

<b>Jalalabad</b> Chance of Rain 12°C 3°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Snow 2°C -4°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Snow 1°C -11°C	<b>Mazar</b> Snow 6°C -1°C	<b>Herat</b> Cloudy 6°C -5°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Snow -1°C -17°C	<b>Kabul</b> Snow 4°C -1°C
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# MPs Stick to Their Guns on Dual Nationality Issue

KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga (lower house) members on Wednesday reiterated their stance not to vote for dual citizen cabinet nominees. The unity government on Tuesday announced 24 ministers-designate and nominees for the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and Da Afghanistan (central) Bank. The lower house is expected to grant a vote of confidence to the nominees on Sunday after listening to their future plans for three years. However, Kamal Nasir Osoli, who heads the lower house's Religious and Cul-



tural Affairs Commission, said eight of the cabinet candidates held dual nationality and they would not be granted a trust vote as decided by members of three panels and the administrative board. As part of their decision, he said, a committee had been formed to further chase the issue of dual citizenship. Osoli said documents of five ministers-designate were found authentic before they explained their future plans to the public representatives. MP Asadullah Sadati said some nominees had confirmed their dual citizenship and ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Durrani Pledges End to Rural-Urban Divide



KABUL - The cabinet nominee to head the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) on Wednesday told lawmakers his priority would be overcoming the gap between cities and villages in terms of facilities, if he was granted a trust vote. The Presidential Palace on Tuesday introduced 24 ministers-designate and nominees for the National Directorate of Security ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Edu Minister-Designate Vows to Banish Corruption



KABUL - The minister-designate of education, explaining his programmes to the Wolesi Jirga, said on Wednesday that ending corruption and discrimination would be among his priorities. A day earlier, the Presidential Palace introduced 24 ministers-designate and nominees for the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) to the lower house for a confidence vote. Seeking a trust vote from the assembly, some of nominees unveiled their plans today while some others would follow suit tomorrow. Mohammad Gul Zalmi Younusi said if his nomination was endorsed he would stay committed to improving the overall quality of education. "I am standing in front of public representatives to ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Osmani Promises Mainstreaming Unregistered Mosque



KABUL - The hajj and religious affairs minister-designate on Wednesday claimed more than 90 percent of mosques in the country were unregistered and bringing them to the mainstream would be among his priorities.

President Ashraf Ghani introduced 24 ministers-designate and nominees for the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) heads to the parliament on Tuesday for a vote of confidence.

One of nominees who unveiled their plans in the lower house today, Faiz Mohammad Osmani said the ministry was the main organ managing religious affairs in the country and a bridge between scholars and government.

If endorsed, he would do his best to bridge the existing gap which, in turn, would have a positive impact on stability, effort at promoting education, respect for human rights and containing graft.

"If approved, I will rebuild the ministry infrastructure and develop specific strategies for each department for national and international communications to avoid responsibility overlap." Having 90 percent unregistered mosques and religious centres in the country is a source of concern to Osmani, who promised giving special attention to improving the income and living conditions of ulema.

Developing Islamic research centres, creating a single source of issuing religious fatwas on matters of national importance, providing better religious programmes for students, building a central mosque in each province and facilities for hajj pilgrims are his other programmes. Osmani was born in 1973 in Kunduz province and belongs to Turkmen ethnicity. He has graduated from Zahedan's Islamic Studies Centre in Iran and has a social science degree from the Kabul Education University. (Pajhwok)

## If Endorsed, Gen. Karimi to Reform Army

KABUL - Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi, defence minister-designate on Wednesday promised implementing security improvement plans and building realistic military ties with Pakistan. Also the sitting Afghan army chief, Gen. Karimi appeared before the Wolesi Jirga to outline his future plans and priorities if the lower house granted him a vote of confidence. A day earlier, the Presi-

dential Palace introduced 24 designate ministers-designate and National Directorate of Security and Central Bank heads to the assembly for a trust vote. Gen. Karimi - one the nominees who presented their plans to the Wolesi Jirga - said: "I don't have dual citizenship. If I win a trust vote, I would go flat out to reform military leadership." He would also ensure employment based on merit, justice and streamlining the army's financial sys-



tem. Accountability, better incentives for soldiers and helping families of victims would be among his priorities. The nominee pledged to keep the army out politics and try to strengthen its transportation capability and eradicate ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Lashkargah Mayor Accused of Evicting Residents

