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Afghanistan Marks 100 Years of Diplomatic Ties with Turkey

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Afghanistan and Turkey on Monday, Afghan Foreign Minister Haneef Atmar said that Turkey has had a key role in the country's reconstruction and joint counter-terrorism efforts post-2001. Addressing an event to mark the occasion Atmar said he hopes Turkey will maintain its sincere cooperation with the peace efforts in Afghanistan. "As we celebrate the centennial of the establishment of our diplomatic relations, we wish to further develop our cooperation in every aspect in this special year; hope that the ongoing violence in Afghanistan comes to an end and lasting peace and calm will prevail in the country," Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. ... **P2**



Rahmani Met with Tajikistan President, Discussed Afghanistan Situation

The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Mir Rahman Rahmani on Monday met with Emomali Rahmon, the Tajikistan President in Dushanbe city. During the meeting, Mr. Rahmani said the Taliban are focusing on continuing the war and have no plans other than war. Speaking about the situation of Afghanistan, Rahmani said the violence in the country has been escalated, particularly in Kabul. The Parliament speaker at a ceremony at the Afghan embassy in Dushanbe also stated that the Taliban were trying to gain power militarily and were preparing for the spring offensive. According to him, the peace talks with this group have not created any optimism. Mr Rahmani said the purpose of his visit to Tajikistan was to strengthen regional co-operation in the fight against terrorism. Rahmani headed a high-level delegation to Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, on Saturday and met with the senior Tajik officials.

Ghani and Khalilzad Meet to Discuss Next Phase in Peace Process



Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani today met with the US Envoy for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad to discuss the intra-Afghan talks. The Presidential Palace in a statement on Monday said that both sides discussed the next steps in the

peace process and emphasized the need to accelerate the process. According to the statement, Khalilzad called for a regional and international consensus on national and international diplomacy to advance the peace process, and reaffirmed the effective role of the

United States in maintaining peace in Afghanistan. The US envoy touched down in Kabul on Monday for meetings with local officials, in a bid to revive a flagging peace process as violence soars in the country and a deadline for US troop withdrawal draws closer.

Zalmay Khalilzad's arrival marks the first time he has returned to Afghanistan since US President Joe Biden took office in January and asked him to stay in his post. The White House announced plans to review a withdrawal deal brokered by Khalilzad and the Taliban in Doha last year. Under that agreement, the US is set to withdraw from Afghanistan in May, but a surge in fighting has sparked concerns that a speedy exit from the country may unleash greater chaos. In Kabul, Khalilzad met with Abdullah Abdullah, chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation this morning. The two sides "discussed the talks in Doha and the review of US-Taliban deal by the US administration, ending the war in Afghanistan and ways to find political settlement through talks in Afghanistan," a spokesman for Abdullah's office said. The envoy is also set to travel to Qatar, where he will meet with Taliban leaders along with trips to unspecified regional capitals, according to the US State Department.

CPEC to Boost Efforts for Peace in Afghanistan

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will boost efforts for bringing peace to Afghanistan, hopes a senior Chinese official. China Overseas Port Handling Company Chairman Zhang Baozhong told a group of reporters the delivery of goods via Gwadar Port to Afghanistan had already got under way. The first consignment of sugar, arriving at the strategic port, was being sent to landlocked Afghanistan, Baozhong revealed. ... **P3**



Foreign Rebels Fighting Alongside Taliban in Kandahar: Interior Minister

Senior security officials are visiting restive districts of southern Kandahar province, where fighting has intensified in recent months. The Taliban have stepped up attacks on the security forces in Arghandab, Zherai, Dand and Panjwai districts, driving many families from their homes. On Sunday, Interior Minister Massoud Andarabi claimed the elements posing a threat security in the province had been eliminated. Hundreds of Taliban fighters, including some commanders, had been killed during operations in Arghandab over the last fortnight, the minister said. More than 650 insurgents, according to Andarabi, have been killed in the operation to retake parts of Arghandab district. Andarabi accused the Taliban of breaching their commitments to reducing violence. The minister



also blasted the rebel group of continuing to maintain ties with international terrorists. Foreign insurgents were fighting alongside the Taliban against government forces in Kandahar, the minister alleged, without elaborating. Deputy Minister of Defence Shah Mahmoud Miakhil said the security forces had thwarted Taliban's

designs to capture Kandahar and Helmand provinces. As a result of successful operations, he asserted, many areas had been retaken and cleared of Taliban by the security and defense forces. Due to the fighting, the number of displaced families in Kandahar has gone past 11,500 families, reckon provincial officials.

