KABUL - Former vice president, Mohammad Youness Qanooni, on Thursday said that the current political system is not meeting the needs of the country as power has been monopolized within the presidential palace. With the current system, power has been centralized to the presidential palace and it has increased Afghanistan’s political, military and social issues, said Qanooni while addressing a gathering in Kabul.

He supported the current political system to be changed in a mixed system where a prime minister can take care of the current affairs.

The current political system must change before the next presidential elections, he argued.

According to Qanooni, currently Afghanistan’s legal, judicial and oversight commission, do not have the required independence. “Centralization between the legislative body and the presidential palace over the past fifteen years has taken roots from the instability system (centralized political system), you are aware that the judicial system does not have independence because of this system,” said Qanooni. Qanooni said that certain forces are meddling during the drafting process of the constitution.

In terms of NATO’s response to counter terrorism, he believes that NATO is already doing a lot to support counter terrorism efforts. First being present and active in Afghanistan, then supporting a number of activities in the Mediterranean and the Middle East and we have to understand that terrorism isn’t just a physical conflict between a counter terrorism has a number of fronts and the minister post in Afghanistan has always been a place to reform between the presidential palace and the national assembly. “One (More on P4-LD)”, said Qanooni.

KABUL - Pakistan, Thursday stressed the need for fundamental reforms in the electoral system and said the government was committed to help convince the Taliban into talks with Islamabad. Majd Bahram Rahimi, CEO, and Minister of interior said the process of bringing these efforts more closely together, to give them more effectiveness. NATO is contributing to the efforts besides the countries already contributing in the Mediterranean and the Middle East for stopping the terrorism, he said.

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KABUL - Police on Thursday said that at least 11 journalists were killed and 32 were wounded in several attacks across Afghanistan. "Foothold of Terrorist Outfits" in Afghanistan: FM

KABUL - The Afghan High Peace Council (HPC) Thursday said interlocutors with respecto to Pakistan government will continue to increase pressure on Pakistan in order to get them to stop backing insurgent groups that are fighting against the Afghan government and Taliban. The spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdulah Abdullah said that their current political system would have serious repercussions on Pakistan. Qanooni said that Islamad should review its stance.

Pakistan Concerned About “Foothold of Terrorist Outfits” in Afghanistan: FM

KABUL - Attacks on the civil population have no justification and are against Islamic principles, said Amin Karim. The Justice minister called on the Taliban to halt the killing of civilians.

In response to a question regarding the killing of UN staff and the Kabul hospital, Amin said that the group’s leader wants no pressure from Kabul whether the UN removes sanctions against him or not. He called the Taliban a “terrorist group” that is condemned under international law.

“Hizb-i-Islami views bombs and rockets in places such as mosques, hospitals, and offices as an Islamic act. Hizb-i-Islami was the first party which denounced the Taliban as a fanatic and associated it with terrorism,” said Karim.

Referring to the recent peace talks, Amin said that the group’s leader has clarified that the Taliban has not been formed to become a government in Kabul. “The Hizb-i-Islami leader and Hizb-i-Islami party are very concerned about the death of their leader in Kabul and no issue will change the decision,” he added. Qanooni said that the current political system is not meeting the needs of the country as power has been monopolized within the presidential palace and it has increased Afghanistan’s political, military and social issues, said Qanooni while addressing a gathering in Kabul.

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