

1INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES (IDSA)

Biweekly Review *of*

Dari/Persian and Pashto Media from Afghanistan

November 15-28, 2001

Translations by Mirwais Balkhi

**1-Development Enclave
Rao Tula Ram Marg
Delhi Cantt, New Delhi-110010**

**BI-WEEKLY REVIEW OF
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FROM AFGHANISTAN**

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Herat Airport under Missiles Target

On 14 November 2011, **five rockets were fired by the militants into the Herat Airport**. Mohammad Sharif, Herat Airport police chief said in a statement that “**the missiles were directed at different parts of airport but fortunately there were no human or financial losses.**” Reports added that these missiles were fired from Siawashan, Guzra district of Herat.

For details see: <http://www.drabdullah.af/news1265.php>

Taliban Spokesman Arrested??

Zabiullah Mujahid, the spokesperson of the Taliban was arrested on 15 November 2011 in Paktia province, southern Afghanistan by Afghan security forces. Lutfullah Mashal, spokesperson of the Afghan National Security forces said to the media that ANSF “had arrested a man who had a mobile set with the same number through which Zabiullah Mujahid often gave statements on behalf of the Taliban to media.” Taliban have not commented on the news.

For details see: <http://www.drabdullah.af/news1259.php>

Land Mine left 17 Injuries

According to the information networks, on 16 November 2011, **explosion of a landmine in a market, Central Faryab province, northwestern Afghanistan injured 17 people.** The report says that the mine was planted by Taliban militia near a police security post. **One police officer was also killed in the explosion.**

For details see: <http://afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=29373>

No Place for Political Parties in Bonn II

Jawid Ludin, deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan told media on 16 November 2011 in Kabul that in the Bonn Conference in December, there would only be representatives of the Afghan government and the civil society. However,

there was no place for Afghan political parties.” The German special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan also confirmed that in Bonn Second, the government of Afghanistan would lead the conference.

For details see: <http://afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=29367>

Uzbek Terrorists are Active in North Afghanistan

It has been recently revealed that Uzbek militants are active in northern Afghanistan. **They are involved in suicide attacks in different northern provinces of the country.** Afghan National Security disclosed on 17 November 2011 that Takhar and Kunduz provinces in northeastern Afghanistan were under the sway of Uzbek terrorist outfits. In fact, **Jumbish-e-Tahrik Islami Uzbekistan** had assumed responsibility for the attack on Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team in October this year which resulted in the loss of several lives.

For details see: <http://armanemili.af/spip.php?article649>

Abdullah: Loya Jirga was Illegal

On 16 November 2011, many mujahideen **leaders, parliamentarians, religious scholars and political elites announced their opposition to the traditional Loya Jirga which started in Kabul the same day.** The conference titled “Opposition to Traditional Loya Jirga” was led by Abdullah Abdullah, leader of Change and Hope Coalition. **Abdullah said, “The agenda of the Loya Jirga indicates the government’s future policies but I view it as a smokescreen.” He also held that the government was “disregarding the basic institutions in Afghanistan and wasting time, energy and national funds for an unlawful purpose.”** The leader of change and Hope Coalition also said that the outcome of the Loya Jirga will not be taken seriously by anybody in Afghanistan.

For details see: <http://www.drabdullah.af/news1265.php>

1000 Animal perish in heavy snow in Kunduz

Beside the shortage of livestock food, more than 1000 goats and sheep died because of the unexpected heavy snowfall in Kunduz province, northeastern Afghanistan. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock 10 thousand animal food packets were distributed among the villagers in Imam Saheb and Qalaizal districts, but according to a survey, no food packet was given to those who really

needed it. Reports added that government institutions were responsible for the losses because they did not distribute enough food packets.

For details see: <http://www.8am.af/index.php?option=com>

8 People killed in landmine blasts in Laghman

As a result of landmine explosion on 17 November 2011 **in Laghman-Kabul high way, 7 people including a TV journalist were killed.** According to local news, the mine was planted by the Taliban militia. Reports show that **in 2011, thirty journalists were killed in Taliban attacks.**

For details see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/news>

The Taliban close Nuristan-Kunar Highway

Local officials in Nuristan said that the Taliban militia had blocked Kunar-Nuristan road to prevent food and other supplies needed for people in the Nuristan province. Mohammad Tamim Nuristani, the governor of Nuristan said that for ten days, the Taliban insurgents had blocked the highway of Kunar and Nuristan and they did not allow the supplies to come to the province. The only way to convince Taliban to open the road was negotiation between them and the local influential people.”

