Peace Process in Doha:

- Zalmay Khalilzad has embarked on trip to Germany, Afghanistan and regional countries, aimed at strengthening the Afghan peace process. He resumed his trips to the region on the Afghan peace process at a time that the talks in Doha have seen no progress over the last two months.
- The US-Taliban agreement signed in Doha only ensured a ceasefire between the United States and the Taliban.
- Zalmay Khalilzad, met with Taliban negotiators in Qatar for the first time under Biden administration and discussed the implementation of the Doha agreement and the reconciliation efforts.
- Zalmay Khalilzad, had a trip to Kabul carrying out a plan called (the Transitional Peace Administration for Afghanistan), and submitted to the government and the Taliban for review.
- Zalmay Khalilzad, the special representative of America for Afghanistan peace at the end of last week presented a new plan for Afghanistan peace process to Ashraf Ghani, the Afghanistan president, political oppositions Civil Society Representatives and Taliban negotiators.
- After the presentation of the plan for a transitional government by the United States to Government and Taliban, talks and voting have continued to draft an amendment plan. About the United States suggested plan there is agreement on “State building” and “Ceasefire”.
- Mohammad Masoum Stanikzai the Chairman of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and a number of members of this delegation met with Mr. Stefano Pontecorvo, the NATO Senior Civilian Representative of for Afghanistan.

Peace Talks in the Country

- Nader Nadery, member of Afghan Republic’s peace talks team says in year since Taliban ‘pretended to make peace’, 1,523 civilians and civil society activists were killed. He said: “Our people are outraged by this degree of violence. They want peace & an immediate ceasefire.”
- So far political change in the United States has bright changes in the Afghanistan peace process. Joe Biden after getting the White House, however he extended the mission of Zalmay Khalilzad the US Special Representative of America for Afghanistan peace, he sends the peace agreement which was signed by him for a review and reconsideration.
- Zalmay Khalilzad met with Abdullah Abdullah, chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, in Kabul on Monday and discussed the review of the Doha agreement, Abdullah’s office said in a statement.
- Afghan and Turkish officials at a ceremony in Kabul marked 100-year anniversary of Afghanistan-Turkey relations, and Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar said he hopes Turkey will continue its support for Afghan peace efforts so that a regional consensus is formed around the process.
- Zalmay Khalilzad reportedly discussed the formation of a participatory government in Afghanistan during his recent meetings with the Afghan political leaders in Kabul, including President Ashraf Ghani.
- Zalmay Khalilzad met with a number of influential figures in Kabul on Monday including Marshal Abdul Rashid Dostum, Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, members of the Jamiat Party, and others.
- Zalmay Khalilzad has reportedly discussed the formation of a transitional period in Afghanistan in order to move towards a future political structure.
- President Ashraf Ghani’s National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib has said that the Afghan government is working with various factions and considering a wide range of alternatives to achieve peace in the country.
- Wall Street Journal has reported that Joe Biden’s administration has shared the idea of formation of “second Bonn” for the establishment of a transitional participatory government and achieving to peace agreement with Afghanistan Government and Taliban.
- Afghanistan National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib said negotiations with the Taliban will lead to a temporary peace, and he reiterated that achieving real peace requires addressing the regional and international dimensions of Afghanistan’s issue.
- The proposed draft for Afghan peace is under review by the High Council for National Reconciliation and the leadership committee of the council, will soon announce its “unified” stance in this respect.
- Amrullah Saleh the First vice president of Afghanistan called the US plan to form a transitional government a “disgraceful document “and said he would not sign it.
- Afghan politicians reacted to the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s letter to Afghan leaders stressing the urgency for peace efforts, saying, among other things, the letter highlights a stronger role for US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in the peace process.
- Members of a number of different political parties said that under the new US plan for a transitional government, the Taliban has been offered a 50 percent stake in the system with the balance shared between politicians and government.
- Prominent Afghan politicians urged that an assessment be made of the US-proposed draft peace plan and called on the
Afghan government to not create barriers in the way of the peace process.

- President Ghani will attend the US-proposed peace conference in Istanbul – that is expected early in April – if the Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada attends the event, the Afghan republic's chief negotiator Masoom Stanekzai said.

- Some Afghan officials have warned that Washington's aggressive push for a political settlement could backfire, by deadlocking talks, undermining the elected government and plunging the country deeper into violence, the Washington Post reported.

- The fourth meeting of Leadership Committee of High Council for national Reconciliation was held today, in this meeting they discussed the United States plan for Afghanistan peace and the global and regional meetings about the Afghanistan peace process.

- Gulbuddin Hekmatyar the leader of Islamic Party who has gone to Pakistan says that NATO has acknowledged its defeat in Afghanistan and is now looking to leave the country.

- US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad was back in Kabul on Monday where he met with Afghan leaders, including President Ashraf Ghani and Chairman Abdullah Abdullah.

- The Presidential Palace said that Khalilzad briefed President Ghani on his recent trips and activities and both discussed the next steps in the peace process.

