KABUL - Addressing the 3rd Mayors National Conference, the president said the Afghan government forces have enough potential and have managed to save the country from “collapse”.

“You should know that the work which is done by Afghans cannot be done by any foreign mercenary and foreign mercenaries will never be allowed in this soil,” Ghani said.

Ghani’s remarks come days after Erik Prince, the founder of Blackwater security company, in an interview with Tolo news, insisted the Afghan war will end “a few months” using his plan to send in thousands of contracted mentors to Afghanistan.

According to Prince, 3,600 “contracted veteran mentors” from Blackwater will be deployed to Afghanistan – 36 for each Afghan unit and for two to four years at a time.

Prince’s plan to send in thousands of veteran mentors to Afghanistan is in direct contradiction to the US President’s condition-based strategy in which the US forces would have a shorter haul. However, he said, it was too hard to give an estimate timeframe for how long US troops would be needed on the ground. “This announcement is a strategy and mobilised other countries and partners.”

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Mr. Mirziyoyev’s push for dialogue between the government and the fighters is different. It is working,” he said.

“Because of the conflict in Afghanistan, we have suffered a great deal in the past because of the lingering conflict in Afghan areas and urged for peace, the Hindu said that his country had suffered a great deal in the past from the Taliban’s attacks. “This meeting will help in ending violence and conflicts in the country,” he said.

“Such meetings can awaken those who have been deceived and have joined oppositions’ lines. At least it will help reduce conflicts in the country,” said Omal Maiwah, a spokesman for Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

Although the influence of Pakistani religious scholars on the Taliban is prominent, but a lack of participation of influential Pakistani clerics at such meetings has reduced hopes of its outcomes, an analyst said.

Pakistani... (More on P4)...(5)