

Jalalabad Sunny 12°C 1°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy -3°C -11°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 9°C -2°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 10°C 0°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 12°C -2°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy -2°C -12°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 4°C -8°C
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Trump Team to Cooperate with Kabul, Hopes Mohib

KABUL - Counterterrorism and economic development cooperation will be among the top of the Trump administration, which is scheduled to take office on January 20, believes the Afghan ambassador to the United States. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Hamdullah Mohib said both priorities bode well for America's strong engagement with Afghanistan. Twenty of the world's 98 designated terrorist groups are operating in the Af-Pak region.

The imperative to continue joint efforts to defeat the extremist outfits is as strong as ever, according to the diplomat, who estimated Afghanistan's mineral wealth at more than \$1 trillion. The



minerals, energy resources, gemstones and rare-earth elements are yet to be mined. Mohib said the government was working to create a regional consensus on turning Afghanistan into an area of

positive cooperation and regional development, not a centre of regional rivalries. The potential for all neighbours was far greater in regional cooperation and development, he argued,

saying they were in touch with partners on how to unlock the potential of Afghanistan for itself and the region at large. Following is the text of the interview: Q: The US administration will change

in a few days. As Afghan ambassador, you are surely meeting new US officials. What they are thinking about Afghanistan? A: The people we have met, who are close to, or in, the incoming administration, believe it is too early to discuss the specifics of policy toward Afghanistan. They will need to do a review once they are in office before any discussion on specifics could be held. What I have heard, however, is that counterterrorism and economic development are at the top of the new administration's priority list, and both of those bode well for a policy of strong US engagement with Afghanistan. Twenty of the world's 98 designated terrorist groups are operating in the Af-Pak region, ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Premature Blast Kills Taliban Commander, 4 Sons

KABUL - A Taliban local commander along with four of his sons were killed as his explosive device went off accidentally in Saripul province on Wednesday, local news agency Kokcha reported. Taliban commander Mawlawi Kamal nicknamed Sangin was

busy to prepare a mine and place it on a road to target security convoys but the device exploded prematurely, killing the father Kamal along with four of his sons on the spot, the news agency reported. Taliban militants are yet to make comment. *(Xinhua)*

Early Clearance of Afghanistan-Bound Goods Urged

PESHAWAR - A delegation from Kabul on Tuesday voiced grave concern over inordinate delays in clearance of Afghanistan-bound goods at Pakistani facilities. Led by Defence Ministry Advisor Wazhma Frog, the team visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in the port city of Karachi. The two sides discussed impediments to bilateral trade, which declined to \$1.5 million in 2015. Wazh-

ma called for concrete steps to remedy the situation. FPCCI Vice-President Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig promised taking up the issue at a highest level. "We will do our best to ensure expeditious clearance of Afghanistan-bound goods." Efforts would be made to prevent substandard goods finding their way to Afghanistan from Pakistan, he said, adding pre-shipment inspections of goods might be made mandatory. *(Pajhwok)*

Some Parts of the Constitution Omitted: Bashardost

KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga (WJ) members on Wednesday alleged some articles of the constitution had been either altered or removed.

Dr. Ramazan Bashardost, an outspoken lawmaker from Kabul, said there was difference between constitution copies the Loya Jirga had approved and those formally printed and contained the signature of Sibghatullah Mujadidi, the then Loya Jirga head.

He claimed the difference had been made to the copy of constitution approved by Loya Jirga and the one printed



formally. For instance, he said, article 50 of the Loya Jirga copy of constitution says: "The state shall adopt necessary measures to create a healthy administration and realize reforms in the administrative system of the country after the approval of

the parliament." He said the phrase "approval of the parliament" had been omitted from the version available. Bashardost demanded the house summon former President Hamid Karzai, the then vice presidents Karim Khalil and ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

NSC Oks Procedure for Marking NDSF Day

KABUL - The National Security Council (NSC) has approved a procedure for celebrating National Defence Security Forces (NDSF) Day, declaring the Spin Ghar area of eastern Nangarhar province as a new district, the Presidential Palace said on Wednesday.

At Tuesday's meeting the NSC -- in recognition of security forces' courage and the sacrifices they rendered for defending the country -- approved the manner in which



NDSF Day would be marked, a statement from the Palace said. The date for NDSF Day was not mentioned in the

statement, which said medals, commendation certificates and cash prizes would be distributed to ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

MoD Confirms ISIS Militants Among 34 Killed in Latest Operations

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan (MoD) confirmed 6 loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist were killed along with 28 other militants during the clearance operations.