Afghanistan...

Afghanistan's foreign ministry said that so far, Turkey has made comprehensive contributions to Afghanistan both on a bilateral level and through the efforts of the UN and NATO.

"Turkey's development assistance program for Afghanistan is currently one of the largest assistance programs towards a country," read the ministry's statement.

The diplomatic and political relations of Turkey and Afghanistan commenced on March 1, 1921 through the signing of Turkey-Afghanistan Alliance Agreement.

Afghanistan at the time became the second country to recognize the Turkish Grand National Assembly of the time, which had been struggling to counter aggressive invasions of the Allied Powers.

Meanwhile the Turkish Embassy in Kabul was the first diplomatic mission in Kabul. This distinguished friendship, extracted from kinship, brotherhood and sisterhood, promoted the relations through the following decades.

This comes after Turkey's President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan submitted a motion to parliament at the end of last year to extend the deployment of Turkish troops in Afghanistan for 18 months as part of NATO's support mission, according to sources.

Turkey has about 1,200 soldiers in Afghanistan under the NATO mission.

"Turkey, which has deep friendship and brotherhood ties with Afghanistan, has always backed the unity, integrity and independence of Afghanistan," the statement read.

The motion will be debated in parliament after December 18, as local media Anadolu Agency reported.

By William Ruger

Why President Biden Must Withdraw from Afghanistan

Breaking our agreement with the Taliban will endanger American troops and entrench them in an unwinnable war.

President Joe Biden faces a defining foreign policy decision: The United States signed a deal with the Taliban last year in Doha, Qatar, offering an American commitment to withdraw troops from Afghanistan by May 1 in exchange for a Taliban promise not to allow the country to be used by transnational terrorists. May 1 is barely 64 days away.

Those who support breaking the withdrawal agreement with the Taliban are pushing to keep the United States militarily entrenched in Afghanistan. They argue that withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan will compromise our counterterrorism efforts, undermine the wobbly Afghan government and threaten the limited gains we have made on values promotion. President Biden should reject these calls and continue with the promised withdrawal in May. Completely withdrawing our troops is sound policy, as American security interests do not require the continued presence of our troops in Afghanistan.

Keeping our troops in Afghanistan beyond the promised deadline is pushing them back in the Taliban's cross hairs and indefinitely continuing an expensive and unwinnable war, which has already cost more than \$2 trillion and more than 2,400 American lives.

To effectively target terrorist organizations with the intent and capability to harm the United States, we do not need to station troops permanently in a country. Along with sticking to the agreement with the Taliban, we can further protect ourselves by making it unmistakably clear to the Taliban (and their Pakistani backers) that if they violate the agreement and allow transnational terrorists to operate from their soil against us, they will have to face overwhelming, punitive American force.

If the Taliban keep their part of the bargain, the United States should let the Afghan people decide the future of their country. The past two decades have taught us that a U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan is also an acknowledgment that fixing Afghan politics and society while keeping the Taliban out is beyond our considerable abilities.

If President Biden decides to stay indefinitely in Afghanistan, it will adversely affect the peace process by signaling to the Afghan government that we will



back it despite the heavy costs and despite its inability to confront the corruption and ineffectiveness that fuels the insurgency. It would embolden Kabul and reduce the chances of compromises to end the war.

It would lead the Taliban to question our trustworthiness and empower hard-line voices among the insurgents. And renegeing on the withdrawal agreement or extending it without the Taliban agreeing to it will lead to escalation in violence and even more deaths.

