The UN Chief on Military Solution to Afghan Conflict

Only a negotiated settlement could bring lasting peace and stability to Afghanistan and the region, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said.

UNSC to Debate Latest Report on Afghanistan Today

The Security Council will meet on Tuesday 27 December to debate the latest report on the situation in Afghanistan.

Tajikistan Closes Border Crossing with Afghanistan

The Tajikistan government has shut down a border crossing with Afghanistan.

MPs Reject Decree on Military Retirement Age

The Wolesi Jirga in Afghanistan rejected a presidential decree on military retirement age.

Law Needed to Better Protect Afghan Refugees

A law is needed to better protect Afghan refugees.

New Reforms to Ease Official Processes in Health Sector

The public health minister said the reforms will ensure that investors in the sector have access to improved ministry services.

CIVILIAN FATALITIES DESEASTATING IN 2017

In Afghanistan

KABUL - The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said at the launch of Afghanistan's Peace Process magazine in Kabul that the civilian casualty in Afghanistan this year has been catastrophic.

District 3, Kabul

UNAMA’s political affairs chief Scott Smith said at the ceremony that in the first nine months of this year 2,484 civilians have been killed and 5,797 others have been wounded.

Smith said the death of thousands of people and the impact of war on children and families has been tragic.

According to Smith, every day that no peace agreement is reached, is another day of war in Afghanistan.

“Every day that the peace process is delayed means another day of war. And the implication of this for the Afghan citizens is devastating. As you know, UNAMA recorded 2,484 civilians killed so far in 2017 while another 5,797 were wounded. But even this tragic figure does not tell the full story,” Smith said.

The High Peace Council (HPC) deputy chairman Habiba Sarabi said there are people who do not want peace. (More on P4/2)

Uzbek, US Presidents Mull Situation in Afghanistan

KABUL - Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev spoke on the phone with US President Donald Trump on Dec. 20, discussing the situation in Afghanistan.

Particular attention was paid to ensuring regional peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan, fight against international terrorism, extremism and radicalism.

The sides stressed importance of broad international partnership for the economic recovery of Afghanistan. In this aspect, agreements on the implementation of specific projects reached during the visit of Afghan president to Uzbekistan this month were highly appreciated.

Also, an exchange of views took place on topical international and regional issues of mutual interest.

President Trump welcomed open and constructive dialogue and active efforts of Uzbekistan to develop good-natured relations and strengthen cooperation with the countries of the region, which contribute to regional peace. (More on P4/4)

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Quote of the Day

Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment.

Baltasar Gracian