According to a statement by MoD, the operations were conducted in the past 24 by the Afghan National Defense

and Security Forces (ANDSF). The statement further added that 29 militants were also wounded during the operations which were conducted with the support of the air force and artillery units.

The operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Kapisa, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Farah, Kunduz, Baghlan, and Helmand provinces. At least 15

of the militants were killed in the vicinity of Tarinkot city in southern Uruzgan province and 10 others were wounded. At least 6 ISIS loyalists were killed in Deh Bala area of Nangarhar and 4 others were wounded, MoD said, adding that 4 others were wounded. According to MoD, at least 5 militants were killed and 8 others ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Kandahar Governor Says he is in Good Health

KANDAHAR CITY - The governor for southern Kandahar province, Dr. Hamayon Azizi, who was badly injured in January 10 deadly bombing, in an audio message has said he is in better health and would soon return home to continue serving his people.

Azizi was one among several others injured in the blast inside a guesthouse at the governor's house. He is currently under treatment in India. The governor in his audio message received by Pajhwok Afghan News called the incident a terrorist attack and prayed for all the victims.

"First of all I want the souls of all victims placed in the heaven including Abdul Ali Shamsi, Hashim Karzai, Shah Ahmad Saeed, Yama Qurashi, Baz Mohammad Jawzjani, Safari and UAE diplomats and also wish fast recovery for those injured," he said in his message. He also thanked the Afghans particularly Kandahar people who ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Youngsters Flock to Snowy Gunbadak Hilltops to Ski

BAMYAN - When the Gunbadak hilltops are covered in snow and not their usual mud, dozens of kids flock to the peak which lies 30 minutes away from Bamyan city, the capital of central Bamyan province, to enjoy skiing, a

fun-filled pursuit not often associated with the conflict-ridden country. Zahra Nuri, a 13-year-old girl, is one of more than four dozen skiers who regularly visits the Gunbadak hilltops once a week ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Over 90pc of Vehicles in Bamyan Sans Legal Documents

BAMYAN CITY - More than 90 percent of vehicles in central Bamyan province are without legal documents and have fake number plates, Pajhwok Afghan News has reliably learnt. Afghanistan is not a good market for new cars,

as a small number of individual have the ability to them. Most of people purchase used vehicles that are smuggled through Wesh in southern Kandahar province. 1st Lt. Syed Aziz, acting head of ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Spy Agency Busts Terror Gangs in Khost

KABUL - Personnel of Afghan law enforcement agencies have busted two terror groups in Khost province, said the National Directorate for Security (NDS) on Wednesday.

"Personnel of NDS have busted two groups of Haqqani terrorist network during two separate operations in Khost province. A total of 31 arrests were made during the raids which took place in provincial capital of Khost city, and surrounding areas of Khost," the national intelligence agency said in a statement. The ...*(More on P4)...(13)*



Afghan people carry winter relief assistance donated by Afghan government in Jawzjan province, Afghanistan, on Wednesday January 18, 2017. *(Xinhua/Mohammad Jan Aria)*

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Ministry of Finance invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Procurement of Printing and Supply of Amir Ali Sher Nawayee Governmental Medals against IFB No. **MoF/96/ICB/022**. Bidding will be conducted through the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedures specified in the Afghanistan procurement law.

A complete set of **Bidding Documents in English** may be obtained by interested bidders from the below address:

Second Floor, Contracts Department, Directorate of Procurement, Ministry of Finance, Pashtunistan Watt, Kabul, Afghanistan

Mobile: +93 (020)210 6772

Email: ajmal.sami@mof.gov.af copy to eimaljahangir@gmail.com

All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security (Bank Guarantee)** mentioned against below in Afghani or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:

275,856 AFN

Pre- Bid meeting shall be held at **10.00 Hrs.** on **06 to 08 Feb 2017** at Ministry of Finance for three days in (MoF) **Kabul, Afghanistan.**

Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before **10.00 Hrs (local time) on Feb 20, 2017**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids are not to be opened immediately after the deadline of bid submission at the same place of bid submission, in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person.

Any information contained in this invitation for bids may be superseded by the provisions of Instruction to Bidders (ITB) Section 1 of the bidding document in case of discrepancy.