

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Cloudy	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Herat</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Bamayan</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Kabul</b>	Partly Cloudy
24°C 11°C		16°C 1°C		23°C 8°C		13°C 7°C		21°C 7°C		12°C -3°C		17°C 2°C	



# Political Uncertainty, Nepotism Overshadows Reforms: Massoud

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani's special representative for reforms and good governance Ahmad Zia Massoud on Tuesday said that political uncertainty, drug trafficking, nepotism and nationalism are apparently hindering the process of reforms in the country. Corruption in three branches of the government and the presence of militant groups has prevented good governance from being institutionalized in the country, he said. According to Massoud, international support to Afghanistan and Afghanistan's membership of major international groups would help overcome the ongoing crisis facing the nation.



Talking on the prospects of good governance in Afghanistan, Massoud said that government first needs to tackle drug smuggling, nepotism, and corruption in order to pave the way for reforms. He said that to implement reforms in government institutions, professional and non-political institutions should be established. "All these issues mentioned created

obstructions and the existence of these ... overshadowed the implementation of good governance," said Massoud. Violation of human rights, the absence of accountability, the influence of lawbreakers on the implementation of the law, the existence of parallel programs and projects, the existence of traditional systems and bureaucracy, the lack of capacity to implement budget spend, interventions in work processes, the nonexistence of a clear national strategy in development programs, the absence of Afghans in decision making processes while implementing mega national projects, and the inappropriate ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Cases of Violence Against Ghazni Women on the Rise

GHAZNI CITY - Ninety-six cases of violence against women have been registered in southern Ghazni province this year, an official said on Tuesday. Women's Affairs Director Shukria Wali told a press conference here the violence rate against women had increased this year. The incidents included mar-

rying off girls in Bad, a traditional practice of settling disputes, beating, denial of alimony and other crimes against women. But no case of killing was recorded. "We have been trying to contain violence against women. But women in remote areas do not refer their cases to us and we are unaware of violence ... (More on P4)...(8)

## Farmers Urged to Switch from Growing Poppies for Drugs to Saffron



GHAZNI - "Growing saffron is much easier than growing poppies and its price is several times more than poppies and therefore I am calling upon the farmers in the southern Helmand and Kandahar provinces to substitute poppies with saffron," a farmer in the eastern Ghazni province, Jilani Ahmadi, told Xinhua recently. Kandahar and the neighboring Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces where anti-government militants including the Taliban are active are the areas responsible for producing a major part of all poppies harvested to produce opium in Afghanistan annually. Despite the government's tireless war on drugs, people in ... (More on P4)...(9)

### Authorities Woos Allies Against Islamic State

WAMA - Afghan authorities are appealing to local elders in the remote eastern province of Nuristan to help prevent militants loyal to Islamic State from expanding into new territory. The initiative comes as fighters and their families, scattered in recent months by U.S. and Afghan air strikes and Special Forces ground operations, seek new safe havens. The mountainous and thickly forested province bordering Pakistan is seen by Afghan authorities as a potential new base for the self-proclaimed offshoot of Islamic State, whose desire to stoke sectarian tensions was underlined this year in a series of high-profile attacks. With Afghan armed forces and their NATO allies already struggling to cope with the Taliban insurgency across much of the country, the prospect of an expanding Islamic State group has alarmed authorities and the U.S. military. The group, generally known as Daesh in Afghanistan, has so far been largely confined to the eastern province of Nangarhar to the south of Nuristan. There is has clashed with other militant movements including the Taliban, who reject it. Afghan intelligence officials say an intense campaign of air strikes and raids by Afghan ... (More on P4)...(11)

## MPs Commend Presidential Rejection of Pakistan Aid

KABUL - Wolesi Jirga members on Monday welcomed the rejection of \$500 million Pakistani aid by President Ashraf Ghani at the Heart of Asia Conference in Amritsar. Representatives from about 40 countries and groupings like the European Union attended the two-day event, which was aimed at exploring ways of dealing with the challenges Afghanistan faces. Addressing the conference, the president on Sunday called cross-border terrorism a grave concern. "We need aid to fight the scourge." He believed the \$500 million promised by Pakistan for Afghanistan's reconstruction could be better spent on combating terrorism.



Mohammad Naeem Lalai Ahmadzai, a public representative from Kandahar province, said all Afghan people and their representatives supported the stance of Ghani. Obaidullah Barakzai, another lawmaker, said: "The recent step by Ghani against Pakistan is commendable, Pakistan, if it is interested in aiding Afghanistan, should stop financing and arming terrorists. It doesn't need provide Afghanistan with cash assistance." Other legislators followed suit, saying the refusal of \$500 million reconstruction assistance was in accordance with Afghan people's wishes. They expressed support for the presidential stance. Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim also eulogized the president's rejection of Pakistan aid, saying Ghani echoed people's pain caused by Islamabad's interference in Afghanistan. The refusal of aid drew a harsh reaction from Prime Minister Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, who told a hurriedly-called media briefing in Islamabad on his return from Amritsar that Ghani stated what India wanted. (Pajhwok)

## Hekmatyar Expected to Move to Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Nangarhar governor Gulab Mangal on Tuesday said the Hizb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar will move to the province in the near future and they are ready to welcome him. Mangal said Hekmatyar will live in Nangarhar until his name has been removed from the UN's black list. The governor said they have allocated a house for him in the Border Affairs Department's building in Jalalabad city. "Mr. Hekmatyar will probably live in Nangarhar temporarily and then he will move to Kabul," he said. Meanwhile, a number of Nangarhar residents and provincial council members said Hekmatyar should respect Afghanistan's laws if he chooses to live in the province. "We know what Hekmatyar has said. He needs the people's cooperation," said Zardad Shinwari, a resident of Nangarhar. ... (More on P4)...(12)



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## Treatment of Eshchi Violates Rights of a Citizen: Legal Experts

KABUL - Sources within the National Directorate of Security (NDS) have said that Ahmad Eshchi, the former governor of Jawzjan province, is in their custody and will soon be released but Eshchi's family are concerned about his safety. Eshchi's family have called on President Ashraf Ghani to intervene and clarify his fate. Legal experts have said that the alleged assault of Eshchi by Ghani's First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum was a clear violation of the law and the incident has violated the rights of a citizen of Afghanistan. The laws of Afghanistan state that delegations from Afghanistan's security, legal and judicial institutions must be present while issuing an arrest warrant for someone, but Eshchi was allegedly imprisoned at Dostum's house after being beaten by his security guards. "It is now the twelfth day that we have not had any information about him. ... (More on P4)...(13)



## Laghman Shahi Canal Project Not Scrapped: Governor

MEHTERLAM - The Council of Ministers has approved the Kala Ghosh Dam project and postponed the Shahi canal scheme in eastern Laghman province until its next meeting, an official said on Tuesday. President Ashraf Ghani, at a meeting with governors and people of the eastern zone in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, had earlier approved the long-awaited canal project. But rumours circulated on social media the Cabinet had blocked the ... (More on P4)...(14)

## Youth Get Jobs on Matta Khan Development Projects

SHARAN - A number of youth in the Matta Khan district of south-eastern Paktika province have been provided with work opportunities in their hometown. Mudassar Andar, a member of the local council, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Ministry of Rural and Rehabilitation Development (MoRRD) had implemented uplift projects in the district, creating openings for youth. He said: "Hundreds of youth would previously travel to Pakistan for work, but this year MoRRD executed some development projects, providing work opportunities for youth at their doorstep, and now they no longer going to Pakistan for work." Implantation of development schemes in the district helped youth get work in their hometown to improve ... (More on P4)...(15)



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