1. Women’s and CSO’s Role in Peace Process

Members of the Swedish parliament expressed their support for preserving the achievements of Afghan women. KABUL - At the first meeting of the Afghan Women’s Parliamentary Committee and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Swedish Parliament, initiated by the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Ministry’s main palace, attended by the Acting Minister of Women’s Affairs, women representatives from the National Assembly and civil society. Stockholm and members of the Swedish Parliament, members of the Swedish Parliament expressed their defense and support for the rights of Afghan women.

2. Peace talks in the Country

- President Ashraf Ghani said on Sunday morning that for the first time in decades, a real opportunity for peace has presented itself and that Afghanistan is well prepared for the withdrawal of foreign troops.
- The Afghan republic’s peace proposal, to be presented at the upcoming Turkey conference, has yet to be finalized and agreed on, according to some politicians and lawmakers, who stressed the need for a unified plan to be shared at the key event that is expected to be held on April 24.
- Afghan politicians hope that the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban will achieve a political agreement on peace ahead of the announced date for the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan, predicting that an otherwise scenario will not be in the country’s favor.
- Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday rejected any military parallels with the US war in Vietnam and dismissed concerns that his country would collapse after American forces are withdrawn.
- The Afghan government’s preparations for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the country were discussed in a cabinet meeting on Monday afternoon. It was chaired by President Ashraf Ghani, who said the decision to pull the troops out of Afghanistan does not mean a cut in Afghanistan-US ties but opens a new chapter in relations.

- The Afghan government on Tuesday said that the list of delegates to represent the republic in Istanbul has been finalized.
- Foreign ministers from Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan held a meeting in Istanbul on Friday in an effort to revive the Afghan peace process days after a key UN-led conference was postponed due to non-participation of the Taliban.
- The heads of Afghanistan’s security agencies on Saturday referring to the withdrawal of foreign forces from the country reassured that the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) were capable of foiling threats posed by the insurgents and terror groups as they have proved it in the past.

3. The Region

- The US-backed Turkey Afghan peace conference in Turkey was postponed over non-participation by the Taliban. The conference was scheduled for April 24 and was expected to see inclusive participation from parties to the Afghan conflict. “We have consulted with Qatar, the US and the UN,” Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. “We have decided to postpone the Istanbul Conference on the Afghanistan peace process after Eid al-Fitr.”
- The New York Times reported on Saturday that US President Joe Biden rejected American generals' views on Afghanistan in deciding to withdraw US troops by Sept. 11 without conditions.
- US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday that no one can offer guarantees about Afghanistan's future after US troops leave, but he stressed that the United States
would stay focused on terrorist threats emanating from the country.

- Representatives of the United States, Qatar, United Nations and Turkey have held meetings with the Taliban over the last few days in an attempt to create an environment of trust between the US and the Taliban, sources said, who added there has been some progress.

- Pakistan urged the Taliban to remain engaged in the Afghan peace process after the group said it would not attend summits about Afghanistan until all foreign forces leave the country, Reuters reported.

- The decision was made after the US said last week it would withdraw all troops by Sept. 11, later than a May 1 deadline agreed upon in Doha agreement. "They take their own decisions, but we will do whatever we can to convince them that it is in their national interest to remain engaged," Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said of the Taliban in an interview with Reuters in Abu Dhabi.

- The United States Central Command as well as American diplomats are working on plans with countries in the region on agreements to base troops and aircraft for counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan after all forces are withdrawn from the country.

- The US State Department’s spokesman Ned Price said on Tuesday night that the Istanbul Conference was never meant to replace the Doha talks but rather it was part of a broader diplomatic effort to secure a political settlement.

- The German military plans to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by as early as July 4, dpa news agency reported.

- Eight months of war and violence have dealt major destruction to the people in Arghandab district in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar. The war has left thousands of people in the district homeless.

- US Defense Department spokesman John Kirby said on Friday that measures are being taken to safeguard US troops while they withdraw from Afghanistan and that already two B-52 bombers have arrived in the region for this purpose.

- CIA Director William Burns reportedly made an unannounced visit to Kabul recently amid mounting concerns about Afghanistan’s capability to fight terrorism once the US and NATO forces withdraw.