

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 28°C 11°C	Ghazni Clear 14°C -1°C	Kandahar Clear 21°C 10°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 19°C 11°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 24°C 10°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 3°C -4°C	Kabul Clear 18°C 4°C
---	--	--	---	---	--	--------------------------------------

Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan



Major Portion of Aid Given to Advisors at MoPH: Feroz

KABUL - The Minister of Public Health said that 21 percent of international donations go toward the salaries of the ministries 450 advisors.

In an exclusive interview with TOLONews, newly appointed Minister of MoPH Ferozuddin Feroz said that majority of the country's citizens do not have access to health services, let alone standard hospitals, adding that residents of Afghanistan pay approximately \$300 million on an annual basis to get treated abroad.

"A major part of aid from the international community is spent ineffectively and is spent on salaries of advisors," Feroz said. "The num-



ber of advisors needs to be limited. There are no standard hospitals despite developments. There are many qualified doctors, but we lack medical equipment. This is why, because of ineffective health services, every year about \$300 million is spent to seek treatment abroad."

Even after 13 years of international support with billions of dollars coming into Afghanistan, the country is still deprived of providing basic health services to its people. Only six percent of the budget for the ministry is provided by the government and 21 percent comes from international aid, he added.

The newly appointed minister spoke of ...*(More on P4)*...*(10)*

Pak Army Credits ANSF in Arrest of Militants



KABUL - Pakistan's military on Thursday acknowledged Afghanistan's help in arresting the Taliban militants who orchestrated the attack on a Peshawar school in December that killed 150 people.

The Pakistani Army spokesman told reporters in Rawalpindi, where the army is headquartered, that the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) had captured six militants who had been linked to the attack.

Maj. Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa said Afghanistan has also stepped up intelligence and military cooperation, particularly along their mutual border.

Last week, six Afghan army cadets arrived in Pakistan for a training course at Pakistan's main military academy.

Pakistan is still seeking the capture of six Taliban fugitives linked to the Peshawar attack, including the movement's leader Maulana Fazlullah. ...*(More on P4)*...*(11)*

Afghanistan up with 6 Ranks in Press Freedom Index



KABUL - Despite a decline in freedom of information around the world, Afghanistan has been ranked 122 (up six places) in the 2015 world press freedom index by the Reporters without

Borders. The Paris-based non-profit organization which released the index on Thursday said, "It ranks the performance of 180 countries according to a range of criteria ...*(More on P4)*...*(12)*

Ghazanfar Claims Fuel Contract Reactivated

KABUL - In the wake of controversial allegations of corruption in Ministry of Defense (MoD) fuel contracting, and President Ashraf Ghani's subsequent decision to void all of the ministry's existing contracts, Muhammad Ismael, the owner of Ghazanfar Group, one of the four fuel companies used by the MoD, has said he has been asked to reactivate the contract for the next month.

"The future of this contract will be clear later, for now, we have been told to extend the contract for another month," Muham-



mad Ismael told TOLONews on Thursday.

The news has accompanied by criticism of the president from Parliament, where MPs have said

that Ghani was rash to cancel the fuel contracts for the Defense Ministry without considering that it would cause the security forces to face ...*(More on P4)*...*(13)*

1,410 ANA Soldiers Complete Rigorous Training



LASHKARGAH - At least 1,410 soldiers of Afghan National Army (ANA) completed their rigorous initial training at the 215th Maiwand Military Corps training centre in southern Helmand province, a senior commander of the Defence of Ministry (MoD) said on Friday.

Addressing a gathering arranged to honor the soldiers who completed their training; Lt. Gen. Abdul Khaliq said the strength of the Afghan security forces had been completed and now efforts were on to make the force professionally matchless.

It was a two months initial training and the soldiers ...*(More on P4)*...*(16)*

1,200 Fresh Graduates from ANA Training Center

HERAT - Some 1,200 soldiers graduated from an Afghan army corps training center and were commissioned to the country's army on Thursday, a source said.

"A total of 1,200 soldiers graduated after conclusion of their training in Afghan National Army's Corps 207 Zafar in western Herat province, and were commissioned to army to serve the nation," General Taj Mohammad Jahid, commander of the army Corps 207 Zafar, told The newly graduated soldiers would be deployed to western provinces of Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah to provide security for their people, he further said.

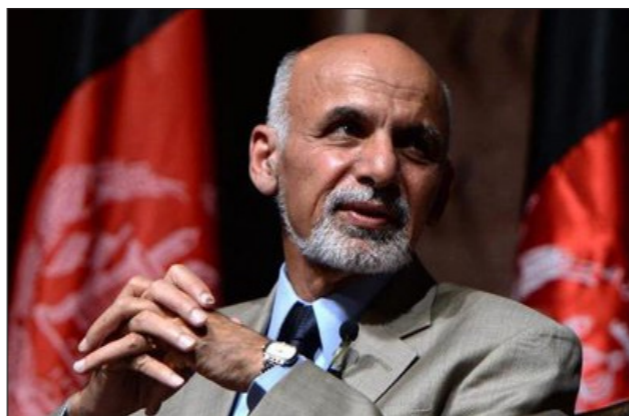
Since Jan. 1 this year, Afghan security forces have assumed the full security charges from NATO and U.S. forces after the NATO-led troops switched from combat to support role. (Xinhua)

Ghani Reassures to Support Media, Journalists

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Friday reassured his all out support to journalists and media of the country and to ensure freedom of expression.

