

India deploys warships in South China Sea as part of 'Act East' policy

KABUL: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke via phone on Thursday with Dr. Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation.

Blinken and Abdullah spoke about the commitment to "seek a just and durable political settlement that ends the war in Afghanistan," as the situation deteriorates,

According to State Department spokesman Noel Price, the U.S. forces have a deadline of the end of August to withdraw, and are arriving en masse in Afghanistan in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The drawdown is allowing Taliban forces to gain control of more than half of the 419 district centers in the country, and the group is also capturing several provincial capitals.

Under America's top military commander, Gen. Mark Milley, said a complete Taliban takeover of the country is "not a foregone conclusion."

The civilian population, "according to Price," they discussed ways to accelerate peace negotiations and achieve a political settlement that is inclusive, respects the rights of all Afghans, including women and minorities, allows the Afghans to have a say in choosing their leaders, and prevents Afghanistan from being used to threaten the United States and its allies and the group.

Price said the two leaders "understood the widespread international condemnation" of Taliban attacks and pledged to remain in close contact. **The Kabul Times**

Afghan forces kill dozens of Taliban, Al-Qaeda terrorists in southern Helmand province

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on Friday.

Last week, heavy fighting broke out between Taliban and Afghan forces in the capital of Helmand Province.

The ministry said the Taliban's unit commander for Helmand and Mawlawi Mabaruk was killed in the recent operations.

Taliban's Red Unit commander Helmand named Mawlawi Mabaruk and other leaders including Taliban and AQIS members were killed & 16 others were injured in the 24-hour fighting.

Armed Forces of the Helmand Province said the Taliban's spokesperson Farhad Amari tweeted:

The Taliban forces have also taken control over several districts of Kandahar and have dismantled the Taliban's army by the score of thousands with the government.

The Taliban have reportedly killed some detainees, including relatives of provincial government members and members of the police and army.

In another recent development, civilian sources in Afghanistan said that 2,022 Taliban fighters were killed with over 1,659 people killed and 3,254 others wounded.

The spike is mainly due to a rise in violence in May that corresponds to the Taliban's military foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times