Afghans Have the Right to Live in Peace: Khalilzad

Khalilzad says the US and NATO’s shared goal is to reach a peace agreement worthy of the sacrifices made over decades of war.

MAZAR-I-SHARIF – Dostum who returned to Balkh from an abroad trip on Saturday was on his way to Jawzjan when came under attack. A convoy of the First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum was ambushed by the Taliban "five times" on their way from Balkh to Jawzjan province in the north of Afghanistan on Saturday, Kamisha Turkistan, a close aide to Dostum, confirmed. He said that Dostum was not hurt in the attacks.

According to sources, one bodyguard of the first vice president was killed and two others were wounded. The Mazar-Shiberghan highway which connects the two provinces is in 134 kilometers in length and needs two hours drive. Dostum, who has joined Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah’s election team, returned to Balkh from an abroad trip on Saturday afternoon. He appeared at a gathering in Balkh and said that he will "eliminate" the Taliban from the north within six months if he is given the chance. (Tolo news)

9 Police Personnel Killed, 7 Disappeared in Zabul Attack

QALAT - At least nine police personnel have been killed and seven others have gone missing as a result of an attack in Shor-e-Safa district of southern Zabul province.

A security source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Jildak area on Zabul-Kandahar highway on Friday night. It said Taliban militant in police rank had killed nine policemen and seven other disappeared. The missing policemen might have surrendered to rebels, the source added.

The Taliban confirmed the over night attack. The group’s spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmad claimed their fighter in Zabul province. (Tolo news)

Afghanistan Floods Kill 32, Worsen Already Desperate Situation

HEERAT – Flash floods have killed at least 32 people in western Afghanistan, destroyed homes and caused further destruction and put this year’s wheat harvest at risk. The floods worsen an already desperate situation. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced, hundreds of thousands of people were severely damaged, he added.

The floods began by heavy downpours last day. The weather report of the government official said on Saturday. The floods caused be heavy rains started spreading on Thursday and left a trail of devastation across seven provinces, said Habibullah Shir Khan, a spokesperson for Afghanistan’s National Disaster Management Authority.

Another 12 people were missing and more than 700 houses were destroyed or severely damaged, he added.

The floods women an already desperate situation. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced in the region by last year’s severe drought and the 17-year-long war with the Taliban.

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