that these technologies’ impact on their employees and customers could be significant. For example, they have the potential to reduce the number of employees and increase the use of automation. This could lead to job losses and pose a significant challenge to financial institutions.

The influence of the conscious or unconscious preferences of algorithms' impact on financial services is immense. There are numerous examples where AI-driven models have been used to discriminate against women, leading the company to abandon it in 2017. More recently, Apple and Goldman Sachs launched a credit card that some have accused of being sexist. For a married couple who both join the same company, the husband automatically gets a credit limit 20 times higher than that of his wife.

There are concerns that these technologies’ impact on their employees and customers could be significant. For example, they have the potential to reduce the number of employees and increase the use of automation. This could lead to job losses and pose a significant challenge to financial institutions.

The influence of the conscious or unconscious preferences of algorithms' impact on financial services is immense. There are numerous examples where AI-driven models have been used to discriminate against women, leading the company to abandon it in 2017. More recently, Apple and Goldman Sachs launched a credit card that some have accused of being sexist. For a married couple who both join the same company, the husband automatically gets a credit limit 20 times higher than that of his wife.

There are concerns that these technologies’ impact on their employees and customers could be significant. For example, they have the potential to reduce the number of employees and increase the use of automation. This could lead to job losses and pose a significant challenge to financial institutions.

The influence of the conscious or unconscious preferences of algorithms' impact on financial services is immense. There are numerous examples where AI-driven models have been used to discriminate against women, leading the company to abandon it in 2017. More recently, Apple and Goldman Sachs launched a credit card that some have accused of being sexist. For a married couple who both join the same company, the husband automatically gets a credit limit 20 times higher than that of his wife.

There are concerns that these technologies’ impact on their employees and customers could be significant. For example, they have the potential to reduce the number of employees and increase the use of automation. This could lead to job losses and pose a significant challenge to financial institutions.

The influence of the conscious or unconscious preferences of algorithms' impact on financial services is immense. There are numerous examples where AI-driven models have been used to discriminate against women, leading the company to abandon it in 2017. More recently, Apple and Goldman Sachs launched a credit card that some have accused of being sexist. For a married couple who both join the same company, the husband automatically gets a credit limit 20 times higher than that of his wife.
In Berlin, Tokayev Touts New Incentives for German Investors

NUR-SULTAN – Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev met with a group of German government officials, including German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and German business representatives during a Dec. 5 visit to Berlin. “We are ready to give you the maximum possible assistance, includ- ing a tax exemption regime in special economic zones, provision of infra- structure at no or low cost for Kazakh Invest and the Kazakh Direct Investment Fund to open special offic- es that will cooperate with German in- vestors,” Tokayev told the gathering. “These measures are new to our sys- tem. Previously, we have not provided such conditions to any other country. I sincerely hope that with the right ap- proach and attitude, the government and investors will make them truly ef- fective,” he said. The Kazakh president highlighted in- creasing integration in Central Asia as a benefit of doing business in Kazakh- stan. “Our low integration with our neigh- bour provides convenient access to neighbouring markets, but when we open our borders, it will be much easier for us to settle this issue, once and for all,” Tokayev said. The prime minister, in order to reform the media, has already approved a 2020 budget for the country strategy of Central Asia, which includes a series of measures to protect and promote the freedom of speech in the region. "We have received the report from the Ministry of Information and Communications, which states that the majority of the media outlets in the country are not meeting the requirements set by the government," he said.

"We want to show to neighbour- ing countries like Iran that, al- though some problems exist in Afghan- stan, volatile, Afghan youth are able to thwart any of their interests. The Afghan people are ready to defend their country," he added. The Iranian regime has been intensifying its efforts in recent years to win friends for years, bringing serious problems, said Fatema Ahmadia, a Helsinki University student and the party's candidate at the election.

The Iranian government needs to address the problems of the government and its people, and it should not in- terfere in our country's internal affairs. "It had better spend the money it gives to the Taliban on its own people to relieve their poverty and to stop the spread of terrorism," said Ahmadia, referring to Tehran's support of the Taliban. Ahmadia urged the Taliban to stop fighting for the interests of for- eign countries in Afghanistan and to refrain from killing Af- ghan civilians. (TASnim)

Iran, Uzbekistan Stress Expansion of All-Out Economic Ties

TASHKENT – The meeting was chaired by Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Ali Tayebnia and Uzbekistn’s Deputy Prime Minister伊利 Ganiyev, at which time representatives of several renowned companies from both sides exchanged opinions.

