

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 34°C 25°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 28°C 17°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 40°C 24°C	<b>Mazar</b> Clear 41°C 29°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 38°C 22°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy 22°C 10°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 31°C 19°C
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# 100,000 Mosques Being Registered: Minister

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Hajj and Auqaf Minister Faiz Mohammad Osmani on Sunday said about 100,000 mosques needed to be registered across the country. Osmani, who inaugurated the newly-constructed hajj centre in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, told reporters a total of 150,000 mosques existed in the country. He said the registration of mosques was common in Islamic countries and all mosques in Afghanistan



should be registered with the government. Of the total mosques, the minister said, only 50,000 mosques had been registered with the Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs. He informed the process to register unregistered mosques would be launched in the near future. He said the move would revive relations between religious scholars and the government in remote areas. The minister said he visited Balkh ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

## Taliban New Leader Appeals for Unity in Ranks

KABUL - The Afghan Taliban's new leader, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, has appealed for unity in the insurgency and has asked the rebels to end their internal differences. The Taliban through a statement had confirmed their supreme leader Mullah Omar died of sickness some time ago. However, it remains unclear when the founder of Taliban movement died. The Afghan government had claimed Mullah Omar died in Pakistani port city of Kara-



chi in a hospital two or three years ago. But the Taliban had said Mullah Omar never visited Pakistan even for a single day. At a gathering on Thursday, the Taliban chose Mullah Mohammad Akhtar Mansour as Mullah Omar's ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

## Hundreds Migrants Caught Attempting to Sneak Onto Lesbos



ANKARA - Over 600 illegal migrants were detained by Turkish authorities in west Turkey as they attempted to sneak into Europe by way of the Greek Island of Lesbos, while another 50 were rescued after their boat sank while they attempted to sneak onto the Greek island of Kos. Hundreds of Syrian, Afghan migrants caught attempting to sneak onto Lesbos

Coast Guard units on routine patrol off the coast of Ayvalik in Turkey's northwestern PROVINCE of Balikesir apprehended 400 illegal migrants on inflatable BOAT-S attempting to sneak onto the Greek island of Lesbos, only 10 kilometers from the Turkish mainland. The 400 Syrian and Afghan migrants were brought to the Maritime Command station on ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Talks with Taliban a Futile Exercise: ASP



KABUL - Terming peace talks with Taliban wastage of time, the Afghanistan Solidarity Party (ASP) on Sunday vehemently condemned the militants group and their agenda. The first round of face-to-face talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government was held in Islamabad last month. Both sides agreed to hold second round of talks, however, it was delayed following the death of Taliban's leader Mullah Muhammad Omar.

In a gathering organized in the Shahr-i-Naw Park in Kabul, the workers of ASP condemned the policies of Taliban and dubbed its slain leader as traitor. Selai Ghaffar, the party spokeswoman, accused the government and Taliban for bloodshed in the country. She blamed officials for providing weapons to former commanders and ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Gen. Rainey Assumes 3ID Command, US National Support Element

CHARIKAR - Maj. Gen. James Rainey assumed command of the U.S. National Support Element - Afghanistan and duties as the U.S. Forces Afghanistan, Deputy Commanding General - Support from Maj. Gen. Mike Murray during a change of command ceremony on Sunday in the Bagram in central Parwan province. A statement from the USFOR said that Rainey, who previously served as the commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School, U.S. Army Maneuver Center of

Excellence, Fort Benning, Ga., will also assume command of the 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Stewart, Fort Benning, and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. In Afghanistan, he will also serve as the commander, Bagram Airfield, and commander, Joint Task Force 3. "Today marks an important change in our leadership of one of our Army's most famed divisions," Gen. John Campbell, commander, Resolute Support mission and U.S. Forces - Afghanistan, said. "And also a very historic ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Increasing Dowry Forces Young Afghans to Travel to Iran

TALOQAN - Scores of northern Takhar residents says that a sharp increase in dowry force many young people to travel to Iran for work where they become addicted instead. Siraj-u-din 35, a resident of the locality, told Pajhwok Afghan News that young people mostly travelled to Iran to earn dowry and other wedding expenses but mostly they returned back as drug addicted. "I wish to get married soon but dowry and heavy wedding expenses have halted my plan," he said, adding his families proposed several girls for me in last few years but due to heavy dowry it could not be materialized. "Every family we propose demands five or six lac Afghanis as a dowry while I can't afford this amount along with other wedding expenses," he added. He was a university graduate and was government employee but still could not afford wedding expenses. Rahimullah, another resident, said: "Single and married men travel to Iran to earn money. The unmarried men travel to earn money and get married where as the married men travel to earn money and pay off their debts which they had borrowed ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

should be registered with the government. Of the total mosques, the minister said, only 50,000 mosques had been registered with the Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs. He informed the process to register unregistered mosques would be launched in the near future. He said the move would revive relations between religious scholars and the government in remote areas. The minister said he visited Balkh ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

