KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga on Wednesday approved the national budget for 2018, with an increase of 17 billion afghanis in development funds. The Afghan fiscal year started on December 22.

Earlier, Mr. Noor, – upper house of the parliament – had passed the draft budget on November 22, with some recommendations to the Wolesi Jirga.

On December 30, the lower house had rejected the draft budget – proposing 267.2 billion afghanis in general funds.  The Afghan fiscal year started on December 22, 2017.

The rejected draft lacked balance among provinces, projected accounts lacked balance, it had said.

The rejected draft lacked balance among provinces, suggested new administrative units and planned creating unnecessary posts in government departments. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) recently sent the revised version of the draft budget to the house, which once again severely criticized it.

On Monday, some lawmakers spurred the revised version, saying the issue of imbalance to projects for different provinces remained.

Noor also said he would improve a deadline for government if an agreement was not reached.

KABUL - One month after President Ashraf Ghani fired Balkhi provincial governor Mohammad Atta Noor, the Jamiat-e-Islami party’s chief termed civil rebellion if talks between the party and government failed to provide results.

“Security is solely between the people and government and is government’s sole responsibility,” he stated. Government and Jamiat wrapped talks between government and Jamiat-e-Islami have wrapped up.

In terms of taking over as governor of Balkh, said Wednesday.

He named the victim as Azizul-Ghani the incident took place in Katubkhel locality on Tuesday night.

PUL-I-ALAM - Taliban militants on Sunday attacked six schools from concrete in a school in Nangarhar province, an official said Wednesday.

Saleem Saleh, the governor’s spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the attack took place in Khakhlak locality on Tuesday.

He said the plan was to construct six schools from concrete at a cost of 25 million afghanis. He said the attack was underway.

President Funded School Buildings Completed in Paktia

SHARANA - Funded by President Ashraf Ghani from his over-budget, construction works on buildings for 25 schools have been completed in southeastern Paktia province, the governor said Wednesday.

Governor Mohammad Ilyas Whakil, addressing a gathering here, said the school buildings had been funded by the president personally and the structures were ready for use.

He said the plan was to construct six schools from concrete at a cost of 25 million afghanis but the (More on P4, 21)

KABUL - Twenty-seven people, including an imitation national, have been detained in the past one week for attempting to smuggle hundreds of kilograms of narcotics in different parts of the country, Ahmad Khalid Mashal, spokesperson for the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF), told Pajhwok Afghan News.

“Following directives from the Wolesi Jirga, we have arrested the men detained in Khost, Logar, Helmand, Farah, Parwan, Nangarhar, Herat, Bagram and Faryab provinces during the past week. He said he was trafficking 1,836 kilos.

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Newly-appointed Governor ‘Has No Problem with Noor’

KABUL - Mohammad Dawood, the newly-appointed governor of Balkh, who visited the province on Tuesday evening, says he does not have a problem with Atta Mohammad Noor, who was ousted from the provincial office by the president in December.

Dawood, who was appointed to the position by Ghani, said he was in Balkh to attend the funeral of his father.

In terms of taking over as governor, he said he was waiting for government’s response to a list of demands.

The main demands of Jamiat include the full implementation of the National Unity Government agreement, a change in the system, an amendment to the Constitution, the issuance … (More on P4, 22)

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A resident of the locality, who wished to go unnamed, said the school buildings had been funded by the president personally and the structures were ready for use.

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