Govt Wants Scheduled Pull out of Foreign Forces: Raaz

KABUL: Afghanistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN Adela Raaz said Afghan government showed its commitment for peace by releasing the Taliban prisoners and the Taliban should reciprocate the move to show their willingness for peace.

During a special interview with VOA, she said Afghan government wanted a scheduled pull out of foreign forces. Earlier, US President Trump said he wanted to pull all forces from Afghanistan but feared that the war-torn country would convert to terrorist safe havens.

Raaz said Afghan government was an elected setup and if the Taliban rejected talks with the government it would mean the Taliban did not want talks with the people of Afghanistan.

She said in case of peace agreement, the Afghan government would hold the responsibility for the implementation of peace agreement.

WASHINGTON - The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that Afghanistan deserves an end to the ongoing violence and that the “hour has come for peace in Afghanistan”.

He said in a tweet on Wednesday that the peace process is continuing and that the “hour has come for peace in Afghanistan”.

He remarks came amid the ongoing backdoor talks between the US and the Taliban in Doha, Qatar which entered their fifth day on Thursday.

Meanwhile the US ambassador to Kabul John Bass has said that the first intra-Afghan talks which are scheduled to take place in three days in Qatar is critical to leverage the peace process in the country. He said that peace is among the top priorities of the Afghan and US governments.

This comes as Afghan officials and politicians are preparing to attend the scheduled intra-Afghan dialogue in Qatar in the next three days. “This conflict will only end when Afghans, (More on P4)...(5)

Compromise to Help Achieve Peace, US Envoy Tells Afghans

KABUL - US Ambassador to Afghanistan John Bass has said the Afghans must be prepared to compromise in months to come to achieve a political settlement and select a new leader.

Addressing a gathering marking his country’s National Day, Bass told the US Embassy here, the envoy said: “So as you look ahead to the next few months – months that will bring opportunities to achieve a political settlement and to select a new leader – you must... (More on P4)...(5)

Pakistan's Premier to Meet Taliban Leaders on Afghan Peace

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan will meet with leaders of the Taliban in the near future in an attempt to push forward an otherwise sluggish peace process in war-torn Afghanistan, his adviser on political affairs said Wednesday, as quoted by Pakistani news agencies.

“Prime Minister Imran Khan will meet the Taliban leaders soon for the peaceful resolution of the Afghan crisis and the Afghan government has also shown its consent in this regard,” an adviser to the Pakistani premier Naeem ul Haq said as quoted by state-run Radio Pakistan while addressing a conference in the capital, Islamabad.

Taliban Leaders on Afghan Peace

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The Maarif acquisition followed an agreement between Ankara and Kabul signed on February 25, 2016, which was also registered by the UN Secretariat.

Moreover, the Turkish education body has launched a girls high school in Kabul, in that statement.

Turkey established the Maarif Foundation in 2016 – after a friendly coup attempt – to take over the administration of overseas schools linked to FETO. (More on P4)...(5)