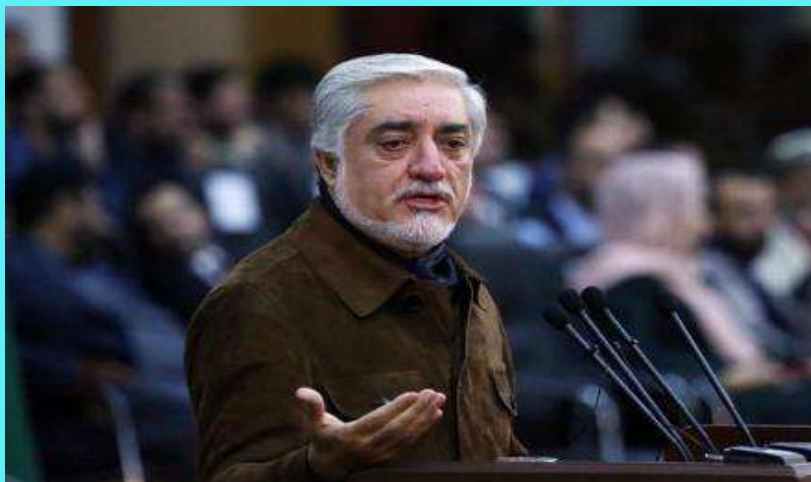




### PEACE TALKS IN THE COUNTRY

- Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, on Sunday 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. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the commission on development programs and attracting global assistance for the High Council for National Reconciliation, Abdullah said that a lot of the commission's work covers a post-peace period, by establishing coordination mechanisms to advance the peace process during the negotiations and after a hoped-for peace accord.
- 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 on Monday 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."
- A peace workshop for media workers was inaugurated by the Ministry of State for Peace Affairs.
- 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 on Wednesday left Kabul for Moscow at the invitation of Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov for a three-day visit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced.
- Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani has said that the way had been paved for more serious peace talks with the Taliban.



### PEACE TALKS IN DOHA

- The Afghan Republic and the Taliban negotiators held their third meeting on Thursday evening after over a month-long deadlock in the talks with the main focus on the agenda of the negotiators.
- 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 negotiation team members are always ready to participate in Islamic discussions on related issues, adding that the female members of the negotiation team have also been able to establish effective contacts within the framework of large networks with women in Islamic countries around the world. Also the importance of building a regional consensus to support the Afghanistan peace process stressed, called the continuation of violence worrying, and emphasized the urgent need to stop it.
- Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani has on Wednesday that the way had been paved for more serious peace talks with the Taliban.
- A speech of Dr. Mohammad Amin Ahmadi a member of negotiating delegation in Doha in a peace negotiation that was held by Afghanistan Economic Development Studies (AEESO) with the cooperation of National Center for Public Research (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.

### ROLE OF WOMEN AND CSOs IN PEACE PROCESS

- 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.



## THE REGION

- US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, in which he said US supports durable political settlement and permanent and comprehensive ceasefire in Afghanistan.
- 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.
- A senior member of Pakistan's army has said that his country will not support the Taliban, reiterating that they only aim for enduring peace in Afghanistan.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in a press conference with his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Haneef Atmar in Moscow on Friday 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 on Friday reiterated his country's continued support to the Afghan government's fight against the Taliban, according to a statement by the British government.

## ONGOING VIOLENCE

- 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.
- At least two people were killed and five more were wounded in a roadside bomb blast in Kabul on Sunday afternoon, police said.
- 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 on Tuesday.
- 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.
- At least three people were killed and five more were wounded in an attack by unidentified armed men in the western province of Ghor on Thursday night, sources said on Friday.

## PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

