



# Wolesi Jirga to Summon Security Bosses on March 27

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Wednesday decided to summon top security officials on March 27 in connection with a bloody attack on a hospital in Kabul.

The death toll from the March 8 complex assault on the 400-bed Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan Military Hospital has climbed to 50, with another as many wounded.

But Wolesi Jirga members put the toll at 170 killed and another 150 wounded in the attack, which has been claimed by Daesh or so called Islamic State (IS) militants.

Strongly condemning the savage attack, the lawmakers decided to summon Defense Minister Abdullah Khan Ha-



bibi, Interior Minister Gen. Taj Mohammad Tahid and National Directorate of Security

(NDS) chief Mohammad Masum Stanikzai and interrogate them about the attack.

Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, speaking at today's session, said he had

signed the form for summoning of the three senior security ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## Rabbani to Attend Global Conference on Daesh



KABUL - Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani is to attend an international conference on terrorist group Daesh or Islamic State (IS) in late March in the United States of America, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said on Wednesday. A MoFA statement issued here said Rabbani and the US charge de affairs, Dennis Walter Hearne, discussed the upcoming conference during a meeting in Kabul. The conference will be held in Washington DC. Despite under pressure

from Afghan security forces and Taliban rivals, Daesh militants have been able to pose a huge security threat to Afghanistan and other parts of the world. The group recently claimed responsibility for a complex attack on a military hospital in Kabul in which 50 people were killed and over 100 wounded. Foreign forces in Afghanistan acknowledge hundreds of Daesh rebels exist in eastern part of the country, though many had been eliminated in airstrikes and offensives. *(Pajhwok)*

### Chaudhry

## US, Pakistan Can Help Stabilise Afghanistan



KABUL - Islamabad and Washington should jointly combat the Islamic State (IS) - also known as Daesh - before the group expands its foothold in Afghanistan, Pakistan's new ambassador to the US has proposed. In an interview with released on Wednesday, Aizaz Chaudhry said: "One area where the two countries have cooperated closely in the recent past is their shared desire to defeat the menace of terrorism. Our partnership has helped defeat Al-Qaeda." He told the Associated Press of Pakistan after taking charge that Islamabad remained firmly committed to combating terrorism. "The US could continue this mis-

sion until our region is rid of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations." The US and Pakistan could also work together to stabilise Afghanistan, the ambassador said, affirming Islamabad's desire to see a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. "We have suffered in the past from instability in Afghanistan." "I am confident President Trump and his administration will engage positively with Pakistan for the common benefit of our two countries," the diplomat said in response to a question about the questions raised by some US lawmakers regarding Islamabad's stance on terror. *(Pajhwok)*

### Governor

## Kandahar Attack Plotted Outside Afghanistan



KANDAHAR - Kandahar governor Humayun Azizi, who returned to the country on Wednesday after treatment for wounds he sustained in an attack on a guesthouse in Kandahar province, said the incident was unprecedented and that serious investigations are required.

He said the attack was plotted outside the Afghan borders and by regional intelligence agencies. "It was horrific. In-

vestigators will be appointed by the government and the details will be revealed later by relevant organizations," Humayun told reporters upon his return.

He said he would return to his office in the near future. "I will go to Kandahar the day after tomorrow," he said.

"The enemies should realize that the Afghan people are united and will never succumb to any ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Taliban Commander, Jandullah Member Arrested

KABUL - Helmand's Lashkargah-Nad Ali highway reopened The Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Wednesday said a Taliban commander and a member of the Jandullah rebel group had been detained by Afghan forces in northwestern Samangan province.

A statement from MoI said a key Taliban commander, Mullah Ismatullah aka Jalali, was arrested during an operation

in the Kook village of Hazrat Sultan district late on Tuesday. Jalali led a 20-member Taliban group in the district, according to the statement, which said the insurgent leader was involved in plotting terrorist attacks, particularly on security posts.

A member of Jandullah was arrested with a Kalashnikov and a motorcycle in Samangan, the statement ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## 200 Afghan Prisoners Repatriated

MASHHAD, Iran - An Iranian judicial official said that at least 200 Afghan prisoners were transferred from Iranian jails to Afghanistan to continue prison terms in their homeland. Talking to IRNA, Deputy Prosecutor of Khorasan Razavi Mojtaba Andalib Toulai said the Afghan prisoners were repatriated according to the settlement reached on exchange of a number of prisoners between Iran and Afghanistan five years ago.

