Afghanistan Talks Tentatively Set

DOHA - Another round of peace talks between Afghanistan’s Taliban and the United States is tentatively set for Feb. 25, a Qatari foreign ministry official said on Sunday, after a draft pact was reached to potentially end the United States’ longest war.

Both parties agreed tentatively to reconvene on February 25th,” the official told Reuters.

The draft deal, agreed after six days of talks last week, stipulates that U.S. troops would leave within 18 months of the agreement being signed, potentially ending the war more than 17 years after American-led forces invaded Afghanistan.

According to Taliban sources, the handline Islamic group gave assurance that Afghanistan will not be allowed to be used by al-Qaeda and Islamic State militants to attack the United States and its allies — a key early demand of Washington.

The reported progress comes as the Taliban continues to stage near-daily attacks against the Western-backed Afghan government and its security forces.

Despite the presence of U.S.-led forces, violence in Afghanistan continues.

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Monday called on the Taliban to engage in direct talks with the government.

In an address to the nation at lunchtime, Ghani also assured the people that their rights will not be compromised in the name of peace and that the country’s sovereignty will be upheld.

He said the Taliban has two choices at the moment - to either stand with the people of Afghanistan or be used as a tool by other countries.

Ghani said concerted efforts were being carried out for peace but at the same time government was also working hard to develop the country.

He said government was committed to ending the 40-year-old war and said that this was the wish of all Afghans.

On the issue of foreign troops in the country, he said no country wants this indefinitely but that currently, Afghanistan needs these forces.

He said the foreign troops in the country would leave at some point, but that this would be done in accordance with an orderly plan.

U.S. Committed to Pulling Foreign Forces Out of Afghanistan

The U.S. is committed to pulling its forces out of Afghanistan, but the terms of the withdrawal are still being negotiated.

Source: The Daily Afghanistan

IECC Accuses Election Commission of Corruption

The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) has accused the election commission of corruption by saying the commission has failed to hold transparent parliamentary elections.

Speaking in a special interview with Ariana News on Sunday, Abdul Aziz Arya, head of the IECC, said that there were serious issues in the parliamentary elections for Kabul, Balkh, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces.

Arya said that the IECC has registered about 10,000 complaints regarding parliamentary elections which were held in 20th and 21th of October, last year.

He stressed that the commission will complete the assessment process of the received complaints.

The commission, as recently, Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish has criticized election commission over weaknesses and inefficiencies.

Danish said the electoral bodies must understand that this...

Protesting Candidates Rally Demand for Invalidation of Kabul Votes

Some unsuccessful Wolesi Jirga candidates also planned to demand the invalidation of Kabul votes in time for the presidential candidate.

Addressing reporters here, the Kabul Candidates League (KCL) on the October 23, 2018 said the election polls as rigged and fraudulent and demanded the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to conduct new elections.

Speaking in a special interview with Ariana News last year.

IEC has failed to hold transparent parliamentary elections.

Commission over weaknesses and inefficiencies.

Mohammad Daad Kakar, another protesting candidate, said: “We have gathered here to seek justice for public vote. We...

2,615 Civilians Killed in 2018 Afghan Violence: CPAG

The CPAG report said most of the casualties last year happened in Kabul province and there were no casualties in Badakhshan province.

According to the CPAG, last year 29 terrorist attacks were registered in Kabul, killing 515 people and injuring 1107 more.

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