

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 18°C 5°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 11°C -2°C	Kandahar Clear 18°C 2°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 6°C -1°C	Herat Clear 18°C 2°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 3°C -7°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 9°C -4°C
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Kabul Reiterates its Call to UN to Lift Sanctions Against Hekmatyar

KABUL - The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Tuesday reiterated its call to the UN to lift sanctions against Hizb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. "Our expectation is that they (UN) officials respond positively to our recommendations," said MoFA deputy spokesman Khairullah Azad. Meanwhile, Jabbar Shalgarai, a senior member of the group has also advocated the world body to take steps to remove embargos against its leader. "If these sanctions are not lifted, other opponent groups will also lose confidence in the peace process and this would indicate that the inter-



national community does not support peace in Afghanistan," said Shalgarai. The request by the govern-

ment of Afghanistan follows a peace accord signed by President Ashraf Ghani and Hizb-e-Islami founder

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar late September, an accord that drew widespread reaction from the Afghan public and

political elite. It is said that the ministry of foreign affairs in a letter to the UN security council requested the swift removal of sanctions against Hekmatyar. But from a legal perspective, the process of scrutinizing the request could take three months. "Lifting of sanctions is part of the peace accord between the Afghan government and Hizb-e-Islami, therefore efforts are underway for the removal of these sanctions," said Omid Maisam, deputy spokesman for CEO Abdullah Abdullah. In ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Police Blasted for Hampering Delivery of Health Services



TIRINKOT - Local officials on Tuesday accused police of preventing the dispatch of medicine to district health centers in central Uruzgan province. But the provincial police chief rejected the allegation. Official claimed said no health worker had links with any groups; instead they were working hard to provide basic health services to all people without any discrimination. Dr. Sayed Rahman Rahmanzai, head of Afghan Health and Development Services (AHDS) organisation, told Pajhwok Afghan News health workers were neutral and no warring side should create problems for them. He said AHDS workers had

been delivering health services in the provincial capital, districts and remote areas of Uruzgan for the past several years. Thousands of people, including women, have benefitted from the services. However, Rahmanzai said they were not allowed to send drugs to health centers in districts and remote areas from the past four months. As a result, thousands of people have been deprived of health services and children of vaccination. Despite permission from the governor to send drugs to healthcare centers, police stopped AHDS drivers transporting medicines and beat them up, he alleged. He said healthcare centers in districts ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Fruit Orchards Established over 100 Acres in Samangan

AIBAK - Fruit gardens have been built on 100 acres of land in northern Samangan province under the National Horticulture and Livestock Project (NHLP), an official said on Tuesday. The NHLP project works under the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). Abdul Majid Khirkhwa, the NHPL head for Samangan, told Pajhwok Afghan News the orchards were made in Hazrat Sultan, Khuram Sarbagh and Feroz Nakhchir districts. He said that the 100 acres of land was planted with saplings of cherry, grapes, apples, apricots and almonds following the autumn campaign of the NHPL project. There was a discount of 10,000 Afghanis for each grapes gardeners and 5,000 Afghanis for other fruits gardeners, he said, adding 50 percent expenses of the ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Kandahar Dried Fruit, Herbal Exports up by 41pc

KANDAHAR CITY - Officials of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) on Tuesday claimed an increase in the export of dried fruit from southern Kandahar province. They said quality production of dried fruit had driven up its demand in the international market. As a result, an upsurge in exports was witnessed this year, they added. Abdul Baqi Beena, deputy head of ACCI, told Pajhwok Afghan News 13,853 tonnes of dried fruits worth \$38,963 million were exported. In addition, 9,696 tonnes of natural herbs accounting for more than \$11 million were also sent to different foreign countries. Fig, raisin, dried apricot and almond were the main dried fruits exported. He said most of Kandahar fruits and herbs were exported to India while a small amount was sent to the United Arab Emirates ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

ANA Commander Seeks Public Help Against Taliban

TIRINKOT - The Afghan National Army (ANA) 205th Atal Military Corps commander in the north, Gen. Dawood Shah Wafadar, has asked people to help security forces crush insurgents. Gen. Wafadar made the remarks at a gathering in ANA's 4th ground brigade office in Uruzgan. Religious scholars, public representatives, civil society activists and ordinary people attended the gathering. He asked Uruzgan residents to help security forces vanquish the insurgents and ensure security. Over the past three months Afghan



forces had inflicted heavy losses on Taliban during operations in the province over the last three months, he said. If civilians helped the secu-

rity personnel in ensuring security, the enemy would not be able to control any area or achieve their goals, the ANA commander believed. Religious scholars,

provincial council members, civil society activists and others promised helping the government by giving information to security forces about insurgents. The participants said they were committed to fighting against Taliban alongside security forces. Former provincial council head, Abdul Karim Khadimzai, asked security forces to conduct clearing operations across the province. According to him, over the past four months clashes have been ongoing in the province, rendering many families displaced. *(Pajhwok)*

