

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Clear	<b>Bamayan</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Kabul</b>	Partly Cloudy
	26°C 14°C		17°C -3°C		27°C 11°C		24°C 14°C		26°C 11°C		8°C -2°C		19°C 7°C

Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

# Islamic State behind Kidnapping: Mohaqqiq

KABUL - Second Deputy Chief Executive Haji Muhammad Mohaqqiq said on Saturday the Islamic State group is responsible for kidnapping dozens of Shiite men and boys in February. Muhammad Mohaqqiq said two former Taliban leaders, who switched allegiance to the rival Islamic State group, were responsible for the abduction of 31 members of the minority Shiite Hazara community on Feb. 24 in southern Zabul province. He spoke with The Associated Press on Saturday. It is the first time an Afghan leader has confirmed Islamic State group involvement in the kidnappings.



Mohaqqiq named Mullah Abdullah Kaka and his deputy Mullah Mansur Dadullah as behind the abductions. Muhaqqiq says the two prominent Islamic militants have simply "changed their white flag" of the Taliban for the black IS flag. Afghan security forces had launched an operation to find the Hazaras in the week after the kidnappings, Mohaqqiq said, but the effort failed. The men have now been split up into three or four groups and were being held in different areas of the mountainous province, Mohaqqiq said. As far as he knew, ...*(More on P4)...*(7)

## 'High-Powered Body be Tasked to Investigate Khost Tragedy'



KHOST CITY - The governor office in the southeastern Khost province on Saturday demanded the central government to send a high-powered body to thoroughly investigate the latest suicide attack in the province. The death toll into the attack on Thursday in Khost province surged to 20 as two more tribal elders succumbed to injuries in hospital. Mubariz Zadran, spokesman for the acting governor, on Friday confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News that 20 persons were dead and the widely condemned bombing left another 64, most of them seriously wounded. ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

## MD-530 Helicopters to Officially Join AAF

KABUL - The McDonnell Douglas (MD-530) helicopters are set to officially join the Afghan Air Force (AAF) on coming Thursday. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said Saturday that the helicopters will enter service during a ceremony which is scheduled on Thursday, 9th of April. The capabilities of the Afghan Air Force (AAF) are expected to receive a boost with the addition of the helicopters. The Afghan Air Force received the first six Armed MD-530s last month with the NATO Train, Assist, Advise Command-Air and 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, saying that the armed MD-530s will increase the Afghan Air Force aerial fires capability. Armed Mi-17s and MD-530s give the Afghan Air Force six times the number of armed aircraft for ...*(More on P4)...*(13)

## Farkhanda's Murderers be Given Exemplary Punishment



JALALABAD - A number of enraged protesters took to the streets in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, and demanded the government to award exemplary punishment to those involved in the gruesome killing of Farkhanda. A mob beat Farkhanda to death on March 18 before setting her body on fire. She was accused of burning a copy of the holy Quran, a charge rejected by the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs. At least 47 people, including 19 policemen, have been held in connection with her ...*(More on P4)...*(10)

## Nangarhar Varsity Teachers Go on Strike

JALALABAD - The Nangarhar University lecturers on Saturday boycotted classes and vowed to continue the strike until their problems were resolved as gunmen took away their salaries, the chairman of the varsity lecturers said. Ajmal Safi said that university's teaching staff faced with multiple problems such as their meager stipend, security issues and residential issues. Shafiq Ullah Rahmani, another university's lecturer, confirmed the boycott



and said the decision was taken unanimously during the lecturers' meeting. ...*(More on P4)...*(9)

## Sherpao Reaffirms Honest Approach to Peace Talks

ISLAMABAD - In exclusive interview with TOLONews, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, the head of the Pakistani parliamentary committee dedicated to Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, assured that his country would utilize all available resources to persuade the Taliban

to enter into peace negotiations with the Afghan government. According to Sherpao, Islamabad has realized that stability in Afghanistan is in the best interests of Pakistan and the region, which, if true, would ...*(More on P4)...*(11)

## AIPA Receives Funds from USAID-FAIDA

KABUL - The Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA), which works within the framework of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has awarded a grant to Afghanistan's Insurance Personnel Association (AIPA). AIPA is a recently established association of Afghanistan's insurance companies which works towards building the capacity of insurance professionals and raises awareness about insurance. The Association consists of representatives from the Afghan National Insurance Company (www.anic.gov.af), Insurance Corporation of Afghanistan (www.icaaf.com), Insurance Group of Afghanistan (www.igoaf.com) and Afghan Global Insurance (www.afhanglobalinsurance.com). Financial ...*(More on P4)...*(12)

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