**KABUL** - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Sunday rejected the presence of Islamic State (IS) in 25 provinces of the country and said that the National Security Council (NSC) had already approved a strategy to fight the extremist group.

Speaking to reporters the MoI Spokesman Safiullah Safi said that IS had posed threat on national and regional level. He said the activities of IS had been traced by the intelligence agencies in Helmand and Nangarhar provinces.

Earlier, report published by the United Nations (UN) showed the so-called Islamic State (IS) group is making attempts in Afghanistan and recruiting security situation on September 3. After receiving 30 days to evaluate security situation there, the delegation signed an agreement with local elders of Dand-Ghori locality on the outskirts of Pul-i Khumri, the provincial capital. In line with the pact, no attacks would be carried out in the area and if someone did so, local residents would be faced with security forces.

As part of the pact, the military forces of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are to be stationed in the Ghor district of the province. The agreement was signed in the presence of the Chinese military and representatives of the Uzbekistan and Tajikistan governments.

Religious Leaders Announce Jihad against Daesh Militants

KABUL – A large number of religious leaders have announced jihad against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). They said that ISIL should not be considered as a legitimate organization and that all efforts should be made to counter its activities.

Kabul Govt. Must Work Hard for Polio Eradication

KABUL – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah hailed the activities of Gates Foundation in regards with the eradication of polio and other deadly diseases in Afghanistan. In a meeting with Bill Gates, head of the Gates Foundation and Microsoft Company, the CEO said that Afghan government was committed to eliminate polio virus and other diseases from Afghanistan, a statement from the CEO's office said on Tuesday.

Gates also appreciated the Afghan government efforts against polio eradication and hoped that they would take more strict efforts to counter deadly diseases. The CEO asked Gates foundation to expand its activities across the country and helped the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in the eradication of deadly diseases. (Pajhwok)