Bamyan's Cave-Dwellers don't Have Access to Basic Necessities of Life



BAMYAN CITY - Thousands of cave-dwellers near the Taliban-dynamited Buddha statues in central Bamyan province are suffering from poverty, health issues and deadly animals such as snicks, scorpions threatens their lives as well. Around 3,000 caves are dotted around the famous Buddha statues, inhabited by 250 families from Bamyan and other provinces. Caught up in grinding poverty, the people living here do not have other shelters. The troglodytes have to struggle to keep their bodies and souls together. Their children and family members have to be content with eating breadcrumbs and unhygienic leftover food collected from restaurant rubbish. Some of the caves at the base of the statues were used by the Taliban for storing weapons. Later on, destitute civilians used the rock structures as their abodes. For nearly, three centuries, the Buddhists lived in the caves. Looking the excruciating living conditions, one could not escape the feeling that the hapless individuals are stuck in a time warp, isolated

from the modern-day world. To them, hand-to-mouth living is more than a luxury. Braving subzero winter temperatures and other day-to-day privations, the cave residents do not have blankets -- much less other home appliances. Starvation, illiteracy and backwardness appear to be their destiny. Marzia, a woman living in the cave in Pitab Laghman area of the city, said they lived in bad health conditions and was feeling pain in bones had asthma problems and throat ache. She lived with her husband and eight children in the cave the wetness of which created several health issues for them. Halema, a widow, who had been living in the Darakht locality of the city, said they were occupied by multiple problems, including the health issues. She said: "My husband came with a sleep and suddenly during the mid night he started shouting and we took him to the hospital but he lost his life before we could take him to the hospital." She said her husband was fine on that night ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Western Governments Call for Investigation of Gen. Dostum

KABUL - Afghanistan's Western allies called on Tuesday the government to investigate allegations that a vice president, Abdul Rashid Dostum, had been involved in assaulting and abducting a political rival last month. Dostum is accused of beating a rival, Ahmad Ishchi, before having the man taken away and detained. In a post online after the incident, Dostum denied abducting Ishchi, saying he was in police custody. Dostum's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. On Tuesday, as word of Ishchi's release came, delegations from the United States, Britain, European Union, and other governments called for a thorough investigation of the incident.



"The unlawful detention and reported mistreatment of Mr Ishchi by the First Vice President raises serious concerns," the U.S. Embassy said in a statement. ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Electricity Being Extended from Paktia to Khost



KHOST CITY - Work on extending electricity from the capital of southeastern Paktia province to neighboring Khost province was launched on Monday. Khost governor Hokam Khan Habibi told Pajhwok Afghan News the power extension project would

cost \$110 million and benefit 40,000 families. He said 270 pylons would be erected in 90 kilometers between Gardez, Paktika's capital and Khost City. He said the project, including establishment of two sub-stations, would ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Lionel Messi Meets Murtaza Ahmadi

DOHA - An Afghan boy who gained online fame after a picture of him wearing a makeshift Lionel Messi jersey went viral has finally met his football hero in Doha, Qatar. Murtaza Ahmadi was shown dressed in a blue-and-white striped plastic bag with Barcelona and Argentina star Messi's name and number etched in pen on the back in January. The image, which

garnered global attention after it was posted on a Messi fan site, sparked a manic search by fans to find the six-year-old from Jaghori, southwest of Kabul. Now, almost 11 months later, a series of images and videos posted on social media by Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee Tuesday showed Messi and Murtaza meeting for the first time. *(CNN)*

Takhar Mawlawi Asked to Apologize for Anti-Woman Remarks

TAKHAR - Dozens of religious scholars in Takhar on Tuesday criticized Mawlawi Abdul Samad for his recent anti-women remarks and called on the province's former head of the Ulema Council to apologize for his comments. "Mawlawi Abdul Samad should apologize to all women in the country and he should not let the issue affect the trust and the place of religious scholars in society," said Massoud-ul-Haq Haqnawaaz, the new head of Takhar Ulema Council. "No one can violate the right and the position that has been given by Allah to women. Religious scholars should consider this fact," he added. They said the statement was against the principles of Islam. "The statement made by Mawlawi Samad was his own remarks and it is against the teachings of Islam," said Ghulam Rabbani, a religious scholar in Takhar. Another religious scholar, Abdul Ahad, said: "Women are honest and well-mannered in Afghanistan; therefore, they should not be insulted." TOLNews' Nematullah Ahmadi tried to speak to Takhar women about the issue, but they did not want comment due to what they called a fear of the Mawlawi. Samad said in an interview with TOLNews last week that he does not regret what he said and that he would continue to make such remarks. He said ...*(More on P4)...(12)*