

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	cloudy	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	cloudy	Kabul	Clear
	34°C 25°C		29°C 13°C		35°C 20°C		30°C 21°C		31°C 16°C		23°C 8°C		31°C 18°C



Politicians Back Diplomatic Solution to Torkham Issue

KABUL - Political and national leaders, who called on President Ashraf Ghani, on Wednesday supported the government's stance to resolve the Torkham border tension with Pakistan through diplomatic channels. A statement from the Presidential Palace said the president held a consultative meeting before noon at the palace with political and national leaders of the country about the tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan over the construction of a gate on the Torkham border crossing by Pakistani forces.



Deadly skirmishes erupted between Afghan and Pakistani border forces three days ago when the Afghan forces prevented the Pakistanis from constructing a gate on an allegedly disputed territory. Both the sides suffered casualties in the intermittent clashes that entered a fourth day on Wednesday. The border remained closed for a fourth day, leaving stranded a large number of travelers on both sides of the border. Many families have fled the border area for safety. The high level huddle at the Presidential Palace was ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Karzai Says Not Supporting any Movement Against NUG



KABUL - The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai has said he is not supporting any movement against the National Unity Government (NUG) led by President Ghani and CEO Abdullah.

In an interview with the Afghanistan service of Voice of America, Karzai rejected the speculations and said he might have shared words with the tribal elders during his meetings regarding the unity government but never had role in organizing any movement against the government. The former President further added that such ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Border Police Vow to Prevent Torkham Gate At any Cost



JALALABAD - Border police in the eastern zone say they will not allow Pakistani forces to construct a new gate at the Torkham border crossing as tension continued for a fourth day on Wednesday.

Afghan and Pakistani forces started exchanges of fire four days ago after Afghan border guards prevented the Pakistanis from constructing a gate at the border crossing allegedly at a disputed territory.

Pakistan insists the gate is being constructed on their side of the border to check cross border movement of terrorists and drug smugglers to either side.

"Border management is aimed at addressing the common concern of infiltration and hence to enhance mutual security of both the countries and their peoples", advisor to Pakistani prime minister on foreign affairs Sartaj Aziz said in a statement, adding the two sides should resolve issues through dialogue. But Afghan officials say the gate's construction is against international ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Pakistan Moves More Troops, Weapons to Durand Line

PESHAWAR - As sporadic gunfire was traded across the Torkham border on Tuesday, Pakistan said it had moved more troops and weapons to their tense border.

A Peshawar-based army officer confirmed the dispatch of heavy weaponry and additional troops to the border on Monday night. He said Pakistan would build the gate at Torkham at all costs.

The Torkham border crossing, meanwhile, stayed closed for a third day, leaving thousands stranded on either side. The crowds, including women and children, had to brave scorching heat.

Asim Bajwa, Pakistan's military spokesman, tweeted: "This gate (is) considered essential to check and verify documentation of all border crossers."

A curfew in the Landikotal town, meanwhile, was lifted on Tuesday. But a highly tense situation persisted in Torkham, where business and trade activities remained suspended.

Hundreds of trucks and trailers loaded with fresh fruit and vegetables are stranded on both sides of the border. A long queue of vehicles can be seen on the Pakistani side of the frontier. *(Pajhwok)*

Taliban Ready for Dialogue Based on Shariah: Haqqani

PESHAWAR - The Afghan Taliban are open to peace negotiations if the dialogue takes place in accordance with the Islamic Shariah, the group's second-in-command said on Wednesday.

In an audio message, Sirajuddin Haqqani said the Taliban were not averse to talks if they were held in line with the Sharia and if the international community agreed to it.

Haqqani, who was elected as Taliban's deputy supreme leader last month, is appar-

ently answering queries from writers and members of the Taliban's media team.

The Taliban released the 45-minute audio message with a brief statement that says Sirajuddin has talked on important issues. He was asked about the impression the Taliban did not favour political dialogue.

In response, Haqqani said: "Our Political Commission deals with the issue of negotiations. If we were opposed to talks, we would have never formed this commission. This



was a consensus decision of the Taliban leadership."

