

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 21°C 16°C	Ghazni Chance of Rain 13°C 5°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 19°C 12°C	Mazar Chance of Rain 12°C 7°C	Herat Cloudy 14°C 3°C	Bamayan Chance of Rain 7°C 1°C	Kabul Chance of Rain 12°C 8°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Afghans Have Collectively Paid \$4b in Bribes: SIGAR

KABUL - Individual Afghans have collectively paid \$4 billion in bribes to government officials, including judges, America's Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) John Sopko says. In a speech on "An Existential Threat: US Oversight of and Responses to Corruption in Afghanistan" at the University of Pittsburgh, he said SIGAR had been closely monitoring reconstruction efforts in the war-torn country. Wednesday's presentation focussed on how to train future generations of America's foreign-policy professionals to deal with complex problems in insecure environments. "This pervasive corruption poses a deadly threat to the entire US effort to rebuild Af-



ghanistan," Sopko remarked, saying Congress had appropriated more than \$113 billion to rebuild the country since 2002. But the reconstruction efforts were at risk because corruption had undermined government legitimacy, fueled the insurgency and sapped resources, the official explained. He alleged: "The United States failed to recognise that vast sums of money injected into the Afghan economy, with limited oversight and pressures to spend, created conditions for corruption." The culprits who had siphoned funds from aid and reconstruction projects included US military officers, enlisted personnel and federal civilians, Sopko noted, stressing the urgency of combating graft in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

Major Tension and Violent Clashes between Afghan and Syrians

PARIS - The Greek government aims to evacuate the informal refugees camps in Idomeni and Piraeus within the next 15 days. The climate in Idomeni, Chios and Piraeus is tense, as clashes between refugees are escalating on a daily basis. Aside from the violent clashes around the port of Piraeus on Wednesday evening, altercations were also documented in Idomeni. One photograph taken in Idomeni shows two men fighting, with one brandishing a knife. Although the confrontation ended quickly and nobody was injured, the shocking picture suggests that the makeshift camps are powder kegs. Clashes between Syrian and Afghan refugees were also documented early on Friday morning at the hot spot at Chalkio on Chios. A local news portal reported that knives were drawn and that two people involved in the clashes had to be hospitalized with serious injuries. The Alternate Minister of National Defense Dimitris Vitsas has underlined that the government aims to 'decongest' Piraeus and Idomeni within the next 15 days. In a radio interview for ERT, Mr. Vitsas explained that the refugees must be convinced to move and explained that the informal camps will gradually be evacuated. In a Tweet on Thursday, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras also underlined the need to convince the refugees who have gathered at Idomeni and Piraeus to trust the local authorities and move the hospitality centers. (Agencies)

1,300 New Orchards to be Established in Takhar this Year



TALOQAN - Up to 1,300 new orchards would be established during the current year in northern Takhar province, officials said on Thursday. The orchards will be set up with the help of NGOs in Farkhan, Warsij, Kalifgan, Chah-i-Aab, Rostaq, Dasht-i-Kala, Yangi Kala, Bangi and Baharak districts, as well as the provincial capital. Director of Agriculture Mohammad Salim Saeed, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "1,100 orchards will be established by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and 200 by NGOs at a cost of more than 10 million afghanis." In addition to fruit orchards, pistachio ... (More on P4)...(8)

Noor Responds Tit-for-Tat to Junbish Allegations

KABUL - Balkh Governor Atta Mohammad Noor on Thursday rejected allegations leveled against him by the Junbish-i-Milli Islami political party, accusing him of grasping all powers into his own hands in the northern province. Noor, while commenting about the allegations on his Facebook account, wrote: "Recently some baseless allegations have been leveled against me regarding the administration structure of Balkh province, which could be rejected after the release of these documents." Noor alleged Junbish party-led by First Vice President



Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum had taken all powers into its hand in some provinces. He further said: "As everyone knows Balkh is a province where remarkable development has taken place. The province has a peaceful environment where people from different ethnic groups are living peacefully and there is equal distribution of power and resources among different ethnic groups." Releasing names of key position holders in Balkh admin-

istration, Noor said the list was witness to the fact that every segment of the society had been given representation in the government. "This sort of equality cannot be seen in Jawzjan and Faryab provinces where both of the governors belong to Junbish-i-Milli Islami." Noor's spokesman Munir Ahmad Farhad said the purpose of Noor's comments was to clear people's minds regarding different allegations leveled against him in recent past. But Bashir Ahmad Tahyanj, spokesman of the Junbish party, in reaction to Noor's o ... (More on P4)...(9)

Hundreds Arrive in Parwan for Gul-i-Arghawan Festival



CHARIKAR - Hundreds of people on Thursday flocked to the Gul Ghundi park in the capital of Parwan province to enjoy Gul-i-Arghawan festival as part of the new Afghan year's celebrations. Media advisor to Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Hashmatullah Radfar, told a ceremony marking the festival that such celebrations sent a message of peace to the people. He said if people actively participated in such festivals, they would become more optimistic about future. Festivals like Gul-i-Arghawan, Anar Gul, Badam Gul, Sanjad Gul and Naranj Gul not only entertained people but connected them to each other, he said. Sonia Ghaznawi, who participated in the festival, asked the people to maintain the movement of happiness, love and national unity and think about peace in the country. "I came here to participate in the celebrations which represent the unity and harmony," she said. Wolesi Jirga member from Parwan Zakiya Sangin said Gul Ghundi valley was tourist spot especially in spring and needed more attention to be developed. (Pajhwok)