The administration might be reluctant to withdraw for fear of getting blamed for the messiness that could ensue in post-withdrawal Afghanistan, but anything less than a full drawdown means that Afghanistan will become President Biden's war. He will have to own the predictably terrible consequences of continuing a war that can't be won.

The United States has about 2,500 service members in Afghanistan, and they can't affect the basic trajectory of the conflict. Americans will support a president who chooses withdrawal of the troops, especially since polling shows nearly three-quarters of the public — including veterans and military families — already support ending the war.

Sticking with the withdrawal deal will also immunize

the administration against attacks from Republicans who supported calls to end our endless wars during the Trump years.

If Mr. Biden decides to stay in Afghanistan, Republicans could respond with intense criticism, as they did when President Bill Clinton got our troops more involved in Somalia in 1993 and, more recently, President Barack Obama in Libya.

If withdrawal looks politically difficult now, President Biden should consider 2024, when he will be criticized for continuing the endless war and jettisoning President Trump's efforts to end it and bring our soldiers home. Mr. Biden opposed President Obama's surge in 2009, and during his campaign he told a CBS reporter that it was not his job to send American troops into harm's way to secure human rights in Afghanistan. He also took office with the withdrawal deal already in place. These things diminish the extent to which the people of the United States see President Biden as responsible for the war.

In her recent book about the domestic politics of ending wars, Sarah Croco, a political scientist at the University of Maryland, argues that a president who is seen as a "culpable leader" — someone the ... P3

By XiMeng

Trouble Maker or Messenger of Peace?!

Almost a year has passed. Unfortunately, no breakthrough has been made in the process of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. It is difficult to give a comprehensive and accurate answer to it now. But there is no doubt that the United States has a great influence on the Afghan peace process and regional peace cooperation. It is a pity that in promoting the peace process in Afghanistan, the United States is capricious and just gives lip services. Everything is based on its own interests first. This will not bring true peace to Afghanistan, but only create more troubles for internal reconciliation and regional cooperation in Afghanistan.

After ten rounds of tortuous negotiations, on February 29, 2020, U.S. Zalmay Khalilzad, special envoy for Afghanistan reconciliation and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, deputy political leader of the Taliban and director of Qatar office, jointly signed a peace

agreement in Doha, capital of Qatar. The agreement has set conditions for the complete withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan and opened the process of internal peace talks in Afghanistan. Other key elements of the agreement include the exchange of prisoners, the Taliban's commitment to keep a distance from international terrorist organizations and the withdrawal of U.S. and international forces within 14 months.

However, with the new president of the United States taking office, the US government has indicated that it will re-examine the above-mentioned peace agreement. So will the United States withdraw from Afghanistan according to the timetable set out in the agreement? Can the above agreement continue to be recognized by both parties? Can the inter-Afghan peace talks go smoothly? Can the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan be

carried out as soon as possible? There are too many variables. In fact, what is more dangerous is that the United States has only put forward a withdrawal plan, but not a clear plan for resolving the conflict and for reconciliation in Afghanistan after their withdrawal. The United States is good at overthrowing a regime it does not like, mostly in the Middle East and Asia, through its military advantages, creating a mess and then dashing away. At the regional level, as the United States reduces its presence in Afghanistan, neighboring countries including China, will play an increasingly important role in Afghanistan. Since 2012, various regional and extraterritorial actors have participated in and promoted dialogues and negotiations related to the Afghan peace process. However, according to the United States' Asia-Pacific strategy, it began to worry that China, Russia, Iran and other regional countries... P3

Mubariz to Fight Ukrainian Rival at 'SLFC Fight Night'



Baz Mohammad Mubarez, a famous Afghan mixed martial arts fighter, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Snow Leopard Fighting Championship (SLFC) on Monday in Kabul.

According to the agreement, Mubarez will fight a rival from Ukraine at the twelfth SLFC competition that will be held on April 9th in Kabul.

Amanullah Nuristani, chairman of SLFC, said: "This fight is not an easy fight for Mubarez at all, he should practice more. One of the top fighters of Ukraine is coming to Afghanistan to fight Mubarez."