For detail see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/special-report/>

Arbaki Commander assassinated in Kunduz

Taliban militants assassinated **Nasim Khan, an Arbaki (Local anti-Taliban warrior)** on 17 November 2011 in Kunduz province, north-eastern Afghanistan. Security officials said that the **Taliban militia had conducted an attack in central city of Kunduz which resulted in the murder of Commander Nasim.** According to another report, **Afghan Home Ministry was likely to increase the number of the Arbaki soldiers in Kunduz province** while many analysts criticized this policy of the government and believed that this process expanded the support-base of the Taliban.

For details see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/news/5953->

Taliban militants kill 2 Engineers in Faryab

Taliban kidnapped and slaughtered two Afghan engineers on 12 November 2011 in Faryab province, north-western Afghanistan. **According to the news, the two engineers were working on the Shabkhto road construction under the project of CoAR NGO.**

For details see: http://www.kokchapress.com/index.php/particular/6219--12-----_.html

Ismail Khan likely to be South-western Commander

According to the media reports, **the government of Afghanistan decided to appoint Ismail Khan, a renowned mujahideen commander** and presently acting as minister of Energy and Power, as the chief **commander of South-western Afghanistan**. Reports said that this plan was being taken keeping in mind Ismail Khan's capacity and his influence in the region.

For details see: <http://website.omidevatan.com/report2.aspx?radif=13630>

Taliban Commander killed in Ghazni

In a NATO-Afghan joint military operation on 19 November 2011, in **Shaliz district, Ghazni province, a top Taliban commander was killed**. Amir Shah Saled, National Security Chief of Ghazni told media that in the joint operation, a top leader commander— supposedly Abdul Wakil, a famous Taliban commander in Ghazni region— was killed.”

For details see: <http://www.drabdullah.af/news1281.php>

Abdullah: The Military Base will not benefit Afghanistan

Abdullah Abdullah said in press conference on 20 November 2011 in Kabul, that “permanent bases in Afghanistan by any country is not in the interests of this country.” According to him, Afghanistan needed long-term relations with international community and therefore, any attempt towards this would have to be taken in a formal way”, even if he is a known supporter of the strategic partnership between the government of the US and Afghanistan. Abdullah also emphasized the illegitimacy of the Loya Jirga and said, *“we could never understand whether the outcome of the Jirga was a set of instructions or orders.”*

For details see: <http://www.drabdullah.af/news1277.php>

Afghanistan National Front asks UN to lead Peace Process with Taliban

In a press conference in Kabul on 20 November 2011, Faizullah Zaki, Afghanistan National Front spokesman stressed that **peace and reconciliation efforts under UN supervision would have to be in the agenda in the Bonn-II Conference.** Zaki also reiterated that the Loya Jirga did not have legitimacy and international community must not take it seriously. It is worth mentioning here that the Afghanistan National Front had boycotted the Loya Jirga.

For details see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/political/6007>

Australian Troops to leave Afghanistan Before 2014

Australian Prime Minister said on Monday, 21 November 2011 that the Australian military mission in Afghanistan might be completed before 2014. In reaction to these remarks, an Afghan army commander in Uruzgan said that Afghan forces would be in a position to take care of the security of Afghanistan after 2014.

For details see: <http://afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=29595>

Security Chief assassinated in Northern Afghanistan

National Security Chief of Qaramqul district, Faryab province was killed on 22 November 2011 in an attack by the Taliban. **Baryali Bashiryar Parwani**, Faryab security chief told the media, **“Najibullah was killed by a group of Taliban when he was in a security mission at the outskirts of the district.”** Although security situation has improved significantly in northern Afghanistan, the insurgents have been able to mount attacks on government officers in the districts.”

For details see: <http://www.kokchapress.com/index.php/latest-news/>

Pakistan allows Afghan Government to investigate Rabbani's Assassination

Government of Pakistan has given permission to Afghan officials to investigate the assassination of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani in Pakistan. **Aimal Faizi**, Afghan presidential spokesman told media on 23 November 2011 that a delegation was going to Pakistan next week.

