



### **Peace Process in Doha:**

- In an open letter to the American public, the Taliban's leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar urged the United States to abide by its commitments to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan in accordance with the US-Taliban peace deal signed between the two sides in Doha last February.
- The Taliban has warned of more violence if the Doha agreement is violated by the United States as the Biden administration is reviewing the groups' commitment to the deal.
- A meeting was held between heads and some members of the negotiating teams in Doha on Monday evening and was focused on the continuation of the negotiations, Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naeem said.
- Participation of the head and members of the negotiating team in the third meeting for strengthening consensus in support of the peace process. Mr. Stanekzai stated that the female members of the negotiation team have been able to establish effective contacts within the framework of large networks with women in Islamic countries around the world.
- A speech of Dr. Mohammad Amin Ahmadi a member of negotiating delegation in Doha in an online event that was held by (AEESO) with the cooperation of (NCPR) in Kabul University said: in principle, civil societies and stakeholder groups roll in the peace process is important. Peace in Afghanistan without participation of civil societies and stakeholders, especially the academic cortex will not be achieved. He added that peace with Taliban is hard but not impossible. It is hard because Taliban's strategies are based on violence and war.
- The Afghan Republic and the Taliban negotiators held their third meeting after over a month-long deadlock in the talks with the main focus on the agenda of the negotiators.

### **Inside Afghanistan:**

- President Ashraf Ghani has rejected the prospect of an interim government and has emphasized that the election is the main route to the transfer of power, while his adviser said that the Afghan government has so far maintained a flexible stance toward peace so that the Taliban would stop "killing Afghans" and that they would share their demands at the table of negotiations.
- Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, criticized the Taliban for their distance from the negotiating table, saying that their absence has stalled the talks for over three weeks and added that the Taliban has brought the intra-Afghan negotiations to a standstill in Doha, Qatar.
- Vice President Amrullah Saleh claimed that the Taliban has not cut ties with al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, despite having agreed to do so when signing the agreement with the US in February last year.

- Afghanistan's Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish said that the peace agreement between the United States and the Taliban was signed in a hasty way and there are no solid guarantees that the future of Afghanistan will be stable or the peace process will reach a conclusion.
- Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danesh criticized the Taliban for the high level of violence and bringing up "new preconditions," stressing the need for preserving the current political system in the country if the goal is to achieve enduring peace.
- Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, said the Taliban violence remains high and that the Afghan people are bearing the sacrifice. He called on the group to return to the negotiating table and resume talks.
- Former vice president Mohammad Younus Qanooni, who was one of the participants of the 2001 Bonn Conference, said the Jamiat-e-Islami party of Afghanistan, to which he belongs, will not stay indifferent to the peace process as it supports efforts to end the conflict through a political solution.
- The Afghan Office of the National Security Council (NSC) said that the US-Taliban deal, which was signed in Doha last year did not lead to ending the bloodshed in the war-weary country.
- Marshal Abdul Rashid Dostum emphasized the importance of a political settlement to the conflict in the country, saying that there is no military solution and that all sides should engage in the peace efforts.
- President Ashraf Ghani talking to the BBC said that Afghanistan is "not Vietnam" and that the government will "not disintegrate," and he emphasized that the future of the country will be made by its people, not by those pushing "dreams."
- Amidst doubts in the Taliban's commitment to cut their ties with al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups, the group has asked its members to avoid harboring foreign fighters and not allow them to join their ranks.
- Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar left Kabul for Moscow at the invitation of Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov for a three-day visit.





