Pence

WASHINGTON - The US White House issued a statement on Wednesday responding to the release of Kevin King, Ameri- can, and Timothy Weeks, Austra-alian, saying: “The Taliban have indicated that the release of the two professors is intended as a goodwill gesture, which the United States welcomes. It added that the United States endorses the taking of innocent civilians as hostages. The White House statement con- tinued, “Additionally, we wel- come the Taliban’s impending release of 10 Afghan prisoners, and the Afghan government’s release of 3 Taliban prisoners,” the statement said. “We see these developments as

The New Look of Afghanistan’s Industrial Parks

The remaining 11 parks are fully sketched and need some atten- tion. In more than 7 provinces, we have feasibility of building industrial parks. Most of these IPs are quite suc- cessful. For example, according to the General Directorate of Industrial Parks, Pol-e-Charkhi industrial parks with 230 acres area has 135 plots which is home to 360 factories. 225 of the fac- tories are operating. Another example would be the Herat’s IPs that cover 474 acres of land with 960 plots. 896 of the plots have been distributed and there are 279 active firms. Moreover, concrete steps have been taken to strengthen and develop industrial parks for the benefit of Afghanistan’s industries and industries. The provinces generally have various names such as the Industrial Pak, industrial zones or property for- mation of Industrial Parks to provide cheaper land for industries. Afghan IPs Status quo: There are 34 Industrial Parks in Af-ghanistan covering thousands of acres of area. 11 of those parks are fully operative; 12 of them are under construction, and

KABUL - President Ghani, visit- ing Nangarhar province on Tues- day, said “the elimination of Daesh in the province is a major achievement for Afghanistan, the region and the world. In recent years, Nangarhar has been named a key Daesh base in Afghanistan. According to government forces in Nangarhar, 263 Daesh fight- ers with 425 women and chil- dren have surrendered to the government. Ghani made an explicit acknowledgement of the achievement of Afghan security forces. “I want to congratulate you (resi- dents of Nangarhar) and say that you have come through a period that will be a model for the sur- vival of Afghanistan: Meaning the people, based on a cautious security analysis, work with the security forces and the civilian administration, and with unity make everything possible,” said Ghani. Ghani also considered what to do with the Daesh members and their families who have surren- dered. Ghani requested, Mr. Governor, is to speak to the people as soon as possible in order to deal in an Af- ghan and Islamic way with the women and children of Daesh fighters and to prepare a plan to transfer them to the other offices of Waziristan or Khyber Agency. I don’t want to hand them over to Pakistan,” Ghani said. Local officials told of the signifi- cance of public uprising con- fronting the (More on P4)...
KABUL - The United States, hailing the release of US and Australian professors by the Taliban, hopes the development will contribute to the peace process of intra-Afghan peace negotiations.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement: "The Taliban have indicated the release of the two professors is intended as a good will gesture, which the United States welcomes.

American citizen Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks, who were abducted in 2016, were freed in southeastern Zabul province on Wednesday.

Pompeo viewed the development as hopeful signs that the Afghan war, a costly conflict that has lasted 40 years, would come to an end.

People were waiting for the full recovery of both men, who endured significant hardship during their (three-year) captivity, and wash them as reunited with their loved ones in the near future," Pompeo added.

In Kabul, the American University of Afghanistan welcomed news of the release of its professors, freed in a swap for three high-ranking Taliban.

The university said it shared the relief of the families of Kevin and Timothy and would look to provide all the support they and their families. (Pajhwok)

KARUL - The Taliban overtook Islamic State-militant group as the world’s deadliest terrorist group in 2018, according to a report released by a think tank on Wednesday.

The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) said that the number of deaths attributed to the Taliban rose by just under 7 per cent to 6,103, and accounted for 38 per cent of all deaths globally.

In contrast, deaths attributed to IS fell globally by just under 50 per cent, falling from 4,306 in 2017, to 1,328 in 2018.

The report said that for the first time since 2013, IS was not deadliest terrorist group. The report said that worldwide there had been 13,969 deaths caused by terrorism in 2018, a drop of 25 per cent compared to 2017.

However, the report said that the number of countries affected by terrorism in the world increased to 71 countries suffering from at least one terrorist attack.

The fall in terrorist deaths has also been accompanied by a reduction in the global economic impact of terrorism, decreasing by 36 per cent to $18,073 billion in 2018, it said.

Based on the report’s 83 countries chapter was the fourth deadliest terrorist group in 2018, with over a thousand recorded deaths, mostly of which happened in Afghanistan. (TNN)

KABUL - Afghanistan’s National Football Team lost 0-1 to Asian champions Qatar during their FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifier match in Tajikistan’s capital, Dushanbe.

With Tuesday night’s result, Qatari team is now four points ahead in Group E with 13 points while Afghanistan still has four points with three games left in the second round of the World Cup qualifiers. Qatar, who has already qualified for the 2022 World Cup as hosts, plays India next on March 26, with Afghanistan taking on Bangladesh.

In another match on Tuesday night, the Indian football team too knocked out of the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers after losing 0-1 to Oman.

Mohammad Akbarzad scored the all-important goal in the 32nd minute at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex. (Main News Page)
Inclusion of Afghan Women in the Talks Ensures Peaceable Outcome

In the South Asian context, non-proliferation is not merely a nuclear question. The larger forces and interests at work both within the region and outside have to be understood. Regional security cannot be considered in isolation from global or extra-regional conditions. The effects have to be seen two ways: regionally, a low-level, third-party process in the region have to participate in the process to bring about a truly logical and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament regime. At a global level, efforts to build bridges of understanding among the countries in the region through confidence-building measures have to be sustained. Hence, in South Asia, proliferation can be best achieved through a proper mix of global and regional approaches.

