

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 20°C 8°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 13°C 0°C	Kandahar Clear 21°C 3°C	Mazar Mostly Cloudy 11°C 6°C	Herat Mostly Cloudy 15°C 7°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 9°C -3°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 17°C 1°C
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MoFA Voices Displeasure over Upcoming Trilateral Meeting

Deh Yak District Officials Stay Absent from Job

KABUL - Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Monday voiced grief over the planned trilateral meeting between China, Russia and Pakistan on Afghanistan in Moscow on Tuesday. Despite Afghanistan being the focus of their agenda, Kabul was not consulted. MoFA said the point of the meeting was a matter of concern. "Talking on Afghanistan without consulting the country raises serious questions for the Afghan people. We are worried about what the reasons behind the meeting are and want the relevant parties to explain," said Ahmad Shekib Mustaghni, spokesman for the MoFA. Parliament Members (MPs) meanwhile said the holding



of such a meeting on Afghanistan, without consulting government, is an obvious interference in internal issues.

"We are worried about holding such meetings and the security situation the next year," said Abdul Raouf Ibrahim, speaker of the house.

"Our politicians only sit on seats, but others talk about Afghanistan in Moscow. It is shameful," said Saleh Mohammad Saleh, an MP.

The expansion of insurgents' activities in Afghanistan, however, has always been a key concern for Russia and central Asian countries. According to statistics from the National Security Council (NSC), nearly 11,000 foreign fighters are believed to be in the country. "Russia and China think that America wants to settle cross-border terrorist groups in Afghanistan," said Abdul Shokor Salangi, international affairs analyst. A source from the ministry of defense also said currently around 40,000 insurgents are active in the country, while President Ashraf Ghani has said in the past that more than 30 terrorist groups are active in Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

GHAZNI - Residents of Deh Yak district of southern Ghazni province say district officials, including the administrative chief, do not attend offices, leaving people's problems unsolved. Haji Lal Khan, a resident of Rabat area of the district, told Pajhwok Afghan News no development works had been done in Dehyak over the past 14 years. He said education, health, agriculture and other sectors had completely been ignored with regard to uplift schemes. "No governor of Ghazni has visited the district in last eight years to closely evaluate people's problems", he added. Except the police chief, three senior officials, including the district chief, did not attend office, with residents struggling to resolve their problems, Khan complained. Another resident, Ezatullah, said district officials did not come to office even once a month. "Whenever we have referred our problems to the district headquarters, we had not seen the district chief, his deputy and all other officials. We wait for days to share our problems with the officials concerned", he said. He said a district chief who knew the community he served or a professional person had not been appointed as the district chief during the past 14 years. Naimullah, another resident, also complained many residents were yet to obtain identity cards. "There is no one in the district building, how can we get identity cards?" No aid program has been implemented in Deh Yak in the past several years and aid is often pocketed by district officials, he said. "Some people in our area even don't know who is the district chief and who is the governor of Ghazni because officials ... (More on P4)... (8)

Farah Clash Leaves 2 Police Dead, 3 Hurt

FARAH CITY - Two policemen have been killed and three others injured in the Taliban attack on check-post in the Balabook district of the western Farah province, an official said on Monday. Mohammad Nasir Mehri, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that insurgents stormed police check-post in Farah Rud locality Sunday night. He said Taliban militants also suffered losses in the battle but had no exact information about the rebels' casualties. Taliban claimed capturing a check-post and killing six policemen in the overnight attack. Abdul Rahim, a resident of the area, confirmed the incident in a telephonic chat. He said three policemen were killed and four others wounded and some fled the area during the clash. (Pajhwok)

5 Imposters Nabbed in Kabul, Claims NDS



KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Monday claimed busting a group of five robbers posing as security and attorney office personnel. A statement from the spy network said the men, involved in robbing homes and people, were arrested from a house in the limits of the ninth police district, where they were committing a robbery. One vehicle, two Kalashnikov assault rifle and two pistols were recovered from the detainees, who are currently under investigation, according to the NDS statement. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan May Query Families on Return from Afghanistan

KABUL - The Pakistani military considers questioning the tribes people, who fled to Afghanistan following a military operation in tribal areas, on Taliban links, a media report said on Monday. Kamran Afridi, political agent of Khyber Agency, said those who fled to Afghanistan from Miranshah and adjacent areas would be considered facilitators of militants. They may be properly interrogated on their return. Before the launch of Operation Zarb-i-Azb, hundreds of thousands of tribesmen were moved to shelter camps set up by the government in different districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.



