

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 37°C 26°C	Ghazni Clear 31°C 16°C	Kandahar Clear 39°C 22°C	Mazar Clear 38°C 27°C	Herat Clear 36°C 18°C	Bamayan Clear 27°C 12°C	Kabul Clear 33°C 19°C
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Religious Clerics Terms Ongoing War against Islam

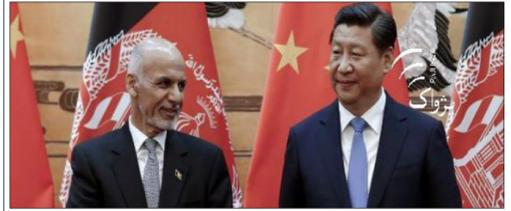
KABUL - Supreme council of religious leaders denounced the ongoing violence and said that continued war was against the principles of Islam, a statement from the Presidential Palace stated on Friday. Maulvi Ghulam Rabbani Rahmani, a member of Supreme council of clerics, while addressing a gathering at the Presidential Palace strongly condemned the killings of innocent women and children in recent terrorists' attacks in Kabul. The recent barbaric attacks on civilians were against Islamic law and clear violation of human rights, he said, adding that security forces should bring the culprits to justice.



Islamic law has been implemented in the country and Afghanistan law has been completely in accordance with Islamic law. The statement said that "around 99.9 percent Afghans are Muslims so

how can Jihad decree be issued against Muslims. Issuing decree against Muslims is huge conspiracy against Muslims." The supreme council of clerics denounced and the Taliban announcement of extending war and fighting and called the act as against the teachings of Islam. The Supreme council asked militants to avoid killings of innocent civilians and Muslim brothers and join the peace process to mitigate the miseries of Afghans. The recent attacks made it clear that others have been fomenting the war inside Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

Ghani Expresses Grief over Deadly China Explosions



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Friday expressed his profound grief over twin blasts in China, where several people were killed and wounded. The explosions left 50 people dead and around 700 wounded besides causing heavy financial losses. The president said Afghans could

understand the trauma of the Chinese since Afghans have been confronting blasts and suicide attacks during the last several years. In a statement from the Presidential Palace extended condolences on behalf of Afghan government and people to the Chinese government and nation. (Pajhwok)

Hizb-E-Islami Union Supports Ghani's Remarks on Pakistan

KABUL - The union of the Hizb-e-Islami factions on Thursday announced its support for President Ashraf Ghani in the wake of his remarks over Pakistan's failure to stop harboring insurgents. Party members also called on the international community to come to the table with a new commitment to help Afghanistan bring about sustained peace and an end to war. Speaking at a gathering on Thursday, members of the union strongly condemned the recent deadly attacks on Kabul. "The president's stance is



right. The international community and influential countries in the region should cooperate with Afghanistan to formulate a new procedure that could prove helpful in improving the establishment of sustained peace and help

to broker purposeful peace talks," a member of the union Mohammad Amin Waqad said. Joining the union, the chairman of Harakat-e-Inqelab-e-Islami Afghanistan Party ... (More on P4)...(9)

Rebels Block Daikundi, Ghor Roads; Commodities Prices Shoot up

BAMYAN - The residents of central Daikundi and western Ghor provinces are concerned about road blockades by insurgents, which cause prices of daily use commodities to surge manifold, officials said Thursday. Officials said that militants have blocked the roads of Kajran, Kiti and Khadir districts of Daikundi; Pasaband district of Ghor and Nawmish district of southern Helmand province to provincial capitals from the past one month. Haji Bal, Nawmish district



chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News militants have taken 14 trucks and eight passenger cars along with 30 passengers, drivers and helpers

with themselves in the center of Baghran district. He said local elders of Nawmish district on Wednesday ... (More on P4)...(10)

Govt.'s Foreign Policy Toward Pakistan Slammed as a Failure

KABUL - The Civil Movement for Social Justice (CMSJ) on Thursday said the government has failed to devise an effective foreign policy to deal with Pakistan. The CMSJ went on to an extent by saying that the government had faced defeat on military, economic and social fronts. The Afghan government in the past decade has tried to have cordial relations with Pakistan in order to gain its support for Afghan peace process. But not only former president Hamid Karzai's efforts yielded no fruits, now the incumbent President Ashraf Ghani's efforts in the past ten months have also been in vain. Ghani has recently said that Pakistan did not only take practical steps with regards to peace process in Afghanistan, but the insurgents still sent messages of war from Pakistani soil. He said last two month's incidents showed that training camps for suicide attackers and bomb-making factories used against Afghan people were still active on the other side of ... (More on P4)...(11)