For details see: <http://www.kokchapress.com/index.php/latest-news/6553>

EU Financial Support to Afghans affected by the Drought

Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture announced on 22 November 2011 that the European Union would provide help to Afghans affected by severe droughts this year. According to the ministry reports, **14 provinces in north and northwest Afghanistan were facing severe droughts**. Millions of Afghan will be affected badly during the winter, the report suggested. The EU help is estimated at \$2 million and it is being provided in the shape of direct food aid to those people who worked for several non-governmental institutions under the programme of “Work for Food”.

For details see: <http://www.kokchapress.com/index.php/latest-news/6553>

25 Taliban murdered in 24 hours

Afghan Interior Ministry released a statement on 23 November 2011 that in a joint operation with NATO troops more than 25 Taliban were gunned down in Kandahar and Helmand areas.

For details see: <http://afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=29653>

The Second Phase of Security Responsibility Transfer begins in Afghanistan

Hamid Karzai issued the second stage of the transfer of security responsibilities to Afghan National Security on 28 November 2011. This stage will involve seven provinces, i.e., **Jalalabad, Ghor, Jawzjan, Badakhshan, Ghazni, Wardak and Badghis**. In the first stage, eight provinces were transferred to Afghan National Security which were; Kabul, Daikundi, Takhar, Balkh, Samangan, Parwan, Sari Pul and Nimruz.

For details see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/news/6076->

Top Taliban Commander joins Government

Mullah Abdul Salam Delawar, a top Taliban commander **joined Afghan government** on 28 November 2011 **in Heart city, western Afghanistan**. According to media, this group surrendered itself to the government with the reconciliation initiated by local influential people. Naquib Arvin, spokesman for the Heart governor said, **“The government of Afghanistan gave security guarantee to the surrendered groups and distributed food stuff to them”**

For details see: <http://translate.google.co.in/?hl=en&tab=wT>

Afghan Parliament names 2 Special Representatives to Bonn II

On 27 November 2011, the speaker of the Afghan parliament announced the names of two special representatives of the parliament to the Bonn II. The Parliament had selected Wazhma Sapi, Parween Durani, Shahgul Rezaye and Daud Nasiri on the base of lottery, but it is said that Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, the speaker of the parliament nominated **Fawzya Koofi and Noori Akbari** as two special representatives. It drew sharp criticism from other members of the parliament.

For details see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/news/6082>

Pakistan will not participate in Bonn II

Pakistan government announced on 27 November 2011 that its representatives **would not participate in Bonn II**. The Pakistani officials had told earlier that they would think about their presence and absence in the Conference. This is **Pakistan's reaction to the NATO helicopter attacks** on Pakistani check posts in the Afghan-Pakistan border which resulted in the death of 25 Pakistani army men.

For details see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/news/6082>

Triangular meeting begins in Kabul

The fifth trilateral meeting among **Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan** began in **Kabul** on 25 November 2011 with a focus on drug control policies. This meeting is supposed to pave the way for a high-level meeting of the Home Ministers from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan in Kabul later.

For details see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/special-report/6070>

Afghanistan Needs 25 Years More Financial Assistance

Afghan officials say that the continuation of the donors' assistance to Afghanistan will be one of the main agenda in Bonn II. **Ashraf Ghani Ahmad Zai**, said in a press conference on 25 November 2011 that the transfer of **security responsibility should be backed by an economic programme for more next 25 years**.

Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, finance minister of Afghanistan also stated that the security sectors in Afghanistan needed \$5-6 billion every year and for that the international financial assistance was necessary.

For details see: <http://www.bokhdinews.net/special-report/6070>

Mullah Omar: Taliban Must Stop anti Pakistan Operations

Mullah Mohammad Omar, the leader of the Taliban, issued a statement on 23 November 2011 and asked Pakistani Taliban in the tribal areas to stop their operations against the government of Pakistan and urged them to focus on Afghanistan to fight international forces.

Media reports said that Mullah Omar had asked Haqqani network to mediate between Taliban of Afghanistan and Pakistan so that Pakistan would not attack them and they could conduct larger operations together. It is also said that Sirajuddin Haqqani, son of Jalaludin Haqqani had travelled to the tribal areas of Pakistan to negotiate with various TTP groups.

For details see: <http://afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=29793>

Danish and German troops remain in Afghanistan after 2014

The foreign minister of Denmark and Defence minister of Germany announced on different occasions that their troops would remain in Afghanistan after 2014. **Villy Sovndal**, the Danish foreign minister, told a press conference on 25 November 2011 in Kabul, “Danish troops will not leave Afghanistan even after 2014.”