Tribes Should be Involved in Peace Parleys: Mangal

KABUL - Border and Tribal Affairs Minister Mohammad Gulab Mangal on Thursday said it would be difficult to maintain peace in the country by military means alone without tribes support. Mangal told reporters here instead military operations and establishment of military bases, it would be better if the government talked to tribal elders about peace in their areas. Peace could come if tribal elders and influential figures were consulted, he said, adding that "after military operations, security officials declare the targeted



area as cleared of militants, but they can't bring stability without local tribes cooperation." The minister said no issue could be resolved by using power and therefore it was needed to involve tribes in the peace talks. Afghanistan Tribal Councils Coordination Centre secretary Abdul Khaliq Husaini Pashae said they had prepared a draft in consultation with elders of tribal councils, Taliban and other opposition groups and they would hand over the draft to the o ... (More on P4)...(10)

NUG Failing to Fight Corruption, Bring About Peace: Critics

KABUL - The House of National Political Parties and Civil and Social Institutions on Thursday said at a press conference in Kabul that the National Unity Government's (NUG) efforts in the fight against corruption and the provision of security are not enough. A member of the organization said electoral commission members negligent in their duties to bring about reforms must be brought to justice. "The electoral commission members must be dismissed and must be prosecuted," said Mohammad Omar Ayar, a member of the House of National Political Parties and Civil and Social Institutions. During the press conference the members also criticized government's inability to bring about peace in the country. "Pakistan and its allies are not behind the peace [process] in Afghanistan, the government should have a clear stance for o ... (More on P4)...(11)

IS Fighters Flown to Ghazni By Helicopters: HPC Provincial Head

GHAZNI CITY - The members of provincial and peace councils on Friday claimed that Daesh, or so-called Islamic State (IS) has started recruiting fighters in southern Ghazni province. The acting provincial head of High Peace Council (HPC), Khalilullah Hotak, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Daesh offered good salary packages for the people who join the group. He claimed the insurgents were flown to Andar and Giru districts by helicopters. He urged the government to take immediate steps against IS fighters in the province. Member of provincial council, Amanullah Kamrani, said that the self-styled Daesh group had initiated constructing checkpoints in some areas to disrupt the security of the province. "The activities of Daesh fighters have been observed in Andar, Gilan and Giru districts of Ghazni. They want to influence on people and control the areas," he said. The IS fighters are equipped with sophisticated weapons, so the government should take urgent measures against the insurgent group otherwise it would be difficult for the security personnel to defeat them in later stage, he said. According to Kamrani, the o ... (More on P4)...(16)

Pakistan Never Wants Peace in Afghanistan: Daudzai

KABUL - Former interior minister Mohammad Omar Daudzai on Friday said Pakistan never wants to help in bringing peace to Afghanistan. Speaking at a commemorating ceremony of first death anniversary of Hikmatullah Haqmal, the former police chief of Grishk district in Helmand province, Daudzai said that Pakistan had never wanted to bring peace in Afghanistan and should not be expected to help in the regard. Haqmal was killed last year as a result of a roadside bombing in Grishk



district of Helmand province. The government and High Peace Council could not bring peace to the country without involving Afghan people in the peace talks, he said. Enemies ... (More on P4)...(12)

Work on Grishk-Lashkargah Road Launched



LASHKARGAH - Construction work on a 31.6-km Grishk-Lashkargah road was launched in southern Helmand province, officials said on Friday. The 31.6 kilometres long and seven

metres wide road would be constructed in two years at a cost of \$34 million funded by the World Bank (WB), the deputy public works minister told reporters. An Afghan and a Chineseo ... (More on P4)...(14)

Pakistan Asked to Ease Travel Restrictions for Afghan Citizens

PESHAWAR - Kabul has urged Islamabad to relax travel restrictions for Afghan citizens, especially women, children and patients entering Pakistan, a media report said on Thursday. At a meeting in the border town of Torkham on Wednesday, officials from both sides agreed no Afghan

would be allowed to travel to Pakistan without valid travel documents after April 30. The monthly flag meeting was attended by civil and military officials of Pakistan and Afghanistan to review border security arrangements, according to The News International.o ... (More on P4)...(13)

10.75-Km Road Constructed in Kunar

ASADABAD - A newly-constructed 10.75-kilometre road was inaugurated in the Narang district of eastern Kunar province on Thursday. More than 7,000 families in 15 villages of Badai valley would benefit from the road. "Our village had no road and people would take their goods by donkeys and mules," a resident of the valley,

Maulvi Zarbaz, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Most of the times, patients would die on their way to hospital before the construction of the road, he said. The 10.75-km road having a 1375-metre protection wall and four small bridges took one and a half years to complete at a cost of 47 million afghanis, o ... (More on P4)...(15)