

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 37°C 26°C	Ghazni Clear 32°C 16°C	Kandahar Clear 39°C 23°C	Mazar Clear 35°C 23°C	Herat Clear 35°C 18°C	Bamayan Clear 25°C 10°C	Kabul Clear 33°C 18°C
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Abdul Hai Mutmain Mullah Mansour to Remain Taliban's Supreme Leader

KABUL - After reports of rifts within the Taliban leadership over the appointment of Mullah Mohammad Mansour as the Emir of the group, Mullah Abdul Hai Mutmain, a senior Taliban political advisor and former spokesman for Mullah Mohammad Omar has made it clear that the decision is not going to be reversed. Mullah Abdul Hai Mutmain has told Pakistan's The Express Tribune news that Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour was elected by a clear majority of the leaders and that he is not going to be removed from the position if a few figures oppose him



adding that the opposition is aimed at sabotaging system. "The 'Amirul Momineen' (leader of the faithful) has been elected with a clear majority at a very sensitive time, and opposition to his election is aimed at sabotaging the system as there is no possible alternative, "The opinion of Mujahideen and those who had an active role during the resistance and are uninfluenced is credible and they are united on the election [of Mullah Mansour]. A few people who have been misled by someone will oppose the new leader," ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

71 Rebels Perish in Ongoing Nangarhar Offensive



JALALABAD - At least 71 insurgents have been killed, 38 others wounded and 83 landmines recovered during an ongoing offensive in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Monday. The military offensive code-named Iron Triangular had been launched in the Khog-

yani, Sherzad and Hisarak districts by Afghan National Army (ANA). The Governor Spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai told Pajhwok Afghan News various issues pertaining to security had been discussed in a weekly meeting chaired by the ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Protesters Want Shah Shaheed Carnage Thoroughly Investigated



KABUL - Claiming that the Shah Shaheed incident was not suicide bombing but an airstrike, dozens of protesters on Monday demanded the government thoroughly investigate the carnage and inform the nation about its findings. However, earlier security forces said the incident took place due to vehicle bombing in the locality. Some media outlets also released CCTV footages, showing an explosive-laden truck ex-

ploded in the area. At least 15 civilians were killed and nearly 500 wounded in the widely condemned blast. A market has also been destroyed and hundreds of houses damaged. Around 200 residents of the area along with some wounded held big protest demonstration near the third road of Shah Shaheed against the attack. Mohammad Zahir, a protester, claimed the Friday's night explosion ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Protesters Demand Khak-I-Safid District Chief Sacked

FARAH - Dozens of enraged protesters in Khak-i-Safid district of western Farah province on Monday claimed the district chief and his guards barged into a local's house killing two people and wounding nine others. Around 100 residents of Khoshk Aba village gathered in front of UNAMA's office in Farah city, demanding the district chief immediate removal. Noor-ul-Haq Amini, a local elder from the district, said three

days back the district chief's uncle had been abducted and he thought residents of Khoshkaba village had hand in the abduction. Without any evidence, he said, the district chief had entered the village along with his men firing on ordinary people. As a result, he claimed nine residents were wounded. Amini said on the same day, the district chief and his guards had raided a funeral ceremony, taking ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Five Dead, 16 Injured in Suicide Car Bombing



KABUL - A suspected suicide car bomber detonated his explosives just after 12 noon on Monday at the busy traffic circle leading to the first checkpoint at Hamid Karzai International Airport, killing at least five people and injuring 16, including two children. Kabul Police Chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi has confirmed the casualty figures and said among the injured is a woman. The target was reportedly a foreign convoy, said eyewitnesses. Najibullah Dan-

ish, deputy spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior, earlier confirmed that civilians and security force members had been killed but no details were given. The injured have been transferred to hospitals he added. "Unfortunately the attack happened in a crowded area," he said. An investigation will be launched into the incident, he added. TOLONews reporter Sharif Amiri at the scene says security forces and emergency services ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Iran Condemns Terrorist Attack in Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Marziyeh Afkham on Sunday strongly condemned the Friday terrorist attack in Kabul which killed over a dozen people. At least 15 people were killed and over 400 others were wounded in the Friday's deadly truck bomb blast in Afghanistan's capital. "The recent terrorist attack in Kabul showed that terrorism will do anything to achieve its inhumane and heinous objectives," Afkham said. She extended Iran's condolences to the Afghan government and nation, and expressed sympathy for the bereaved families of the victims of the terrorist attack. "The Islamic Republic of Iran sees terrorism as a common enemy of all countries and accordingly voices its readiness to confront this common threat at regional and international levels." On Friday, Spokesman for the ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Taliban Extort Money, Recruit Residents in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - The residents of Dasht-i-Archi district in northern Kunduz province said Taliban were forcing residents to join their ranks and extorting money from the inhabitants of the district. The residents are fed-up of fighting and the atrocities being committed by the Taliban, Rahmatullah, a resident of Qarlaq village, said, adding that Taliban entered a mosque and asked people to give them money. He said the residents were poor and did not have the resources to pay Taliban. Dasht-i-Archi district had fallen to Taliban one and a half month. Another resident of the area wishing anonymity said that Taliban forced him to send his son for fighting among their ranks against government forces and warned of grave consequences. Nasruddin Saadi, the district administrative chief, confirmed Taliban harassing people and recruiting them to fight the government. (Pajhwok)

Fazal Hadi Muslimyar Afghanistan Caught in Vicious Circle of Global Terror

KABUL - Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar has said Afghanistan is in grip of vicious circle of international terrorism and regional intelligence agencies fomenting the fight in which innocent Afghans are being killed. The chairman of the upper house of parliament or Mesharano Jirga expressed these views during inauguration ceremony of media expo here on Sunday. At least 50 persons have been killed and over 500 wounded in series of suicide bombings in capital Kabul.

