Three people were wounded, including two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers as mortar shells landed on different government departments in Ghazi City, the provincial capital, on Sunday, an official said. Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Tariq Shah Shahabzad and a delegation from the Interior Ministry and the National Directorate of Security (NDS) are currently in Ghazi to assess the security situation.

The delegation was in a meeting with coordination office members in Ghazi City when a mortar shell landed close to the venue. Media persons were also present in the venue. Mohammad Arif Noori, the governor’s spokesperson, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the delegation suffered no casualties but two ANA soldiers were wounded.

He said the second shell fell inside the education department building, injuring two employees and a civilian. The third hit municipality... (More on P4.)

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Sunday said the Afghan security forces have doubled their offensive operations against insurgents, their hideouts and strongholds in many regions of the country after President Ashraf Ghani declared an end to government’s unilateral ceasefires with the Taliban.

Following the end of the unilateral ceasefires, air operations and security forces’ operations have been doubled against insurgents, compared to previous months, for the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP), defense officials have said that currently the Afghan security forces are carrying out their planned, anti-insurgent campaign in at least nine provinces.

The forces and security forces have increased their offensive operations. The move to increase the level of operations is to maintain peace in Afghanistan,” said a defense ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish.

Meanwhile, members of the People’s Peace Movement (PPM), formerly the Taliban, have declared that the Afghan security forces are carrying out their planned air operations.

KABUL - A group of People’s Peace Movement activists will be assigned to travel to Taliban-controlled areas and hold talks with the group, leaders of the movement said Saturday.

The remarks came as peace activists continued their sit-in protest outside the Russian embassy in Kabul.

Members of the movement said the Afghan government has accepted their demands and they will now take their peace demand to the Taliban.

“We have formed a committee comprised of elders and religious scholars. The assignment of the committee is to travel to Taliban-controlled areas and talk to them,” the head of the movement Mohammed Mahboobi told TOLOnews on Saturday.

Among the activists was Mohammad Arif Noori, the governor’s spokesperson, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the delegation suffered no casualties but two ANA soldiers were wounded.

He said the second shell fell inside the education department building, injuring two employees and a civilian. The third hit municipality... (More on P4.)

2-Day NATO Summit

Some political experts say the upcoming NATO summit — coming at a decisive time — will have a lot of importance for Afghanistan.

KABUL - The summit, scheduled for July 11 and 12 in Brussels, may be attended by President Ashraf Ghani and his Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah.

A dedication session on Sunday is to be held on July 12 when allies will make decisions about Abdullah Abdullah.

Ghani and his CEO would not be symbolic as they would strive to hold bilateral and trilateral meetings with allies on attracting their financial support.

There would be a discussion...(More on P4)...(5)

KARUL - A year after signing a contract with an Italian company, Kabul municipality’s metrobus service is still far from being rolled out.

According to municipal officials, preliminary work, which includes technical studies and plans for bus stations, has almost been completed but the procurement process has not yet been finalized. Also no decisions have reportedly been made on how many buses will be needed and where these will be sourced.

Kabul Municipality spokesman Abdul Jalil Sultani acknowledged that the project has faced delays but said they hope to roll out the first phase of the bus service by the end of this solar year, in March.

He said the main reasons for the... (More on P4)...(5)

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