

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	33°C 17°C		21°C 7°C		32°C 14°C		31°C 18°C		33°C 17°C		14°C 4°C		24°C 11°C

Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

HPC Useless in Current Circumstances: Deputy CEO

KABUL - The first deputy chief executive officer on Saturday said there was no need for the High Peace Council (HPC) in the current circumstances. Eng. Mohammad Khan said the HPC, a government body tasked with negotiating peace with insurgents, had done nothing since the formation of the unity government six months ago. He said the body had not been involved in the ongoing peace efforts nor it was aware about details from the latest contacts in this regard. The deputy CEO said President Ashraf Ghani was taking forward the peace bid through his special representatives. Khan said the HPC had no importance in the ongoing peace efforts. The HPC ... (More on P4)...(7)



Khost Local Councils Play Vital Role in Education Boost

KUNDUZ CITY - As many as 250 local councils have been established in six districts of northern Kunduz province to support the education process, an official said. Education Director Mohammad Zahir Nazm said the



councils had an effective role in promotion of education in the war-affected province in recent years. Despite clashes, schools were functional and students attending classes, he added. He told Pajhwok Afghan News the councils spearheaded by tribal elders and locals had been tasked with ensuring security for schools in their respective areas and encouraging children towards education. Around 50 to 60 local councils have been established in each district to support education. The council members confirmed their role in promotion of education and security for schools was important. Enzar Gul, one of the council members from Dasht-i-Archi district, said their locality was insecure and there was the possibility of attacks on schools anytime. Gul Khan Zyarmal, the principal of Amir Mohammad Shaheed High School in ... (More on P4)...(11)

Six Camp Pendleton Marines Receive Medals for Bravery in Afghanistan



WASHINGTON - Six Marines from a Camp Pendleton-based special operations battalion received medals for bravery during a prolonged fight in Afghanistan in 2012. Gunnery Sgt. Brian Jacklin, 32, a native of Los Angeles, received the Navy Cross for "bold initiative and complete dedication to duty." The Navy Cross is the second-highest decoration for combat heroism to the Medal of Honor. Receiving the Bronze Star were: Gunnery Sgt. William Simpson IV, Staff Sgt. Christopher Buckminster, Staff Sgt. Hafeez Hussein, Sgt. William Hall, and Sgt. David Harris. The five displayed "courage and gallantry." All were part of the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion assigned to the Taliban stronghold of Helmand province. The unit was assisting the Army in clearing a village in the Upper Gereshek Valley when Taliban fighters attacked with superior numbers and firepower, according to the Marine Corps. With other Marines wounded, Jacklin took command, led a counter-attack and helped his team move through open terrain to establish a landing zone for a U.S. helicopter. Jacklin remained in the open, hurling grenades at the enemy. When his unit was relieved by another special operations unit, Jacklin stayed behind to provide intelligence and additional firepower. "Nothing is more awe-inspiring than to look on the faces of fellow operators surrounded by death [and see] the casual smile of confidence as they acknowledge that 'things will be what they will be. If this is how we die, let's do it right and honor our legacy.'" Jacklin told a gathering of Marines and guests at the award ceremony at Camp Pendleton. Jacklin was on his second deployment to Afghanistan, after three to Iraq. (Agencies)

Cultural Centre Inaugurated in Bamyan



BAMYAN - The residents on Saturday welcomed the construction of a cultural centre in the central Bamyan province, hoping the move would boost cultural and artistic activities in the area. The centre "culture and arts hub" would be house to many theatre performances, local music, poetry sessions and featuring of short films by Bamyan youth. Asadullah Rahnaward, head of the centre, said they would act as a bridge and coordinator between cultural, civil society and other artistic organizations. "There is more than 30 cultural organizations function in Bamyan province, but they have marred by lack of coordination. We felt it was necessary to bring these organizations together for exchange of knowledge and experience and to boost the cultural ... (More on P4)...(9)

Nimroz IDPs Demand More Aid, Assistance

ZARANJ - Thousands of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and those repatriated in Western Nimroz province on Saturday complained the aid provided by a United Arab Emirates (UAE) organization was not enough and the government should provide them with immediate assistance. Officials on Saturday said over the last one year, more than 2,000 families have returned from neighboring Iran and another thousand families have



been forced to take refuge in the province due to ongoing clashes in Farah and Helmand provinces. The aid distributed to these families included flour, ghee, blankets and some cereals. Amir Mohammad Akhundzada, Nimroz ... (More on P4)...(8)

Protesters Want Sar-I-Pul Security Improved

SAR-I-PUL CITY - Some civil society activists held a protest rally against growing insecurity, demanding security forces to bolster law and order in the province. The protesters demanded immediate release of 31 abducted passengers and asked the government to arrest and punish perpetrators involved in Farkhunda's brutal killing. Aziz Ahmad Rasouli, one of the protesters, said security



situation in Sar-i-Pul has been worsening by each passing day. It has been almost two months since the abduction of 31 passengers in Zabul and the government ... (More on P4)...(10)

