

Karzai, Zardari meet, discuss security

by UPI

ANKARA, Turkey -- The leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan met in Turkey Wednesday to discuss a regional approach to battling terrorism and militant insurgencies, officials said.

In a meeting hosted by Turkish President Abdullah Gul in Ankara, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Afghan President Hamid Karzai met to discuss greater cooperation on security and intelligence sharing, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

The meeting at the Presidential Palace followed an encounter between Zardari and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Gul and Erdogan also had separate talks with Karzai, the APP said.

A Turkish diplomat told CNN the meetings were seen as a chance to build confidence between the three countries in the face of the cross-border Pakistan-Afghanistan insurgency and upcoming elections in Kabul.

"Afghanistan is very, very important because the (presidential) election is approaching," the unnamed diplomat told the U.S. broadcaster. "And Pakistan has been very negatively affected by instability in Afghanistan."

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