

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 23°C 8°C	Ghazni Clear 10°C -2°C	Kandahar Clear 22°C 5°C	Mazar Chance or Rain 8°C 1°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 21°C 3°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 2°C -9°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 13°C 0°C
--	--	---	--	--	--	--



Public Rep Exposes House where Stolen ANA Fuel Was Stored

JALALABAD - A provincial council member disclosed on Monday exposed a house Jalalabad where the Afghan army's stolen fuel was stored, but military officials denied the allegation. Council member Javed Zaman, flanked by civil society activists, identified the house where the ANA vehicles would enter to store the fuel that was later sold in the market. "ANA vehicles would enter the house where the fuel was stored before being sent to the market in motorised rickshaws," Zaman told reporters accompanying him to the



house. A man marketing the fuel had been detained in connection with the scandal, he said, explaining: "There is no one living in the house. You can

see, jerry canes of fuel and ghee, as well number plates of cars in the empty house." Zaman said they became suspicious about the house, which had a mosque-like loudspeaker on its rooftop. The security personnel had raided the premises before the public representative reached there along with reporters. "Our suspicion was reinforced when we saw the loudspeaker without electricity wires, auto parts and jerry canes inside the house," civil society activist Sangar Azizi said, alleging the fuel stolen and stored by soldiers there.

"We have shift fuel from here to our filling station. ANA vehicles bring us fuel, which I shifted several times from there. I myself am a student; my brother runs the business," the masked detainee said. However, 201st Selab Corps spokesman Maj. Sherin Agha dispelled the impression that the ANA vehicles had stored the fuel in the house. He took great pains to reject the accusation as baseless. "We respect to PC members, but I have...(More on P4)...(6)

Xinhua Helps "Mini Messi" in Plastic Bag Jersey Contact Real Life Hero

KABUL - Five-year-old Murataza Ahmadi became an internet star after his photos dressed in a makeshift Lionel Messi jersey made from a plastic bag was posted on Facebook by his elder brother Hamayon a couple of weeks ago. Initially, an Iraqi television aired the footage of a child claiming that the boy was from Kurdistan in Iraq. But following the posting of the photos of the little fan of soccer legend Lionel Messi who plays for FC Barcelona, countless internet users and curious journalists tied to correctly identify the boy and locate his whereabouts. Among such inquisitive journalists to spot the little Afghan soccer aficionado was Xinhua reporter, Rahmat Alizada, who was the first to brave the journey to visit the mountainous Jaghori district, meet Murataza Ahmadi at his parents' resident and take pictures with the young sensation in person. After locating the small boy in his home village, Alizada contacted soccer star Messi via a fan page on Twitter in a bid to let the Argentine superstar know about Murataza and his unbelievable admiration for both him and Barcelona. The Xinhua reporter had also provided the contact number of Murataza's father Arif Ahmadi to Messi via Twitter so that...(More on P4)...(10)

Protesters Want Governor Removed



KABUL - Some residents of the Shinwari zone in eastern Nangarhar province on Monday staged a protest in capital Kabul, calling for the provincial governor to be removed. They also warned Nangarhar would fall to Islamic State (IS) if a decisive action was not taken against the group. Around 150 individuals coming all the way from Batikot,

Nazyan, Achin Kot and Deh Bala districts gathered in front of Chaman-i-Hozori, chanting "death to governor", "death to traitors", "death to ISI spies", "death to corrupt individuals" and others. Azizullah Shinwari, a resident of Nazyan district, said they wanted the law and order situation in Nazyan to be improved and...(More on P4)...(7)

Ghani Receives Diplomatic Credentials of New Sri Lankan Ambassador

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has received the diplomatic credentials of Najeemudeen Aatham Lebbe Thaha, the new Sri Lankan Ambassador to Kabul. The credentials were presented to President Ghani during a ceremony on Monday. Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabani also took part in the ceremony organized at the Presidential Palace 'ARG'. The two sides exchanged views pertaining to strengthening bilateral relations...(More on P4)...(8)

Govt. Leaders Dispute Appointment of Mayor for Helmand

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah have been in dispute over the appointment of a mayor for southern Helmand province. Documents leaked to media show that President Ghani and CEO Abdullah have issued different orders for the appointment of the mayor. One document shows that President Ghani has approved Engineer Matuallah Bahir for the post who was recommended by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG). While another document signed by CEO Abdullah asks IDLG to appoint Habibullah Sultani as the mayor of Helmand province. Reports suggest that the



President and the CEO had difference in key decisions since they formed the National Unity Government (NUG) over a year ago. Due...(More on P4)...(9)

Giro Healthcare Centre Remains Closed after 6 Years



GHAZNI CITY - Residents of Giro district in southern Ghazni province say the only healthcare centre in the town has been closed for the past six years, with patients facing hardships. Mohammad Gul, a resident of Mazar area of the district, told Pajhwok Afghan News the healthcare centre in the district had been closed over the past five to six years for unknown reasons. "People here face problems in area of health services, we take our patients to Ghazni City and the journey takes much time to reach hospital," he said, adding that some patients had lost their lives due

to the absence of healthcare facility in the district. "We have discussed the issue several times with the public health officials of Ghazni province and other relevant organs, but the problem remains," Gul said. Naimullah, another resident of Giro district, also said the healthcare centre in the district had long been closed. "Public health officials have told Giro residents that they cannot deploy their staff in insecure areas like Giro," he said, adding that the Taliban had assured local residents they would not damage any health facilities in the district. Naimullah...(More on P4)...(12)

