

Jalalabad Clear 22°C 11°C	Ghazni Clear 14°C 1°C	Kandahar Clear 21°C 6°C	Mazar Chance of Rain 11°C 4°C	Herat Chance of Rain 17°C 4°C	Bamayan Clear 10°C 4°C	Kabul Clear 16°C 1°C
---	---------------------------------------	---	---	---	--	--------------------------------------



President Mohammad Ashraf

A Foreign War Underway, but Not a Civil Conflict

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday warned his country's enemies against harming Afghanistan, saying the country was the land of the brave and enemies will be eliminated here. He said that a foreign war is ongoing in Afghanistan, but not a civil war. Last year the enemies were plotting to overthrow the government, Ghani said, while addressing a gathering of Afghan youths in Kabul. Talking on the contribution of Afghan youths to security, Ghani said they play a constructive role in the rank and file of the security forces for the safety and defense of the country. "The enemies of the government of Afghanistan



thought (1394) solar year would be the end of the government, but they took this dream with them to their graves. The youths of the country, while serving in the ranks of the army, police and NDS, safe-

guarded their country. 1395 solar year was the year of survival for the nation and we collectively remained in a defensive position; the enemies showcased whatever they had and tried to commit aggression. But they didn't

know there were lions here that would eat them," said Ghani. In addition, Ghani spoke about the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan and said Afghanistan in terms of its strategic location in the region has always been in crisis. He said that currently Afghanistan is the focus of the international community, and said that the future for the youth of the country will be very bright. Ghani called on the youth to utilize their full potential. Meanwhile, the administrative office of the president has pledged to hire at least 10,000 youths in government institutions next year and said the recruitment process will be carried out on the basis of merit. (Tolonews)

Azerbaijan Committed to Contributing to NATO Mission in Afghanistan

BAKU - Azerbaijan, as a reliable partner of NATO and friend of brotherly Afghanistan, is committed to continue its significant contribution to the Resolute Support Mission beyond 2016 by providing troops, multimodal transit, training and financial assistance, said Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov. Mammadyarov made the remarks addressing the NATO RS Ministerial in Brussels on Dec. 7.



He noted that Azerbaijan has several times made substantial donations to the Afghan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund. "We will continue to support this Fund in line with the pledges we made. Furthermore, after conclusion of the Resolute Support Mission, my country envisages the contribution through the enhanced Enduring Partnership," the FM said. Mammadyarov went on to say that Azerbaijan remains committed to a long-term political partnership and a practical cooperation with Afghanistan through bi-

lateral cooperation and the relevant multilateral and regional formats. "In September of this year, President Ilham Aliyev has approved Azerbaijan-Afghanistan agreement on multimillion assistance mostly in security areas which is being actively implemented now," the FM said. "In addition, in line with the desired outcomes of the Resolute Support Mission, Azerbaijan is ready to train Afghan cadets in military educational institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the framework of the bilateral cooperation." ... (More on P4)... (12)

Bamyani Girls Take to Bikes to Break Cycle of Violence Against Women



BAMYAN - Wearing sports gear as she lined up with more than 30 other cyclists to attend a peaceful race, Zakia, 23, told Xinhua that women have the right to live their lives as equals of men. The cyclists, including more than a dozen girls, stood in three rows to ride their bicycles in Bamyani city to demonstrate women's abilities, promote awareness of women's rights and help to reduce violence against women in Afghanistan's conservative society.

"Our sole objective for riding our bikes here today is to show our capacity as women and send the message that women like men can play a productive role in developing our society and riding bikes is proof of this fact," Zakia asserted.

In Afghanistan where people deeply believe in old-fashioned traditions, many families don't allow their daughters and wives to go out of their homes unless they are accompanied by close relatives.

"By attending the bicycle race and riding in front of hundreds of spectators, we are sending a message that men and women are equal and should enjoy equal rights in society," said Zakia boldly.

Accompanied by traffic police and under the watchful eyes of hundreds of men standing on both sides of the road, the cyclists after riding for around 4 km gathered in the grounds of Bamyani University where speakers called upon people to "say no to violence against women" and promote the culture of respecting women in society. (Xinhua)

China Calls for Closer Regional Collaboration to Fight Poverty

BEIJING - China issued guidelines Wednesday, calling for closer collaboration between its developed eastern regions and underdeveloped western regions in an effort to bridge the regional development gap and meet its target of eliminating poverty by 2020.

The country paired off some of its eastern and western regions to cooperate on poverty reduction, through governance, capital and talent assistance, according to the guidelines issued by the State Council.

The guidelines called on eastern provinces to increase financial support for western regions in poverty



relief, while calling for recipient regions to increase the supervision of funding to ensure the money is wisely spent. Favorable policies will be put in place to encourage enterprises, especially those in labor-intensive sectors, to invest in underdeveloped western regions, according to the guidelines. They also called for eastern provinces to mobilize more talent in the fields of education, sanitation, technology and culture, to work in western regions. (Xinhua)

Cleanliness Campaign aunched in Nangarhar Capital

JALALABAD - An overnight campaign for washing roads and streets in the capital of eastern Nangarhar provinces has been launched, the governor's office said on Wednesday.