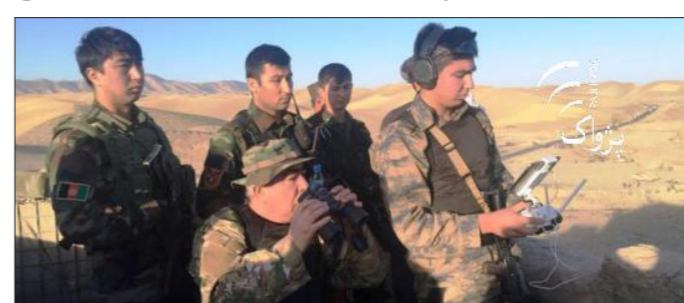


Muslimyar urged leaders of unity government to seriously think about future of people and work in tandem for prosperous Afghanistan. He also stressed on media

outlets to project national interest of Afghanistan and expose nefarious designs of enemy of the country. The two-day exhibition of ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Dostum Wearing Military Uniform, Fighting Rebels in Faryab

MAIMANA - The first vice-president Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum on Monday after wearing military uniform had been fighting rebels in northwestern Faryab province and leading the first military operation against insurgents. Last week, Dostum during his trip to Faryab had said that he did not go there to create militia groups but he was guiding Afghan forces and local people against in-



surgenes. "I am in civil clothes with you. If Taliban do not stop fighting I would destroy them in civilian clothes,"

Dostum had said. But today, he was in front of his forces in a military uniform. A Wolesi Jirga member Dr. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

4 Million Jobs Need to be Created in Next 5 Years: Study



KABUL - Accounting for half the population of the country, youth need employment opportunities, particularly in the education sector, to play a proactive role in Afghanistan's development, suggested a new study on Sunday. Titled Investing in Youth: How to Realise Afghanistan's Demographic Dividend, the study was conducted by UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund and the Ministry of Information and Culture. According to the study, 63% of the country's population is comprised of youth and over the next five years 4 million of them attain employment age. It adds as many jobs should also be created during the period. Information and Culture Minister Abdul Bari Jahani told journalists Afghanistan had a greater youth population than its neighbours. He said their talent needed to be tapped for the country's future. "Peace and stability lie in the hands of this segment. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Pakistan Takes Note President Ghani's Press Conference: Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in a statement on Monday said that We have taken note of the Press Conference by the President Ashraf Ghani held in Kabul and its contents relating to Pakistan. The statement released by Pakistani embassy in Kabul said that Pakistan and Afghanistan are brotherly and neighbouring countries and enjoy close and cooperative relations. Pakistan is committed to maintaining good neighbourly relations with Afghanistan and all other regional countries. It further stated that Having been the biggest victim of terrorism itself with human losses exceeding 60,000, the people and the Government of Pakistan can feel the pain and anguish of the brotherly people and the Government of Afghanistan over the recent wave of terrorist attacks, which have resulted in the loss of many valuable lives and injuries to scores of people. Pakistan condemns these deadly attacks in Afghanistan in the strongest terms. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Afghan brethren in their hour of grief. Terrorism is our common enemy and requires cooperative approach to combat this menace, the statement said. As underscored ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

MAIL Establishes 13 Fruit Processing, Storage Centers

KABUL - The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) this week announced the establishment of 13 new processing, storage and packaging centers for Afghan fruits across seven agricultural zones in Afghanistan. The move comes after weeks of Afghan fruit growers and traders criticizing the government for the lack of support it has provided them in growing the industry and exporting their products. MAIL officials said the project cost over \$14 million USD and was funded by the Asian Development Bank, which covers Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, Balkh, and Kunduz provinces. "The use of such centers can ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Drug Addicts on the Increase in Balkh Capital

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Security officials say drug addicts from various northern provinces have arrived in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, somehow disturbing social life in the city. Balkh police chief Brig. Gen. Syed Kamal Sadat told a press conference that families needed to be serious about caring their young children. He was briefing reporters about the seizure of 28 kilograms of narcotics. He said the population of drug addicts on the sides of highways and in parks had increased and that they were busy working on a plan how to deal with the problem. A resident of Mazar-i-Sharif, Mohammadullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News that dozens of drug addicts daily assembled in the evening at a park north of Hazrat Ali Shrine. He said people visiting the park felt uncomfortable seeing the addicts. The resident urged security forces to take serious action for solution to the problem. The police chief said the security situation in Mazar-i-Sharif attracted drug addicts from other provinces, particularly neighbouring provinces. Sadat said he had discussed the ...*(More on P4)...(17)*