

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 19°C 5°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 3°C -3°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 18°C 6°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 11°C 2°C	Herat Chance of Rain 19°C 2°C	Bamayan Mostly Cloudy -1°C -3°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 8°C -3°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Afghan Reconstruction Watchdog SIGAR Publishes 'Gallery of Greed' over Fraud

WASHINGTON - A \$99 million Afghan road-building project has been scrapped, according to a report that details how American military personnel were bribed with Rolex watches in exchange for contracts. The deal was ditched in October after evidence emerged of corruption during the award of the contract by the country's government. In the last three months of 2016 alone, criminal investigations resulted in one conviction and six sentences, nearly \$2 million in criminal fines and the recovery of \$320,000 according to a new quarterly report to Congress by the Special Inspector General



for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR). The report features a new "gallery of greed" that details some of the corruption cases uncovered since the American mission began some 15 years ago. Since then, the U.S. has spent some \$117 billion on reconstruction in Afghanistan. It identified individuals including former Army Sgt. 1st Class Ramiro Pena Jr. from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, who worked at the Humanitarian Assistance Yard at Bagram Airfield. He was sentenced to 24 months in prison in 2015 after admitting receiving \$100,000 in bribes from local vendors in order to award contracts worth \$30 million. Pena admitted that he and his supervisor, Master Sgt. Jimmy W. Dennis, also received Rolex ... (More on P4)...(8)

WASHINGTON - A \$99 million Afghan road-building project has been scrapped, according to a report that details how American military personnel were bribed with Rolex watches in exchange for contracts. The deal was ditched in October after evidence emerged of corruption during the award of the contract by the country's government. In the last three months of 2016 alone, criminal investigations resulted in one conviction and six sentences, nearly \$2 million in criminal fines and the recovery of \$320,000 according to a new quarterly report to Congress by the Special Inspector General

700 Laghman Teachers Go on Strike over Land Plots



MEHTARLAM - Hundreds of schoolteachers on Sunday went on strike in the Qarghai district of eastern Laghman province, allowing thousands of students to return homes, officials said on Sunday. Nearly 700 teachers from district schools, the sciences centre, the teacher training institute and the agriculture institute held a protest gathering. Kakas High School teacher, Abdul Waris Jabarkhel, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the government last year provided land plots' documents to them, but they hadn't yet received the land. He said the government should release plots usurped by other people. He warned their protest would continue and the schools closed until their issue was addressed. A teacher at Shabaz High School, Rohullah, said the government had promised them ... (More on P4)...(9)

Germans Hold Mammoth Rallies Against Obligatory Repatriation of Afghans



KABUL - Thousands of German citizens have staged rallies in different cities against obligatory repatriation of failed Afghan refugees, a media report said on Sunday. In the western city of Dusseldorf, 2,000 demonstrators took to the streets. In Hamburg, police estimated there were about 1,500 protesters. The demonstrators said Germany should not force people to move to dangerous countries, such as Afghanistan, the German newspaper reported. "The people who are forced to return cannot live their lives in safety there. A life in dignity is inconceivable under these conditions," demonstration organizers in Hamburg said of the situation in Afghanistan. Of the 250,000 Afghans living in Germany, 11,900 were asked to leave the country from mid-December, according to the German Interior Ministry. (Pajhwok)

Otto Pfister Appointed as New Afghan Football Coach

KABUL - Otto Pfister, 79, from Germany has been selected as the new coach for the national football team. The Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF) on Sunday introduced Pfister to the media and said he had signed a one year contract. The AFF also introduced other new technical staff members including Ali Askar Lali, as the new FIFA instructor, Mansour Faqir-yar as goalkeeping coach and Anosh Dastger as assistant coach.



"After the resignation of Petar Segrt, former coach, we tried to hire a good coach and we were able to reach an ... (More on P4)...(12)

Nabi Rated Second in ICC's ODI All-Rounder Rankings



KABUL - Afghanistan's national cricket team player, Mohammad Nabi, has been rated as the world's second best One-Day International (ODI) All-Rounder by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in their new rankings. Afghanistan's Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed Nabi's achievements and said that the "leadership of the ACB congratulates Mohammad Nabi and the nation for his achievement." Nabi, who pushed past Sri Lanka's skipper Angelo Matthews who was ranked 2nd with 318 points in the ODI rating, is current standing at 331 points. The top ODI all-rounder is Shakib Al Hasan from Bangladesh. (Tolonews)

Women's Presence in Govt 'Declines under NUG'



