

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Clear	<b>Bamiyan</b>	Clear	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	21°C 8°C		12°C -1°C		18°C 6°C		10°C 4°C		14°C 3°C		9°C -2°C		14°C 2°C



Daily Outlook  
Weather Forecast

## Khalilzad Resumes His Trip for Afghan Peace Mission

*Zalmay Khalilzad has once again started his trip to several countries for talks on Afghan peace process.*



KABUL - The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad will travel to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar with an interagency delegation from December 2 to 20, the US Department of State said in a statement

on Sunday. Khalilzad will meet with Afghan government officials and other interested parties to support and facilitate an inclusive peace process in Afghanistan, empowering the Afghan people to decide their nation's fate, the statement said. "Special Representative Khalilzad will be in communication with

President Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah, and other Afghan stakeholders to coordinate closely on efforts to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table with the Afghan government and other Afghans," the statement said. On his last trip to the region in November, Special Representative ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## New Mazar-I-Sharif Mayor Vows to Fight Corruption



MAZAR-I-SHRIF - The new mayor for Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, on Monday took charge with the pledge to do away with corruption and illegal activities in his department. Abdul Haq Khurrami, the new Mazar-i-Sharif mayor, formally took charge during a ceremony and praised the efforts of former acting mayor. However, the new mayor stressed the need for more reforms in the municipality, which he said remained rife with administrative corruption. Khurrami said: "Illegal construction of townships, lack of database, no program for removal of waste, canalization, absence of revenue and administrative capacity are main issues that should be addressed." He said some workers of the municipality had links with illegal militias and they got their works done through force and illegal means. The municipality's revenue had decreased in recent years,

he said, adding tens of blank cheques had been issued and the money pocketed by specific individuals. Some police districts had become private shops and officials used them for their own interests, he informed. He declared no district officials had the right to collect taxes physically but citizens should register as tax payers with the municipality. Khurrami promised to use all his efforts and capabilities to address all problems. Meanwhile, former acting mayor Mohammad Naseer Ayni said he had also brought some reforms during his two years in office. In 2016, the municipality revenue reached 316 million afghanis and increased to 406 million afghanis in 2017, he added. The revenue so far this ongoing year has reached 461 million afghanis. Ayni also rejected rumours that the new mayor was not educated or involved in corruption. He added Khurrami had been selected after a test among ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## High Raw Materials Tax Hits Kandahar Industry Output

KANDAHAR CITY - Traders and industrialists in southern Kandahar province say they are struggling with numerous problems and the government instead of facilitating them is adding to their miseries. They say the government has increased tax on around 800 types of raw materials from 15 percent to 20 percent, resulting in increased prices of domestic products. Haji Nasratullah Zahir, head of Kandahar chamber of commerce and industries, told Pajhwok Afghan News that President Ashraf Ghani had promised a cut in taxes on raw materials imported to the country, but the promise was yet to be fulfilled. He said 15 to 20 percent increase in taxes on raw material imports had affected local productions. "In the past, traders would pay five percent tax on raw materials imported to the country but now they pay 17 percent and 20 percent tax on about 800 types of raw materials used in local factories for different products," he said. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*



## IEC to Announce Results for 14 Provinces by Next Week

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission (IEC) on Monday said the election management body will announce the preliminary results of the remaining 14 provinces by next week. Preliminary election results for Kabul will be announced at the end of next week, said the IEC. A member of the election commission said the delay in announcing the election results of big provinces is because of the scale of complaints which were filled on the day of voting. But election monitoring groups and observers have said the delay is aimed at changing the election results in favor of cer-



tain candidates. The IEC has declared 79 people as winners of the parliamentary elections in 18 provinces, of which 21 are women. The IEC has yet to announce preliminary election results for 15 provinces, including Kabul. "With the consideration of a huge number of complaints, which were filed against October 20 and ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## Policy to Legalize Illegal Armed Men Approved in Principle

KABUL - The National Security Council (NSC) has approved in principle the policy of legalizing illegal armed men and groups, a statement said on Monday. The statement from the NSC received by Pajhwok Afghan News said a security meeting was held Sunday evening under leadership of National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib at the NSC office. The meeting, attended by members of the security and defense sectors, also discussed security situation in Ghazni, Faryab, Nangarhar and Farah provinces. The statement said the secu-



rity sector ministers presented their reports about their achievements, security plans, security threats, operations and security preparations for improving the situation to the meeting. Increase in civilian casualties and their factors were also discussed in the ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Iran's Stance on Afghanistan Clear: Spokesman

TEHRAN - Tehran has taken a clear stance on Afghanistan and also on the issue of peace in the neighboring country, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry announced here on Monday. Afghan government is well-aware of Iran's stabilizing role in that country, Bahram Qasemi told reporters during his weekly press conference in Tehran. Asked whether Kabul has officially called on Tehran to help settle the Afghan crisis, Qasemi said that Iran is keen on establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan and will offer any kind of help to that country to stabilize the situation there. Talking of the Geneva peace talks on Afghanistan, Qasemi said that the Islamic Republic supports different processes under the leadership of Afghan government and the presence of other groups in



that country. In line with bringing peace to Afghanistan, Iran is ready to continue giving its help to its neighbor, even more than the past, the spokesman added. About Iran's role in settlement of peace in Afghanistan, Qasemi said that the two countries have had talks on the issue, and several meetings were held in Geneva. The process [of talks] will continue, he noted. ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Rise in School Attacks Puts Progress at Risk for Afghan Children



KABUL - There have been twice as many UN-verified attacks on education in Afghanistan in the first half of 2018 than during the whole of 2017 and the number of out-of-school children is on the rise for the first time since 2002. Urgent action is needed

to prevent more Afghan children from being excluded from the education system, the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) is warning in a new briefing paper, Attacks on Education in Afghanistan. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## IARCSC Introduces New Programme to Strengthen Civil Services Capacity

KABUL - The Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) has decided to initiate the Tackling Afghanistan's Government HRM and Institutional Reforms (TAGHIR) programme with a view to sustaining and developing the public administration and its capacity, according to a statement on Monday. The new three-year programme which would replace the Capacity-Building for Results (CBR) programme is financed by the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), the statement said. CBR is due to terminate by end-December 2018. It commenced implementation in 2012 and through it 1,500 people were recruited by 2017. However, only 160 people were employed in the civil service system through CBR by 2016. This meant that 75 per cent of CBR budget was transferred to other development projects of the state. After CBR was merged with the IARCSC, the new IARCSC leadership could complete the recruitment ceiling under the programme. The IARCSC says, "TAGHIR replaces CBR in order to improve human resource planning, recruit staff for key positions on the basis of competence and aptitude as well as maintain and strengthen the capacity of the government ministries and agencies." Due to budgetary restrictions and following negotiations with the donors and the decision of the cabinet, it was decided that the limited allocated budget of TAGHIR would be focused on 16 key, revenue-generating and priority line ministries and agencies. To maintain their capacity, the salary pays of those civil servants covered by CBR but not incorporated under TAGHIR will be ...*(More on P4)...(15)*