If Afghan women have a role in peace-building, it is because they have been given a role. In other words, Afghan women shall have a formal role in peace talks. This is based on the argument that the inclusion of Afghan women in peace processes is a vital component of a strategy to defuse nuclear crises and to create a more peaceful and just society.

The exclusion of Afghan women in peace processes is a manifestation of gender injustice. Including women at the negotiating table means understanding their specific challenges and giving them the chance to contribute their unique perspectives. Afghan women’s inclusion in the peace process is not just about their rights; it is about ensuring a more just and peaceful society.

Inclusion of Afghan women in peace processes is crucial for several reasons. First, it addresses the issue of gender inequality and promotes the idea of equal participation in decision-making processes. Women bring a different perspective and understanding to the table, which can lead to better outcomes and more inclusive solutions.

Second, Afghan women’s inclusion in the peace process is essential for the stability and security of the region. Women are often the backbone of families and communities, and their inclusion in peace negotiations can help ensure that the outcomes are sustainable and inclusive.

Third, the inclusion of Afghan women in peace processes aligns with international norms and standards, such as the United Nations’ Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. This resolution recognizes the role of women in peace processes and highlights the need for their active participation.

The key to ensuring the success of Afghanistan’s peace process lies in including Afghan women in all stages of the negotiations. This will not only contribute to a more just and peaceful society but will also send a strong message to the world about the importance of gender equality and inclusion.

As a result, building a more peaceful future in Afghanistan will be impossible without the active participation of Afghan women. This is the only way to ensure a sustainable and lasting peace in the region.
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(2) US Welcomes .........

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(3) Afghan Farm .........

Coordination laws leave them with little or no credit more difficult. African women entrepreneurs in Africa, they said, are blamed on an increase in road traffic during certain hours, and they said that many African countries, but the city’s staggering smog levels are blamed on the volumes of international trade, accelerating, cheapening it and making it more accessible for the individuals who would like to purchase products from these businesses.

(22) Uzbekistan Launches .........

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(14) ADB-Supported .........

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**Japan’s Abe Becomes Longest-Serving Prime Minister in Nation’s History**

**Tokyo** - Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday wrapped up more than seven years in office, making him Japan’s longest-serving leader, before he changed the name of its administration from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to the Liberal Democratic Party (LDJ) and the party’s traditional blue tick against a purple background in order to attract more female voters. Abe, who had been in power since 2012, will remain as party leader after a vote on Thursday. In his policy speech, Abe said the economy had improved under his administration, with inflation hitting a 30-year high and unemployment at a 26-year low. He also announced plans to increase the minimum wage and raise the retirement age. Abe’s departure will end a decade of conservative rule that has seen a rise in nationalism and科技. However, the move has been met with criticism from some who believe it is not enough to address the country’s pressing issues, such as the aging population and economic stagnation.

**New Delhi** - One of India’s no-frills airlines has expanded its service to the Middle East, adding flights to the kingdom of Jordan. AirAsia India, a unit of the region’s low-cost carrier, said on Wednesday it would begin flights to Amman from New Delhi and Mumbai from December, with twice-weekly services on each route. The airline is expected to increase its frequency to daily flights in the future, and it plans to launch flights to other destinations in the region, including Saudi Arabia and Oman.

**Nur-Sultan** - Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao pledged support to Kazakhstan, in his first visit to the Central Asian country, to promote economic development and infrastructure projects. Nakao said Kazakhstan is a key partner for the ADB, and the bank is committed to providing the country with financing for projects that align with the country’s development strategy and support the government’s economic reforms. He also highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships with the private sector and increasing the country’s access to international capital markets.

**Bangkok** - Pope Francis arrived in Bangkok on Wednesday, starting his first visit to Thailand and reducing the number of countries he has visited since his election as pope in 2013. The pontiff is expected to hold meetings with local officials and religious leaders, as well as meeting with members of the public. He is scheduled to visit the city of Nakhon Ratchasima, where he will meet with children and young people, and then travel to the southern province of Ranong, where he will attend a Mass on the beach.

**Taipei** - Taiwan’s foreign minister said on Wednesday that the nation’s economic relations with the United States had improved, with a series of high-level visits and economic exchanges in recent months. The minister said the United States had expressed support for Taiwan’s participation in international organizations and had praised the nation’s contributions to global efforts to combat COVID-19. He also noted that the United States had maintained its “one China” policy, which recognizes the People’s Republic of China as the only legitimate government of China, including Taiwan.

**Shanghai** - The Chinese government has announced plans to introduce a new policy that will allow foreign companies to invest in the country’s high-tech sectors and research and development. The policy, which is part of a broader effort to boost the country’s innovation capabilities, will provide tax incentives and other benefits to companies that invest in high-tech industries. The government has also announced plans to establish a new high-tech zone in Shanghai, which will be a hub for research and development in the country.

**Ashgabat** - The UN adopted a resolution on the right to development on Tuesday, following a two-day meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The resolution, which was adopted by 37 votes to 23, with 14 abstentions, calls for the right to development to be recognized as a fundamental human right. It also encourages States to adopt policies and measures that are consistent with the right to development, and to engage in dialogue and cooperation on this issue with the United Nations and other international organizations.

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**More on P4**: "...(More on P4)...(21)"
Intra-Afghan Talks in Beijing Likely This Month: Kabulov

KABUL - Beijing will host the Afghan meeting talks before the end of the year, a top Russian diplomat hoped on Wednesday.

The planned meeting among representatives of the government of Afghanistan, Taliban, civil society and political groups has been postponed several times.

A date for the meeting is yet to be finalized, as China has problems with coordinating with the party, a government source of participants from Kabul.

President Vladimir Putin’s spokesperson said TASS: “We believe this can happen at the beginning of the new year. I am ready to participate.” (Pajhwok)