Khalilzad Embarks on 14-Day Swing Through Region

WASHINGTON - Heading an inter-agency delegation, Khalilzad will meet senior government officials in each country to facilitate an intra-Afghan political settlement. Khalilzad will meet senior government officials and other interested parties to support and facilitate an inclusive peace process in Afghanistan, empowering the people to chart a shared course for their nation's future.

The US supports the desire of the Afghan people and the international community for a political settlement that ends the Afghan conflict and ensures Afghan space again serves as a platform for international leverage. Khalilzad will meet Afghan officials and other interested parties to discuss, we are naming 2019 as the year of peace. Now, from the day visit to India, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan today (Wednesday), the State Department says.

Key Taliban Leader Surrenders to Afghan Forces in Jawzjan Province

SHIRBHAN - A key local leader of the Taliban group has surrendered to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in northern Jawzjan province of Afghanistan. The 206th Shaheen Corps of the Afghan Military in the North said Wednesday that the Taliban leader Qudratullah surrendered to the Afghan forces in Qash Tepa district on Tuesday afternoon.

According to a statement released by 206th Shaheen Corps, Qudratullah is a senior leader of the Taliban group in this province. He has also handed over a motorcycle and an AK-47 assault rifle to the security forces, the statement by 206th Shaheen Corps added. 

Afghans Not in Favor of Return of Islamic Emirate: Haqqani

KABUL - Former ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Husain Haqqani, says Taliban will gain the upper hand in the US forces troop withdrawal from Afghanistan without a peace deal. Haqqani, who is a senior fellow and low director for South and Central Asia at Hudson Institute, said at The Raissa Dialogue in New Delhi that Taliban should know the people of Afghanistan are not in favor of the return of an Islamic emirate and the people will fight against the group to safeguard current achievements.

"If there is an exit without a deal, it will put the Taliban on the mat because the Taliban will then have to show they are the great fighting force they claim to be," he said. He said the reason the Taliban has "succeeded" is that they have safe havens outside the country and are not targeted by US forces. Instead the militants are only targeted by the Americans inside a fundamental decision that they..." (More on P4:19)

NDS Arrests 11 Militants in Kandahar

KANDAHAR - The NDS says in a statement that the militants were involved in conducting and planning subversive activities in the province. A group of 11 militants were arrested in a military operation by the National Directorate of Security (NDS) operatives in Kandahar province, the NDS said in a statement on Wednesday. The statement said the group was involved in subversive activities in the province. The group was active in Shah Walli Kot, Zhari and Maiwand districts as well as in Kandahar city, the statement said. (More on P4:18)

Afghan Envoy Hopes 2019 to be Year of Peace for Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - Daudzai says Pakistan has influence on the Taliban and that the group should be "encouraged" to come to the negotiations table. President Ashraf Ghani’s Special Representative on Regional Affairs for Consensus on Peace, Mohammad Umer Daudzai, has expressed hope the war that has ravaged Afghanistan for over 17 years and cost the United States about 1 trillion US dollars will end in 2019. Daudzai summed up his opinion in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, saying: "We are naming 2019 as a year of peace for Afghanistan.""We have never named a year as the year of peace. Now, from the high peace council's..." (More on P4:13)

Islamabad, we are naming 2019 as the year of peace in Afghanistan. And I am pretty sure we will get there," he said. However, he cautioned there won't be a peace until the Taliban, who have held several rounds of talks with Washington's special peace envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, agree to direct talks with the Afghan government. "Prime Minister Imran Khan, all the political government, is on the same page with the..." (More on P4:12)

‘Mol Officials Restricted from Sharing Information Against Law’

KABUL - Preventing Ministry of Interior (MoI) officials from expressing their views is against the law on access to information, the ministry's domain. (More on P4)...(9)

He said the reason the Taliban..." (More on P4:19)

He said the reason the Taliban..." (More on P4:19)