KARUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday termed administration’s efforts to reduce ‘a national shame’ and said nepotistic appointments and favoritism in the security forces was a legacy of the past government and needed reforms.

The president expressed these views at a conference “The way towards an effective coalition against drug production in Afghanistan” organized by the European Union. Ghani acknowledged earlier ap- pointments on important govern- ment jobs by previous authorities. He showed the intro- duction of a mechanism that would remove nepotism.

Karul - Mohammad Hasan Asadi, a member of the provincial council, said that some security officials had been hired on government posts.

The president warned security institu- tions against laxity in executing their au-

thorities in a proper way and said they would be held accountable for what they were doing. He said some security officials had forgotten their tasks and were involved in cons- truction bidding and other unnecessary engagements.

He said: “We were able to save tens of billions of afghani to major con- tracts of the Defense Ministry.” He lamented common citizens being betrayed in an unsanctioned manner, a practice terrorists and war criminals have been known as.

The president said he himself had been attended 35 meetings of the Na- tional Procurement Council (NPC) and procured major contracts in a proper way. In these meetings, he added. "I am on P4..."".

Karul - President Moham- mad Ghani has ap- pointed new chiefs for the Ministry of Defense and Na- tional Directorate of Security (NDS), a statement released by President office on Friday said. According to the statement the President of De- fense Mohammad Qasim Stanikzai was appointed acting NDS chief to replace Masoud Andarabi who has been appointed intelligence agency chief over the past few months and Gen. Abdullah Khan has been appointed as acting min- ister for defense Stanikzai, who was rejected by the previous President, Mohammad Naseer Karimi, is appointed as minister of defense.

Ghani Appoints Acting Chiefs for Defense Ministry, Intelligence Agency

Time for Exercising Military Option Yet to Come, Pakistani Believes

Pakistan has again reiterated that it would not conduct operations until it has seen tangible progress against the Taliban in the province.

The Pakistan army has complained to the United States that the Taliban and other Afghan insurgent groups have been provided with safe havens in Pakistan and that is obstructing efforts by both countries to achieve a political settlement of the war.

The Pakistan government has been urging the United States to accelerate efforts to end the conflict and has been eager to see the Taliban engage in negotiations to bring about a political settlement.

The Pakistan army has been carrying out a military campaign in Afghanistan for the past eight years, but has not been able to achieve significant gains.

A Pakistani official said that the military operation would continue until there is evidence that the Taliban are no longer able to conduct operations.

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