

## Quote of the Day

Time

*Change will not come if we wait  
for some other person or some other time.  
We are the ones we've been waiting for.  
We are the change that we seek.*  
Barack Obama

# ARG Commemorates the Martyrdom Anniversary of Abdul Ali Mazari

*ARG commemorated the 24th martyrdom anniversary of Abdul Ali Mazari on Wednesday March 13 at Salam Khana Palace.*



Kabul--- ARG commemorated the 24th martyrdom anniversary of Abdul Ali Mazari on Wednesday March 13 at Salam Khana Palace. Many Politicians, diplomatic representatives, university instructors, youth, and women participated in the gathering. President Ghani, Sarwar Danesh the Second Vice President, Dr. Abdullah the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ibrahim the speaker

of Wolesi Jirga and some of the Parliamentarians elaborated different aspects of the life and achievements of Abdul Ali Mazari. President Ghani mentioned "peace, social justice and elections" as the main goals of Mazari's struggles. President Ghani called the national unity as the most urgent need of the Afghan society and said, Mazari has a famous quote, saying that

"We consider the national unity as a principle". Mazari also emphasized that, "war is not the solution" and "no ethnic group can eliminate the other ethnic groups". President Ghani said, "Peace has become a national dominant discourse". Referring to the ownership of the peace talks, president Ghani said, "Our peace is well calculated and is based ...*(More on P4)...(1)*



## Berlin, Islamabad Want Kabul Included in Peace Talks

KABUL - German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas has commended Pakistan's contribution to efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan. "Pakistan is playing an important role in Afghanistan, being a responsible regional country," Maas told a joint news conference with his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The Afghan government had to be part of the process for a sustainable peace in the region; he said "We feel that inclusion of Afghan government in every table talk is imperative." The visiting minister praised Prime Minister Imran Khan's efforts for peace and reconciliation in the region, particularly with regard to recent tension between India and Pakistan. For his part, Qureshi said that being an important stakeholder in the Afghan peace process, Pakistan desired a 'responsible' withdrawal of troops from that country. Pakistan had long been saying the Afghan conflict could be resolved only through dialogue, he said. "We are glad that now the world is endorsing our stance," Qureshi added. ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

## Mullah Omar Never Lived in Afghanistan after 2001: Nabil



KABUL - In reaction to a new research by a Dutch writer which says Mullah Mohammad Omar, Taliban's founding leader, had lived in Afghanistan before he died in 2013, former head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Rahmatullah Nabil, said on Tuesday that Mullah Omar never lived in Afghanistan following April 2001. Nabil told TOLONews that Mullah Omar was in Shah Wali Kot district in Kandahar province for a short time in 2001 and then he was transferred to Quetta, Pakistan. "In 2011 when Mullah Omar was suffering from diabetes and kidney disease, there were some other reasons as well, he was taken from Quetta to Karachi. In Karachi, the only person who could visit him was his second wife. He was under surveillance of Pakistani military. His wife was coming from Quetta to see him and also she was transferring some voice and text messages (to him)," said Nabil. Nabil said Mullah Omar died "mysteriously" in Pakistan's Karachi city on April 2013 and according to him, Afghanistan's ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

## Afghan Forces Kill 31 Taliban Amid Flared-up Fighting

KABUL - Afghan security forces on Tuesday claimed to have killed 31 Taliban militants in different operations a day after the rebels killed and captured almost an entire company of the army.



Amid stalled peace process, violence has flare-up evidently across the country with both sides fighting fiercely for turf. The Defense Ministry said in a statement that the land forces carried out 76 operations in different parts of the country while the air forces conducted 78 flights in the past 24 hours. The operations were conducted in the Kunar, Khost, Oruzgan, Badghis, Balkh and Helmand provinces, and left 31 Taliban militants dead, 19 others wounded. This comes just a day after the Taliban killed, wounded and took hostage of an entire Afghan National Army company of some 50 soldiers ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

## U.S., Taliban Talks End for Now with No Afghan Peace Deal

*The negotiations in Doha, Qatar included the Taliban's political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and a U.S. team led by special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.*



DOHA - U.S. and Taliban negotiators wrapped up their longest round of peace talks on Tuesday with progress made but no agreement on when foreign troops might withdraw, officials from both sides said.

chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and a U.S. team led by special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad. Khalilzad, an Afghan-born veteran U.S. diplomat, said the sides made progress

on discussions about counter-terrorism assurances and a troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. "The conditions for peace have improved. It's clear all sides want to end the war. Despite ups and downs, we kept things on track and made real strides," Khalilzad said on Twitter. The Taliban have held multiple rounds of peace talks with the American team led by Khalilzad but have so far refused to talk to the Afghan government. "When the agreement in draft about a withdrawal timeline and effective counter-terrorism measures is finalised, the Taliban and other Afghans, including the government, will begin intra-Afghan ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

## Ghani Orders Strict Rules for Preventing Civilian Casualties

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has ordered the National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) to abide by strict rules for preventing civilian casualties in their operations against militants. A UN report from last month shows that a record number of civilians were killed in 2018. "As President of a responsible state, I must say that civilian casualties are the most tragic event in times of war, it pains me as much as any other Afghan when I hear about harm to civilians," Ghani said. He made the remarks at a meeting with senior security officials from his cabinet as well as from the NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. "I have ordered ANDSF to either abort or to wait-out a potential target if even a single civilian is present," Ghani said in a tweet hours after his meeting.



"Our security and defense forces are committed to the rules of war and engagement and they only provide proportionate response to any enemy attacks," Ghani added.

Ghani said the Afghan security agencies have taken urgently steps whenever they have received any reports on civilian casualties. "These casualties are unacceptable to the Government and the leaderships of our ANDSF, if that is one person or more. In the past few years whenever we have received such reports they have been followed up urgently and efforts have been made to avoid harming civilians," Ghani added. "I've summoned the leaders of the ANDSF not only to provide explanation about previous investigations vis-a-vis civilian casualties, but also to deliberate about avoiding civilian losses in the future and to ultimately reduce and end the level of such unfortunate incidents," Ghani said in a tweet after the meeting. The UN in a report released last month said the ...*(More on P4)...(6)*