Ghani Expresses Optimism Over Possible Peace Deal with Taliban

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani voiced confidence Monday on reaching a peace deal to end the Taliban insurgency — but warned Pakistan’s alleged meddling risked sparking long-term hostility.

KABUL - “I feel that it is now not a question of if, but when,” Ghani said of a peace agreement between the US government and the Taliban in June as a way out of its longest-ever war, launched in 2001 after the September 11 attacks.

Ghani said that last month’s killing of 90 Taliban fighters near the Pakistan border “is a sign they are going to end militarily,” he said.

“Any way that the US and Afghanistan want to move the peace process forward,” Ghani said, while stressing that Kabul rather than Washington would lead the negotiations.

“I am committed to this, to make it happen, because it is a demand of the society,” - R答案: “distress” with Pakistan - But Ghani voiced disappointment over Pakistan, which was the chief supporter of the former Taliban regime. US and Afghan officials say Pakistan still allows Taliban extremists to operate from its soil.

Ghani said that last month’s killing of... (More on P4) (6)

Russia, U.S. May Discuss Reconciliation in Afghanistan: Russian Senior Diplomat

MOSCOW - US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad could visit Moscow in early December to discuss bringing a durable peace to Afghanistan, a Russian government official said Monday.

Khalilzad is currently traveling to Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar with an interagency delegation.

During the tour on Nov. 8-20, he is to meet with Afghan government officials and other interested parties “to advance the goal of an intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations that include the Taliban and lead to a sustainable peace,” according to a U.S. State Department statement.

Special Representative of the Russian President for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad suggested the beginning of December for the Moscow meeting of consultation on... (More on P4, 6)

Rabbani, Abdullah Meet US Envoy for Afghan Reconciliation

KABUL - US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad has held separate meetings with foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah.

The officials discussed peace process, security situation, regional cooperation and Khalilzad’s visit to regional countries.

CEO met with Khalilzad in his office and the US envoy informed them about his efforts for peace process and his trips to regional countries.

Abdullah appreciated Khalilzad’s efforts for establishing peace. Khalilzad reiterated his country’s commitments to Afghan peace during meeting with Rabbani.

Both sides exchanged views on security, stability, regional and international events, including Geneva Conference, as well as regional cooperation for achieving peace.

(Refers to: 17-18)

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