## Minister of Defense

# Afghanistan to Respond Pakistan's Missiles Attacks

KABUL - Afghanistan will respond Pakistani rocket attacks, Acting Minister of Defense said on Sunday at the graduation ceremony of ANA officers in Kabul Military Training Center. He called Pakistani military actions along the border with Afghanistan a childish game. Pakistani army launched rocket attacks over Kunar, Nangarhar and Paktika provinces after several months of pauses. Masoom Stanekzai said. "We will respond the same if we get attacked."



Stanekzai pointed to Mullah Omar dead and said this revealed the fact that Taliban

has been used by foreigners and have been deceived in Afghanistan's conflict by others.

Stanekzai added they were cheated, directed to join Jihad, those brothers whom were cheated now have to think that who has guided them into that direction. At the same time a senate member believes that Taliban is fighting Pakistan's proxy war in Afghanistan. Zabuli declared said, "Pakistan is enjoying Afghanistan's war therefore, insurgents are being used as Tools of war, our message is to National Unity Government leaders is that peace talks with Pakistan doesn't ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## 50 Kunduz Schools Reopen After Improvement in Security

KUNDUZ CITY - As many as 50 schools closed in the Chardara, Aliabad, Dasht-i-Archi and Gurtapa districts of northern Kunduz province have been reopened after marked improvement in security situation, an official said on Sunday. Abdul Karim Wahdat, a senior official at the education department, told Pajhwok Afghan News as many as 500 students were deprived of education due to closure of the schools. He said the schools had been reopened following mediation by tribal elders, which had paved way for the students to



appear in the midterm examinations. According to Wahdat, the schools in the areas under Taliban's control had also been reopened after hectic efforts by local elders. The officials lamented that insecurity left negative impact on the

education sector. Masuma, a student of girls' school, said she stopped attending the school after a clash erupted in the area. She said her family fled to safer place and settled in Kunduz City, the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

## Lashkargah Mayor Accused of Corruption

LASHKARGAH - The provincial council (PC) chief for southern Helmand province on Sunday accused the mayor of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, and some other municipality officials of corruption and land-grabbing. Mohammad Karim Atal leveled these allegations at a press conference here, saying corruption and land-grabbing had become a routine practice in the municipality with its officials illegally selling markets, houses and shops. He alleged same residential plots had been sold to two or three different persons and agricultural lands sold to ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## 64 Militants Killed in Security Operations: MoI



KABUL - 64 insurgents have been killed in newest security operations across the country, the Ministry of Interior announced on Sunday morning. A statement issued by the ministry states that the operations were carried out in Logar, Ghazni, Khost, Herat, Takhar, Faryab, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan province in past 24 hours. 64 militants were killed and 52 wounded during these operations, the statement adds. It further states that security

forces also unearthed and defused 15 different types of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the operations. IED are considered 2nd biggest cause of the civilian casualties in Afghan war. Two civilians lost lives and three others sustained injuries in an IED explosion in southern Afghanistan yesterday. The blast took place when a civilian 'Town Ace' VEHICLE was passing through Shor Shorak area in Marjah District of Helmand province. (KP)

## Civil Society Activists Protest against Taliban in Kabul



KABUL - Dozens of civil society activists took to the streets of Kabul on Sunday in protest against the militant group of Taliban. Protesters were carrying banners with different slogans condemning Taliban attacks and the organization's existence. Protesters were carrying banners mocking the late Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar. A turban was drawn on the head of Mullah Omar made of the US flag. "Mullah Omar was a stooge of US and Pak Governments

and perpetrator of these crimes!" a slogan read. Another banner was reading a slogan seeking prosecution for Taliban. "Mullah Omar and his crime partners must be prosecuted a thousand times for destroying of Buddha Statues!" the slogan read. The protesters were shouting slogans saying that any deal with the group is betrayal to the nation. Taliban role play Protesters also displayed a role play purportedly showing the Taliban regime. (KP)

## Kunar Flood-Affected Families Receive Aid

ASADABAD - About 142 families affected by recent floods were on Sunday distributed food and non-food items in eastern Kunar province, an official said. The floods triggered by heavy rains hit Narai, Chapa Dara, Sarkano, Khas Kunar, Narang, Ghazibad, Asmar, Shegal and Watapur districts, according to local officials. The relief goods distributed among affected families had been delivered by the World Food Program and other non-governmental charity organizations, said Kunar Governor Wahidullah Kalinzai. The ...*(More on P4)...(14)*