

Jalalabad Cloudy 17°C 8°C	Ghazni Clear 9°C -4°C	Kandahar Clear 14°C 2°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 3°C -1°C	Herat Clear 13°C -3°C	Bamayan Clear 1°C -9°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 8°C -2°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

MPs Enemies Out to Divide Afghans on Ethnic Lines

KABUL - The enemies of Islam and Afghans want to fuel sectarian strife in Afghanistan but they would never achieve their goal, said the Wolosi speaker said on Monday.

Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy congratulated all Muslims across the globe and the Afghans on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi, the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), a public holiday in Afghanistan.

He said the people of Afghanistan with their unity could save Afghanistan from nefarious designs and conspiracies of its enemies. "Enemies of Afghan people are out to divide them."

He told the Afghans: "Be wise because the enemies of



Afghanistan and Islam want you divided on ethnic and religious lines and engage you in infighting." He asked the

Afghan people to observe the principle of 'all Muslims are brothers' and thwart all nefarious plots against them.

Maulvi Shahzada Shahid, a lawmaker from eastern Kunar province, said Islam was religion of peace and

goodness and didn't accept violence and terror. He also believed some circles were trying to push the Afghans into ethnic clashes.

Ustad Mohammad Akbari, a legislator from central Bamyan province, said the Afghans besides ethnocentrism problem also faced a big problem of corruption. He pointed to a recent report by the Integrity Watch Afghanistan that said three billion dollars were paid in bribery by the Afghans this year. "The reason behind corruption is despotism and foreign colonialism because foreign colonialism wants to rule Muslims by dividing them and the ground for this is paved by internal tyranny in Muslim countries." (Pajhwok)

New £7 Million Demining Project Launched

KABUL - British Ambassador Dominic Jermy and Afghan Natural Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) head Wais Barak on Monday launched a further phase of the UK's life-saving support to demining in Afghanistan.

The £7 million project to be implemented by Halo Trust is aimed at clearing over 9.6 million square metres of land from landmines in six provinces --- Logar, Khost, Samangan, Balkh, Baghlan and Kabul. The British Em-

bassy in a statement said not only will the project clear the land from brutal mines and dangerous explosive remnants of war, but it will also provide development assistance to ensure that over 100,000 people could swiftly return to their newly-cleared lands for cultivation and production.

Through assistance with irrigation, infrastructure and agricultural techniques, local communities would once again be free of the dangers of ... (More on P4)...(8)

No Polio Case Surfaced in Nangarhar in 14 Months



JALALABAD - Local public health officials on Monday said no positive polio case has been recorded in eastern Nangarhar province during the past 14 months.

Nangarhar public health director, Dr. Najibullah Kamawal, said this while launching an anti-polio campaign in Jalalabad, the provincial capital.

He said more than 650,000 children would be vaccinated in Nangarhar and about a million children in the eastern zone during the three-day campaign.

The general situation in eastern provinces, particularly Nangarhar, was good compared to last year as no polio case had surfaced during the

past 14 months, Kamawal added.

He said threats posed by militants to anti-polio campaigns had decreased and the number of children previously deprived of vaccination reduced from 75,000 to 15,000.

Kamawal said the anti-polio campaign could not be implemented in Parando, Gurguri, Kasona, Awghaz, Lagharjo, Shadal Bazar and Dakhal Nazian areas of Pachiragam, Haska Mena, Kot, Achin and Nazian districts.

On the other hand, Nangarhar Hajj and Religious Affairs Director Mualvi Abdul Zahir Haqqani, said anti-polio vaccination was legitimate from Islamic perspective. He ... (More on P4)...(10)

Buzkashi Entertains Afghans in Peaceful, Picturesque Bamyan

BAMYAN - Hundreds of people including some from the neighboring Baghlan, Wardak and Kabul provinces were seen rushing to Khuchkak valley, a plain just half an hour drive outside Bamyan City, on Friday morning to watch a Buzkashi match between two local teams.

Buzkashi which means "goat grabbing" is a centuries-old traditional game in Afghanistan in which skilled horse riders of rival teams compete to take the slaughtered goat or calf and throw it in a circle fixed on the Buzkashi ground.

"I came from the Tala-o-Barfak district of Baghlan province to watch Buzkashi," Momin Pahlawan, a horse rider, told Xinhua.

Describing Bamyan as the most peaceful province in Afghanistan, Pahlawan said that the peaceful environment and good security here in Bamyan have lured him from Baghlan to come here for entertainment.

"As well as enjoying my leisure time here, I also have the opportunity to challenge the rival team and will be praised by people if I win the game," said Pahlawan confidently.

The central Bamyan province with its peaceful environment, historical monuments, picturesque landscape and overall natural beauty has been regarded as one of the most orderly and secure places in Afghanistan.

Contrary to other parts of insurgency-plagued Afghanistan, security incidents have rarely been reported from Bamyan province over the past more than a decade.

According to locals, the reason for such sustainable peace and stability in Bamyan is the cooperation between the people and the local government.

Reiterating the sound peace and security situation in Bamyan province, another horse rider Mohabat Ibrahimy, described the people of Bamyan as peace-loving, and believes that ... (More on P4)...(12)

Iran Favours Greater Alliance to Fight Terrorism

KABUL - Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Ali Larijani has called for the creation of another regional security alliance to fight terrorism and invited regional countries including Saudi Arabia to join, a media report has said.

He made the remarks during a security conference launched in Iranian capital Tehran on Sunday where representatives from regional countries had gathered to discuss ways for sustainable security in the region, IRNA reported.

