Govt ‘Ready’ to Open Taliban Office in Afghanistan: Ghani

President Ashraf Ghani, who visited Nangarhar province on Sunday, said the Afghan government is ready to allow the Taliban to open an office in Kabul, Kandahar or Nangarhar.

“We want peace in Mesra. In that satisfactory or Moscow” asked Ghani. “The nation says that they (Afghan politicians and Taliban members) did not go to Moscow but they want to Moscow (for talks on peace); therefore, they should answer to this question!”, Ghani said that he is expected to give up his position - for peace - but added that this post was given to him by the people who voted for him and that this will not be compromised. Some delegates who attended the Moscow talks, which were held on February 5 and between Afghan politicians and Taliban representatives, meanwhile said the main message to emerge from the meeting was that the war should end in the country and ways to attain peace need to be found. “Ultimately...” (More on P4).

NDS Arrests Three for ‘Organizing’ Green Zone Truck Bomb in 2017

KABUL - National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces have arrested three members of Haqqani network in Kabul, the NDS confirmed on Sunday.

According to the statement the three Haqqani members were arrested in connection with the truck bomb near Zanbaq Square in Kabul city in May 2017. The suspects are from Maidaan Wardak province and reportedly continued to the bombing during an interrogation. According to the NDS, three bombs organized the bombing. The NDS also said that the three suspects had been involved in a number of other attacks. However, the NDS did not provide details regarding their identity.

The deadly May 2017 truck bomb was detonated at the entrance of the Green Zone close to Zanbaq Square in Kabul city at 8:20am on a Wednesday morning in May 2017. At least 85 people were killed... (More on P4).

Civilians Among 29 Killed in Helmand Raid

LOHAKHARAI - At least 25 Taliban insurgents and four civilians have been killed in a security operation on Saturday in Sangin district of southern Helmand province, an official said on Sunday.

Omar Sule, the governor’s spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel conducted the raid in Pary area late on Saturday night. Twenty-five rebels were killed and 10 others captured alive, he said, adding several weapons, ammunition, explosives and vehicles belonging to militants were destroyed. According to Sule, four civilians were also killed and two others wounded in the overflight... (More on P4).

Huge Arms Cache, Explosives Seized in Azra District

POLA-ALAM - Police have seized an arms depot and nearly 8,000 kilograms of explosives in the Azra district of central Logar province, an official said on Saturday.

Police spokesman Shahpur Alamzad told Pajhwok Afghan News the Special Forces conducted a raid in Azra village of the district on Saturday. The security forces seized a huge cache of weapons and 7,790 kilograms of explosives (ammonium nitrate) belonging to Taliban insurgents, he said. “Two books on bomb-making techniques, one Kalashnikov, two hand grenades and several other weapons were seized from a suspect named Allah Mohammad,” he added.

Deputy Chairman of Provincial Council, Alireza said on P4...