LASHKARGAH - A number of residents of this capital city of southern Helmand province on Wednesday claimed the mayor and some other officials had deliberately diverted the flow of rainwater to their homes, a claim rejected by the mayor. A resident of "Free Zone" area in Lashkargah, Gul Noor, told reporters the municipality wanted to convert their area into residential plots by evicting them. He said the municipality had demanded 100,000 Pakistani rupees from each family in return for allowing them to reside in their own homes. He claimed the amount was meant for distribution to the mayor, the acting governor and municipal district heads. Noor said all government land in ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Ultimate US Withdrawal from Afghanistan Not Set in Stone

WASHINGTON - America's top commander in Afghanistan suggests that the security situation in the country will dictate whether to move forward on cutting the number of U.S. troops in half by the end of 2015. General John Campbell, head of the Resolute Support mission, told the Army Times that there are 10,600 U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan at present with plans to bring down the level to 9,800 on May 1 and 5,500 eight months later. However, inasmuch as Afghan National Security Forces have grown increasingly capable of fighting the Taliban, which shows no sign of surrendering, Campbell said he would be



regularly assessing the Afghan military's progress and that of the government and "if we can really get after the objectives that we set." It will be up to Campbell to decide whether a planned draw-

down is realistic or if it will be necessary to extend the U.S. mission, which is due to wrap up in December 2016. American forces presently act in training and advisory roles only, with ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Khost PC Formally Starts Work after Prolonged Feud

KHOST CITY - The provincial council of southeastern Khost province on Wednesday formally started functioning after a dispute lasting three months over the administrative board's elections.

The council members first entered a dispute over the administrative board election and then split into two groups over the election of their senatorial candidate.

However, the differences came to an end four days ago and the council formally launched its activities on Wednesday, promising to properly discharge their responsibilities.

Council head Amirullah Zarah Suwand said they would respect people's mandate and would perform their duty in accordance with the rules and regulations.

He hoped the provincial council would be able serve residents and help resolve their problems.

The council's secretary, Janmir Zazai said: "We want to be loyal to our promises and do our job seriously." Khost Ulema Council member Mualvi Shah Muhammad voiced his support for the provincial council and promised cooperation with the public representatives in finding solution to people's problems. Residents had been asking the council members to shun their differences and start working for people's welfare. (Pajhwok)

## Exports to Afghanistan Via South Khorasan Up By 20%

KABUL - Chairman of Border Markets Organization of South Khorasan Province said total exports from the provincial marketplaces and Article 316 in the first nine months of the current year amounted to \$293 million. He added that the figure showed an increase of 20% as compared to the same period last year.

Speaking to IRNA, Mahmoud Reza Fakhr noted that also total export of market products from the province in the past year amounted to \$9,240 million which made a 340% increase in the current year and so far has reached \$40.700 million.



Pointing to the shortcomings and problems available in the field of exports, he said however proper measures have been taken and export statistics have registered outstanding growth. South Khorasan has four border marketplaces name-

ly Yazdan, Mil 73, Mil 78 and Dokouhaneh which are all being administered through their revenues. He said Yazdan border market obtained \$2,360 million, making an increase of 31%, Mil 73 \$17.100 million, ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Court Moved Against Graft-Tainted Uruzgan Officials



TIRINKOT - Dossiers detailing corruption and other charges against six government officials and a contractor were produced before a court in central Uruzgan province on Wednesday, an official said. Prosecutor Fazl Sultan Safi told Pajhwok Afghan News the charges had been framed against

Education Director Ihsanullah Nasher Rural Development Director Eng. Mohammad Hashim, former "The education director misappropriated 1.9 million afghanis, the former district mayor 9.2m afis and similar amounts were embezzled by the remaining individuals," Safi ...*(More on P4)...(17)*