He asked regional countries to form a coalition to resolve humanitarian crises in dif-



ferent part of the region, including Syria, Bahrain and Yemen.

Larijani said that instead of engaging in war of attrition, regional countries, such as

Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq and Pakistan can begin a movement towards regional tranquility based on Islam, support for the Palestinian people, fight

against terrorism and mutual economic interests.

'All these countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, have to know that Iran is neither their enemy, nor is it opposing them to play a major role in the region,' Larijani said.

'We are opposed to war-mongering in Yemen and Syria. However, we openly announce that we respect all Muslim regional countries playing a role in establishment of security in the region and regard it as a useful measure,' he added.

Although it seems that the security confusion in the region is not to come to an ... (More on P4)...(9)

Ghazni Residents Pay Taxes to Both Govt., Taliban

GHAZNI CITY - Residents of southern Ghazni province complain besides the government Taliban militants also collect taxes from them.

The Taliban have been collecting taxed from fuel sellers, doctors and owners of big businesses, the residents say.

A doctor in Ghazni city, the provincial capital, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Taliban had sent them letters demanding tax about a week ago.

"Each doctor should pay from 30,000 to 100,000 Pakistani rupees to the Taliban as tax annually," he said reading from the Taliban letter.

He said Taliban had warned them of dire consequences if they disobeyed the order.

Hamdullah, a fuel station worker in Ghazni city, said they had also received the Taliban letters.

"Taliban have ordered all oil stations to pay tax to them based on a schedule," he said.

On the other hand, a resident of Lawang village of Gilan district, Sharifullah, said, "Farmers who irrigate their farms with solar system and shop owners should pay tax to Taliban."

He said he also owned a shop and paid 2,000 Pakistani rupees to Taliban each month. "I have already paid the tax of last month to Taliban," he said.

The residents asked the government to urgently solve the problem because they were unable to pay taxes to both the government and the rebels.

The complainers also showed Taliban letters about tax.

With Islamic Emirate of Afghani-



stan logo, the letters are from the Taliban's Economic Affairs Commission, central branch of Ghazni province.

In the letter, the Taliban have asked people to appear in Mungor area on September 28, otherwise they would have no right to complain.

Ghazni police chief, Fahim Amarkhel, confirmed Taliban had imposed taxes on people in the province.

He said the Taliban had men in various areas and they collected taxes from people on their behalf.

Amarkhel said they had warned people against giving taxes to Taliban. He also warned people of strong action if they paid money to the rebels.

He said a number of individuals who collected taxes for Taliban had been arrested.

In this regard, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied they had imposed taxes on people. He said the claim was baseless. However, he said shopkeepers, doctors and others paid them Rs500 to Rs1000 per month in zakat. (Pajhwok)

Badakhshan: Heavy Snow Blocks Roads to 5 Districts



FAIZABAD - Heavy snowing has blocked roads to five districts of southeastern Badakhshan province, obliging residents to reach neighboring Kunduz province through Tajikistan, an official said on Monday.

The snowfall has been ongoing over the past few days, blocking roads leading to Kofab, Nasi, Mayami, Shaki and Khwahan districts.

People who want to travel to Kun-

duz have to get Tajikistan visas to reach the province, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) head for Badakhshan told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said food and other items had been stored in the districts with the help of welfare organizations and would be distributed among needy people when needed.

Eng. Abdul Ghani, the provincial Public ... (More on P4)...(11)

Mawlawi Sacked over Anti-Women Remarks

KABUL - Mawlawi Abdul Samad, head of the Ulema Council in Takhar, was fired on Monday at a special meeting following his anti-women remarks last week.

Members of the council said the remarks of Samad were his own and were not a reflection of the council.

Meanwhile, the new head of the council, Mawlawi Massoud-ul-Haq Haq Nawaz, said women form half of society and they must be respected. He said he will continue to work to decrease the level of violence against women in the province.

On Sunday, civil society activists warned if Samad is not brought

to justice, they will embark on demonstrations. "If government does not take action in this regard, we are ready to take to the streets to restore our reputation," said Khaida Khilwat, a member of Takhar's Youth Parliament.

Noor Mohammad Hakimi, Takhar provincial police chief however said police cannot arrest anyone until an official complaint has been made against them.

Samad last week said women are deficient and the most shameful people in the world and at the time said he did not regret saying this. (Tolonews)

Residents Worried at Increasing Street Crimes in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Some residents in northern Kunduz province have complained against the surge in street crimes ranging from robbery, kidnapping to armed attacks by unknown armed men.

A number of residents were worried about the recently increased armed robberies in the province, where several individuals were attacked and injured by unknown gunmen who snatched their money and other valuable things.

Zabihullah Majidi, a resident of Kunduz, told Pajhwok Afghan News armed robberies were on the rise in three locations of Kunduz city, the provincial capital, over the past one week, the lift the residents worried.

He said a moneychanger while transferring amount \$3,000 to the bank was attacked and injured by unknown armed-men in the Kunduz's main square and snatched the amount with him.

"In summer, we suffered from the Taliban militancy and winter season, the residents are not secure due to armed robbery and other street crimes, we want the government to take action against criminal and provide safety," he said.

Rahmat, another resident, said burglars robbed a medicine shop at the main chowk and took all valuable items including cash amount from the store. Two days back robbers also mugged a moneychanger.

However, Police Chief Brig. Gen. Qaseem Jangalbagh said three individuals had been arrested--in connection ... (More on P4)...(13)