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| Jalalabad Chance of Rain 28°C 17°C | Ghazni Clear 21°C 6°C | Kandahar Clear 29°C 12°C | Mazar Clear 25°C 13°C | Herat Clear 26°C 12°C | Bamayan Partly Cloudy 11°C 0°C | Kabul Clear 21°C 9°C |
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

Iran Visit will Bring Economic Stability: President

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has hoped his Iran visit would help spur economy of the country and multiply bilateral trade activities. The president expressed this in a meeting with businessmen and industrialists, a statement from the Presidential Palace said. President appreciated Wolesi Jirga (WJ) members for holding successful round of trust vote for 16 ministers-designate. Ghani assured businessmen that Afghanistan offered attractive opportunity for investment. Every avenue would be explored to resolve problems of business com-



munity. He pledged that an inclusive strategy would be worked out to resolve problems and issues of 18 industrial sectors. The president urged businessmen to work collectively in tandem to turn Afghanistan an exporting country. He emphasized on traders and businessmen to focus on promoting local products. The president recalled his visit to Pakistan in November last year resolved several issues of Afghan transit trade. He also asked the businessmen to point out ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

'New University be Built in Maidan Shahar Instead'

MAIDAN SHAHAR - The provincial council members and residents of central Maidan Wardak on Sunday demanded construction of a university in the provincial capital instead of Said Abad district. Sharif Ullah Hotak, member of provincial council, told Pajhwok Afghan News it would be difficult for teachers to come to Said Abad district due to worsening of security situation. He feared scores of students would be deprived of higher education if the proposed university in the province was built in Said Abad district instead Maidan Shahar, the provincial capital. Hotak said provincial council head and several other members laid the foundation of the university where 500 acres of land was allocated. He also demanded a special delegation to be sent to the area to observe the situation from close and to take a decision accordingly. The residents issued a statement that the government should take notice of such projects where it damaged the unity among various tribes. They warned if their demands were not met they would initiate civil movement in the area and the unity government would be responsible for consequences. Atta Ullah Khogyani, spokesman for the acting governor, told Pajhwok Afghan News the foundation stone of the university was laid after a presidential decree last year. He explained then President Hamid Karzai approved university in Said Abad district but the construction ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Tribal Elders Unity Government is Illegitimate

GARDIZ - The tribal elders and provincial council (PC) members of southeastern Paktia and Khost provinces on Sunday said that the national unity government was illegitimate. In a gathering, they urged the government to control the spiraling insecurity in the country or else both President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah to step down. Addressing a well-attended gathering, Pacha Khan Zadran, a leading tribal elder in Paktia and former lawmaker, alleged the unity government was illegitimate and unacceptable to them. He urged residents to ensure security and develop areas by themselves because the government would not pay heed to develop the area. Muhammad Rahman Qaderi, Paktia provincial council member, told that the president and CEO were busy in dividing ministries and other positions and had no time to resolve pressing problems being faced by the masses. ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

19 Deminers Kidnapped

GARDEZ - Unknown gunmen kidnapped 19 deminers in southeastern Paktia province, an official said on Sunday. Deputy Governor Abdul Wali Sahi told Pajhwok Afghan News the abducted deminers were employees of Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA), and were kidnapped in the vicinity of Gardez. Based on reports, he said, gunmen had taken the abducted men to Shahi Kot locality of Zurmat district. The kidnapers have also taken four vehicles with themselves. Sahi said search operations have started to locate the men. He added 36 deminers



were busy working in Sarwali locality and when the gunmen arrived some of them managed to escape. No group has claimed responsibility so far. (Pajhwok)

New Minister Seeks Wider Role for Women in Govt.

KABUL - New Women's Affairs Minister Dilbar Nazari on Sunday said the government should appoint females as governors, district chiefs and secretaries so as the gender could play a wider role in the country's political, economic and social development. The Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Saturday approved President Ashraf Ghani's picks for 16



ministries. Dilbar Nazari, who received 131 votes from 239 lawmakers present at yesterday's session, was among the ministers approved. Earlier, ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

EU Strongly Condemns Attack on Civilians in Jalalabad

KABUL - The European Union Special Representative in Afghanistan Ambassador Franz Michael Mellbin on Sunday strongly condemns indiscriminate attack in Jalalabad that killed at least 35 Afghans and injured more than 100, Afghan civilians. Ambassador Mellbin offers his sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims. "The attack follows a long series of targeted attacks on Afghan civilians by anti-government elements. The EU remains committed towards helping the Afghan people achieve a peaceful and prosperous future" said Ambassador Mellbin. (PR)