## The Region:

- US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin said the United States would not undertake a hasty or disorderly withdrawal from Afghanistan.
- US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Friday said that an end to the US military involvement in Afghanistan hinges on a reduction in Taliban attacks.
- International troops plan to stay in Afghanistan beyond the May deadline envisaged by the insurgent Taliban's deal with the United States, four senior NATO officials told Reuters.
- Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven said that Sweden supports a peace process that would preserve the hard-gained achievements of the past two decades.
- A study group appointed by US Congress calls on the Biden administration to slow the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan, remove the May 1 exit deadline and instead reduce the number of troops only as security conditions improve in the country.
- NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in a pre-ministerial press conference reiterated that the presence of the alliance's troops in Afghanistan is "conditions-based," saying "we will not leave before the time is right."
- Russian Special Envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov said that Moscow would like all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to agree to an inclusive and transitional coalition government.
- US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John F. emphasized the importance of the United States support to Afghan women and said inattention to women in Afghanistan can lead to a tragedy for them.
- Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday said he hopes that the United States and the Taliban will continue to abide by the Doha agreement – signed between the US and the Taliban in February 2020.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in a press conference with his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Haneef Atmar in Moscow said the Taliban should enter meaningful talks and should reduce violence significantly.
- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a telephonic conversation with President Ashraf Ghani reiterated his country's continued support to the Afghan government's fight against the Taliban, according to a statement by the British government.



## Role of Women and CSOs in Peace Talks:

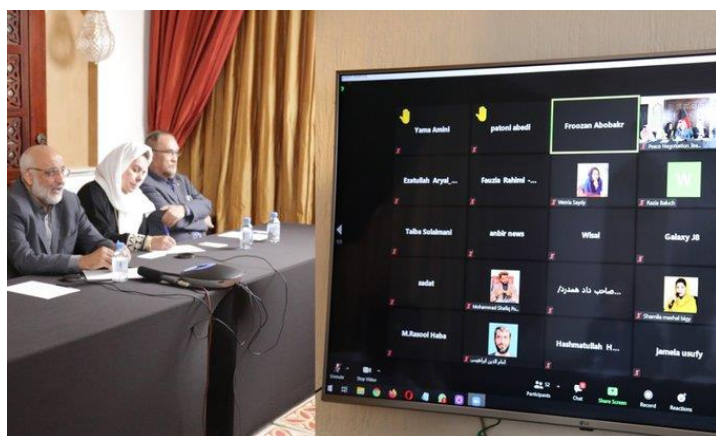
- Women and Peace Studies Organization WPSO held a National Open Dialogue on peace process with representation of Mr. Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai the head of the negotiation team, Mr. Mohammad Nateqi, Mrs. Fawzia Koofi, Mrs. Sharifa Zormati, Mrs. Fatema Gilani member of the negotiation team from Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The dialogue included getting updates on the process of peace, sharing concerns and opinions and recommendation from representatives of 34 provinces of Afghanistan that was held on Feb 4, 2021 and was concluded with announcement of a declaration in which ceasefire and preserving the decade's achievements are the top national demands.
- National Conference on women's meaningful participation as guarantors of lasting and just peace in Afghanistan held by Afghan Women's Network on Thursday Feb 4, 2021. National conference decision letter, women's participation for fair and lasting peace in Afghanistan. Afghan Women's Network, Afghan Women's Coalition for Peace" Our Voice for Our Future" with representatives of eight zones of the country was announced with the emphasize of Afghan Women will never go Back!
- The commission on women affairs of the Supreme Council of National Reconciliation launched on Tuesday Feb 2 by representation of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the High Council of National Reconciliation and other officials. Mrs. Homeira Saqib, Chair of the Civil Society Commission of the Supreme National Reconciliation Council said, the nature of participation in the peace process is important. Women with the peace process must change the narrative of history because women are the true meaning of war.
- A one-day conference organized by Women's Initiative for Peace and Security (WIPS) which is a newly established national consortium of women civil society organizations striving to bring their expertise and structures together and collectively advocate for women's meaningful participation in peace and security and discussed the Afghanistan Peace Process: Progresses, challenges and expectations through the conference.
- Some Civil Society activists in Ghazni province both male and female participated at a dialogue session between government and civil society organizations. In this event officials, activists and youths advocated for lack of women presence in government organizations and they asked from the government officials to solve this problem.
- During February 14-18, 2021, Women and Peace Studies Organization WPSO organized a study tour to Herat province for elite women, peacekeepers from Balkh and Parwan provinces. In this tour the groups meet with various government and non-governmental organizations, officials and heads of civil society organizations and women's rights activists, Women's Social Services Foundation (WASSA)





Women's Network, CAID Office and Herat University Peace Studies Association. These institutions have significant roles and activities in promoting and creating a culture of social peace in Afghanistan. The aim of this tour is to exchange ideas, share experiences and resources, examine the general situation of women, discuss challenges and support, and build relationships for future collaboration as well as to promote and create a culture of social peace.