Khost Governor Rules Out Compromise on Corruption



KHOST CITY - The governor for southeastern Khost province on Thursday said he would pay utmost attention in hiring educated youth to various public office positions. Governor Hukam Khan Habibi's expressed these views on the eve of International Youth Day. He said vacant government posts would be given to youth through merit and established criterion. "Despite the fact that youth comprise majority of the workforce in the country, they still have some problems in getting government jobs," he remarked. The governor also assured decisive drive against admin-

istrative graft. He urged the youth to identify corrupt officials in government offices. "My priority is fighting corruption. If you have faced any such incident in any government department I urge you to come forward and share it with us." Farooq Jan Mangal, a civil society activist, said the youth would have their government's back, but the government needed to focus on addressing the problem of unemployment. "Unemployment is a country-wide challenge which gives birth to more problems," Farooq said, urging the youth to support Afghan security forces in ensuring security. (Pajhwok)

'Forgotten' Bagram Villagers Speak out Against Govt

KABUL - Villagers from the remote Qala-e-Zhala in Bagram district in Parwan province on Friday spoke out about their dire situation and said that in 14 years government has not assisted them in any way. TOLONews reporter, Abdulwali Arian, visited the area, which is inaccessible by vehicle and can only be reached on foot, along winding paths through the surrounding hills. He reports that in addition to villagers saying government has no control over the area, the only school in Qala-e-Zhala village was torched a while back and has never been rebuilt. They said that officials blamed the Taliban but that the insurgent group was not behind the incident. Sadullah, a village resident told TOLONews that the Taliban has been in the district for 12 years. "They [the Taliban] are not responsible for this. Others are behind it and blame the Taliban for it." In general, the villagers said they had been forgotten about in the past 12 years and that government has no control over the area. "The Taliban came to the mosque and told us not to enroll our sons in the government and security forces. They said they will behead them if we do," a tribal elder, Hazar Mir, told TOLONews. Meanwhile, a teenager in the village said the only school in their area had been ... (More on P4)...(14)

7 Civilians Kidnapped in Ghazni; Taliban Deny Involvement

HAZNI CITY - Unidentified gunmen abducted seven civilians in the Qarabagh district of southern Ghazni province, an official said on Friday. Shafiq Nang, the governor's spokesman said the individuals were on their way to Ghazni City, the provincial capital, when armed men disembarked from a vehicle and took them to an unknown location. Another source told Pajhwok Afghan News nine people



had been abducted but later an old man and a woman were released. The spokesman said a search had been launched for the victims. At least 13 civilians were ab-

ducted on Thursday but two of them managed to flee. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said his group was not involved in the abduction of civilians. (Pajhwok)

Journalists Form Committee after Attack on Reporter

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Journalists in northern Balkh province on Thursday formed a committee to persuade government functionaries to investigate threats the community faced in the northern zone. The journalists protection and oversight committee on threats was formed hours after an Afghan reporter with Deutsche Welle, a German international broadcaster, Abdul Hamid Sapi, was attacked by unknown gunmen on Wednesday night. The reporter was travelling home in his car when came under attack on the road between Kod Barq ... (More on P4)...(12)

Herat Hosts One-Day Grape Expo

HERAT CITY - A one day grape expo took place in Herat city on Thursday where grapefarmers gathered to display a wide variety of their produce. On display were an estimated 180 different types of grapes grown in the eastern province. Many of the farmers however used the event to raise problems in the sector, such as the lack of proper marketing systems and the nonexistence of proper storage facilities which could be used to extend the shelf life of their produce. Farmers also criticized government for not taking enough action to help them. (Tolonews)

Pakistan Celebrates Independence Day at Embassy in Kabul

KABUL - The 69th Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated at the premises of Pakistan Embassy,

Kabul, with great national fervour and enthusiasm on Friday, a press statement from Pakistani embassy stated. The ceremony was inaugurated with the recitation of Holy Quran followed by national anthem and flag hoisting by Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan, Syed Abrar Hussain. The messages of the Pakistani President and Prime Minister of ... (More on P4)...(13)



Warlords, Graft Hamper Probe into Violence Against Women

FEROZKOH - Violence against women has doubled in the first four months of the current solar year in western Ghor province,

fueling concerns among human rights campaigners and civil society activists. Last week, three women were



killed and a girl wounded as a consequence of domestic tension in different parts of the province, according to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission's Ghor chapter. Seven cases of violence against females were reported ... (More on P4)...(15)

Afghan Scientist Declared Top among 44 Colleagues



KABUL - An Afghan scientist Mohammad Tanha working on an atomic energy project research paper in Germany has been declared top among scientists from 44 countries. Tanha in his message on social media said he got first

prize in a competition about atomic energy research paper at university level held in Germany. He said for Afghanistan it was a big achievement. The competition was held among scientists and PhD degree holders of 44 countries. (Pajhwok)