The cleanliness drive was being conducted by Khogyani Academic and Development Foundation with technical support from the municipality, a statement from the governor's house said. Started from the Mastofiat Square, the campaign would be extended to other areas of the provincial capital in the next few days.

Governor Gulab Mangal said the purpose of the cleanliness drive ... (More on P4)... (13)

Confidence in Afghan Govt. at its Lowest Ebb, Finds Survey

KABUL - Growing insecurity, corruption, rising unemployment and slow job growth have caused more pessimism among Afghans about their future, damaging public confidence in the government, says the Asia Foundation.

Released in Kabul on Wednesday, the latest annual survey of Afghan attitudes and opinions covers more than 87,000 men and women. It provides a unique portrait of evolving public perceptions on a variety of issues touching the masses. Importantly, more rural men now support women's right to vote and work outside their homes. The 2016 survey polled 12,658 respondents from 16 ethnic groups across all 34

provinces, including insecure environments. The falling sense of optimism largely stems from the failure of peace talks with the Taliban earlier this year, new incursions and record civilian casualties. The withdrawal of foreign troops in 2014 can still be felt in the economy. Abdullah Ahmadzai, the Asia Foundation's country representative, said: "Afghanistan is emerging from decades of war and conflict. For the moment, a sense of personal safety and empowerment remains elusive.

The findings illustrated Afghans' dissatisfaction with their government, ... (More on P4)... (15)

Afghanistan and Allied ECO Countries to Develop ICT Solutions to Attain SDGs

KABUL - The Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) member countries including Afghanistan are developing Information Communication and Technology (ICT) solutions to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region.

In this regard, Appldea2R Contests will be conducted in the ECO member states this include; Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to develop applications, be it for the web, a personal computer, a mobile handheld device, console, SMS, or any software platform broadly available to the public (solutions) related to one or more of the SDGs. The Apps submitted in the

contest should address at least one of the 17 SDGs, either for awareness creation or to contribute to progress towards meeting the SDGs.

The Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET) Jamshoro (Pakistan), and Technology Times (TechTimes) signed an agreement in Pakistan to develop cooperation and collaboration to develop ICT based solutions for achieving United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The organizations together mutually agreed to organize software applications contest among ECO member countries titled "Appldea2R" (Application Idea to Reality) to ... (More on P4)... (16)

Tie Pak Aid to Action Against Haqqanis: Congressman

KABUL - Pakistan does not deserve a single dollar of American taxpayers' money if it is unable to take action against the dreaded Haqqani network, a US congressman says. After the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act by the House of Representatives, Ted Poe accused Pakistan of doing little to crack down on the extremist outfit on its soil.

Also a member of Committee on Foreign Affairs, the lawmaker from Texas said: "The Haqqani network has killed more Americans in Afghanistan than any other terrorist group, but the Pakistan government has done little to go after it." Pakistan has received about \$33 billion in US assistance since the 9/11 attacks, the influential congressman said. "My bipartisan amendment



limits foreign aid to Pakistan until the administration certifies that Pakistan has shown progress in arresting and prosecuting Haqqani leaders," he added. If Pakistan was unwilling to prosecute members of the network, then it did not deserve a single dollar of American taxpayers' money, Poe said. (Pajhwok)

Afghan War Not Winnable Due to Pak Policy

WASHINGTON - The war on terrorism in Afghanistan cannot be won as long as militant safe havens exist in neighboring Pakistan, a former American general told lawmakers on Tuesday.

"The war is not winnable under the current policy. We cannot win, and that's the reality of it. We've got sanctuaries in Pakistan," said the former vice-chief of the army, General (R) John M Keane. Currently chairman of the Institute for the Study of War, he told members of the Senate that no insurgencies had ever been defeated with sanctuaries outside the conflict area.

During a Congressional hearing on



worldwide threats, he said: "Pakistani, Afghan forces do not have the enablers they need to overcome the Taliban who have resurged." He stressed the need for a new strategy with a commitment to force the elimination of sanctuaries in Pakistan, whose military provided intelligence, training and logistic assistance ... (More on P4)... (17)

Winter Offensive Kicks Off in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Security forces have launched winter offensive to eliminate rebels' strongholds in northern Kunduz province and clear security threats, an official said on Wednesday.

Police Chief Brig. Gen. Qasem Jangal Bagh told Pajhwok Afghanistan the winter offensive was launched throughout the province early on Tuesday in a coordinative manner with all other security agencies.

"Our preparation is complete, we launched the much needed offensive from Zarkharid area on the outskirts of Kunduz city, the area has been cleared with 19 rebels dead and one vehicle belonging to them destroyed."

Col. Rahim Kohdamani, senior official of public order police who headed the overnight offensive in Zarkharid, said his forces besieged the area and inflicted heavy casualties on the insurgents.

"We will continue the offensive with full cooperation from other security agencies in order to ensure complete security in the province," he said.

Earlier, the National Security Council (NSC) had ordered security forces to concentrate on elimination of militants' sanctuaries this winter and adopt offensive manner in fight against rebels.

Provincial council members of Kunduz also demanded the government to focus upon the security of the Northern Province and accelerate development activities in it.

Safiullah Ameeri, the provincial council member, said in the past two ... (More on P4)... (18)