

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Partly Cloudy	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Partly Cloudy	Herat	Partly Cloudy	Bamayan	Partly Cloudy	Kabul	Clear
18°C 6°C	11°C -3°C	19°C 4°C	7°C 2°C	15°C -1°C	3°C -8°C	11°C -3°C							



Daily Outlook Afghanistan congratulates Kazakhstan's Government and Nation on its 25th Independence Day



Siemens Offers \$2.5b Credit Facility for TAPI Pipeline

PESHAWAR - An international engineering giant has offered a credit facility of \$2.5 billion for the supply of compressors for an ambitious four-nation gas pipeline project involving Afghanistan. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Company, task with laying and operating the pipeline, would need to install nine compressors for transmitting gas. Siemens has offered to provide the compressors against under the \$2.5-billion sup-



plier credit facility, a news report said. Remaining funds for the project will be generated through road shows in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore. According to The Express Tribune, Turkmenistan has agreed in principle to purchase the compressors from Siemens. Modalities of a deal with the firm were being finalised, the newspaper reported. With Turkmenistan bearing 85% of the total pipeline cost of \$10 billion, Afghanistan, Pakistan and ... (More on P4)...(7)

Germany Angry with Greece over Afghan Refugee Murder Suspect

BERLIN - A German minister rebuked Greek authorities on Thursday for letting a convicted Afghan criminal slip through the system and make it to Germany where he sought asylum and is now under arrest on suspicion of rape and murder. The case of the 17-year old Afghan, arrested this month in the city of Freiburg, has stirred outrage in Germany and spurred politicians, including Chancellor Angela Merkel, to warn against making generalizations about migrants. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the suspect, identified only as Hussein K., had been convicted of attempted murder in Greece 2013 and sentenced to 10 years behind bars. Released in 2015 on parole, he disap-

peared and came to Germany. De Maiziere criticized Greece for launching only a national, not international, search. German police arrested him on Dec. 2 on suspicion of raping and murdering a 19-year old student who was cycling home from a party. "This is a very exasperating incident. We will certainly have to discuss it with the Greek side," de Maiziere told reporters, adding there needed to be more international cooperation on the exchange of information on criminals. Crimes committed by migrants are a highly sensitive subject in Germany after nearly 900,000 migrants reached the country last year, fuelling fears they could not be properly integrated. Merkel, ... (More on P4)...(8)

Parliament Asked Not to Approve Next Year's Budget

KABUL - Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) on Thursday expressed concern over reduced budget for the security sector and asked the parliament not to approve the draft budget for 1396 fiscal year. Few days back, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) presented next fiscal year's budget with a total outlay of 466 billion afghanis to the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament for approval. The national budget for last fiscal year was 461.8 billion afghanis with 283.3 billion going to general and 168.5 billion to development expenses. A number of CSBAG members on Thursday gathered in Kabul to protest against what they called 'reduced security budget' and absence of balance in the development allocations.

Khalil Raufi, a member of the group, said the Afghan government had been lacking a clear and proper plan for spending national budget over the past 15 years. "Unfortunately balance is not observed in development allocations to some provinces. Roads and schools are reconstructed many times in some provinces as well as several healthcare centers, but other provinces like Ghor are ignored where people even don't know about healthcare," he said. Despite deteriorating security situation in the country, the budget for the security sector has been reduced by 12 percent compared last year's, he added. Raufi said 40 percent of the total national budget went to the security sector last fiscal year, but the percentage was reduced to 28 percent for the next year, an issue he called as of concern for CSBAG. Din Mohammad Shekib, another member of the group, said President Ashraf Ghani always talked about implementing development projects in different provinces, something ignored in the national budget. One of the important projects ignored in the budget was ... (More on P4)...(10)

Prevent Terrorist from Getting WMD, Saikal Urges World

WASHINGTON - Afghanistan on Thursday expressed concern over reduced budget for the security sector and asked the parliament not to approve the draft budget for 1396 fiscal year. Few days back, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) presented next fiscal year's budget with a total outlay of 466 billion afghanis to the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament for approval. The national budget for last fiscal year was 461.8 billion afghanis with 283.3 billion going to general and 168.5 billion to development expenses. A number of CSBAG members on Thursday gathered in Kabul to protest against what they called 'reduced security budget' and absence of balance in the development allocations.



Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal said this in his address to the UN Security Council's open-debate on Preventing Catastrophe: A global agenda for stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors. "The risk of non-state actors, especially terrorists, using weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including nuclear weapons, is one of the biggest threats to global peace and security," he added. Although no large-scale attack of that nature had happened yet, terrorists had shown the intent and capaci-

ty to develop and use WMD, he warned. "Therefore, it is the responsibility of the international community to effectively address the possible threats of the use of WMD by the non-state actors, in all its aspects," he said. Saikal said while some progress had been made in the adoption of measures to prevent the proliferation of WMD by non-state actors, the rate and variability of the progress confirmed that accomplishing the objective of full implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 was a long-term task that requires ... (More on P4)...(9)

Trump won't Abandon Afghanistan, Believes Mohib

WASHINGTON - The rationale for American involvement in Afghanistan remains as urgent as it was on September 11, 2001, the Afghan ambassador said on Wednesday. Hamdullah Mohib made the remarks weeks ahead of president-elect Donald Trump's formal take-over. Trump is expected to take a quick decision on the future of US troops in Afghanistan. "As the Trump administration considers how American engagement with Afghanistan fits into its foreign policy and national security goals, one overriding fact is indisputable: The rationale for US involvement in Afghanistan remains as urgent today as it was on September 11, 2001," he remarked. Speaking at the Heritage Foundation, the diplomat referred to the recent remarks of General Nicholson



More Afghan Soy Farmers Grow Soybeans to Defeat Malnutrition

KABUL - For the past 12 years, Nutrition & Education International (NEI), a non-governmental organization funded by the Republic of Korea, has significantly improved the health and well-being of thousands of malnourished women and children throughout Afghanistan - all with the simple soybean. Not only is this miracle bean high in protein, omega 3 oil, and amino acids required for healthy human development, it is also easy to grow, affordable, and delicious when used in traditional Afghan recipes. The backbone of NEI's soybean program is it farmers. In 2016 alone, over 17,400 farming households in 31 provinces grew soybeans as a second harvest to wheat. NEI trained these farmers on how to grow soybeans, providing them with the necessary seeds, fertilizers, and tools to become successful and self-reliant. The result? In 2016, Afghan farmers produced over 6,000 MT of soybeans - a record crop for the country - making this highly nutritious and affordable food available to even ... (More on P4)...(12)

that of the 98 US-designated terrorist organisations, 20 were active in the Af-Pak region. "This represents the highest concentration of terrorist groups anywhere in the world," Mohib said, echoing Nicholson's concern that withdrawal from Afghanistan would mean the terrorist groups could ... (More on P4)...(11)

ALP in Kunduz Demand Heavy Weapons Against Taliban



KUNDUZ CITY - The Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel are unable to effectively deal with Taliban militants in northern Kunduz province due to lack of heavy weapons and other needed equipment, an official said on Thursday. Karimullah, ALP commander in Kunduz, said that they lacked heavy weapons and it was impossible to fight off the rebels with AK-47s. He said if ALP forces were provided heavy weapons, the Taliban would be unable to face the force. He said fighting the insur-

gency needed more equipment and the government should address their problems. Some ALP personnel claimed the Taliban were equipped with heavy and light weapons. Shafaq, one of the ALP personnel, said they were ready to fight till the last drop of their blood but regretted they lacked heavy weapons. Rabani Rabani, a member of the provincial council, said ALP fighters were effective in keeping Taliban at bay but they should be equipped ... (More on P4)...(13)

Badghis Women to Seek Justice

KABUL - Badghis Police Chief Abdul Rauf Taj meanwhile said they continue to investigate the alleged assault on the house. Two women from Ab Kamari district in Badghis, who claim they were attacked by gunmen one month ago without being guilty, called on government to assess their case and provide them with justice. The women, who visited a num-

ber of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) members on Friday, said the armed men entered their house by the order of provincial security officials, assaulted their family members and opened fire on their son. "They hit my son with a gun and threw him out of home. Then they fired bullets at him; all of them hit his legs. He is paralyzed now. They also beat ... (More on P4)...(14)

Afghan, Pakistani Transporters End 4-Day Strike after Talks

PESHAWAR - Transporters from Afghanistan and Pakistan have conditionally called off a wheel-jam strike after several rounds of negotiations with the political administrations. Protesting against the imposition of a new tax by Afghan border authorities, the transporters had been on strike for four days, the Torkham administrator said. Shamsul Islam said hundreds of trucks were parked on both sides of the border as the transporters asked the Afghan government to withdraw the tax. Meanwhile, the transporters confirmed calling off the strike after receiving assurance from border officials that the issue would be taken up with the political agent of Khyber Agency and higher-ups in Afghanistan. Afghan transporter Khyal complained up to Rs20,000, including illegal payments, were collected from them at various check-posts from Karkhano Market to Torkham. If the problem was not resolved, they would again give a call for strike, warned Shakir Afridi, head of the All Transporters Union. Long queues of trucks later started moving across the border. The assistant political agent of Landikotal, Rahimullah Mehsud, promised strict action against those seeking bribes from the transporters. (Pajhwok)