**Hit By Rocket, Andar High School Burnt**

**GHAZNI CITY** - A school was torched during a clash between the security forces and Taliban in the Andar district of southern Ghazni province, an official said on Wednesday.

Education Director Mahshidullah Ansar said Taliban Afghan News a fierce firefight had been ongoing in the district. As a result of the clash, he said, the Sultan Shahmadan Chori High School had been burnt.

He said a rocket hit the school’s building late on Tuesday night, causing a blaze that was yet to be fully extinguished.

Lashkargar, a resident of the area, said the clash was still underway. Who fired the rocket that hit the school was yet to be known, he added. (Pajhwok)

**Diplomat Sees Spike in Attacks on Afghan Civilians**

KABUL - There has been a significant spike in attacks on civilians, schools, mosques, hospitals, voter registration sites and other safe spaces, says an Afghan diplomat.

"By systematically targeting our children, medical personnel, journalists, communities and ordinary people, the Taliban and other terrorist groups have sought to compromise lives on the battlefield with attacks on soft targets," he said.

Safizada Salare, Afghanistan’s deputy permanent representative to the UN, said that 2,000 civilian deaths and more than 6,000 injuries occurred as a result of enemy attacks nationwide in 2017. Participating in a UN/Security Council debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, he said: “Only a few hours ago, there was...” (More on P4/2B)

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**Women Make Half of 8000 Fresh Nuristan Voters**

KABUL - Women make almost half of 8,000 people who have so far registered themselves as voters in eastern Nuristan province, officials said Tuesday.

Bar Mohammad Nuristan, Independent Election Commission (IEC) head for Nuristan, told Pajhwok Afghan News most of the women registering as voters hailed from capital Paron and nearby districts.

"Since the beginning of registration process until now, some 7,700 people have registered, with women constituting 45 percent of them," he recalled in the past, women’s participation in electoral process had been low because most of the women previously lacked paper national ID card or Taraka.

Nuristan women’s affairs director Zaheda Faizan in the past said the largest district had been evermat and Deh Yak districts were on the verge of collapse. He warned if no attention was paid, the provincial capital, Ghazni City, along with some districts might fall into the hands of Taliban soon.

A number of others senators expressed similair views about the security situation of Ghazni province and urged security organizations to take measures. (More on P4/5)

**Joint Garrison Unit Being Created for Jalalabad Security**

JALALABAD - The military council of eastern Nangarhar province has decided to create a joint garrison unit to ensure security of Jalalabad city, a provincial capital, an official said Wednesday.

Attallah Kohgani, the governor spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a joint session of the Military Council met at the governor’s house on Tuesday.

The newly appointed governor, police chief, provincial intelligence director, fourth military unit commander, border forces, public order police commanders and police district chiefs were present at the meeting.

A number of others senators expressed similair views about the security situation of Ghazni province and urged security organizations to take measures. (More on P4/5)

**Efforts Underway to Retake State Lands Grabbed in Herat**

HERAT CITY – The land in past several years, but specific figures are yet to be worked out.

With the creation of the database, Akhtarzada hoped it would become clear how much of state land had been grabbed in Herat.

For a month, the official explained, work had been underway on ascertaining the total area of state land. He said the record of 25,000 acres of land scrutinised so far bad been entered into the database. (More on P4/5)

**Qatar, Bahrain and Jordan Denounce Deadly Kandahar Attack**

KARL - Qatar, Jordan and Bahain have condemned the terrorist attack in southern Kandahar province, killing and wounded dozens of innocent people, including children.

According to the Small Peace Agency, the ministry of foreign affairs expressed condolences to the families of the victims and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

The kingdom expressed solidarity with Afghanistan in its measures to restore security and stability. It reiterated Bahain’s firm stance against violence, extremism and terrorism in all forms.

The ministry called for strengthening regional and international efforts to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and its funding sources.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar reiterated the country’s firm position on rejecting violence and terrorism, regardless of the motives and reasons. Qatar-based English newspaper Gulf Times said.

Qatar also expressed its condolences to the families of the victims, the government and the people of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Bahain government condemned the terremo by the Taliban in Kandahar province. The Jordanian government firmly stands with Afghanistan in the face of terrorism, the spokesman for the government of Dr. Mohammad Al-Momani said in a press statement today. (Pajhwok)

**15 More Afghan Deportees Arrive in Kabul from Germany**

KABUL - Fifteen Afghan citizens on Wednesday arrived in Kabul after being deported from Germany, an official said.

Haji Ahmad Malikh, spokesman for the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), told Pajhwok Afghan News the deportees arrived at the Hamid Karzai Airport in the morning.

The German foreign minister has announced deporting the Afghans who had illegally entered into his country. Germany deported 21 Afghans last month.

Turkey has also launched a similar process, deporting hundreds of illegal Afghan immigrants. (Pajhwok)

**Senators Worried about Ghazni Security Situation**

Some Members Argo or upper house members on Tuesday expressed concern over the security situation in southern Ghazni province and urged the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to extend the voter registration deadline in district.

"Since the beginning of registration process until now, some 7,700 people have registered, with women constituting 45 percent of them," he recalled in the past, women’s participation in electoral process had been low because most of the women previously lacked paper national ID card or Taraka.

Nuristan women’s affairs director Zaheda Faizan in the past said the largest district had been evermat and Deh Yak districts were on the verge of collapse. He warned if no attention was paid, the provincial capital, Ghazni City, along with some districts might fall into the hands of Taliban soon.

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**State Lands Grabbed in Herat**

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