- A 12-member delegation of the Afghan government led by Abdullah Abdullah, attended the Moscow meeting on 18 March 2021. According to the reconciliation council, the delegation includes: Abdullah Abdullah Reconciliation Council Chairman, Parliament Speaker Mir Rahman Rahmani, Former president Hamid Karzai, Ex-vice president Marshal Abdul Rashid Dostum, Former vice president Mohammad Karim Khalili, Hizb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, State Minister for Peace Affairs Sayed Sadat Mansoor Naderi, Chief Negotiator Masoom Stanekzai, Republic negotiator Matin Bek, Republic negotiator Nader, Republic negotiator Habiba Sarabi, Senate Deputy Speaker Alam Izedyar.

- US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad met with Afghan peace advocates to hear their views on the importance of men and youth working together with women to protect the gains of the last two decades.

- Following the Moscow conference on Afghan peace, separate meetings were held behind closed doors between the delegations representing the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban as well as Hizb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the Taliban.

- President Ghani emphasizes that peace in Afghanistan must be just and lasting and he has not come to the Presidency Place (Arg) to be in the Power forever.

- People in various parts of the country called the warring parties on Friday to seize the momentum for peace and avert what they described it the deadly conflict in the country.

- The High Council for National Reconciliation led by Abdullah Abdullah is looking to propose some amendments to the US peace plan for Afghanistan, a member of the council, Farida Mohmand said on Saturday.

- US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has departed for Turkey and the region in a push to encourage Afghan parties to accelerate negotiations to end conflict in the country, the US State Department said on Saturday as quoted by Reuters.

- President Ashraf Ghani in an address to the ninth Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process conference in Tajikistan offered details on his government’s plan for a potential UN-led conference in Turkey expected to take place next month, and he reiterated the need to conduct peace efforts within the country's constitution.

- A 15-member committee of political leaders will be briefed on Saturday on the results of a review of the US-proposed peace plan for Afghanistan by various parties collected by the State Ministry for Peace Affairs, two members of the High Council for National Reconciliation said on Friday.
Women and Peace Studies Organization – WPSO

Afghan Peace Negotiation: Women Watching Peace
March 2021 Monthly Newsletter

- US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez said that the US deadline, May 1, for troop withdrawal from Afghanistan may have to be reconsidered as the Taliban are not abiding by all of their commitments under the Doha deal.

- The United States’ Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) warned that security remains the most crucial and enduring high-risk area for Afghanistan and with or without a sustainable peace agreement and nationwide ceasefire, Afghanistan will likely continue to be threatened by multiple violent-extremist organizations.

- Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the UN-led meeting on Afghan peace “is planned to be held in Istanbul in April.”

- Chris Alexandra, Canada’s former ambassador to Afghanistan, says that restoring peace in Afghanistan will not be possible unless Pakistan halts its “covert proxy war” in the country.

- The United Nations Security Council in a statement unanimously condemned in the strongest terms the alarming number of attacks deliberately targeting civilians in Afghanistan.

- Pakistan government said on Sunday that a foreign troop withdrawal from Afghanistan should be done in a responsible way in order to avoid a “vacuum”.

- The United States reportedly asked the Taliban to agree to the continued presence of American forces for three or six months in Afghanistan after the May 1 deadline, sources close to the Taliban have said.

Role of Women and CSOs in Peace Talks:

- Women’s high council opened, the First Lady of the country said that the establishment of this council proves that government supports women and with taking this big step, the ground for their progress in the decision - making levels will be provided.

- NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that NATO and its allies “strongly support all efforts to try to find a peaceful negotiated solution” for Afghanistan.

- The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, a key political party in Sri Lanka, in a statement has urged a peaceful negotiated solution” for Afghanistan.

- The Taliban took control of the center of Almar district in Faryab province, according to local security sources.

- Violence continues to surge despite peace efforts, and at least 68 people lost their lives and 101 more were wounded in different security incidents in various parts of the country in the last week, according to news reports.

- The Afghan intelligence agency the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in a statement on Tuesday said that the NDS’s special operation units eliminated a “key member” of an Al Qaeda network and a “high-profile Taliban commander” during an operation in Giyan district of Paktika province.

- The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Wednesday said that at least 36 Afghan women have been killed or wounded since the start of January, as violence continues to surge around the country.

- Data collected by TOLONews shows that at least 305 Afghans were killed and 350 others were wounded in a series of explosions and targeted attacks in the past one month.

Ongoing Violence:

- As the summer fighting season approaches, the scale of war and violence continues to rise in Afghanistan. The latest figures show that at least 20 members of the Afghan security forces were killed and wounded in the past 24 hours in five provinces of the country.

- The Taliban took control of the center of Almar district in Faryab province, according to local security sources.

- The Taliban has confirmed that they have shared a 90-day reduction in violence (RIV) plan with the US, but said there has been no overall agreement on the plan so far.

- Violence continues to surge despite peace efforts, and at least 68 people lost their lives and 101 more were wounded in different security incidents in various parts of the country in the last week, according to news reports.

- The Afghan intelligence agency the National Directorate Security (NDS) in a statement on Tuesday said that the NDS’s special operation units eliminated a “key member” of an Al Qaeda network and a “high-profile Taliban commander” during an operation in Giyan district of Paktika province.

- The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Wednesday said that at least 36 Afghan women have been killed or wounded since the start of January, as violence continues to surge around the country.

- Data collected by TOLONews shows that at least 305 Afghans were killed and 350 others were wounded in a series of explosions and targeted attacks in the past one month.