KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga members on Monday asked the government to invoke the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the United States because the deal had resulted in increased insecurity instead of peace and stability.

The BSA was linked between Afghanistan and the US back in 2014. President Ashraf Ghani had said the agreement would bring stability and welfare to the country and would secure Afghanistan and the world at large from threats posed by terrorist networks.

Under the agreement, the US will support Afghanistan if the country faces any serious external threat to its territory.

But lower house members said at today’s session that the BSA had resulted in Afghanistan’s enmity with neighboring countries and had increased insecurity and the internal conflict.

Michaelinda Seth, a lawmaker from northern Baghlan province, said: “The BSA is supposed to ensure security and order in Afghanistan, but instead created insecurity and casualties to the security forces mounted.”

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MPS Seek Stringent Action Against Rowdy Supporters of Massoud

KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga (WJ) members on Monday condemned the fire by air support of Ahmad Shah Massoud and demanded punishment for perpetrators.

Afghanistan’s National Hero, Massoud was assassinated by two bombers posing as journalists 17 years ago. The son of Col. Dost Mohammad Khan, he was born in Panjsher district in 1951.

His death anniversary was commemorated yesterday where loyalists of the great resistance leader levelled automatic weapons in different parts of the high-security capital in violation of a government ban.

In today’s session, the WJ MPs strongly condemned the gunfire which killed a woman dead and dozens of people injured in Kabul, Munawar Shah Bahaduri, a lawmaker from Herat province, said: “Firing in the air is no operation. This created fear among the residents of Kabul. The government must take action against the perpetrators.”

Omaidullah Barakazi, a legislator from Uruzgan province suggested that incidents should be commemorated with recitation from the Quran and free meals, not with firing and other illegal activities.

Amir Khanly, deputy speaker, said: “All of you saw the horror and anxiety in Kabul yesterday.”

Kunduz: 15 Policemen Killed in Dasht-i-Archi Attacks

KUNDUZ - At least 15 Public Order police personnel have been killed as a result of Taliban attacks in the Dash-t-i-Archi district of northern Kunduz province on Tuesday.

A security official, wishing anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants launched attacks on police check-points in Bandar area of the district at midnight. He said 15 policemen were killed and 18 others wounded as a result of the clashes.

The militants took away weapons and ammunition, the source revealed.

Muhammad Younas Ayubi, the provincial council chief, said 40 security personnel were killed in the Dasht-i-Archi clashes. He expressed deep concern at the rebels seizing weapons.

Shur Mohammad, a resident of the area, confirmed the casualties and said both sides suffered casualties.

Police spokesman Inamullah Rahmani denied the incidents but expressed awareness about them.

The Taliban have not yet spoken in this regard. (Pajhwok)

Amid Af-Pak Rows, Qureshi to Visit Kabul This Week

Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi will visit Kabul this week to sort out differences on key issues, including action against irreconcilable Taliban militants, an official said on Monday.

On his first foreign trip since the inauguration of the new Pakistani government last month, Qureshi will arrive in Kabul on September 13 for talks with his Afghan counterpart and President Ashraf Ghani.

“The neighbors remain deeply divided on key questions like peace talks with the Taliban, counter-terrorism strategies, trade and the refugee crisis,” a Foreign Office source told Pajhwok Afghan News.

During his last visit to Islamabad, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reportedly pleaded with the Pakistani government last month, Qureshi will arrive in Kabul. He says Pakistan should curb the Taliban’s attacks.

“We understand the Taliban, who have already embarked on clandestine talks with the US and observed a truce during Eidul Fitr, will eventually agree to talk with the Taliban,” the source believed. (…More on P4)