- Dr. Aalema, the deputy minister of Human Rights and Civil Society of the state ministry of peace participated in the Afghanistan peace dialogue on line meeting while emphasizing on the participation and presence of women in peace process. She said that for achieving a lasting peace, women's meaningful presence in the peace process should be guaranteed. She added that the ministry has established some frame works which will help women to participate in the peace process and their voices will be heard.
- A two-day women and youth consultative workshop on comprehensive and sustainable peace was held on 21 and 22 February 2021 by the National Advocacy Committee for Public Policy (NAC-PP) and Navidnow Weekly in Kabul.



outpost in Khan Abad district in the northern province of Kunduz.

- The Ministry of Defense reported on Friday Feb 5, that fighting between the government forces and the Taliban is ongoing in at least 20 provinces in the past 24 hours.
- Three IED explosions shook Kabul city adding to an almost daily list of blasts targeting vehicles in rush hour traffic.
- Zabihullah Ghayur, an army commander, was killed in a clash with the Taliban in Uruzgan province.
- A magnetic IED blast targeted a vehicle carrying Abdul Hadi Rafiee, the deputy minister of agriculture for administration and finance, at a township in western Kabul.
- Eight members of the Afghan security forces were killed and two more wounded in clashes with Taliban militants in Badghis and Ghor provinces.
- At least two civilians were killed and five more were wounded in two separate blasts in the eastern province Nangarhar province.
- Five police force members were killed in an explosion on their vehicle in Chapa Dara district in Kunar province.
- Taliban has kept up a close relationship with Al-Qaeda despite having pledged to stop cooperating with the group, according to the head of a UN panel monitoring the insurgency reported by NBC news.
- The findings of TOLONews show that up to 340 were either killed or wounded in security incidents in Afghanistan since the start of February as a result of magnetic IEDs, roadside bombs and targeted killings.
- 11 policemen were killed and 5 more were wounded in separate incidents in Zabul and Uruzgan provinces.
- One person was killed and 14 more were wounded in a blast that hit a car in Lashkargah city, capital of Helmand province, on Sunday morning, said hospital officials.
- Kabul is faced with almost daily blasts, most of which are targeted attacks or incidents of violent crime.
- Two people were killed in an attack by unidentified armed men in the city of Herat on Monday morning, the provincial governor Waheed Qatali said.
- There was a rise in civilians killed and injured in Afghanistan following the start of peace negotiations in September, according to a report released by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the UN Human Rights Office.
- One policeman was killed and four more were wounded in a Taliban attack on a security outpost in Nurgaram district in Nuristan province on Tuesday night, tribal elders from the district said on Wednesday.
- At least six public uprising force members were killed and four more were wounded in a car bomb attack on a security outpost in the western province of Herat on Wednesday night, source confirmed.

## Ongoing Violence:

- The Taliban and Daesh have increased targeted assassinations outside of Kabul and that the Taliban attacks in the Afghan capital are on the rise, with increasing targeted killings of government officials, civil society leaders and journalists, the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR).
- At least two civilians were killed and 14 others were wounded in a "Taliban mortar attack" in northern Faryab province on Sunday morning, said Naqibullah Fayeeg, provincial governor.
- At least one border police officer was killed and two more were wounded in an explosion in the eastern province of Nangarhar on Tuesday morning, local officials said.
- At least four policemen were killed and three more were wounded in a Taliban attack.
- A security source said that 16 security force members were killed and two more were wounded in a Taliban attack on their