Anomaly Unearthed in Political Passports Distribution

KABUL - Political passports that have some privileges for holders had been distributed illegally to undeserving people, head of the Wolesi Jirga defence and internal security commission revealed on Saturday. In line with international norms, political passport could be issued after the signature of foreign minister. In addition, the documents of political passport applicant should be scrutinized by Consul Affairs Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Members of parliament, military personnel above the rank of lieutenant general, diplomats sta-

tioned abroad, ministers, members of Supreme Court council, attorney generals, governors, mayors, secretaries, former foreign ministers and some other high level government officials are eligible to get political passports. Individual with political passports could be considered as ambassador of that particular country. Salih Mohammad Salih said a large number of people who did not meet the criteria had gotten illegally awarded political passports and miss used it which tarnished ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Civil Society Activists Protested Against Jalalabad Massacre

JALALABAD - Hundreds of civil society activists on Sunday staged a demonstration in Jalalabad city to protest the massacre that took place in the city yesterday. Protesters were holding signs with slogans to terrorists to stop the bloodshed. One of their signs was reading "Stop Killing". They gathered at the site of yesterday's attack and criticized government for not announcing national mourning over the massacre. Protesters also asked security agencies to arrest those behind the attack and drag them to justice. A suicide attacker exploded his explosives in front of a branch of New Kabul Bank in Mukhabirat square of Jalalabad city which left 38 people killed and more than 130 others wounded on Saturday. Taliban rejected hand in the attack but Shahidullah Shahid who ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Balkh Land Dispute Leaves 50 Wounded

MAZAR-E-SHARIF - Fifty persons were injured, with some of them seriously, in an armed clash between two warlords on the ownership of a piece of land in northern Balkh province on Sunday, the head of provincial council said. Mohammad Ibrahim Khairandesh told Pajhwok Afghan News two influential persons had a long dispute claiming ownership of 500 acres of land close to Mazar-e-Sharif, the provincial capital. Armed with pistols, knives and other light weapons, thousands of supporters of both the warring parties attacked each other, which left dozens of persons injured. Ahmadullah, an eyewitness, said both the parties clashed in the morning and had been claiming ownership of the land. A number of wounded persons were evacuated to various hospitals. However, police have not yet spoken on the incident. (Pajhwok)

'Jalalabad Bombing an Attempt to Derail Peace Talks'



JALALABAD - Haji Din Mohammad, member of a team tasked by President Ashraf Ghani to probe the dastardly suicide bombing in Jalalabad, said that involvement of foreign hands in the blast could not be ruled out. Mohammad said militants had distanced themselves to be behind the carnage, which clearly indicated the involvement of other elements. At least 35 people were killed and over a hundred wounded in the bloody suicide bombing on Saturday that drew strong condemnation by national and international leaders.

Soon after the blasts, the president formed a team to thoroughly investigate the bombing and unearth facts. The head of the committee and its other members on their arrival met bereaved families and offered condolences over the demise of their near and dear ones. Hazrat Umar Zakhilwal, head of the investigative commission and President's advisor on Economic Affairs, said recent reports suggested that the newly emerged Islamic State (IS) took credit for the attack. He said IS was the project of Israel which was ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Governor Daesh Benefited from NSC Aid to Paktika Displaced Families

KABUL - Money from the National Security Council (NSC) for displaced families in Barmal district of eastern Paktika ended up instead in the pockets of Daesh militants, said Paktika governor Abdul Karim Mateen. Mateen told TOLONews that recently the NSC provided aid worth \$200,000 USD to the displaced families in Barmal district. He said he had evidence

showing that instead of going to displaced families, Daesh took the money. Mateen said he has raised his concerns about Daesh presence in Paktika with the NSC but has not received any response. "The National Security Council had dispatched \$200,000 USD worth of aid to the displaced families in Barmal district. As a ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Pak-Afghan Polio Meet Cancelled Over Threats



ISLAMABAD - A meeting of officials of Pakistani and Afghan health departments in Kabul, which was also to be attended by representatives of UN agencies, was cancelled because of security concerns. The meetings, scheduled for Thursday and Saturday, was cancelled on the request of Afghan government. A proposal to hold the meeting in Islamabad is now being considered. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries which have been transferring polio virus to each other. The major reason is their

porous border which is about 2,500km long. Although children are vaccinated at the border crossing points, a large number of people cross the border illegally through various routes and it is impossible to vaccinate them. An official of the Ministry of National Health Services said that Afghanistan would be asked during the next meeting to carry out polio vaccination campaigns on the same days as in the border areas of Pakistan to stop transfer of the virus from one country to the other. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*