

Jalalabad Clear 18°C 7°C	Ghazni Clear 11°C -3°C	Kandahar Clear 18°C 1°C	Mazar Clear 8°C 2°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 16°C -3°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 2°C -6°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 12°C -2°C		Daily Outlook Weather Forecast
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Public Help Needed in Keeping City Clean: CEO

KABUL - The chief executive officer (CEO) on Monday asked all government agencies and NGO should take part in cleaning the city and called people's support in this process as requisite condition. The 10-day campaign for cleaning Kabul started on Monday from the 10th municipal district with the participation of high-ranking officials and women. The drive will spruce up the capital. Garbage will be collected and trucked out of the city. Dr. Abdullah, at the launch of the cleaning drive, said the initiative aimed at cleaning Kabul had yielded fruitful consequences. In the third phase of the campaign, which started today, more areas would be cleaned. He sought people's support for the drive. "We



hope all agencies and ministries will participate in the cleanliness drive." He said if people helped the municipality in the campaign, the environment would stay clean. Abdul Tawab Ahmadi, cleaning department head at municipality, said the campaign was jointly conducted by the municipality and the Ministry of Public Works. 50,000 workers, including 80 women, are participating in cleaning the city. (Pajhwok)

Development Projects Inaugurated in Laghman



MEHTARLAM - A number of development projects have been put into service after being completed in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Monday. The governor's spokesman, Sarhadi Zwak, told Pajhwok Afghan News Bargamin irrigation networks were inaugurated in Mehtarlam and irrigation canals in Charbagh district. He said the irrigation networks, costing more than 10 million afghanis, were funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). The 9-kilometre-long networks were constructed in seven months. Zwak added the project created jobs for 10,260 people, benefitting hundreds of families. Nearly 234 hectares of land, which had been irrigated traditionally, has come under the new watering system. Governor Abdul Jabbar Naemi, during the inauguration ceremony, said they were taking practical steps for fundamentally developing and mechanising agriculture and irrigation in the province. A resident of Qarghayee district, Aynullah, said earlier much of water was wasted and their farmlands were not irrigated properly. He expressed happiness over the projects' inauguration. Meanwhile, some 2,460 metres roadside watercourses, costing over eight million afis provided by municipality, were also put into service. The streams are located in the jurisdiction of the 1st municipal district. The project took six months to complete, providing jobs to 5,760 people. (Pajhwok)

Faryadi Released from Detention after Deportation from UK

KABUL - Government sources on Monday said that Zardad Faryadi, a former Hizb-e-Islami commander, has been released after being taken into custody by security forces on his return to Kabul last week. According to the source, a high-ranking government official mediated in his release. Faryadi was reportedly taken into custody after landing in Kabul on Wednesday following his deportation for the UK a day earlier. A number of Afghanistan residents meanwhile said Faryadi had committed crimes in the past and called for government to investigate the matter. "Faryadi committed lots of crimes. He built checkpoints and was annoying people. He was a cruel person," said Noor Mohammad, a resident of Surubi district of Kabul city. Mohsin, a 50-year-old man from Tagab district of Kapi-



sa province, which was once under the control of Faryadi says he witnessed him committing crimes. "I want Faryadi to be sentenced. He committed genocide in Tagab and stole people's belongings," he said. "If ... (More on P4)...(6)

Paktika Varsity's Agriculture Institute Gets New Building

SHARAN - The Paktika University's Agriculture Institute has got a new building in the capital of the southeastern province, where 60 percent of educational facilities do not have proper structures. Education Director Mohammad Nasim Wajid, speaking at the inauguration ceremony for the building, said that the two-storey facility was constructed in the past one year and cost 14 million afghanis. He said the agriculture institute had no building in the past, a problem that had been resolved. Governor Elyas Wahdat, expressed pleasure over the construction of the new building, and said 60 percent of educational institutes lacked the facility. "We are trying to gradually erect buildings for all educational centers," he said. Jumarat, a student of the institute, told Pajhwok Afghan News that he was previously studying in the accounting institute which too lacked a building. "It is a good omen for the institute and now we can study in a proper environment," he said. There are 347 educational centers in Paktika province and 60 percent of them have no buildings. (Pajhwok)

Raziq Pakistan Jailed Some Taliban Leaders Leaving Quetta, 6 Reach Helmand

KANDAHAR - At least six Taliban leaders have left the Quetta city of Pakistan along with their family members and have shifted to Helmand province, Kandahar's police chief General Abdul Raziq said. Speaking in a gathering attended by elders and Ulemas of 10 provinces, Gen. Raziq said some of the Taliban leaders who were looking to leave Quetta have been arrested and jailed by the Pakistani military. Gen. Raziq further added that there are no reports regarding the fate of the family members of the Taliban group leaders who have been jailed. This comes as reports emerged late last month suggesting that top Taliban leaders in the group's leadership council may have abandoned Pakistan and have likely moved to Afghanistan. A spokesman for the group Zabiullah Mujahd confirmed to Associated Press that the leadership council was relocated some months ago. Mujahd did not provide further information regarding the exact date and location within the country where the leadership council was relocated. However, another Taliban official has said the council



has been shifted to southern Helmand province of Afghanistan. The Afghan officials earlier said the group is looking to shift its leadership council in Helmand province by intensifying attacks on key districts of the province. The move if confirmed would reflect the growing international pressure as well as the Afghan government on Pakistan to take actions against the leadership councils of the Taliban and Haqqani network based in key cities of Pakistan, including Peshawar and Quetta. The Afghan officials, including President Ghani, has on numerous occasions criticized Pakistan for remaining reckless to act against the group in its soil from where they plan and coordinate attacks in Afghanistan. (KP)