He said the Afghan officials also have transferred 23 Ira-



nian prisoners to the country's judicial officials since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2016). Andalib Toulai said

at least 197 Afghan inmates have been transferred to the country's prisons in the Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

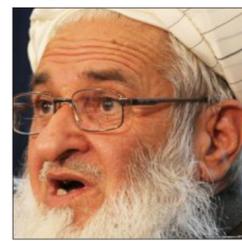
### Mawlavi Kashaf

## Afghanistan Facing a Brutal Enemy, Jihad Fatwa Unjustified

KABUL - The Chief of Afghanistan's Ulema Council, Mawlavi Qeyamuddin Kashaf, has dismissed the Jihad Fatwa in Afghanistan as incorrect as he condemned the deadly attack on Kabul Military Hospital in strongest words.

In his meeting with the Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, Mawlavi Kashaf said Afghanistan is facing a brutal enemy, noting that attack on wounded patients and doctors in Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital.

Calling the attack a massacre of the defenseless people, Mawlavi Kashaf said the militant groups are for issuing Fatwa's while carrying suicide attacks in mosques, insisting that mosques are not the places where the foreign forces are coming for prayers. Mawlavi Kashaf further added that those issuing Jihad Fatwas are moving in a wrong direction and their stance is not justified, insisting that Sharia Law is enforced in the country.



In his turn, Chief Executive Abdullah slammed the militants for misusing Islam to carry out insurgency against an ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Afghanistan Holds 24 Amid Questions over Possible Hospital Insider Attack



KABUL - Afghan authorities have detained 24 people in connection with what appears to have been an insider attack on a military hospital in Kabul last week, including some of the staff, officials said on Wednesday.

However they stonewalled a growing chorus of questions about how it was possible for gunmen to get into Afghanistan's largest military hospital,

just a stone's throw from the heavily fortified U.S. embassy in the heart of the capital.

"We are working on evidence to find out if someone has been involved from the hospital," Deputy Defense Minister Helaludin Helal told a news conference in Kabul. "The process is complicated and it takes time."

At least 50 people were killed and more than 30 wounded in

what security officials say was a well-coordinated operation, involving at least five gunmen dressed as medics.

The attack was claimed by Islamic State, although some officials say the group, based mainly in eastern Afghanistan, was unlikely to have been capable of mounting such a sophisticated operation without help from more experienced groups, ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## 'Shah Waliullah's Teachings can Unearth Root Causes of Terrorism'

KABUL - Afghanistan ambassador to India has laid emphasis on the relevance of Shah Waliullah's preaches and teachings in finding the root causes of radicalism and terrorism.

Addressing a seminar on Shah Waliullah and Tasawwuf in India, Shaida Abdali said following Waliullah's preaches and approaches was crucial at a time when Islam was being distorted, used as a state toll for political objectives.

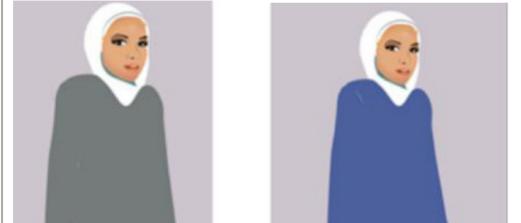
He said Islam was used as a mean of dividing Muslims and fostering sectarian violence. Abdali alluded to Shah Waliullah's contributions to India as a united nation, i.e. cultivating religious harmony and tolerance as well as spreading the message of love and brotherhood for a cohesive India.

Abdali called on the participants to "follow Shah Waliullah's footsteps and work for social harmony and propagate the true teaching of Islam which calls for peace, unity, and a just social, political and economic order"

The Afghan envoy called Shah Waliullah one of the most renowned scholars and reformers of the eighteenth century whose influence transcends the boundaries.

Referring to his voluminous writings in various areas especially his translation of Quran Karim from Arabic into Persian which is known as Tafseer Kabuli, Ambassador Abdali described them of great value and informed that his books were still being taught at universities in Afghanistan. The Seminar was organized by Shah ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Ghani Rejects New Uniform for Schoolgirls



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday rejected a new uniform for schoolgirls that was recently proposed by the Ministry of Education (MoE), saying the dress does not conform to the Afghan culture and tradition.

In line with MoE proposal, primary school students will wear blue and secondary and high schoolgirls steel color uniforms. Headscarves for schoolgirls will remain white, according to the ministry's plan.

However, the MoE proposal drew strong oppositions from a large number of Facebook users. Subsequently, the president also rejected the uniform and directed the ministry to consult parents on the issue. Shah Hussain Murtazavi, deputy spokesman for Ghani, wrote on his

Facebook account that the president had rejected the new uniform as it did not conform to Afghanistan's culture and traditions.

No plans were implementable if they did not take into consideration people's economic situation, Murtazavi quoted the president as saying. Ghani ordered the ministry to work on a new uniform in consultation with students, parents and teachers.

On the other hand, MoE spokesman, Mujib Mehrdad, said the ministry had only talked about the change of the uniform. No decision had been taken on specific colors so far, he added. Students could still use their previous uniforms as the time for the new academic year was short, the spokesman explained. *(Pajhwok)*