Mortar Rounds Land Close to Parliament Building in Kabul, No Casualties Reported

KABUL - Three mortar rounds landed close to parliament building in Kabul city earlier today but caused no harm or damage. The officials further added that the attack did not cause casualties or damages to the properties.

Local time.

Taliban Reverse Ban on Anti-Polio Drive in Uruzgan

THE KABUL POLICE HEADQUARTERS confirmed that the mortar rounds landed close to the parliament building at around 10:15 am.

The officials further added that the attack did not cause casualties or damages to the properties.

No individual or group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. (Khaama Press)

5-Day Polio Vaccination Campaign Gets Under Way

KABUL - An extended vaccination campaign for polio eradication began today (Monday), the Ministry of Public Health announced.

The five-day campaign targets over 8.5 million children under five years of age in 324 districts across the country, the ministry said in a statement.

“We are concerned that following the long pause in polio vaccination in parts of the country, more children have become vulnerable to polio,” the minister of public health said.

Dr. Ferozuddin Feroz underlined the importance of vaccinating the children who could not be reached in the previous campaign. He called on parents to get their children vaccinated at campaign sites at local health facilities.

The polio-campaign will run from October 14 to October 18. From 2019 to date, at least 160 children have been paralyzed by the poliovirus.

Fifteen of them are from the southern region (from Uruzgan, Zabul, Helmand and 23 from Kandahar). One case was reported from Kunar. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan Fears New Influx of Afghan Refugees

PESHAWAR - Pakistan has voiced its deep concern over a new wave of deadly incidents in Afghanistan, warning of a new influx of refugees.

Five Pakistani shopkeepers and workers were killed and another 26 injured in a bomb blast in Helmand province.

“Since the situation is not good here, the government should visit insecure areas to collect taxes, therefore the burden is thrown to us,” he said.

Some other businessmen expressed similar views and asked the government to pay attention to insecure areas.

“Tax rate has been increased by two fold. The situation is not good here. Some businesses have closed after two years whereas the other businesses have closed after one year. The situation is not good in insecure areas,” another businessman said.

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But by the end of October, the country’s first province will be declared mine-free – and the job has been done by a small but dedicated team. (More on P4-6)

In Sar-Pul, Violence Against Women Up by 31pc

SAR-PUL - Violence against women has surged by 31 percent in the first half of the ongoing solar year in northern Sar-Pul province, an official said on Monday.

“The number of cases registered over the past six months in the province increased to 375, showing a significant increase from 295 cases reported last year,” Sar-Pul’s Women Affairs Director Nabila Habibi told a conference.

“Local residents need to cooperate with women and let health workers give polio drops to every child,” said the district chief.

“Become department officials cannot visit insecure areas to collect taxes, therefore the burden is thrown to us,” he said.

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Helmand Shopkeepers Resent Increased Taxes

LASHKARGAH - Shopkeepers in southern Helmand province say the government’s move of a two-fold increase in taxes has affected their businesses.

They say the situation shifted the burden of their failure to collect taxes in insecure districts to traders in stable areas – a clear violation of their rights.

Currently the government collects taxes from Lashkargah City, Nad Ali and Gwakhi districts. There are a total of 12 districts in Helmand. Zameer, a shopkeeper in Lashkargah City, said insecurity had negatively impacted their businesses and they daily suffered losses. “Businesses are not doing well here and the government has increased taxes and is collecting the taxes of insecure district from us,” said Zameer.

Waheedullah, another shopkeeper from Gwakhi district, said earlier they would pay 5,000 Afghanis in taxes but the amount had been increased by two-fold.

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