

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Bamayan</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	33°C 16°C		23°C 10°C		33°C 14°C		32°C 17°C		31°C 14°C		18°C 4°C		22°C 7°C

**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Kabul Makes Headway in Anti-Corruption Fight: UN

KABUL - Afghanistan authorities have made headway in their fight against corruption while enormous challenges remain, the United Nations said in a new report released on Tuesday.

"For the sake of the country's future, corruption in Afghanistan must be addressed and eliminated," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

In a statement from his office, the UN top diplomat said the world's body welcomed the progress already made. He said they fully supported the Afghan government's ongoing efforts at fighting corruption in the interest of ending impunity, ensuring accountability and transparency, and restoring integrity to the management of public services, finances and natural resources.

In the report, titled 'Afghanistan's Fight Against Corruption: The Other Battlefield,' the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) highlighted the progress the country had made in addressing corruption. The report draws on internationally recognized best practices to provide recommendations for how the government, with the continued support of



the public and the international community, can build on those achievements.

"It is my sincere hope that the progress made so far in the fight against corruption and the recommendations contained in our report will serve as a platform to achieve greater policy coherence and coordination in Afghanistan," said the UN envoy.

The report, which was circulated to Afghan ministries and the judiciary for input and endorsement prior to release, points out that corruption has affected all aspects of life in Afghanistan.

The menace has undermined public trust and confidence in government institutions and hindered efforts to bring lasting peace and prosperity to the country.

The report called the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre (ACJC) ... (More on P4)... (8)

## Wardak Takes Charge as Parliamentary Affairs Minister



KABUL - Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish on Tuesday introduced Ghulam Farooq Wardak as state minister for parliamentary affairs.

Danish told a ceremony aimed at introducing Wardak and the acting defence minister and army chief, handling relations and coordination between the three pillars of the state -- executive, judiciary and legislature -- was part of duty of the State Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

The second VP said close relationship existed between the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the three pillars of the state, adding the ministry's role from political and legal viewpoint was vital and crucial in resolving problems.

According to him, with the takeover of the new minister, relations between the three branches of the government would be adjusted in an accurate and disciplined manner under the framework of the Constitution. Wardak promised... (More on P4)... (9)

## EU, UN Launch 3-Year Anti-Terrorism Program in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Tuesday launched a three-year technical assistance program to strengthen the criminal justice response in Pakistan to counter terrorism, officials said.

The EU and UNODC officials said the Pakistan Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) program, which was launched at a ceremony in Islamabad, is aimed at supporting the efforts of government of Pakistan to counter the threats of terrorism.

The EU will provide the financial support of 7 million euros (7.61 million U.S. dollars), a statement from the UN office in Islamabad said.

The project will improve the investigative processes and promote the use of forensic evidence during the prosecution stages of terrorism related cases. It will also strengthen the coordination between the terrorism-hit northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home Department, Police and Prosecution, the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police.

"More than ever there is a need for strong international collaboration to counter terrorism. Counter terrorism will remain a top priority in the EU's security dialogue with Pakistan and the PACT is a logical next step in this longstanding solid partnership," said Jean-François Cautain, EU Ambassador to Pakistan in his remarks.

The UNODC Country Representative Cesar Guedes said "UNODC has been collaborating with the government of Pakistan for ... (More on P4)... (12)

## President Asked to Purge Armed Forces of Corruption

KANDAHAR CITY - Tens of youth in southern Kandahar province on have organised a ceremony in remembrance of more than a hundred soldiers killed in northern Balkh province. The Holy Quran was recited and candles lit.

The participants held placards inscribed with different slogans like "Attack on the Afghan National Army (ANA) is attack on the prestige of Afghanistan, the killing of soldiers amounts to destroying your own house and a strong army is a symbol of an honourable nation."

The youth urged the president to stop the type of corruption that resulted in the killing of ANA soldiers, free the armed forces from mafia group and appoint honest individuals to senior posts.

Religious scholar and social activist Abdul Ghafoor Peroz told Pajhwok Afghan News the attack on the armed forces in Balkh province was unjustifiable and against the Islamic teachings on peace and human values.

He alleged individuals within the government paved the way for such attacks. Peroz called for exposing such individuals awarding them exemplary punishment.

Kandahar University teacher Mohammad Shoab Wahdat said the president had pledged to reform the security sector and make the armed forces apolitical. Over a hundred troops were killed and scores wounded in Friday's attack on Shaheen Military Corps in Balkh province. (Pajhwok)

## Noor Says Afghans Trapped Between Taliban and Daesh

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - The governor of northern Balkh province, Atta Mohammad Noor, on Tuesday said the Afghans were trapped between two atrocities -- the Taliban and Daesh.

Addressing a huge gathering in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, Noor claimed the Taliban took orders from 'a country' which itself was corrupt.

However, he did not name the country. The gathering was held to condemn Friday's attack on the 209



Shaheen Military headquarters, in which more than 100 troops were killed and several others wounded.

