President not Going to Dissolve Wolesi Jirga

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday said that he had no intention to dissolve the parliamnet.

The president, who met Wolesi Jirga’s administrative board members at the Presidential Palace, said he had not talked to anyone about the dissolution of the lower house.

Earlier Wolesi Jirga secretory Ahmad Qudar Zaza told reporters that the president had warned some lawmakers that he would dis- solve the assembly if security officials were not summoned. Top security officials have been summoned by the lower house to appear in the assembly on Monday following the terror- istic attack on the 40-bed hospital in Kabul.

The northern includes the De- fense Minister Abdullah Hil- lamzad, Sardar Mohammad Da- mumzad and spymaster Masoom Stanekzai.

A number of lawmakers, heads of commissions on Sun- day meeting met the presi- dent.

He quoted the president as saying he would not talk to anyone about dissolving the assembly. 

"Afghanistan to Conduct Fresh Anti-Polo Drive"

KABUL - Afghanistan will kick off the first vaccination campaign against polio this year, the latest in the fight against the disease in the region, said a Pakistan Health Ministry spokesperson. From Monday, the five-day drive will target 8.8 million children under five years across the country, the ministry said in a statement.

"The campaign which will take place from 27-31 March is the first national cam- paign in 2017. More than 8.8 million children, under the age of 5 will be vaccinated against polio and more than 79

Contracts for Projects Worth 650m Afgh Signed

KABUL - The Ministry of Infra- structure Rehabilitation and Devel- opment (MIRDD) on Sunday signed contracts for three develop- ment projects worth $650 million with private companies.

The minister said the schemes would be completed in one year. Six kilometers of roads would be graded while 52 kilometers would be recon- structed and asphalted, Du- rant added.

He said the projects would generate job opportunities for around 24,180 people in the province.

The Afghan private com- panies have signed the co- ntracts with the ministry.

"The Ministry guarantees any lack of transparency in the schemes’ execution," Du- rant said.

quote of the Day

"Our greatest glory is...never falling, but in rising every time we fall." - Confucius

We Respect Parliament’s Authority: Ghani

KARUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday said the three pillars of the state were sovereign and in no other country.

NATO Resolve Support Commander Calls for more Troops in Afghanistan

NATO Resolve Support Mission Command Gen. John Nicholson plans to request more troops in Afghanistan to prevent the country from becoming terrorist safe haven.

MOSCOW - NATO Resol- ute Support Mission Com- mander Gen. John Nicholson plans to request more troops in Afghanistan to prevent the country from becoming terrorist safe haven, local media reported Sunday.

"We cannot afford to walk away from Afghanistan. This is where the war against ter-

KARUL - A number of business- men on Sunday said that they were concerned about their safety as kidnap- ings have recently surged in Kabul city.

Gul Mahmoud, a business- man in Kabul, said kidnap- pers have been releasing him just past two months but the relevant government de- partments are doing nothing to stop any step despite he has shared his details with officials.

"A magnetic bomb was placed outside my building and a heavy explosion oc-
curred which took $100,000 USD to repair the damage," he said.

"I was in a state of fear with security depart- ments. Later another bomb was placed in my shop," Mahmodi said.

"Every moment I am thinking when and by who will be stabbed from my fam-
ily or relatives. Believe me it is a difficult this way. It is about three months that I am living in this condition," said Amir Mohammad, another businessman.

"If government does not ensure our safety and the safety of our properties and our manners, we will have to leave Afghanistan and invest in another country,"

Flaji Ahmadi, a business- man.

At least 15 kidnapping inci-
dents were reported from across the country in last month, officials in Afghan- stan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACC) said.

"The private sector is very worried about the issue. It is essential that the few business- men who have re- turned..." (More on P4-5). The three-legged consultations on ordination and cooperation were vital for a stable Afghan-

KARUL - The Defense Min- ister Lieutenant General Ab- dullah Habibi, the Interior Min- ister Sardar Mohammad Da- mumzad and head of the National Directorate of Security Mohammad Wa- hammad Massenizi Upper House of Parliament was summoned by the Meshrano Jirga (the Upper House of Parliament) for hearing about a recent at- tack on a Sandal Diamond Hospital in Kabul.

"It should be made clear that where and by whom the at- tack was masterminded and why the intelligence and re- spective departments of the hospital failed to prevent the attack," the defense minister said.

"Poor management and cor- ruption people in army are harm- ing..." Habibi added.

The interior minister mean-
while warned of an increase in violence in upcoming months.

"(More on P4-5). The minister said the schemes would be completed in one year. Six kilometers of roads would be graded while 52 kilometers would be recon- structed and asphalted, Du- rant added.

He said the projects would generate job opportunities for around 24,180 people in the province.

He asked the private com- panies to perform their tasks on the line with the contracts.

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