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December 25, 2014

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 18°C 4°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 6°C -7°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 17°C -1°C	Mazar Chance of Rain 15°C 4°C	Herat Clear 12°C 0°C	Bamayan Snow 0°C -16°C	Kabul Clear 11°C -6°C
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Wolesi Jirga Rejects Draft Budget



KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga on Wednesday rejected with a majority vote the draft budget for the current fiscal year due lack of balance and other serious problems.

begins on December 22. The draft was approved by the Council of Ministers and then Meshrano Jirga sent it to Wolesi Jirga with some recommendations on Dec 9. Wolesi Jirga's Finance Commission head Amir Khan

Yar, who placed the draft before the session, claimed that there was no balance in provincial allocations. The draft contains no appropriate measures to create job opportunities.

New projects implementation had not been proposed, the lawmaker explained, saying the loans payable to some companies that did not receive funds last year had not been mentioned. Speaker Abdur Rauf Ibrahim...

President Dismisses Herat Governor

HERAT CITY - President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday fire the governor of western Herat province, directing the deputy governor to assume charge.

In a decree, the president removed Fazlullah Wahidi as governor after a delegation presented him with a report on the current wave of violence in Herat. Parliamentarian Farhad Majidi, part of the team, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had a meeting with Ghani today. He said the presidential action was based on the report. He added deputy Governor Asiluddin Jame was appointed as acting governor.

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) spokesman ... (More on P4)... (13)

Dozens of Afghans Killed While Fighting in Syria Last Week



KABUL - Dozens of Afghan nationals have been reported killed while fighting in support of the Syrian regime led by Bashar al-Assad. The Afghan nationals were reportedly killed by the Syrian rebels during clashes in Aleppo last week.

The Syrian Observatory for Human rights, scores of Afghan nationals were also kidnapped by the rebels fighting under the umbrella of the Free Syrian Army. Assad has deferred to Iran to help the Syrian regime in its ... (More on P4)... (14)

Dangam Operations Halted as Residents Besieged

KABUL - The security forces have temporarily halted the operations in Dangam district of Kunar to allow the besieged residents evacuate the area, Kunar Police Chief Abdul Habib Syedkheili said. But the Taliban militants are frequently launching attacks on the security forces, Syedkheili added. He reported that five insurgents were wounded including three Pakistani nationals in the last night's fighting. Earlier yesterday the Ministry of Defense (MoD) noted that the recent International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) air support helped the ... (More on P4)... (17)

Russia to Donate \$2.6m to Afghan Children in Iran

TEHRAN - The government of the Russian Federation has decided to donate 2.6 million US dollars to UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the implementation of the project 'Social protection and services for Afghan children in the Islamic Republic of Iran'. The extra budgetary funding will support UNICEF's national partners and institutions in Iran providing services to these children, the Russian Embassy in Tehran announced in a press release. The signing ceremony of the Contribution Agreement between the Russian Federation and UNICEF was ... (More on P4)... (18)

Congress Calls for Coordinated Anti-Drug Strategy



WASHINGTON - Observing that Afghan drug trade funds the insurgency, fuels corruption, and creates major public health challenges, a Congressional report on Tuesday called for a comprehensive and coordinated counter-narcotics strategy. The bipartisan report, "Future ... (More on P4)... (15)

US, Germany, Italy, Turkey to Lead New NATO Mission in Afghanistan

US, Germany, Italy and Turkey will join efforts in training and advising Afghan troops in different parts of the country as part of the Alliance's new mission starting next year.

KABUL - The United States, Germany, Italy and Turkey will share responsibility for training and advising Afghan troops in different parts of the country as part of NATO's new "Resolute Support" mission in the coming year, the alliance's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg ... (More on P4)... (16)



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