MoE Inattention Hits Hard
Kunduz Education Sector

KANDAHAR CITY - The Ministry of Education (MoE) has paid no attention to the education sector of southern Kandahar province over the past two years, an official said on Saturday.

The MoE's negligence has resulted in shortage of school buildings, teachers and textbooks in Kandahar, the provincial education director, Abdul Qadir Piwaston, told Pajhwok Afghan News during an exclusive interview.

Piwaston said there were a total of 40 schools in the province and 3,700 of them were operational. Besides the schools, 38 religious seminaries, 22 vocational and technical institutes and 31 special schools are also in shortage of school buildings, Piwaston added. “The building process would begin promptly,” Piwaston also said the Herat municipality would be given more authority to resolve some of Herat residents’ problems concerning his ministry in order to save people’s time. He asked Herat mayor to be more transparent in his affairs after obtaining such authorities from the ministry. The Herat master plan was readied with the help of University of Florence of Italy and lecturers of Herat University. Piwaston said. Master plans of Herat and six other cities had been shared with the president for a review, the minister added. “These master plans would be completely implemented after they are studied,” he said.

Herat governor Mohammad Afzal Rahimi, who participated in the conference, said: “Giving more authority to local government would accelerate the work process in addition to saving people’s time.”

The meeting, which was also attended by some experts, appreciated the Urban Development Ministry’s plans for Herat (Pajhwok)

US Coalition Troop
Drawdown in Afghanistan Raises Prospect of Failure

WASHINGTON - Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) John Sopcher said that US military advisors and their civilian counterparts had little or no direct contact with the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces units below the army headquarters and regional.

ANSF Launch Operation Against IS in Nangarhar

KABUL - Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) on Saturday started an operation against Islamic State (IS) militants’ position in Nangarhar province, the Defense Ministry said.

Former Governor Kidnapped in Islamabab

ISLAMABAD - Unidentified gunmen kidnapped former governor of Herat province, Sayed Fazalullah Wahidi, in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, on Friday, police and the embassy sources said.

Wahidi, who had also served as governor of eastern Kunar, during the government of Hamid Karzai and Asif Ghani, had arrived in Islamabad along with his family to get the US visa, diplomatic sources said. “The embassy has formally registered a case with the police,” a dipolmate source said.

Several embassies official visited the Kashmir Police Station to register the First Information Report.

Earlier police officials said that Wahidi was staying at a guest house at Islamabad’s F-7 sector and was “kidnapped” by some unidentified people near Rana Market.

No one has claimed responsibility for the incident. Sources said that Wahidi had gone to a restaurant along with his cousin’s children when he was “kidnapped.” The embassy sources said that the unidentified men had arsered in two vehicles and took away the former governor while leaving, pushing the child. A police officer said that they are investigating motions behind the incident. Wahidi was - (More on Pk-27/28)

Afghanistan Concerned about Safety of Kidnapped Ex-Governor

KARUL - The Afghan government on Saturday expressed deep concern for the safety of a former governor kidnapped in neighboring Pakistan.

Unidentified gunmen kidnapped former governor of Afghanistan’s western Herat province Sayed Fazalullah Wahidi in Islamabad on Friday.

"Given the fact that Wahidi was kidnapped in Pakistan, Afghanistan wants Pakistan to take immediate and serious action through its security agencies using all possible actions in identifying the kidnappers," (More on Pk-27/28)