He assailed the international

community for imposing what he called "a puppet administration" ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Aizaz Meets Zakhilwal, Lodged Protest

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Foreign Secretary Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary on Wednesday called in Afghan Ambassador Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lodge Pakistan's strong protest over the killing of an officer of Pakistan Army, who was injured on June 13, 2016 due to firing by Afghan security forces at Torkham border crossing. The Afghan Government was urged to take immediate steps to bring this firing to an end.

The Foreign Secretary stressed that the Pakistani side was undertaking construction works on its side to regulate the movements of people as well as vehicles with the prior agreement of the Afghan Government. He expressed concern



over the continued firing by the Afghan forces for last few days with a view to disrupt the construction works aimed at strengthening effective border management. Underscoring the importance of border management for

strengthening mutual security and checking infiltration of terrorists and militants, the Pakistani Foreign Secretary emphasized the need for resolving this issue through constructive engagement. *(PR)*

Taliban Change their War Tactics

KABUL - A number of experts said on Wednesday that the Taliban has suffered heavy casualties on the battlefields against the Afghan forces and as a result the group has changed its war tactics.

At the beginning of their fighting season this summer, the Taliban launched widespread attacks in Helmand, Uruzgan, Kunduz, Faryab and number of other provinces - but now, since the death of their former leader Mullah Mansour, they conduct smaller, focused attacks against security checkpoints, officials said.

Experts believe that the Taliban, with this new tactic, suffer fewer casualties but



that casualties are higher among government forces. Experts have said the Taliban is now conducting "guerilla" attacks - which also include mass kidnappings on highways.

"Because the Taliban is being defeated, they turn

to guerilla attacks. Afghan forces must stand seriously against the armed oppositions and terrorists and fight them," MP Syed Husain Sharifi Balkhabi said. "As you all witnessed, how many innocent passengers ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

US Urges Afghanistan, Pakistan to Exercise Restraint

WASHINGTON - The United States on Tuesday said it was closely watching the ongoing tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan in the aftermath of border skirmishes that resulted in casualties on both sides.

"I could tell you we are all watching the tensions very closely, that we are in touch with officials on both sides," State Department spokesman John Kirby told re-

porters at his daily news conference.

The US continued to urge a resolution to the tension, he said, adding they did not want to see clashes or violence across the Afghan-Pakistan border. "We don't want to see it get worse," he said.

US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Olson visited the two countries over ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Kabul Calls for U.S to Step up Pressure on Islamabad

KABUL - As the standoff between Afghanistan and Pakistan continues over the Torkham gate issue, the Afghan government on Wednesday pushed for the U.S to put pressure on Islamabad to force Pakistan to step back and let diplomatic efforts resolve the dispute. Afghan government officials have asked Washington to

exert new pressure on Islamabad to change its border policy and to stop creating further tension. "The Americans have always supported the position of Afghanistan and we hope that this support will continue and increase. We hope that the problems which we have with our ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

NSC Slams Pakistan's Border Policy, Urges Diplomacy



KABUL - The National Security Council (NSC) on Wednesday slammed Pakistan's border violations at the Torkham gate and said it was against international laws. They have however called for a resolution to be found through diplomatic channels. They also praised the Afghan

Mohammad Khan Urges Peaceful End to Torkham Tension

KABUL - First deputy chief executive officer (CEO) Mohammad Khan on Tuesday stressed a peaceful resolution to the border tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan and asked Islamabad to ensure their forces respected international obligations. A statement from Khan's

office said the clash along the Durand Line was in no country's interest. He said Afghanistan wanted a peaceful co-existence with all its neighbours including Pakistan.

The deputy CEO urged all neighbouring countries to ensure their security forces adhered to ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Afghan Border Policeman Lost to Latest Border Skirmish

KABUL - One border policeman was killed and three others were wounded on Tuesday night when Afghan and Pakistan troops traded fresh fire across the frontier the Torkham, officials said. At least, two Afghan policemen and two civilians have lost their lives

to the border skirmishes, which have left 21 others wounded. The fire exchange has changed Torkham into a virtual ghost town.

Pakistan, which has vowed to build a border gate to contain terrorist movements, has also ...*(More on P4)...(16)*