Mubariz considers this match an important fight for him, therefore he revealed that he will travel to Russia to receive training at one of the largest training camps in the country. "Probably, my rival is the strongest one, he has the best records, but I have accepted this fight. I want to have an interesting fight, the

people of Afghanistan wait for a nasty fight from me," said Mubariz.

Mixed martial arts coaches say that such events can promote the sport in the country. "Mubariz has participated in many foreign fights, but this is enjoyable because it is within the country, the sport fans can attend the event. I perceive it as an auspicious event," said Wasi Qayumi, an MMA coach.

"Unfortunately, there are fewer opportunities for the prominent athletes like Mubarez to fight within the country, instead of organizing two or three events abroad they should hold it within the country," said Yousuf Momand, another MMA coach.

The twelfth round of SLFC's Fight Night competitions will be held on April 9th in Kabul, and fighters from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Iran will fight in the event.

The event will be featured on Tolo TV and Lemar.

US Wasted Billions of Dollars on Buildings & Vehicles in Afghanistan: SIGAR

The United States wasted billions of dollars in Afghanistan on buildings and vehicles that were either abandoned or destroyed, according to a report released Monday by a U.S. government watchdog.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said it reviewed \$7.8 billion spent since 2008 on buildings and vehicles.

Only \$343.2 million worth of buildings and vehicles "were maintained in good condition," said SIGAR, which oversees American taxpayer money spent on the protracted conflict.

The report said that just \$1.2 billion of the \$7.8 billion went to pay for buildings and vehicles that were used as intended.

"The fact that so many capital assets wound up not used, deteriorated or



abandoned should have been a major cause of concern for the agencies financing these projects," John F. Sopko, the special inspector general, said in his report.

The U.S. public is weary of the nearly 20-year-old war and President Joe Biden is reviewing a peace deal his predecessor, Donald Trump, signed with the Taliban a year ago. He must

decide whether to withdraw all troops by May 1, as promised in the deal, or stay and possibly prolong the war. Officials say no decision has been made.

CPEC to Boost...

"CPEC will not only facilitate Pakistan and Afghanistan but will also provide employment to thousands of people from these countries," he added.

An amount of \$500 million had been spent so far on the development of the port. Work on the facility continues apace even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

S. Korea Offers...

South Korea, however, disbanded the foundation last year, with Moon's administration saying the deal signed during his predecessor Park Geun-hye's tenure was "seriously flawed."

The move angered Tokyo, which views the agreement as "final and irreversible."

"Bilateral cooperation would be of help to both countries, stabilization, and co-prosperity in Northeast Asia and it would also be helpful to trilateral cooperation among South Korea, the US, and Japan," he said.

He also assured Tokyo that his country will cooperate for the success of the Tokyo Olympics, scheduled to take place later this year.

South Korea-North Korea relations

During his speech, Moon also vowed to continue his efforts for the denuclearization of Korea and lasting peace.

He reaffirmed the three-point principles on inter-Korean relations: zero tolerance for war, a mutual security guarantee, and co-prosperity, according to the agency. The South Korean president hoped that Pyongyang will begin cooperation with other countries with the participation in the "Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative" intended to promote partnerships against public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It would serve as a force to open the door for co-prosperity and peace on the Korean Peninsula and East Asia," the president said.

Trouble Maker...

would weaken its influence in Afghanistan and the Asia-Pacific region. Naturally, it would make troubles for these countries, especially China, at least weaken the friendly feelings of the Afghan people towards China through spreading fake news or even obstruct the friendly cooperation between China and Afghanistan and other relevant countries. China's position on the issue

of Afghanistan is consistent and clear. China unswervingly supports the "Afghan led, Afghan owned" process of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, tries its best to provide help to Afghanistan, supports Afghanistan to improve and strengthen relations with relevant countries and gives full play to its advantages of Eurasian Continental Bridge to bring real development dividends to its people. Thus we should polish

our eyes and stop being fooled by some country. The United States is not the Savior. The U.S. government has made it clear that "America First" in all affairs. In order to achieve this goal, it will not hesitate to sacrifice the legitimate rights and interests of other countries and even engage in some intrigues. At least for now, the United States is a troublemaker of regional cooperation not a messenger of peace!