The Balkh governor said the Taliban had befriended a country not ruled by Islamic law. He said the country was 'a servant to former British and current colonizers'.

About religious scholars across the Durand Line, he said they had declared jihad as legitimate in Afghanistan, but were tightlipped about prostitution dens and pornographic ... (More on P4)... (10)

## Groundwater Level Down By 15 Metres in Kandahar

KANDAHAR CITY - The groundwater level has gone down by 15 meters as a result of illegal digging of deep wells in southern Kandahar province, local officials said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Nader Kakar, water supply and canalisation director, told Pajhwok Afghan News water supply had been affected in the past one decade as a result of unlawful drilling and digging of deep wells. He said the groundwater level had declined by 15 metres and most of the wells in Kandahar City had dried up, causing serious problems. If water was not saved and illegal drilling not stopped, people would face serious problems, he warned.

Kakar added his department had devised a plan to spread awareness among the people about securing water and get permission for drilling. "We would no longer allow anyone to dig up wells near water supply schemes." Agriculture and Livestock Director Syed Hafizullah Saedi ... (More on P4)... (11)

## Some Badakhshan Officials Involved in Drug Trade: Begzad

FAIZABAD - The governor of northeastern Badakhshan province on Tuesday said irresponsible armed men and some government officials were involved in drug smuggling and even used military vehicles for that purpose.

Ahmad Faisal Begzad, while inaugurating a counternarcotics campaign, accused Pakistan of trying for years to promote poppy cultivation for undermining security in the country.

He said farmers were not involved in cultivation and drug smuggling because they lacked the ability to do so. Irresponsible gunmen and some security officials were complicit in smuggling of drugs and even using military vehicles for that.

The governor said 7kg of heroin was recovered from an army Humvee tank in Kesham district recently. "If police stop cooperating with smugglers, illegal gunmen and framers cannot cultivate and smuggle poppy in any way. We want police to prevent poppy cultivation in Badakhshan."

The governor said President Ghani had ordered a strict fight against poppy and district chiefs' performance was linked to poppy eradication in their respective areas.

The anti-poppy campaign is participated by heads of government departments, district chiefs and religious scholars.

Qaid Afandi, head of the provincial counter narcotics department, ... (More on P4)... (13)

## US to Engage with Russia on Arms Supply to Taliban

KABUL - Russia is providing weapons to Taliban insurgents, alleges commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Earlier in the week, the Russian ambassador to Afghanistan said their contacts are limited to boosting security and persuading the rebels to enter talks with the government.

Gen John Nicholson told reporters at a news conference in Kabul on Monday he would "not refute" that Moscow's involvement included supplying arms to the rebels.

In response to the query if Russia was sending weapons to the insurgent movement, the US general replied: "Oh, no, I



am not refuting that."

US Defense Secretary James Mattis, who was also present during the press briefing at Resolute Support headquarters in Kabul, said America must confront Russia over its actions in Afghanistan.

Mattis said: "We'll engage with Russia diplomatically. We'll do so where we can, but ... (More on P4)... (14)

## US Military Faces 'Unending Combat' in Afghanistan: Soufan

WASHINGTON - The report by the private intelligence firm Soufan Group showed that the US now faces the difficult reality of an unending combat commitment in Afghanistan to bolster local authorities that has not won the support of its own people, and has not been able to take and hold territory from the Taliban for more than a decade.

A successful Taliban attack that killed as many as 160 Afghan soldiers at a military base earlier this week illustrates a quagmire for US forces that is likely to grow worse despite planned increases in US troops in Afghanistan, according to a report by the private intelligence firm Soufan Group on Tuesday.

"The US now faces the difficult reality of an unending combat commitment in Afghanistan to bolster a partner that has not won the support of its own people, and has not been able to take and hold territory from the Taliban for more than a decade," the report stated. The report highlighted overly-optimistic US status reports, which continually claim "the next year would be 'the key year' in turning around a failing effort." Additionally, the report places much, if not all, of the blame on the Afghan government's inability to govern effectively, rampant corruption at all levels, poor military ... (More on P4)... (16)

## Senators Welcome Hekmatyar Home after Decades

KABUL - Some Mesharano Jirga members on Tuesday welcomed Gulbadin Hekmatyar's arrival in eastern Nangarhar province and asked the government to implement the peace deal with the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) in its true spirit.

Earlier Pajhwok had reported that Hekmatyar arrived in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, on Monday. Having spent decades in hiding, the former prime minister would be soon among his supporters, a reliable government official said. HIA security



guards and senior leaders met Hekmatyar in a government-owned building, the source confided to Pajhwok Afghan News. Hekmatyar would stay in Jalalabad for a few days before arriving in Kabul, said the official, who did not give further details.

Rahmatullah Achakzai, a lawmaker from Kandahar ... (More on P4)... (15)