

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 17°C 7°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 4°C -8°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 16°C 1°C	<b>Mazar</b> Chance of Rain 11°C 3°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 13°C 1°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy 2°C -13°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 8°C -3°C
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# Women Under-Represented in Unity Govt: Watchdog

KABUL - The Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) on Thursday criticised the government for giving women fewer representation in its structure.

TEFA chief Naeem Ayubzada told a gathering "women's participation in future election" in Kabul that Afghan women had widely participated in the previous elections but they were regrettably paid less attention in the new government's formation.

More than seven million people, including 38 percent of them women, exercised their right to enfranchise in the April 5 elec-



tions. "Women should have a significant representation in the government given their active role in political and democratic arena," Auzbada said. He said the gender should be given leadership roles and a say in making... (More on P4)... (10)

## 2 Soldiers Sentenced to 10 Years in Jail

KANDAHAR CITY - A primary court on Thursday sentenced two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers to 10 years in prison in an attempted abduction case in southern Kandahar province.

The attorney told the court ANA service-members Ziaul Haq and Mohammad Yousaf had been planning to kidnap two Uruzgan Agriculture University students for ransom, but failed to do so after sharing their plan with a police officer.

Residents of eastern Laghman province, the pair from the 205th Atal Military Corps had attempted to kidnap Mashal and Abdul Ghafoor two months back in order to extract \$100,000 in ransom from their families.

Their plan flopped after they tried to make the Dand district police commander, Gulalai, a partner in the abduction plan. Gulalai informed police about the intention of the two ANA officers, who were then arrested.

Gulalai told the court Haq and Yousaf were stationed in Dand district when they orchestrated the kidnapping plan. He claimed the two soldiers offered him share in the ransom money.

But Haq rejected the allegation as a conspiracy against him, saying commander Gulalai took him to his check post and handcuffed him there.

Mashal, one of the students, said: "Ziaul Haq is my cousin. He telephoned me two months... (More on P4)... (15)

## ACSEN Backs PCs to Supervise Departments



KABUL - The Afghanistan Civil Society Elections Network (ACSEN) on Thursday demanded the president and Wolesi Jirga to empower the provincial councils to supervise and evaluate the performance of local departments.

Sayyed Nasir Mosavi, spokesman of the ACSEN, said they supported the provincial council members' decision of shutting down their offices to protest the decision of the Wolesi Jirga. Earlier, the lower house announced barring... (More on P4)... (14)

## Pakistan Reassures to Provide NKC with Medical Equipment



KABUL - Pakistan on Friday reiterated its commitment to provide the Nishtar Kidney Centre (NKC) in Jalalabad, the capital city of eastern Nangarhar province, with the needed medical equipments.

Following media reports, Akhtar Munir, press counselor at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul, said Pakistan was committed to equip the centre with medical facility.

In a statement, he said that the embassy has clarified that the Afghan side has been requested to... (More on P4)... (16)

## President Appoints His New Chief Spokesman



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has appointed Ajmal Obaid Abidi, a senior member of his campaign team, as his new chief spokesman, replacing Nazifullah Salarzai.

The president's Facebook page said Abidi, the founder of ARIA TV, had played a key role in Ghani's election campaign as a special advisor and strategist.

Abidi had also worked with the United States Agency for International... (More on P4)... (12)

## Peshawar Killings Provoke Crackdown on Afghans

KARACHI - Thousands of Afghans in Pakistan have been arrested or moved from their homes of many years in the wake of December's killing of over 100 schoolchildren in the city of Peshawar. The Afghans, the majority of whom are not registered refugees, have been targeted in a government crackdown



announced immediately after the killings. Responsibility for the 16 December killings - in which... (More on P4)... (11)

## 15 Women Committed Suicide in 3 Years: Official

NIELI - The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Thursday launched a suicide prevention campaign in central Daikundi province amid

reports that 15 women in the province committed suicide during the last three years, officials said.

According to AIHRC, at least 123 females attempted

to commit suicide in the last three years but 15 of them lost their lives. Another 47 had attempted suicide this year alone, the commission said. The... (More on P4)... (13)

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