Thousands Receive Improved Seeds, Fertilisers

AIBAK - The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) distributed improved wheat seeds and fertilisers at 50 percent discount in northern Samangan province, an official said on Monday. Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Noor Mohammad, at a ceremony marking the end of the distribution process, told Pajhwok Afghan News the exercise had been launched a month ago. He said 6,730 farmers were provided with 1,011 tonnes of improved wheat seeds and fertilisers, costing nearly three million afghanis, provided by the ministry concerned. The agricultural inputs were acquired by MAIL from Balkh's enterprise of fertiliser and power plant. Each farmer received the seeds and fertilisers at 50 percent discount. Noor Mohammad hoped the improved seeds would help boost agricultural production. The seeds have been domestically produced based on experience from previous years. The seeds would help improve the economic situation of farmers as it had been reproduced in compliance with climate and soil conditions of the country. He said 100 kilograms of chemical fertilisers accounted for 4,450 afghanis; but the same quantity was given to farmers for 2,225 afghanis. A number of Samangan growers expressed happiness over receiving improved seeds and fertilisers; but they said the seeds were not enough to meet their requirements. (Pajhwok)

OIC Meeting on Media, Women Begins in Jeddah

KABUL - Information ministers from Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) countries meet Monday in Jeddah to discuss issues and draft resolutions include the role of the media in supporting the cause of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque, a news report said. Saudi Arabia is hosting the four-day conference starting today, according to Arab News, which said the participants would discuss the adoption of a media strategy to confront Islamophobia and empowerment of women in and through the media. Internal and external media action in partnership with member states and international institutions are also the agenda, the newspaper reported. The conference would also discuss the implementation of a special media programme for Africa in order to highlight its place and role in the Muslim world and launch of similar initiatives in other regions. A report for launching an OIC satellite channel and supporting the work of OIC joint Islamic media action institutions as well as the establishment of an international award for media and journalists will be discussed. The conference will deliberate on ways to strengthen OIC's media visibility in championing cultural exchanges, development, peace and boosting the capacity and productivity of, and cooperation among, media institutions in member states. The conference is expected to issue a ministerial communiqué and "Jeddah Declaration" at its conclusion. (Pajhwok)

Drug worth \$51m Seized, Set Afloat in Paktia



KABUL - Police have discovered and seized a huge cache of drugs worth \$51 million in southeastern Paktia province, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Monday. Stored in the area for the past 13 years, the narcotics weighing nearly 191 tonnes were set ablaze on the spot, the deputy minister of counter-narcotics said. Lt. Gen. Baz Mohammad Ahmadi told reporters in Kabul the drugs seized in Syed Karam district had been stored in 44 factories in Ahmadabad village. He said foreign troops provided technical and air supported to police in raiding the site. The drugs were seized on December 19 and torched along with 44 labs. The narcotics were comprised of 189.5 tonnes of hashish, 1,700kg of opium and 18kg of heroin. The narcotics value is estimated \$51 million. No one was detained in connection with the drugs. (Pajhwok)

Britain's Queen Awards Afghan Military Student

KABUL - Behzad Behnam Haidari, an Afghan military student, was selected as the best foreign student at Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst this year and received a Sword as an award. He trained at the Marshal Fahim National Defense Uni-

versity (MFNDU) in Kabul and was then sent to Britain to further his education. "Three students were sent from Afghanistan. One from the ministry of defense and two others from the ministry of interior," Haidari said. Haidari was bestowed his award by Queen Elizabeth II

and is the first Afghan military student to ever win this award. "Haidari showed that Afghanistan has competent people," said Kabul airport chief of police, Mohammad Asif Jabarkhil. Haidari says that sport and military exercises have become habit for him. "Anyone that receives the sword, passes an activity assessment. Not only are their practical and physical activities assessed, but their behavior and other characteristics are also assessed," he said. "I hope that government provides better opportunities for achievers such as Haidari and other competent people (so they can) serve the country," said Behroz Behnam Haidari, ... (More on P4)...(7)



Tagab Farmers Exult Over High Yield, Lucrative Prices

MAHMOOD RAQI - The residents of the Tagab district of central Kapisa province are exultant over the bumper pomegranate yield, saying prices are higher compared to last year. Tagab district, globally known for producing excellent quality of cultivars, exports most of its delicious and

juicy pomegranates to Pakistan, from where the fruit is sent to other countries of the world. Khairullah, owner of a pomegranate garden from Shahkhelarea, told Pajhwok Afghan News dried and fresh fruit produced in Kapisa was dispatched to Kabul and Nangarhar provinces and Pa-

kistani markets. Local residents buy entire orchards and businessmen from Pakistan also visit the district for bulk purchases of pomegranates and other fruits. Farm owner, meanwhile, are worried about strained relations between Pakistan and ... (More on P4)...(8)