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

- Afghan Women Network with the cooperation of Rahila’s Trust foundation launched an online meeting with the members of UK parliament for the aim of sharing concerns of Afghan women, problems of youths, concerns of human rights advocates, the security threats and challenges of minor religious groups and the apprehensions of civil society in Afghanistan. They insisted on supports of international partners and specially the UK parliament over the achievements of Afghan women and peace process.

2. Peace talks in the Country

- Afghan political leaders who attended a meeting of the leadership committee of the High Council of National Reconciliation (HCNR) at the Presidential Palace on Wednesday said that all political leaders agreed to defend the political system of the country.
- President Ashraf Ghani has accused the Taliban and Pakistan of perpetuating the “bloodshed and destruction” in Afghanistan.
- Former President Hamid Karzai said that the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces are “better prepared” to protect Afghanistan on their own as international troops are leaving the country, but he reiterated that Afghans should deal with the ongoing foreign interference.

3. The Region

- Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Pakistan could be "partners with the United States in peace but never in conflict" in Afghanistan, Pakistan’s Dawn news reported.
- After nearly two decades, the US military has left the Bagram Airfield in central Afghanistan and has handed it over to Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, sources from the Ministry of Defense confirmed.
- The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with foreign ministers from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in Washington separately where the discussions were focused on the situation in the region, particularly Afghanistan in the view of foreign troops withdrawal.
- US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has approved a new command structure in Afghanistan that includes the transition of US military mission from warfighting to two new objectives: protecting a continuing US diplomatic presence in Kabul and maintaining liaison with the Afghan military, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby.
- As the US troops are leaving, Russian envoy Zamir Kabulov has said that the United States cannot and should not transform the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan into the relocation of its military facilities to Central Asia, something that the US is looking into it as an option to provide over-the-horizon support to Afghan forces.
- US President Joe Biden has voiced concern over the state of Afghanistan and government’s ability to win the support of the Afghan people after his troops have withdrawn.
- The British government is poised to keep a small special forces contingent on the ground in Afghanistan, The Telegraph has reported.
- State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged Washington to act with sincerity and work
toward solutions on a variety of hot-spot issues including Afghanistan.

- UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to chair a National Security Council meeting Monday to decide the future shape of the UK footprint in Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan’s situation will be on the agenda in Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Russia later this week.
- Qatar's Special Envoy to Afghanistan arrived in Kabul on Tuesday where he met a number of senior Afghan political leaders including former president Hamid Karzai to discuss how to expedite the stalled Doha peace talks. Al-Zahtani is also expected to meet Afghan government officials.
- Iran has invited a Taliban delegation from Doha, led by Shir Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, senior Taliban negotiator in Qatar for “bilateral meetings”, said Mohammad Naeem, a Taliban spokesman.
- White House press secretary Jen Psaki on Tuesday said that the US intentions are to maintain a continued presence in Kabul despite the US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.
- A Taliban delegation led by the group’s negotiator Shir Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai in Tehran where the delegation met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and other senior Iranian officials.
- Ross Wilson, Chargé d’Affaires of the US Embassy in Kabul, said Wednesday that the Taliban offensive violates the human rights of Afghans amid a surge in Taliban attacks across the country. Wilson stated that the Taliban offensive is bringing hardship to communities across Afghanistan which is already grappling with drought, poverty, and COVID-19.

4. Ongoing Violence

- The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) will switch their operations to an offensive mode in near future, a top security official said as Taliban has been taking over territories in the last two months.
- Dozens of women took up arms, some of them heavy weapons – and marched in the capital city of Feroz Koh to pledge their support the Republic and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.
- More than ten people have been assassinated in several targeted attacks by unknown armed men in Kabul city in the last two weeks, the Interior Ministry (MoI) said.
- The Taliban have reportedly imposed strict restrictions on areas under their control, especially for women: women should not leave the house without a mahram, women should leave the house wearing a Burqa, and men should grow beards and pray five times in mosques. Also, the Taliban continue to force people to prepare food and use people’s houses for Taliban stay.