Why President...

public sees as "responsible for the conflict" — typically has a hard time ever ending a conflict and faces "strong incentives to continue fighting in the face of high costs."

If Mr. Biden makes the decision not to follow the withdrawal agreement, his choice will lead

to the Taliban resuming attacks on American troops and leave us stuck in the same bloody cycle that has plagued his predecessors. He would end up being a "culpable leader," and the war in Afghanistan could outlast his presidency. The president should declare that we have met our most

important goals by decimating Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, killing Osama bin Laden and punishing the Taliban, but also pushing them to peace talks — and then let the Doha agreement play out. President Biden has to choose between Mr. Trump's withdrawal and Mr. Biden's war. The right choice is obvious.

Myanmar Court...

fire on crowds in various parts of the country killing 18 people, the United Nations human rights office said.

"We have to continue the protest no matter what," Thar Nge said by telephone after police firing

to the Taliban resuming attacks on American troops and leave us stuck in the same bloody cycle that has plagued his predecessors. He would end up being a "culpable leader," and the war in Afghanistan could outlast his presidency. The president should declare that we have met our most

important goals by decimating Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, killing Osama bin Laden and punishing the Taliban, but also pushing them to peace talks — and then let the Doha agreement play out. President Biden has to choose between Mr. Trump's withdrawal and Mr. Biden's war. The right choice is obvious.

270 People Killed in Afghanistan in Past Month

Data collected by TOLONews shows that 270 civilians and security force members were killed and 173 more were wounded in various security incidents across the country in February.

The findings show that 166 security incidents, including magnetic IED blasts, roadside bomb blasts, targeted attacks and Taliban offensives, occurred in Afghanistan in February.

The data shows that the February casualties are slightly less than what was reported by TOLONews in January.

This comes as the fate of the peace process is uncertain and concerns over the coming spring "fighting season" are elevated.

TOLONews' data was confirmed by independent sources to prepare this report.

"Relevant security agencies are not paying attention to the safety of the people," said Abdul

Qahar Majidi, a Kabul resident. "We call on the Taliban to stop violence," said Mohammad Ayub, a Kandahar resident.

"Violence has created a lot of concerns among the people. It is good if they make peace," said Habib-ul-Haq, a Kabul resident. In January, TOLONews findings indicated that 271 people were killed and 347 others were wounded in the country in January.

"We hope that the first step should be an immediate end to violence and an announcement of nationwide ceasefire," said Zabihullah Farhang, head of the media office of Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission.

"Violence will continue unless the side that is the cause of violence is pressured," said Asadullah Nadim, a former army member.

According to the findings, most

of the security incidents were due to magnetic IED blasts and targeted attacks in big cities, including Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Kandahar and Faryab.

"The international community should increase pressure on the Taliban so that it stops the killing of Afghans," Interior Affairs Minister Massoud Andarabi said.

Despite a decrease in magnetic IED blasts and targeted attacks in the last two weeks, reports indicate that the fighting might increase with the arrival of the spring season.

Meanwhile, Afghan Republic negotiator Nader Nadery says that 1,523 civilians, including civil society activists, have been killed in the country following the Doha agreement.

He says Afghans "are outraged by this degree of violence" and that "they want peace and an immediate ceasefire."

Exchange Rates

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Myanmar Court Files Two more Charges Against Suu Kyi; Protesters March Again

Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi appeared at a court hearing via video conferencing on Monday, the first time her lawyers had seen her since she was detained in the Feb. 1 military coup.

Supporters meanwhile marched in several towns and cities in defiance of a crackdown after the bloodiest day so far in the aftermath of the coup, with security forces killing at least 18 people in protests on Sunday.

Suu Kyi, aged 75, looked in good health during her appearance before a court in the capital Naypyidaw, one of her lawyers said. Two more charges were added to those filed against her after the coup, he said.

"I saw A May on the video, she looks healthy," lawyer Min Min Soe told Reuters, using an affectionate term meaning "mother" to refer to Suu Kyi.

"She asked to meet her lawyer."

