

Jalalabad Clear 19°C 7°C	Ghazni Clear 13°C -3°C	Kandahar Clear 17°C 2°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 12°C 4°C	Herat Clear 18°C 2°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 7°C -7°C	Kabul Clear 13°C -2°C
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Education Can Help End Conflict: Minister

KABUL - Acting Education Minister Asadullah Mohaqiq Jahani Thursday urged families to encourage and support their children in pursuing education that could help end the war imposed on Afghanistan. Jahani, addressing a graduation ceremony at Ariana Afghan-Turk High School in Kabul, said the decades of war had destroyed Afghanistan. Calling education the power of humanity, he said people with knowledge and education could help the country overcome its current problems and take the path of joining developed countries. The minister urged parents to encourage and support their children and help them in



their studies. Only education could help end the war in the country, he said. Saad Hakim, one of the graduates, said he was satisfied with the teaching. He said

Afghans should avoid ethnic discrimination and work for their country's development. "The youth has the responsibility to utilize their knowledge and prevent the war

and bloodshed and develop Afghanistan like other countries," he told Pajhwok Afghan News. Obaidullah Dinlar, the principle of the school, it was 13th batch of

76 students graduating from the high school. Thousands of students had graduated from the Ariana Afghan-Turk High School over the past several years, he said. (Pajhwok)

Daesh Recruiting Teenagers in Nangarhar



KABUL - Nangarhar provincial council confirmed the claim and said that Daesh recruits the teenagers who lack battle experience. A former member of Daesh fighters in Nangarhar has said that the group recruits teenagers to fight security forces in the eastern province. Nangarhar provincial council meanwhile confirmed the claim and said Daesh recruits the teenagers who lack battle experience. "Children and teenagers under the age of 18 are recruited by Daesh, because they are immature and emotional and

the Daesh propaganda can easily affect their minds," member of Nangarhar provincial council Asrarullah Murad said. "Recruiting teenagers is a notorious act. They [youths] should have gone to school and learn religious taught," said Malik Nazir, a tribal elder in Nangarhar. Meanwhile, Mirwais Yasini, an MP from Nangarhar, said Daesh militants are taking the advantage of government's negligence while recruiting in the province. "There are teenagers within the ... (More on P4)...(9)

Lowering Underground Water Deemed 'Catastrophic'

KABUL - Experts say the lowering of underground water level and water pollution in capital Kabul city is 'worrying and catastrophic' and asked the government to take serious steps towards resolving the issue. They expressed the remarks on Thursday at an academic seminar titled 'Studying Kabul water crisis, challenges and solutions' organised by a civil society institute with the help of Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education. The experts said the underground water level in Kabul had lowered by 22 metres over the past 20 years, and 41 percent of the water had been polluted, contributing to risks to people's lives. Abdul Hakeem Zaryab, a professor at Kabul's Polytechnic University and a spe-



cialist in underground water, said the lack of sewage system, urban canalization and a proper system of collecting and trucking out solid waste and a lack of standard septic tanks were reasons behind the decreased level and pollution of water. Other factors were excessive use of water from wells, use of chemical fertilisers in farmlands, construction of sub-

standard high buildings and flow of surface water mixed with rain-induced water and toilet water in a single stream. Mohammad Mirzai, another professor and environmental expert, said the growing population in Kabul and absence of a proper management of underground water had resulted in an unprecedented decrease ... (More on P4)...(11)

Heavy Snow Blocks Roads to 9 Badakhshan Districts

FAIZABAD - Heavy snow has blocked roads to nine districts of northeastern Badakhshan province, forcing residents to travel to Kunduz through Tajikistan, an official said on Thursday. Public Works Director Eng. Abdul Ghani told Pajhwok Afghan News snowfall over the past two days had blocked roads to Zibak, Ishkasham, Wakhan, Shaghnan, Kofab, Nasi, Mayami, Shaki and Khwahan districts. He said people of the districts travelling to the Sher Khan Port in Kunduz province had to go to Tajikistan first on visas. His department has prepared programmes based on the annual plan of the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW). The programmes include safety and maintenance of roads, especially during the winter season. He said private companies and local councils had been awarded contracts to keep tunnels clear in order to allow vehicular movement. However, he hinted the snow-clogged roads to the nine districts would remain blocked until April. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Welcome Trilateral Meeting in Moscow

KABUL - The Taliban on Thursday welcomed a trilateral meeting in Russian capital Moscow that demanded delisting the rebel group from the United Nations (UN) black list. Two days earlier, senior officials from Russia, China and Pakistan met in Moscow to discuss Afghanistan's security situation and peace in the country. However, Afghanistan was not invited to the meeting. It was a third round of talks among the three countries on the "deteriorating situation in Afghanistan", particularly at the rise of the Islamic State



(IS) group -- also known by its Arabic acronym Daesh. The previous two rounds had taken place behind closed doors. The announcement of the latest talks irked Kabul, which questioned the effectiveness of a process on Afghanistan without its representation.