Czech Airborne Unit Decorated for Afghan Service

Specialists spent four months training Afghan troops in helicopters



KABUL - A Czech military unit has worked for the past four months in Kabul, to train local pilots, gunners and technicians on the use of Mi-24 and Mi-35 helicopters. Specialists mainly from the 22nd Air Force Helicopter Base, deployed from Letiště Náměšť nad Oslavou near Sedlec in the Vysočina region, were led by Major Peter Sliva. The soldiers under his command were awarded the Medal for Foreign Service, and select soldiers received further decorations for honor and merit. Army Chief of Staff Petr Pavel, Deputy Chief of General Staff Jiri Baloun, Brigadier General Libor Stefánek and Deputy Defense Minister Tomáš Kuchta were among those taking part in the ceremony. Major Sliva received the Czech Defense Minister's Cross of Merit in the Third Degree. Sliva has flown more than 1,700 hours and has participated in three foreign operations - two in Afghanistan and one in the KFOR mission in Kosovo. "The work carried out by our advisory team is incredible and precise. Even other foreign participants highlight the quality of our team. In the framework of international cooperation they are a great showcase of professionalism," Deputy Defense Minister Kuchta said. General Pavel mentioned the difficulty of the task. "The Afghan environment is specific, soldiers often face challenging situations. In operation Resolute Support ... (More on P4)...(13)

Nangarhar Residents Demand Appointment of Governor

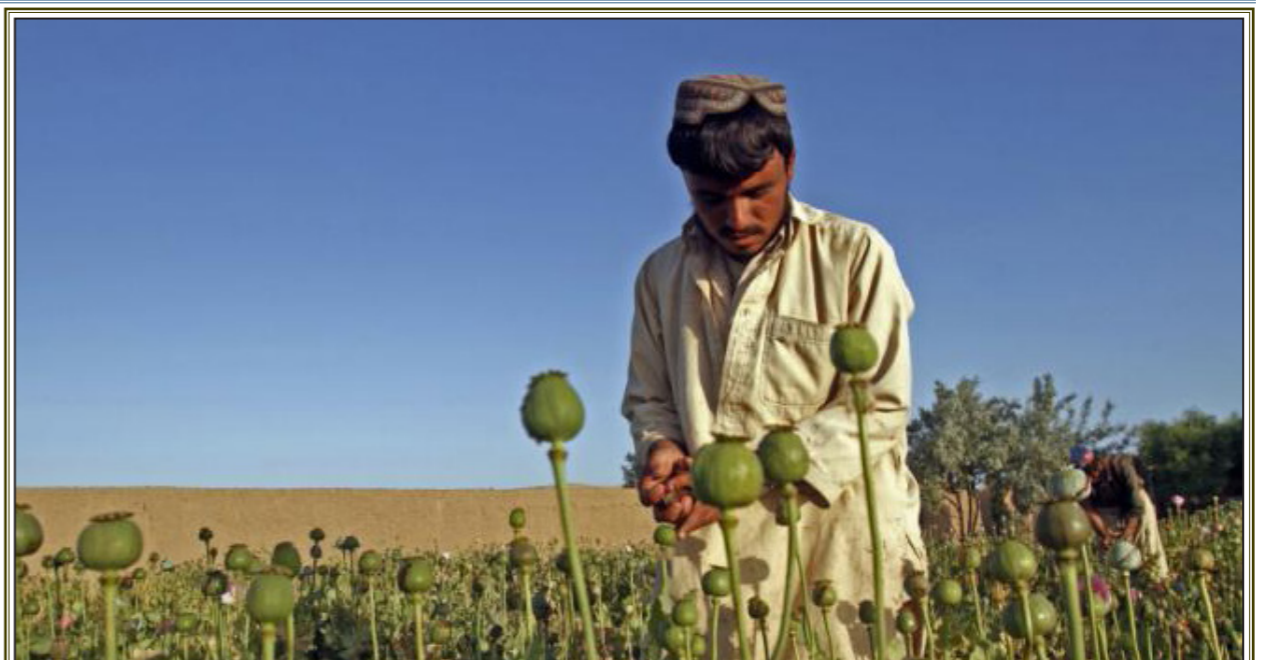
JALALABAD - Some Wolesi Jirga Members and tribal elders on Saturday demanded the government appoint new governor for eastern Nangarhar province in order to control growing incidents of insecurity. Earlier, former governor Maulvi Attaullah Ludin had resigned from his position in the wake of rampant corruption in some departments. Hazrat Ali, a Wolesi Jirga member,



told Pajhwok Afghan News that public representatives asked the government to appoint a competent governor who could control the deteriorating law and order. He accused the unity government for not doing enough to develop the eastern province. Abdul Rauf, ... (More on P4)...(12)

'ANA Soldier Involved in Nangarhar Shooting Had No Links with Rebels'

MEHTARLAM - Abdul Azim, the slain Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier, who shot dead one Resolute Support mission's service member in eastern Nangarhar province, had no links to any militants' group, his uncle said on Saturday. Azim opened fire on foreign soldiers inside the governor's office in Nangarhar province, killing one foreign troop and injuring eight others. In retaliatory fire, foreign soldiers shot Azim and another Afghan soldier dead while one ANA soldier wounded. Abdul Rahim, Azim uncle, told Pajhwok Afghan News he was buried in his hometown Ghaziabad in Alisheng district of eastern Laghman province on April 11. Thousands of people participated in his funeral prayers. He had ANA two years ago and before joining the army, ... (More on P4)...(14)



Afghan farmers collect raw opium as they work in a poppy field in the Zhari district of Kandahar, South of Kabul, on Saturday, April 11, 2015. There are reports of an increase in poppy cultivation across the country especially in the insecure southern and eastern provinces of the country. (AP Photo/Allauddin Khan)