GOVT CRITICIZED OVER PAKTIA MOSQUE EXPLOSIONS

Paktia police chief said they have launched an investigation into the attack but that no group has yet claimed responsibility.

KABUL - The victims of the deadly twin explosions inside a mosque in Paktia’s capital city, Gardez, were laid to rest on Friday in Khwaja Hassan village. Angry relatives slammed government for what they said was the inability of security agencies to prevent such an incident or to even issue warnings to the public to avoid large gatherings.

Kabul police chief said they have launched an investigation but that no group has yet claimed responsibility.

JALALABAD - Army Chief Gen. Mohammad Sharif Yaftali has arrived in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, to assess the security situation, an official said on Saturday. Governor Spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told Pajhwok Afghan News Gen. Yaftali upon his arrival held a meeting with the provincial military council and may stay for few days to assess the overall security situation of Nangarhar.

Senior Security Secretary of the Ministry of Interior (MsI) Maj. Gen. Aflatun Mohammad Barhad and other military officials occupied the army chief on his visit. Governor Hayatullah Hayat and other local security officials briefed the military delegation over the existing security situation in the province.

The meeting offered different suggestions to improve the security situation in Jalalabad. Army chief pledged to stay in the province for few days to cooperate with the local officials, to improve the overall security situation.

A Special Forces Unit of the MsI has arrived in the province on the direction of the president which will conduct special operations on specific targets in the province. Recently, Nangarhar witnessed multiple blast and suicide attacks which claimed the lives of dozens people and left scores injured. (Pajhwok)

KABUL - The Taliban have been planning to change the leadership of its political office in Doha, the capital of Qatar, a well-placed source within the Taliban said on Saturday. Wishing anonymity, the source added the Taliban Leader Mullah Habatullah had dispatched three-member group headed by Maulvi Shaikh Khalid to Doha after complaints from the incumbent leadership surfaced.

According to the source Mullah Amir Khan Mutaqi, Mullah Rahmatullah Kakazada, Mullah Hamidullah Nami, Mullah Qudratullah Jamal, Mullah Salam Zaeef and some other individuals had been considered for the Taliban’s new leadership in Qatar. (More on P4)...(2)

UGLEMA Call for Permanent Truce Ahead of Eid-Ul-Adha

KABUL - The Afghanistan Ulema High Council on Saturday demanded permanent ceasefire between the government and the Taliban ahead of Eid-ul-Adha.

This was offered by the Ulema during a meeting here today. Religious scholars, university teachers and high ranking officials from the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs and Education Ministry took part in the meeting. (More on P4)...(3)

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