Pakistan is the Center of Taliban, Ghani Tells the Nation

President Ashraf Ghani said the Afghan people and the government of Afghanistan want practical and clear steps from Pakistan government against terror groups.

TALQAN - Women's rights groups criticized government officials over their silence on the incident as it took place more than a month ago but the report was made public today. A woman was publicly lashed many times by forces of a local commander in a village in Takhar province, in the north-east of Afghanistan, after a verdict by a kangaroo court in the province for 'an unknown reason', local officials and residents confirmed. The incident took place in Chah-e-Aab district - a remote region in Takhar. The district is under government's control but reportedly dominated by the presence of local commanders. A video on social media shows at least five men lashing the 22-year-old woman in a public place while others shout at her and treat her with bad words. (More on P4)

50 Taliban Militants Killed in Kunduz Offensive

KANDAHAR - The National Directorate of Security says the military operation was conducted in Mawind district in Kunduz province. At least 50 Taliban militants were killed in military operation carried out by the Special Force Unit of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Kunduz province, in the south of Afghanistan, the NDS said in a statement on Thursday. The military operation was carried out in Omaikhud, Mohammadchal and Akhtarzahd villages in Mawind district, the NDS said.

KABUL - In an address to the nation on Friday, President Ashraf Ghani talked about recent deadly attacks in the country, and said Pakistan is the center of the Taliban and that Islamabad should take practical and clear action for eliminating the military group and other terror outfits in that country. "Pakistan is the center of the Taliban," Ghani said, adding that the Afghan people are waiting for action by Pakistan government against terrorist groups on its soil. He said Afghanistan has shared a lot of insurgents with Pakistan government. "We are waiting for movement. Work and process are the words on paper; the Afghan nation wants clear practical action," the president said.

"Eleven suspects have been arrested and their roots have been identified. Their roots are to Pakistan. Taliban has claimed the responsibility; of course, those Taliban who neither accept the Afghan government nor accept the religion (Mujahedeen (Mohammad PBUH))," he said referring to the recent attack in Kabul which claimed more than 150 lives and wounded over 200 others. He said those Taliban who will continue the war will be supported by the foreign forces. (More on P4)

Ongoing Arg-Jamiat Rift Affects Investment in Balkh

Owner of a chocolate factory in Balkh said he is waiting for an end to the tension to resume a number of investors who said they have stopped expanding their investment in Balkh following the political tension. Abdul Muttah, an investor, said he establish a big chocolate factory in Mazari-Sharif city six months ago but according to him, he is waiting for an end to the political standoff in order to start his business.

KABUL - The new IEC chief said the election commission needs practical and clear steps from the government of Afghanistan want practical and clear steps from Pakistan government against terror groups.

Parliamentary Polls Might BeDelayed: New IEC Chief

KABUL - The head of the 15-member family said that she and her sister were treated professionally. These girls from a disadvantaged family in Kabul have been deprived of an education due to poverty but the girls said they have lots of dreams and hope to get an education and become active members of society.

Roadside violence among among 15 children is 15 years old and said she went to school up until the fourth grade. Had she stayed at school she would have finished at least Grade 5," she said. According to her she would one day like to be a medical doctor. "I was in Grade 4 when I left school. I would have been in Grade 5 if I was at school. Financial problems forced me and my two sisters to leave school, but it is said that my brother still goes to school," said Beizar. "I wanted to go to school like my sister and become a medical doctor in the future to serve the people, but financial problems prevent this," said one of the other girls. "My father and head of the family, Mohammad Khan, 45, served in the military in Sarobi district in Kabul many years ago. (More on P4)

KOLKOZ

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The offensive was conducted from air and ground and resulted in a significant impact on the enemy, the statement said. The NDS said the military operation led to the disruption of the enemy's movement and the elimination of a number of Taliban leaders and fighters. The operation resulted in the destruction of a large number of enemy weapons and equipment, the statement said.

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