The Nobel Peace laureate, who leads the National

League for Democracy (NLD), has not been seen in public since her government was ousted and she was detained along with other party leaders. She was initially charged with illegally importing six walkie-talkie radios. Later, a charge of violating a natural disaster law by breaching coronavirus protocols was added.

On Monday, two more charges were added, one under a section of a colonial-era penal code prohibiting publication of information that may "cause fear or alarm", and the other under a telecommunications law stipulating licences for equipment, the lawyer said.

The next hearing will be on March 15. Critics of the coup say the charges were trumped up.

Myanmar has been in chaos since the military seized power after alleging fraud in a November election won by the NLD in a landslide, with daily protests getting increasingly violent as police and troops try to stamp them out.

Police in the main city of Yangon used ... **P3**



A look at the world

S. Korea Offers Japan to Resolve Issues Through Talks

South Korean President Moon Jae-in offered Japan on Monday to address all bilateral issues through dialogue, according to local media.

Addressing his nation on the "Independence Movement Day," Moon said his country will not stop pressing for closer cooperation with Japan.

"Our government is ready to sit down with the Japanese government anytime and have dialogue," Yonhap News Agency quoted Moon as saying. He added that it will



also be helpful to the trilateral partnership with the US.

Moon further said he is sure that the neighboring countries can resolve pending issues related to a common history "wisely" if they share ideas with a position of "putting themselves in each other's shoes." Diplomatic relations between the two countries remained at an all-time low over the past year after a South Korean court ordered Japanese firms to compensate victims of forced labor during Japan's colonial rule.

The ruling was rejected by Tokyo, which maintains that all claims related to its 35-year rule over the Korean Peninsula were settled under a 1965 bilateral agreement. The issue of "comfort women," according to Japan, was resolved through a 2015 agreement with Seoul, under which Tokyo paid \$9.1 million for the establishment of a foundation dedicated to supporting wartime sex slavery victims.

The victims, euphemistically labeled "comfort women," filed the case in 2013 and the first hearing was held last April. ... **P3**

Arab League Backs Saudi Arabia's Rejection of U.S. Report on Khashoggi Killing



Arab League (AL) Secretary General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit expressed on Saturday support for Saudi Arabia's rejection of a recent U.S. intelligence report on the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

"Saudi judicial authorities are the only ones in charge of holding those involved in Khashoggi case accountable," the AL chief said in a statement.

The 4-page report, released by the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), indicates that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud approved the operation in Istanbul, Turkey, "to capture or kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi." Aboul-Gheit said that the ODNI is not authorized to issue international rulings or verdicts.

"Human rights issues should not be politicized," the AL secretary-general emphasized.

On Friday, Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry strongly rejected the U.S. report, saying it contained "inaccurate information and conclusions."

Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post, was murdered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018, and a number of top Saudi officials were arrested in connection with the case.

In early September 2020, Saudi Arabia's Public Prosecution issued final verdicts against eight convicts in Khashoggi's killing, five of whom were sentenced to 20 years in jail and the other three from seven to 10 years.

4 Terrorists Killed, 2 Wounded in Southern Philippines Clash

Philippine soldiers have clashed with suspected terrorists in the southern Philippines, leaving four dead and two others wounded, a military spokesman said on Monday.

Lieutenant Colonel John Paul Baldomar said the fighting broke out around 2:00 a.m. local time on Sunday between army forces and suspected members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in a remote village in Maguindanao province.



He said the troops swooped to the village after villagers reported the presence of the terrorists in the area.

"(The BIFF members) are planning to conduct roadside bombing and other atrocities to divert the focus of the troops from ongoing (community support) projects," Baldomar said.

He said the armed men already burned a house when the soldiers arrived in the village. More homes could have been torched if not for the timely arrival of the troops, he added.

Baldomar said the BIFF terrorists withdrew in the middle of the fighting. Troops recovered 10 improvised hand-thrown grenades from the encounter site, he added.

The BIFF, composed of around 200 men, is blamed for bombings and other atrocities in the Central Mindanao region in the southern Philippines. The group comprises former Moro Islamic Liberation Front members who signed a peace pact with the government in 2014.



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