

Jalalabad Clear 32°C 17°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 21°C 8°C	Kandahar Clear 32°C 14°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 27°C 17°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 31°C 16°C	Bamayan Chance of Rain 11°C 4°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 23°C 11°C
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Survey

Corruption Remains Endemic in Afghanistan

KABUL - A Pajhwok Afghan News survey shows administrative corruption remains endemic in Afghanistan particularly in the judiciary, customs offices, municipalities and police department. Most of individuals in the opinion poll said the graph of corruption had increased during the past one year. Some slammed government's response to corruption and others accused the national unity government of lacking a strong political will to eradicate the menace.



Over 50 percent of the respondents claimed to have witnessed events of corruption and they saw the culture of impunity behind the growing corruption. But 43 percent respondents hoped corruption would decline with the passage of time. Most of them de-

manded severe punishment for corrupt politicians and businessmen. It was The EU Delegation and Pajhwok first joint online survey on corruption, in which 1,038 individuals participated, with 32,900 persons receiving survey forms to add personal views about corruption. Of 32,900 individuals who received the survey forms, 668 were able to fill out them. Among them, 72 percent were less than 40-years-old. About 82 percent participants were male and five percent were women, the remaining ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Abdullah Leaves for Istanbul to Attend 13th OIC Summit

KABUL - At the head of a high-level delegation, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah on Wednesday left for Turkey to attend the 13th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Istanbul. The summit is scheduled for April 14-15 in Istanbul, the capital of Turkey, under the theme of "Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace". The summit agenda includes Palestine, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the overall situation in the Muslim world, combating terrorism and violent extremism, Islamophobia and the humanitarian situation in Islamic countries. A statement from his office said on behalf of the government in Kabul, Abdullah would explain the Afghanistan situation, problems in different areas in the region and challenges before the Islamic world. The CEO would request heads of



Islamic states participating in the summit to cooperate on combating terrorism in Afghanistan and the region at large, the statement said. Abdullah will meet the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) head, the Turkish president and leaders of other Islamic countries on the sidelines of the summit on the current situation in Afghanistan. *(Pajhwok)*

Ghani Aide Warns Anti-Peace Rebels of Decisive Action

KABUL - The Presidential Palace on Wednesday welcomed the Hezbi-Islamic Afghanistan (HIA) participation in talks, saying the security forces would continue fighting against the militants opposed to the peace process. Dawa Khan Minapal, deputy spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani, told reporters in Kabul the government had preferred Islamic and Afghan values in inviting the Taliban to peace negotiations - a move that also supported by foreigners. But the militants continued kill-



ing Afghans, he regretted. "We are ready to enforce Allah's order that allows fighting against those who are fighting against you...Allah does not like oppressors." He said the ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

183 Rebels Killed in Operation Shafaq, Commander Claims

KUNDUZ CITY - More than 180 militants have been killed and 170 others wounded during military offensive codenamed Shafaq, and official said on Wednesday. Afghan security forces launched the countrywide counter-insurgency operation at the beginning of current solar year. Brig. Gen. Mohiuddin Ghori, commander of the 20th Pamiir Unit in northeastern Afghanistan, told reporters the offensive had yielded effective results in Kunduz province. He said the operation was underway in Tulka-2 locality on the



outskirts of Kunduz City, while Alchin and Tulka-1 areas had been purged of insurgents. Seven tanks and militant hideouts were destroyed in Dasht-i-Arch and Kunduz City. The ongoing offensive would continue till fall, the commander

promised, admitting the pace of the operation had been slow due to landmines and extraordinary caution to prevent civilian casualties. Enayatullah Khaliq, a civil society activist, claimed more than 2,000 families had been displaced as ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

'Rebels Make Investment in Anti-Govt Propaganda'

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - A military commander in northern Balkh province on Wednesday claimed the Taliban had made investment in propaganda against the government and some people were assisting them. Gen. Abdul Hamid Hamid, the 209th Shaheen Military Corps commander, said the rebels through their propaganda wanted create anxiety among people. Hamid said security forces' fighting tactics had improved and hoped all insurgent groups would be subdued in 2016 in the western zone. He said the security forces had been equipped and the Afghan Air Force strengthened and international allies had also pledged more assistance to the air force. He said calling the launch of the Taliban's spring offensive as propaganda, saying security forces were ready to ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

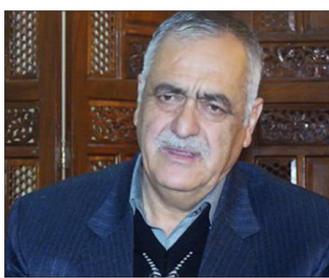
Zazai, Turi Tribes Agree to Join Hands against Daesh

PESHAWAR - Tribal elders from Paktia province and Pakistan's tribal region of Kurram Agency have agreed to join hands against the Islamic State and its affiliates. Elders from Zazai and Turi tribes are said to be holding talks on confidence-building steps to ward off threats from Daesh and other rebel outfits in their areas, a Pakistani newspaper reported. At a meeting near the Borki village of Kurram Agency, the tribes discussed the situation resulting from the regrouping of militants affiliated with Daesh, Dawn said. The elders are believed to have discussed the recent kidnapping of four residents of Kurram Agency. IS-linked militants have allegedly sought a Rs20 million ransom for the men's release. Kurram borders Khost, Paktia and Nangarhar provinces. ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Govt. Blasted for 'Weak Performance' in Fight Against Corruption