On the other hand **Thomas de Maiziere**, the German defence minister said in a German newspaper that the German troops would remain in Afghanistan after 2014 but they would not participate in any military operations.

For details see: <http://afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=29779>

Karzai joins Facebook

The presidential press office announced on 19 November 2011 that Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan recently joined the social networks of Facebook

and Twitter to take note of the suggestions and complains of his citizens in these networks.

For details see: <http://afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=29733>

40 Taliban Killed in Nuristan

General Aminullah Amarkhil, Nuristan police chief said on 21 November 2011 that in an operation, 40 Taliban insurgents were killed and dozens injured. He said, **“This operation was a reaction to the slaughter of 13 Afghan soldiers by the Taliban in the past one month.”** Amarkhil believed that in Nuristan province, majority of the Taliban came from Pakistan.

For details see: <http://afghanpaper.com/nbody.php?id=29750>

Interview with Hanif Atmar

Interviewer: **Lina Rozbeh Haidari**

Date and Time: **18th November 2011- 2:30 pm**

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/dari/video-audio/>

Q. Before we ask you about the Loya Jirga, let's talk about your political party that you formed recently under the name of Haq-o-Adalat Party. Would you please tell us its view about the Loya Jirga?

In the name of God, we have supported the idea of Jirga as a consultative council. There is no doubt that the president of Afghanistan has the right to consult the people of Afghanistan. We do hope that now he would take the Jirga seriously. **However, we do not support the transfer of power from parliament to this council which was illegal and unconstitutional.** Our participation was only on the condition that the Jirga would only be an informal consultative mechanism/body. **In general I congratulate the people of Afghanistan for this Jirga which ended with some good suggestions. We hope that these suggestions would be taken seriously not only by the government of Afghanistan but also by the international community.**

Q. It seems that majority of the representatives opposed the idea of a strategic partnership between Afghanistan and the US in the context of permanent military

base of the US but at the same time, they supported this idea when it meant a partnership which could give economic benefits to Afghan people. What do you think about this strategic partnership?

At first, let me tell you that that this **strategic partnership agreement is wider than the issue of US seeking permanent military bases in Afghanistan**. It has many dimensions which involve security of the Afghanistan state. Secondly, we have to make sure that such programmes and agreements serve our national interests. I hold that it is in our national interest to sign this strategic agreement with the US.

I feel tensions brewing up inside and outside Afghanistan. **It is in our interest to have relationship of mutual trust and goodwill with all our neighbours. However, we should never reject such agreements because of the illegitimate demands of our neighbours. We have to sign this agreement somehow.**

Q. The second important issue taken up for discussion in this Jirga was reconciliation with the Taliban. Some of the Jirga members said that they would have to continue peace process with the Taliban and some others emphasized that there should not be any peace talk with the Taliban until they stopped their armed struggle against Kabul government. They also spoke about Pakistan. What do you think?

I still emphasize three conditions for reconciliation with the Taliban; firstly, **the Taliban will have to respect Afghanistan's constitution entirely**. We should not cut the length of this constitution even by one centimetre. Secondly, **the Taliban will have to stop killing innocent people**. And thirdly, any attempt at talking to the Al Qaeda elements and the TTP should be stopped. We cannot accept any reconciliation initiative with these groups. By all means we want to have peace in country. **We will negotiate with those who respect constitution of Afghanistan**. The only thing that I strongly reject here is the rebirth of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. This we can never accept.

Q. Just after the formation of Haq-o-Adalat party, you travelled to the United States; did you want to introduce your party to people in Washington or you had some other objectives?

No. I have a research centre there and I had promised some of the US universities to give lectures to them. Besides there, I also had some meetings with the US Congress and US Government officials and academic friends on many aspects of US-Afghan relations. Then there was also an important investment project by the US government in Afghanistan and they wanted to consult me on this. It is also true that I

acquainted the people of America with the programmes and principles of the Haq-o-Adalat party.

Q. Mr. Atmar, Are you planning to run for the coming presidential election?

This will depend on the decision of our party. If they decide to have a candidate for the coming presidential then their view will be respected. Nobody can ever make himself a candidate without the support of his party.

Q. Thank you very much for your presence to our TV and for giving answer to our questions?

You are welcome.