KABUL - The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) said on Sunday that the number of women in government institutions has declined despite the Afghan political leadership having pledged to increase their numbers from 20 percent to 30 percent. Harassment, nepotism in appointments and gender discrimination are apparently key reasons behind the shortage of women in government institutions, the MoWA stated. "Unfortunately the index, which we had set as a target to increase the presence of women to 30 percent, has not been achieved; because of harassment - I fear that the presence of women could drop from 22 percent to 21 or 20 percent," said deputy minister of women's affairs Spozhmai Wardak. On Sunday a workshop was held in Kabul to promote the Afghan Women's Empowerment Program (AWEP) where participants exchanged views on a wide range of issues relating to Afghan women, including the recruitment of women in government institutions. "This is the beginning of the discussion," said Diana Bowen, director of the AWEP project. NUG leaders had pledged to increase the presence of women from 20 percent to 30 percent. "Making policies and strategies are preliminary steps, we ... (More on P4)...(11)

Karzai Condemns Sangin Airstrikes, Lashkargah Bombing

KABUL - Reacting to the recent suicide attack and airstrikes in southern Helmand province, former President Hamid Karzai has said the ongoing conflict in the country was not Afghanistan's own but its victims were Afghans, a statement from Karzai's office said on Sunday. Karzai, who developed strong differences with the US in his last months of presidency, strongly condemned suicide attack in Lashkargah, the provincial capital of Helmand, and air ... (More on P4)...(10)

33 ISIS Militants Killed, 12 Wounded in Nangarhar Operations

JALALABAD - The loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group suffered heavy casualties in a series of air and ground operations in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. According to the local security officials, the militants were killed in the past 24 hours in three restive districts of Nangarhar. A security official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said at least 33 loyalists of the terror group were killed during the operations. The official further added that the operations were conducted in Achin, Rodat, and Kot districts. According to the official, at least 12 loyalists of the terror group were also wounded and several hideouts of them were destroyed during the operations. The Afghan security forces also seized several weapons, ammunition, and explosives during the operations, including a number of the Improvised Explosive Device. The anti-government armed militant groups including the ISIS loyalists have not commented ... (More on P4)...(13)

First-Ever Agri, Dairy Products' Expo Held in Kunar



ASADABAD - An exhibition of agriculture and dairy products was held for the first time in eastern Kunar province on Sunday, officials said. At the expo, farmers from Asadabad, the provincial capital, and districts have displayed their products. The show coincides with the launch of the spring tree plantation campaign also kicked off today. Kunar agriculture director Inamullah Sapai said 1.2 million saplings were planted in the province this year. All the plants had grown. Sapai told Pajhwok Afghan News Kunar would be a great citrus exporting province on national level in the next three years. According to him, walnuts remain major export from Kunar where dairy products weighting 60 tonnes are produced daily. Sapai said they were making efforts to increase fish production as well to prevent import of food from other areas. Azizullah, a farmer who has showcased his products at the exhibition, said there were many pastures in Kunar, which provided a proper breeding area for livestock farming. "Cheese is produced magnificently in Kunar and milk is also found in large amounts; but the products' consuming has been low and farmer couldn't earn a good profit." He asked the government to construct a dairy products processing factory in Kunar in order farmers presented their products to the market. Governor Wahidullah Kalimzai ... (More on P4)...(14)

Girls' School Enrollment Rises Despite Challenges



KABUL - Provincial officials reported a rise in girls' enrollment rates across eastern Nangarhar Province, despite constant attacks and threats by Islamic State and other militant groups in the area. "Of the 14,000 graduates last year, we had 3,000 girls. This year, 4,000 girls graduated out of the total 18,000 graduates," said Mohammad Asif, a spokesperson for the department of education in Nangarhar. Asif added that girls constituted 45 percent of the 820,000 total students in the province. Girls are traditionally deprived of education in Afghanistan's remote areas and were not allowed to go to school when the Taliban was in power. Decades-long conflict in the country has had negative effects on education, but there has been improvement in the last 15 years, with millions of students including girls, returning to school. Urban ... (More on P4)...(15)

Govt. Takes Control of Kapisa Mines after 13 Years



MAHMOOD RAQI - The government has retaken control of some important mineral deposits in the Ala Sai district of central Kapisa province after 13 years, local officials say. Ghulam Naqshbandi Sapi, the district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News militants had long been in control of the riches existed in the district centre and Hassanabad area. Now Afghan security forces have taken control of areas where the mines are located, bringing to a halt the illegal mining. "Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers, national police and Afghan Local Police personnel have been deployed in the district and militant activities have reduced to a greater extent," he added. He said the mineral deposits in Ala Sai district came under government's control after 13 years. Sapi said militants and local residents had been involved in the illegal mining and the riches were smuggled to Pakistan and sold at high price, with some residents earning huge sums of money. Haji Ghulam Nabi, a local resident, said several mines of precious stones existed in Askin locality and were mined by anti-government elements. He rejected the government had taken control of the mines, saying there was no security check posts in the area. ... (More on P4)...(16)