


DOHA TALKS

- Its eleven days that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's and Taliban's delegations have convened in Doha to start peace talks but, still there's no any progress about the talks agenda and starting the peace talks.
- A number of members of the negotiating delegations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban, as well as the heads of the two delegations, met on Sunday and the two sides discussed the agenda of the peace talks.
- Republic negotiator Abdul Hafiz Mansoor on Monday said that the negotiating team has decided that the legitimacy of the war must be discussed with the Taliban before any progress can be made. He says the talks will not have an outcome until this issue is clarified.
- The Taliban is demanding a total Islamic system in Afghanistan, stating that there is no possibility of reforming the current government. Meanwhile, a member of the republic peace negotiating team has accused the Taliban of not being prepared for the talks.
- Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, said he remains optimistic about the outcome of the ongoing peace negotiations between the Afghan Republic and the Taliban negotiators even though violence remains "unacceptably" high in the country. Abdullah reiterated that Afghan Republic negotiators entered the second round of the talks with a firm determination and with the hope to reach ceasefire.

PEACE TALKS IN THE COUNTRY

- Abdullah Abdullah, the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, met with former president Hamid Karzai on Monday and discussed the second round of peace talks, Abdullah's office said.
- Waheed Omar, President Ghani's senior adviser for public and strategic affairs said that the Afghan government will not release more Taliban prisoners, and said that previous releases has resulted in more violence. This comes as the Taliban has demanded the release of 7,000 more prisoners, the removal of the group's members from the UN blacklist, and the formation of an Islamic system in order to continue the peace talks, according to peace talks.
- The Taliban in a statement on Thursday warned the Afghan government of severe response if any of its members cutting jails are executed. The group said that peace process and execution cant move together. This comes few days after Afghanistan's First Vice President Amrullah Saleh called on the Afghan legal and judicial system to order the death penalties for the arrested Taliban members to help improve the security situations.


ONGOING VIOLENCE

- Figures by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) indicate that 66 people were killed and over 400 more were wounded in criminal incidents in Kabul over the last six months.
- Kabul police said figures show that 11 people were killed and 30 more were wounded in the last 30 days.
- At least four security forces members and 15 Taliban were killed in clashes in the northern province of Kunduz. Over 40 Afghan security force members have been killed in fighting with the Taliban, with the majority of casualties reported in volatile areas in Kunduz.
- Gunmen opened fire on a vehicle in Kabul, and two female judges of the Supreme Court were killed and two other people the driver and another female were wounded in the attack, according to the Presidential Palace.
- Residents in the Adraskan district of Herat province say that last night Taliban took out an army officer from his home which is located 150 meter from the center of the district and shot to dead.
- At least eight security forces members were killed, and two others were wounded, in a Taliban attack in the northern province of Baghlan.

THE REGION

- President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for secretary of state Antony Blinken said that the Biden administration will review the peace agreement with the Taliban. "We want to end this so-called forever war. We want to bring our forces home. We want to retain some capacity to deal with any resurgence of terrorism, which is what brought us there in the first place," Blinken said at his Senate confirmation hearing.
- Quoting three sources familiar with the matter, CNN reports that the Biden administration will keep Zalmay Khalilzad, former President Trump's top envoy for Afghanistan peace talks, in place for the time being. The report says that this move is not typical. The report says that traditionally an incoming administration replaces politically appointed officials with their own team, particularly on foreign policy matters with such significance.