

Jalalabad Cloudy 23°C 11°C	Ghazni Party Cloudy 16°C 2°C	Kandahar Party Cloudy 24°C 8°C	Mazar Party Cloudy 17°C 10°C	Herat Party Cloudy 26°C 9°C	Bamayan Party Cloudy 10°C 0°C	Kabul Party Cloudy 17°C 2°C
--	--	--	--	---	---	---



MPs Question Ghani's Policy of Governance

KABUL - MPs in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Monday criticized leaders of the national unity government (NUG) particularly President Ashraf Ghani for certain policy issues, saying Ghani has remained weak in promoting a working policy governance, but hailed Ghani's approach towards dealing with Afghanistan's controversial neighbor Pakistan. Some MPs however commended the president's foreign policy track - specifically that relating to Pakistan - but said more work has to be done by Ghani to curb corruption and implement systematic reforms in government institutions.



"I cannot support a system whose alphabet is based on plundering, corruption, aggression and land grabbing

and also no one can demand such a thing from me," said MP Ramazan Bashardost.

"Corruption, plundering, dysfunctions and war have increased in Afghanistan, and also

fatalities among our forces have risen," said MP Abdul Rahim Ayoubi.

"They have 500 advisors in Afghanistan, if the house of representatives does not take legal ac-

tion in this matter, it means that we (lawmakers) are also involved in the plundering, because they are paid from the money owned by the orphans, widows and families of the fallen soldiers," another MP Ghulam Hussain Naseri said. MPs also said that sometimes the president does not have control over his words.

"The important thing is that the country's number one person [Ghani] is not acquainted with Islamic principles, particularly when it comes to Namaz (praying). In Afghanistan, 99.9 percent of the people are Muslim. The country's number one person, in fact, represents the entire nation when he participates in an international or regional gathering," said MP Jafar Mahdawi. "Certainly the president's words, ... (More on P4)...(5)

Kakazada

Taliban Want Peace More than Anyone

KABUL - A former Taliban leader said that the rebels wanted peace more than anyone, but they lacked an address in Afghanistan. Mualvi Rahmatullah Kakazada, who served as consul general in Pakistan's Karachi city during Taliban's regime, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had been in contact with religious scholars, tribal elders and civil society members for the creation of a national congress to support the peace process. The former diplomat said he and his friends had been working over the past four years to build an intra-Af-

ghan peace process. Kakazada said he had also shared his plan with the international community, the Taliban, the government and some other internal political groups. He explained his plan divided into three parts. First they would discuss peace between Muslims, non-Muslims and among Muslims. Secondly they would assess the current situation of Afghanistan and its consequences and thirdly they would hold talks on finding an intra-Afghan solution to the conflict. About ... (More on P4)...(6)

Khattak

Time for Pakistan to Revisit Afghan Policy



KABUL - Some Pakistani political leaders have urged Islamabad to change its current policy toward Afghanistan and adopt a clear policy towards the neighboring country. Globally, violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive human rights violations and one of the least punished crimes. In Afghanistan women and girls are regularly exposed to violence in public and private spaces, UN Women stated. Girls are prevented from going to school and women have little access to the health-care they need, while human ... (More on P4)...(7)

stan and Pakistan. "Why Islamabad is not amending its policy toward Afghanistan is a question asked by the people lawmakers of Pakistan," added the ANP leader. He acknowledged Islamabad's policy was flawed, saying it was formulated by individuals who did not support democratic governments in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said all political forces in Pakistan desired good relations with neighbours and opposed interference in the affairs of other countries. Khattak recalled President Ashraf ... (More on P4)...(8)

Afghan Migrant's Arrest for Killing Stokes German Tensions

BERLIN - The arrest of a 17-year-old Afghan migrant suspected of raping and killing a university student must not be used for "rabble-rousing and conspiracy propaganda," Germany's vice chancellor said Monday as a nationalist party argued that the government bears a share of the blame. The teen, who entered Germany last year as an unaccompanied minor, was arrested Friday. The victim, a 19-year-old medicine student, vanished in mid-October on her way home from a party in the southwestern city of Freiburg and her body was found in a river. The suspect, whom officials have linked to the crime through DNA evidence and video footage from near the scene, hasn't made a statement. His arrest, however, has played into ongoing tensions about the arrival in Germany last year of hundreds of thousands of migrants.

Joerg Meuthen, a co-leader of the nationalist Alternative for Germany party, argued Sunday that Chancellor Angela Merkel and Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel bear "a decisive share of the responsibility for this cruel act and many other 'isolated cases' that have happened daily in Germany since the unhindered entry of illegal immigrants."

The party rose in polls following last year's migrant influx and hopes to enter the national Parliament in an election next year in which Merkel is seeking a fourth term. "We must not allow this abhorrent act to be abused for rabble-rousing and conspiracy propaganda," Gabriel told Monday's edition of the Bild daily. "It is clear to everyone that refugees can commit equally terrible crimes as people born in Germany."

Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, condemned the "appalling crime" and said that "the perpetrator must be punished with the full force of our laws."