KABUL - The High Office of Anti-Corruption described the government's anti-corruption efforts as weak during the first year of its work, but said there was a slight improvement during the second year. The Director General of the High Office of Anti-Corruption, Ghulam Hussain Fakhri, stressed that corrupt individuals should be identified and brought to justice. "Due to the election crisis and other problems, the government's stance against corrup-

tion was weak during its first year of work. However, in the middle of the second year they noticed this flaw and a number of decrees were issued and in its latest step the government established the high council to fight corruption," he said. It has been a year and half since the formation of the National Unity Government (NUG) and people are still waiting for government to deliver on their promises and ...*(More on P4)...(9)*



Asila Wardak Elected as OIC Human Rights Commissioner

KABUL - An Afghan woman has been elected as a member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Wednesday. Asila Wardak received the most votes among the candidates from Asia, Africa and the Middle East during the election for OIC human rights

commissioners. She is the first woman from Afghanistan to be appointed to the OIC commission. The 13th meeting of the OIC began in Istanbul kicked off on Sunday and will continue until Friday. The two-day meeting of foreign ministers from member countries concludes today. Heads of OIC states will meet on Thursday and Friday. Asila Wardak received her bachelor's degree in the field of

agricultural economy from the Kabul University before doing her master's in international relations and diplomacy from the New Jersey University. She has been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul for the past seven years as head of human rights and international women's affairs, as well as deputy permanent representative to the UN. *(Pajhwok)*

Taliban Offensives Fail as 13 Militants Killed: Police

ASADABAD - Taliban group as part of its yearly spring offensive launched coordinated attacks on several districts of Kunar province Wednesday morning but fled the area after leaving 13 bodies behind, provincial police chief Abdul Habib Sayedkhalil said. "Taliban fighters launched coordinated attacks on security checkpoints in Shigal, Ghazi Abad, Marawara and Sarkano districts at 04:00 a.m. local time today triggering gun battle



but fled away after suffering 13 dead and leaving the bodies behind on the ground," Sayedkhalil told Xinhua. About 17 more

militants have been injured in the fighting lasted for few hours, the official asserted. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Helmand Clerics, Elders Renew Support for Afghan Forces

LASHKARGAH - Religious scholars and tribal elders on Wednesday voiced their support for the Afghan security forces in opium-rich southern Helmand province, calling on the insurgents to reconcile. Attending a gathering in Lashkargah, the provincial capital, the clerics and elders said they strongly supported the Afghan security forces. "In this regard, we have discharged our responsibility to some extent. We have encouraged many youth to join the national security forces, and this process is still ongoing," top cleric in Helmand, Maulvi Khuai Nazar, told the gathering. He said the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan had no justification and all the Afghans were required to join hands to stop the war, asking the Taliban to join the government-initiated peace process. Another religious scholar, Maulvi Mahar Dil, said war was not a solution and the Taliban should not sacrifice themselves for the goals of others and should shun violence. He also ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

MoFA Employees Donated 41,000 cc of Blood to MoPH Blood Bank

KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) workers donated 41,000 cc of blood to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) blood bank Wednesday. According to MoFA, this is the second time the Ministry employees are donating blood to MoPH blood bank in a bid to help the families and citizens requiring blood. The campaign for blood donation is launched as the country is facing growing violence as a result of the Taliban-led insurgency that leaves dozens of civilians dead or wounded. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released its report of civilian casualties in mid February this year, stating that 2015 had highest number of civilian casualties in seven years. UNAMA documented 11,002 civilian casualties (3,545 deaths and 7,457 injured) in 2015, exceeding the previous record levels of civilian casualties that occurred in 2014. The latest figures by UN showed an overall increase of four per cent during 2015 in total civilian casualties from the previous year. According to ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Militants Kidnap Dozens of Passengers in Faryab

MAIMANA CITY - Gunmen on Wednesday kidnapped dozens



of passengers from at least four vehicles on a major highway in northern Faryab province, officials said. A security official, wishing anonymity, Pajhwok Afghan News the passengers were snatched from a 404 public transport bus and three corolla cars on the Mazari-i-Sharif-Maimana highway. He said the passengers were travelling to Maimana city, Faryab's ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Work Launched on Bridge, Road Projects in Kapisa

MAHMOOD RAQI - Construction work on separate roads measuring 21.5 kilometres and a large bridge has been launched in central Kapisa province, an official said on Wednesday. Qais Qaderi, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News a 14-km road in Kohistan-1, a 5-km road in the provincial capital, Mahmood Raqi, and a 2.5-km road in Kohistan-2 districts were being constructed. A 140-metre long bridge on the Panjsher River was also being constructed in Kohistan-2 district to replace a wood-made bridge, he said. He said the bridge and the roads would help connect Kapisa's transit route with Parwan and Panjsher ...*(More on P4)...(16)*