President Ashraf Ghani has held a meeting with members of a delegation for peace talks with the Taliban, the Presidential Palace said on Monday.

Ghani issued guidelines and basic principles to the negotiating team for conducting peace talks with the insurgent movement, his team for conducting peace talks—Dr. Abdullah Abdullah also addressed the meeting and said the government and people of Afghanistan have endured the greatest suffering and damage...(More on P4)...(8)

HPC Reviews Peace Strategy as Daudzai Takes Charge

KABUL—Officials of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan (HPC) on Monday said the peace facilitating body is considering changes in the peace strategy, following the appointment of Mohammad Omar Dadashi, as President Ashraf Ghani’s special envoy for “regional affairs on conflict, Pakistan will do what it can to support all efforts to launch a sustained peace process,” Pakistan’s envoy to the UN said.

A statement from the Pakistan embassy here quoted Dr. Maleeha Lodhi as saying that Pakistan had a vital interest in bringing the strife, violence and instability in Afghanistan and neighbourhood.

Despite little global assistance, the diplomat told the UN General Assembly, Pakistan continued to host more than two million Afghans—the largest protracted presence of refugees anywhere in the world. She said Pakistan had a vital interest in...(More on P4)...(9)

Pakistan Seeks Diplomatic Surge for Peace in Afghanistan

KABUL—Pakistan has called for a diplomatic surge to seize the opportunity for peace in Afghanistan, promising continued support for efforts to stabilise the conflict-devastated country.

“While the onus for seizing this opportunity rests with the parties directly involved in the conflict, Pakistan will do what it can to support all efforts to launch a sustained peace process,” Pakistan’s envoy to the UN said.

A statement from the Pakistan embassy here quoted Dr. Maleeha Lodhi as saying that her country had endured the greatest suffering and damage from the strife, violence and instability in Afghanistan and neighbourhood. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Attacks Leave 20 Police Dead in Farah, Farah

FARAH CITY—Twenty policemen have been killed and five others wounded in overnight Taliban attacks in western Farah and northwestern Faryab provinces, sources said on Monday.

Farah provincial council’s deputy head Shah Mohammad Nazmi told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants stormed a security check-post in far village of Farah city, the provincial capital, late Sunday night, killing 12 policemen and overrunning the check-post.

Residents of the area also confirmed the fall of the check-post into the hands of militants. Police spokesman Mohibullah Mi Ahali without giving details, said both the sides suffered casualties during the overnight clash. Abdul Haq, an official at the provincial Civil Hospital, said three policemen were killed and over 30 others wounded in overnight Taliban attacks in the area.

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