Taliban no Longer Controlled by Pakistan: Asif

Pakistan Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif says his country no longer has any influence over Taliban. The insurgents are currently being sponsored and controlled by others, he claims.

KARUL - He confirmed US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who met Pakistan’s military and civilian officials on Oct. 25, had handed them a list of 75 terrorists. Briefing the Senate on Tillerson’s trip, the minister said “The US has given us a list of 75 terrorists. Pakistan is not America’s colony that would do whatever they want.”

The Haqqani Network was top of the list but Hafiz Saeed’s name was not mentioned, the minister said. Saeed, a Pakistani militant leader, was allegedly involved in terrorist attacks in India. New Delhi had given him in 2008, under the leadership of Saeed, Lashkar-i-Taiba’s bloody attacks in India left dozens of people dead and wounded. Asif told the Senate the US had accepted Pakistan’s demands after the attack on the World Trade Center. “The US would give us lists of terrorists and we would sell them.”

Former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef has written in his book that Pakistan would sell Taliban and other militants to the US for the sake of dollars.

Karzai Wants US to Consult Regional Actors on Afghanistan

KARUL - Former president Hamid Karzai has denounced America’s counter-terrorism mission in Afghanistan, claiming it has failed to contain terrorism in the country.

Speaking at the Institute for Political and International Studies in Tehran, Asadullah Karzai, a current affairs expert, said the US-Pakistan relationship will come under a mutual trust.”

China Wants ‘Mutual Trust’ in US-Pakistan Relations

BEIJING - Chinese Foreign Ministry’s spokesman says he hopes the US-Pakistan relationship will be based on a mutual trust. He said many times that we have said many times that we want the US-Pakistan relationship will come under a mutual trust.”

Blackwater Founder Still Promotes Plan to Privatize Afghan Operations

WASHINGTON - Erik Prince, who now runs a Hong Kong-based security business, told Reuters on Wednesday he was continuing about aspects of the plan, including how to hold contractors accountable for wrongdoing, with lawyers including a “former general counsel of the CIA,” US government sources say.

Azerbaijani Peacekeepers Return from Afghanistan

BAKU - A group of 30 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces returned from Afghanistan to Baku in accordance with the rotation plan, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said in a message on Thursday.

The group was serving in Afghanistan within NATO-led non-combat Resolute Support mission, according to the message.

Barack Obama signed a deal to bring US forces home by 2016, but the agreement was never ratified by Congress.

Women Want Significant Role in Decision-Making

"The US-Pakistan relationship will come under a mutual trust.”

6 More Light Aircraft Ordered for Afghan Air Force

KARUL - Six additional light attack aircraft will be added to the fleet of the nascent Afghan Air Force to manufacture the Embraer/Serra Novaehor Corporation A-29 Super Tucano aircraft.

Citing a press release from the firm, the Diplomat said production of the aircraft is scheduled to start immediately in Jacksonville, Florida.

With the addition of the planes, the statement added, the total number of aircraft provided to the Program will rise to 26.

The US Air Force has spent a total of $18 million, including the costs associated with the delivery of the A-29 Light Attack Aircraft, to supply the Afghan government.

A-29 Super Tucano aircraft will be added to the new air force. 

Women in Afghanistan are challenging gender norms and demanding equal rights and opportunities.