In a joint statement issued at the end of their trilateral meeting, the three countries said: "The parties agreed to proceed with consultations in an expanded format and would welcome the participation of Afghanistan." Russia and China confirmed their ... (More on P4)...(10)

Officials Move to 'Withdraw' Troops from Baghlan-E-Markazi



KABUL - Documents show the Baghlan military council has decided to withdraw Afghan National Army (ANA) from two large military bases, Alavuddin and Mangalha, which are in Baghlan-e-Markazi district of Baghlan province, Tolo news reported. The documents show that the head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) police chief and governor of Baghlan signed the order which states security forces should withdraw from the two military bases. Of the officials who signed the document, only Noor Habib Gulbahari, Baghlan police chief, shared his views with Tolo news in this regard. He said he was not aware of the importance of the military bases in Baghlan-e-Markazi when signing the

document. "Now as I look at the region, I am against this decision because if we withdraw from here, the enemy can easily go to Baghlan-e-Markazi," Gulbahari said. Baghlan provincial council however warned that if security forces withdraw from the region, more than 13 villages and two military bases will fall to the Taliban. "Baghlan people are worried about this decision as it will increase insecurity," said Mawlawi Abdul Wali Raji, a member of the council. "If these two bases are taken over by the Taliban, then they will have control of the 12 to 13 (surrounding) villages," said Mohammad Zarif Zarif, another member of the council. A number of Baghlan residents meanwhile said if the decision ... (More on P4)...(12)

Sherpao Endorses Kabul's Stance on Moscow Meeting

PESHAWAR - A senior Pakistani politician has endorsed Afghanistan's objection to its exclusion from a recent trilateral meeting in Moscow. Kabul's effective participation would be instrumental in addressing the Afghan conflict, Chairman Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao said. Afghanistan should have been part of the trilateral consultation on the Afghan conflict, involving Russia, China and Pakistan, the former chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said. In a statement, Sherpao said the Moscow moot was of vital importance in terms of efforts to resolve the Afghan imbroglio. The security situation had deteriorated with the rise of the Islamic State (Daesh) in Afghanistan, he regretted, asking regional countries to make joint efforts for eradicating terrorism and extremism. He said peace was essential for the development and economic prosperity of the region, stressing a key role for Afghanistan in stabilisation efforts. (Pajhwok)

Scores of Insurgents Killed, Wounded in Operations: MoD

KABUL - Scores of militants have been killed and wounded in counterinsurgency operations across the country, the Ministry of Defence said on Friday. At least 38 fighters were killed and 26 others wounded in offensives over the past 24 hours, a brief statement from the ministry said. It added the offensives were conducted in Nangarhar, Logar, Ghazni, Zabul, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Herat, Farah, Faryab, Kunduz and Helmand provinces. There was no immediate reaction from Taliban, who have recently stepped up activities in different parts of the country. (Pajhwok)

Reconciled Rebel Group Returns to Insurgency



SHIBERGHAN - A Taliban commander, Mullah Tahir, and his 15 fighters have rejoined their former colleagues after recently reconciling with the government in northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Thursday. Deputy provincial police chief, Abdul Hafiz Khashi, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Mullah Tahir, who leads a 15-member Taliban group, was deployed to a security post after his group had joined the peace process. But he and his fighters rejoined the Taliban and abducted eight border police personnel, he added. Tahir had been assigned to

protect the Shiberghan-Sari-Pul highway in Sherkhel area of Jawzjan capital. Tahir announced joining the peace process along with his 35 gunmen in July. Before leaving insurgency, Tahir was operating in Dashti-Laila area and Dawlatabad district of Faryab province, Khashi said. Shiberghan residents said they were concerned about the issue. They said the government should not trust such individuals and not deploy them to key areas for security. Abdul Hakim, a resident of the city, said: "We are ordinary ... (More on P4)...(13)

Helmand-Kandahar Road Closure Enters 4th Day

KADAHAR - A number of Helmand residents said the Taliban has destroyed majority of bridges along Kandahar-Helmand road. The closure of Helmand-Kandahar Highway for the past four days - due to the presence of Taliban and its damaged bridges - has raised concerns among residents of the two provinces. Helmand residents said the Taliban has destroyed majority of bridges along the road. A number of passengers meanwhile said they travel through alternative routes where Taliban has built check posts and are stopping people on the way to Helmand. Abdul Samad, a resident of Helmand, said they urge government to reopen the road and launch a large-scale military operation to clear it of militants. "Passengers are using alternative ways and different cars to reach their destination," he said. Meanwhile, local security officials said they have started a military operation to clear the road in the near future. "Afghanistan's and the Afghan people's enemies are trying to destroy bridges and close the road for Helmand residents. We managed to clear major parts of the road in order to pave the ground for reconstruction of the bridges and the damaged parts of the road," said Abdul Ghani Abrar, Executive Officer of 215 Maiwand Corps in Helmand. (Tolnews)

Afghan Families Being Repatriated by Pakistan



KABUL - Pakistan's request for all three million Afghan refugees to leave is causing chaos on its borders and plunging families into uncertainty. Many Afghans have spent all their lives

in Pakistan and fear their home country cannot provide the same standard of living. Pakistan's stance on refugees changed after 9/11 and the invasion of Afghanistan. (BBC)