"But we must not forget that we are talking about a ... (More on P4)...(10)

New Strategy Launched to Effectively Implement EAW Law

KABUL - The Ministry of Women's Affairs on Monday launched a national strategy and action plan aimed at ensuring the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Law is effectively implemented so that more women have access to shelter, protection services and justice, and contribute to ending the impunity of perpetrators.

The launch is part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. The law was passed by a presidential decree in 2009 and criminalizes 22 acts of violence against women and harmful practices including child marriage, forcing or



prohibiting marriage, forced self-immolation, rape and beating. It also emphasizes government's role in the protection of women and prosecution of perpetrators, requiring the police to register cases

of violence against women and courts and prosecutors to prosecute them. UN Women said in a statement that while the EVAW Law is increasingly being used to seek justice, there needs to be a better under-

standing both of the law and of service providers' responsibilities when it comes to providing safe, confidential, coordinated survivor-centered assistance, and building confidence in the formal justice systems. Globally, violence against women and girls is one of the most pervasive human rights violations and one of the least punished crimes. In Afghanistan women and girls are regularly exposed to violence in public and private spaces, UN Women stated. Girls are prevented from going to school and women have little access to the health-care they need, while human ... (More on P4)...(7)

Taliban's Leadership Suffers 'Major Blow' in Special Operations



KABUL - Chief Executive Abdullah said at Monday's Council of Ministers meeting that the Taliban's leadership has suffered a major blow during recent special military operations conducted by Afghan security forces.

He said according to the National Security Council's order, security forces have focused on eliminating key and operational safe havens of militants. "The Taliban's leadership in Afghanistan has suffered a major blow in special operations in recent weeks," he said. He added: "The security forces will be in a better situation in the next year because they will focus on basic and main centers from where the Taliban are organizing their subversive activities."

Meanwhile, a number of military analysts said they believe that next year will be the toughest year yet for Afghan forces if the challenges and gaps are not addressed.

"The security forces should be trained to thwart the new techniques used by terrorists against them," said Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former minister of interior. This comes after the ministries of Defense Interior on Sunday said they have identified Taliban's strategic operating centers and will target these facilities in the upcoming winter. The ministries said the second Shafaq Operation is already underway to eliminate insurgents in insecure regions. (Tolonews)

No Daesh Bases in Kunar: Police Chief

KABUL - Daesh, also known as Islamic State (IS), fighters may have a presence but do not have bases in eastern Kunar province, the provincial police chief said.

Maj. Gen. Juma Gul Himmat, in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, said Kunar was a mountainous province with dense forest, sharing a border with Pakistan. He claimed the overall security situation was satisfactory in Kunar, where religious scholars, civil society activists and the masses unconditionally supported their security forces.

However, the police boss alleged Pakistan was trying to sabotage peace in the province by supporting terrorist and insurgent groups. "Some days back tribal elders and youth promised strong support to the security forces and voiced their readiness to fight alongside police to defeat the enemy in Dangam district," he recalled. Gen. Himmat hinted at clearing operations in militancy-plagued areas. But he denied the presence of Daesh bases in Kunar, saying the group had launched recruitment activity in ... (More on P4)...(11)

Kabul Has No Alternative to Russian Choppers: Kabulov



KABUL - A top Russian diplomat has questioned the rationale for America's plan to substitute Russian helicopters in Afghanistan with its own aircraft. President Putin's Special Envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov suggested on Sunday the Pentagon plan was unlikely

to succeed in near future. Sputnik news agency quoted the diplomat, who attended an international event on Afghanistan in Amritsar, as saying there was no alternative to Russian military equipment used by Afghan forces. The Pentagon hinted last week ... (More on P4)...(9)

Don't Cross the Border without Documents, Pakistanis Asked

PESHAWAR - Pakistani citizens have been informed they will have to arrange valid travel documents for visiting Afghanistan, a policy that will go into effect from January 2017. Huge banners displayed in the border town of Landikotal ask people that holding valid visas and passports would be necessary to cross border into Afghanistan after December 31. The political administration has urged Pakistanis to avoid travelling to Afghanistan without valid visas. Punitive action will be taken against those travelling

to the neighbouring country without passports. From January 1, the banners read, a complete ban will be imposed on illegal movement across the Durand Line. Residents of border areas, however, can travel on Rahdari cards issued by Pakistani authorities. One unnamed official was quoted as saying by The News that 28 Afghans had been arrested in the last three months for travelling to Pakistan on fake national identity cards. The individuals with fake documents were sent them back to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

Zabul Governor and Mayor Escape Gun Attack

KABUL - The provincial governor and mayor of southern Zabul province escaped an ambush by unknown gunmen earlier Monday.

According to the local government officials, the incident took place on Zabul-Kandahar highway as the two top officials were on their way to Safa district. Provincial governor's spokesman Gul Islam Siyal confirmed the incident and said governor Bismillah Afghanmal and mayor Karimullah Hakimi escaped the attack unhurt.

No group including the Taliban insurgents has so far claimed responsibility behind the incident. Zabul is among the relatively volatile provinces in southern where the anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents actively operate and often conduct insurgency activities. There are also reports suggesting the loyalists of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are attempting expand foothold in this province. (KP)