4 Dead, 18 Injured as Bomb Hits Army Bus

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Some four people were killed and 18 army personnel were wounded after a suicide bomber hit an Afghan army bus in the country's northern province of Balkh on Monday morning, an official said. "Those killed included three army staff and the bomber while 18 army personnel aboard the bus were wounded by the blast," provincial government spokesman, Farhad Muneer, told Xinhua. The stricken minibus carrying the army members was running near army Corps 209 Shaheen before the bomber

detonated his explosive jacket close to the vehicle, the source added. The attack took place at around 07:45 a.m. local time in Naw Abad locality, Dihdadi district in southwestern outskirts of provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif, he said. The injured were shifted to an army hospital in Shaheen Corps where some of the injured remained in critical condition. The blast also shattered the windowpanes of nearby buildings. The Taliban militant group has claimed responsibility for the attack...(More on P4)...(11)

Another Woman Loses Life to Domestic Violence in Zabul



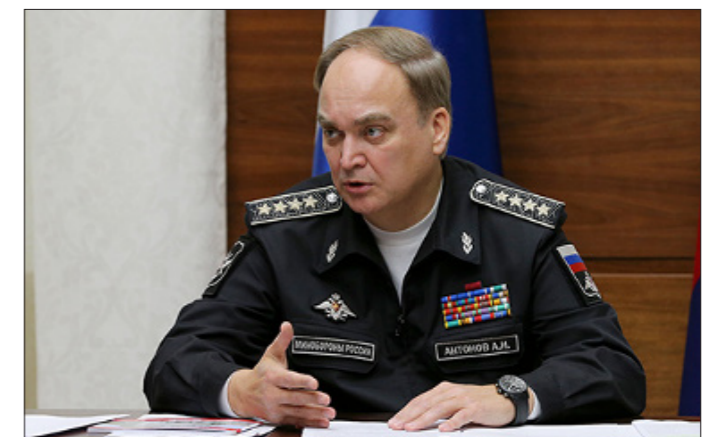
QALAT - Authorities in southern Zabul province have launched an investigation into the alleged killing of a married woman due to domestic violence in Shinkai district. Brother of the slain woman, Asadullah, said his sister had been married for two years and her spouse and in-laws would subject her to violence. "I was in the city (Qalat) when I received a call. I went to Shahokhel village where the dead body of my sister was handed over to me by her in-laws." He said her sister had been

killed and they brought her corpse for autopsy to the civil hospital in Qalat, the provincial capital. The brother urged the government to arrest her killers and punish them. The hospital in-charge, Dr. Mohammad Hashim Tokhi, said preliminary examination showed the woman had been strangled to death. He said the body was delivered at the hospital on Sunday afternoon and then doctors started their examination. He said other signs of torture were also visible on her body. However, he said they could...(More on P4)...(13)

Russia

Bases in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan Able to Respond to Negative Development in Afghanistan

BISHKEK - Minister of Russia Anatoly Antonov said that military bases in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are able to timely respond to the possible adverse development of the situation in Afghanistan. "The Russian military bases in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are always ready for timely response to possible adverse development of the situation in Afghanistan," he said in Moscow on February 5. It is also planned to modernize the armed forces and train the military personnel in the framework of the assistance



to Tajikistan in reinforcement of the Tajik-Afghan Security Treaty Organization, according to the Defense Minister. (AKIpress)

Religious Scholars in Garmser Pledge Support to Security Forces

KABUL - Religious scholars at a gathering in Garmser district of southern Helmand province pledged their support to government and especially to security forces. They said that Ulema can play an effective role in bringing about security. They pledged to work to bridge the gap between people and government. Hundreds of people and religious scholars from the district gathered in the administrative building of Garmser to put their weight behind the National Unity Government (NUG), particularly security forces. "We lend our support to government. Ulema's role in bringing security and bridging the gap between people



and government can be effective and we will play this role," said Abdullah, a religious scholar. Garmser district chief, Ayub Omar, said that mounting insecurity and widespread unemployment have widened the gap between people and government. "Religious scholars are re-

spected people in a society," he added. Omar urged Ulema to cooperate in bringing government and people closer. Participants at the gathering pledged to bridge the gap between government and people and they urged all Afghans to join them. (Tolonews)

Laghman Governor Warns to Fire Officials Involved in Poppy Cultivation

MEHTARLAAM - Any government official involved in poppy cultivation in Laghman province would be fired and referred to judiciary, Governor Abdul Jabbar Naimi warns. "Officials involved in poppy cultivation would be fired and given severe punishment," the governor said in the recent meeting of Counter-Narcotics Commission in Mehtarlam. Naimi hailed efforts of the Counter-Narcotics Commission as insufficient and ordered all related government

institutions to take concrete measures in preventing the poppy cultivation. He said putting an end to the poppy cultivation would save the young generation from ruining their lives and increase budget for Laghman province. Shir Agha, director of the Counter-Narcotics Directorate of Laghman province who was also present at the meeting said that the cultivation, production and traffic of drugs have been prevented in several areas but it should be brought to zero. (KP)