Speaking in the Tashkent meeting, the Iranian minister said the two sides could exchange information about several companies, which have already been operationalized, he said.

Rahmat further noted that holding such committee meetings would help the two sides to take ma- jor steps in the expansion of relations between Iran and Uzbek- stan, and in line with both sides’ eagerness for economic coop- eration, economic ties effective steps will hopefully be taken, including the establishment of joint ventures and setting up direct flights, according to Rahmat. Rahmat arrived in Tashkent at the head of a high-ranking delegation on 13 Wednesday. (Tehran Times)
A day after a student was killed and several others injured in an explosion at a college in Haryana, a search is on to nab the culprits.

According to the police, a student had set off a firecracker in the college and it went out of control, injuring several students. The blast occurred around 8:30 a.m. when the students were coming out of the college for their daily classes.

The school management immediately informed the police, who rushed to the spot and launched a search operation. The police have registered a case under Section 307 (attempt to commit murder) and 308 (causing hurt by use of weapon) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The FIR has been registered against the unknown student and the police are searching for him.

In addition to the primary evidence, several other items have been found at the scene, including fireworks and other items.

The police are urging anyone with information about the incident to come forward and assist in the investigation.

The school management has also been asked to take measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

The case is under investigation and the police are hopeful of nabbing the culprits soon.
First Lady Rula Ghani on Thursday criticized the US media for what she said disseminating "wrong information" regarding Afghanistan.

KABUL - Addressing a seminar “Women’s Role in Security,” here Rula Ghani said that foreign media was focused on negative information about Afghanistan than positive things. She said two well-trusted US media outlets The Washington Post and The New York Times reported that the US spent $1 trillion in Afghanistan and 2,400 foreigners died without a result. “We thank the US, NATO and other international partners,” the First Lady said, adding the foreign aid and sacrifices in Afghanistan were not a waste. She explained $121 billion of the total $2 trillion had been spent on Afghanistan’s security, economic and counter-narcotics and the rest on US forces and their equipment in Afghanistan.

Acting Defense Minister Gen. Abdulrahil Kabul said women had been provided a decent environment in his ministry for work and women should use this opportunity to pro mote themselves and serve the country.

Referring to peace talks, Khalid said “We supported peace from the very beginning and wish durable peace. He said we do not want a peace that thre atens past achievements and... (More on P4:3)

The US has imposed a new round of sanctions against Iran, hitting a shipping network for smuggling lethal aid to Yemen.

KABUL - Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on Wednesday that the US has sanctioned the major airlines and shipping companies of Yemen. Farhan Yousufzai, ACB chairman, said he was not part of the decision of incorporating Asghar Alghanim as captain of the national squad. Parham Yusufzai, ACB chairman, told a press conference on Wednesday that the US imposed new round of sanctions against companies that helped Iran import items for its weapons of mass destruction programs. The sanctions included the company called Asghar Alghanim.

In a statement from the State Department, the secretary alleged the programmes involved the shipping of funds away from the Iranian people. “They (programmes) augment the regime’s campaign of terror and intimidation at home and throughout the region. The sanctions on Shanghai-based ESAIL Shipping Company and Iran Shipping Lines will take effect in June 2020. New sanctions were also imposed on the Iranian Air and those of its general sales agents by the State Department and the US Treasury Department. (Pajhwok)

Baghdan: 1st Polio Case Detected in 8 Years

PUL-I-KHRUM - A new polio virus has arrived in the Dand-e-Shor district of northern Baghlan province, an official said on Thursday.

Health Director Dr. Mohammad Habib told Pajhwok Afghan News a four-year-old child, Zhuhibullah, tested positive for polio in Mangalo village.

“The result of our examination shows the virus is from the Peshawar city of Pakistan. If we are clear where the location is, we can focus there,” he said.

The director said provincial doctors would hold a meeting to determine where the virus had come from.

It is the first polio case to be detected in Baghlan since 2011. (Pajhwok)