The president expressed this on the eve of World Radio Day being observed today. In a statement from the Presidential Palace, the president while congratulating radio journalists and listeners said that radio was a good source of information easily in reach of everyone.

Afghanistan, he said today had a number of radio stations, which keep the



nation informed about the current affairs and developments.

"Our radio journalists should promote national harmony and bridge the gap among people. The

radio set is available almost in every home and the radio journalists play a highly significant role in bringing positive changes to people's lives," he added. (Pajhwok)

Father Marries off Daughter in Exchange for Bride Price

MAZAR-E-SHARIF - A father in northern Balkh province married his 11-year-old daughter off to a 25-year-old man for a bride price of \$4,736—approximately 270,000 AFS—so that he can remarry.

Provincial attorney Fawzia Hamidi appalled by the action

said that six people in connection to this marriage have been arrested. She went on to say that this year five cases of underage marriage have been registered involving girls between the ages of five and ten years.

According to the Ulema Council ...*(More on P4)*...*(17)*

Flood Affected Families Demand Riverside Embankment

SHIBERGHAN - The residents of Khwaja Duko district of northwestern Jawzjan province on Thursday warned their homes were still vulnerable to seasonal floods if steps were not taken to protect the riversides of the district.

In April 2014, as many as 70 people lost their lives, more

than a thousand houses destroyed and nearly 6,000 families affected by floods in Darzab, Qoshtapa, Khwaja Duko, Aqcha and Faizabad districts of Jawzjan.

Most of the affected families belonged to the Khwaja Duko district.

Jumma Khan, a resident of It-roq ...*(More on P4)*...*(18)*

Helmand Gets New Spy Chief

LASHKARGAH - The newly-appointed National Directorate of Security (NDS) Chief for southern Helmand province vowed on Thursday to improve law in order in the restive province.

Speaking at a gathering arranged in his honour, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Amin Qazi underlined the support of Ulama, tribal elders and locals to ensure security in this volatile province.

"It is a big problem to identify the enemy of the country because the enemy stage attacks and then mingle in the society," he said, cautioning that "we need to be very careful in chasing the enemy of the country and nation."

Wolesi Jirga Member Abdul Hai Akhunzadai coming hard on the central government and said that the ...*(More on P4)*...*(14)*

Hakimi Vows Tougher Stand on Corruption



KANDAHAR CITY - Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi on Thursday said corruption was being committed in revenue collections through customs offices, but they would do away with the problem with full force for the sake of overcoming the budget deficit.

Hakimi, who arrived in southern Kandahar province, held a joint meeting with Governor Tooryalai Weesa and several provincial department heads.

Weesa said Kandahar had always been allocated a meagre budget, which had often been delayed for a long period, calling it their major issue.

He claimed Kandahar received its budget when the fiscal year was about to end, thus their failure to properly utilise the allocations. The governor urged the visiting minister to resolve the problems concerning the budget.

Kandahar Sectorial Head Hakimi also mentioned problems the province faced with regard to the budget.

He said work ...*(More on P4)*...*(15)*

ISIS Has Nascent Presence in Afghanistan: Campbell

WASHINGTON - Observing that the possible rise of ISIS is a new development in Afghanistan, a top American commander on Thursday told lawmakers this appears to be a rebranding of a few marginalized Taliban.

"The possible rise of Daesh, or ISIS, is a new development," General John F Campbell, Commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during a Congressional hearing responding to questions about presence of ISIL in Afghanistan.

"Thus far we believe that the nascent Daesh presence in Afghanistan represents more of a rebranding of a few marginalized Taliban, but we're still taking this potential threat, with its dangerous rhetoric and ideology, very, very seriously," Campbell said. He told the lawmakers



ers that his forces were working closely with the ANSF to evaluate and understand the dynamic nature of this fledgling network.

"The potential emergence of Daesh represents an additional opportunity to bring the Afghans and the Pakistanis together to confront this common threat. And we will continue to engage with leaders from both countries on ways we can collaborate to meet this challenge," Campbell said.

When asked how the public in Afghanistan and Pakistan views ISIS, General Campbell said he thinks it depends on where they are and how much they read or hear about it. "If you're inside of Kabul and you have to the communications, the newspapers, radios, the TV, they're starting to get that media blast of that in some of the outward parts of Afghanistan where they may not have that ...*(More on P4)*...*(19)*