However, many more had fled either to the neighbouring frontier regions or to the southeastern Khost province of Afghanistan, The Express Tribune reported. No official figures have been shared with the media about

the tribesmen who fled to Afghanistan, but sources in the FATA Secretariat said 93,000 families had been registered in Afghanistan, though 1,300 of them did not have proof of their Pakistani identity. (Pajhwok)

Nearly 600 Crime Suspects Arrested in Kabul

KABUL CITY - Police detained 597 people, including two women, over different crimes and recovered 10 stolen vehicles in just 20 days in central capital Kabul, an official said Monday. Kabul's 101st Asmai Zone police commander Lt. Col. Abdul Rahman Rahimi told a press conference here that the detainees included two men accused of kidnappings and 44 other, including two women, accused of murder and 151 more accused of robberies. He said 58 persons who caused injuries to others were among the suspects. He said 106 detainees had



been charged of committing moral crimes, nine of possessing illegal weapons, 16 of robberies on highways and the remaining of drug smuggling. Rahimi said a wanted thief who stole 17 machines from a demining organization

had been arrested and the machines would be given back to the organization concerned. The police commander also paraded before journalists six kidnappers who killed Abdullah, a car driver, in captivity. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Commander Among 18 Killed in Kunduz City

KUNDUZ - A local commander of the Taliban group was among at least 18 killed during the operations in the strategic Kunduz city. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the Taliban commander Ghulam Safi was killed along with 17 others during the operations conducted in the vicinity of Kunduz city. The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far. Kunduz is among the relatively volatile provinces in northern Afghanistan where the Taliban group launched several attacks this year as part of their spring offensive to capture the strategic Kunduz city. In the meantime, the Ministry of Interior (MoI), earlier said top Taliban leader who was leading the deadly battle in northern Kunduz province was killed during an ambush of the Afghan security forces. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said "A top Taliban commander named Mullah Firoz Jahadi along with five other armed Taliban killed in Aab Band district of Ghazni province in an Afghan ... (More on P4)... (10)

Construction of 4 Bamyan Schools Completed in a Decade



BAMYAN CITY - Local officials on Monday said construction of buildings for four schools had been completed a decade after their foundation stones were laid. A high school, a secondary school and two primary schools were constructed in Sar Qul Topchi, Qazan, Bariki Shahidan and Gulistan areas of Bamyan City -- the provincial capital. The governor's spokesman, Abdur Rahman Ahmadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the reason behind the delay stemmed from problems encountered by the contracting company. He said: "Contracts for the schools were first signed with the Wahid Bakdash Construction Company, which was to erect each building at a cost of \$132,000. But the company left the work incomplete and new contracts were signed with another firm." Based on new contracts, Gulistan School was built for 4 million afghanis, Bari-

ki School for 1.3 million afis, Sar Qul Topchi School for 2.5 million afis and Qazan School for 2.7 million afis. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) provided funds for the project, he said, adding the schools were formally inaugurated today. The school should be monitored by the ministries concerned. Thousands of students would be facilitated with the construction of the schools, he said, revealing the provincial government also planned to build more schools in Bamyan next year. Ahmadi said surveys conducted in Bamyan showed no ghost schools existed in the province. Deputy Director of Education Mohammad Ayub Amiri said that 339 schools were functional across Bamyan. As many as 112 need reconstruction and 60 others lack buildings. He said 140,000 students, including 48 percent girls, were ... (More on P4)... (11)

Chinese Scholar Advocates for Soft Af-Pak Border

KABUL - Pakistan and Afghanistan should accept 'soft borders' as the touchstone for resolving their differences over the British-era border called Durand Line, a renowned Chinese scholar said. Professor Li Xiguang of Tsinghua University said in an interview: "We already have trains running from China to Uzbekistan and then across the Amu Darya

into Afghanistan." He told The Hindu Afghanistan could be connected with Balochistan in the future. The academic stressed the need for a Sino-Indian common initiative to stabilize Afghanistan. The professor hailed Chabahar, which is being developed jointly by Iran, India and Afghanistan, and Gwadar in Balochistan as sister ports. The two facilities

are by only 100 kilometres apart. Professor Li dismissed the impression that China might set up a military base in Gwadar. He suggested India should support the idea of sister ports. "During my stay in Gwadar, not once did I hear any proposal about establishing a Chinese naval base in Gwadar. No one talked about it. ... (More on P4)... (9)

Girls National Football Team to Face India



KABUL - Afghanistan's national girls football team is expected to face rival India in the first match of the South Asia Girls Football Championship on Tuesday. At a press conference on Monday, the two coaches from the Afghan team explained they were well prepared. Kelly Lindsey, the American coach, said: "Despite insecurity and other problems, Afghanistan football federation supported Afghan girls players ... The players will play better than last year." "Players are better than before. We watched the India team play and they are a big rival for us. Playing with this team is interesting for me and I hope to gain good results," said Haley Carter, second coach of the team. "Our team couldn't reach any achievements in 2014, but now as changes happened in coaching we will play differently. I don't want to look back, but want to ... (More on P4)... (12)

Afghan Cyclists Occupy 1st-4th Spots in Int'l Road Race



KABUL - The Afghan cyclists have occupied the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th spots in an international road race in Pakistan, organized to commemorate Quaid-e-Azam Day. According to the local media reports, Ahmad Merzaye won the first position of the race. He covered a distance of 160 KM in four hours, 41 minutes and 48 seconds, breaking the record of 5:10:13, according to The News International newspaper. The competition, Lahore to Sahiwal International Open Road Cycle race, was participated by a total of 70 cyclists from all over Pakistan and Afghanistan. The second position was won by Afghan cyclist Hanif Sharestani while Ali Asghar Jafari won the third spot. ... (More on P4)... (13)