

Jalalabad Clear 18°C 3°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 4°C -5°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 15°C 1°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 12°C 1°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 17°C 2°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy -2°C -11°C	Kabul Clear 10°C -3°C
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Rabbani Calls for Change in Government System

KABUL - Jamiat-e-Islami Party of Afghanistan wants to see change in the government's system and their presence in the incumbent administration is not a gift; it is a result of sacrifices by victims who were members of the party, the acting minister of foreign Affairs Salahuddin Rabbani said at a ceremony on Wednesday. "Our presence in the current administration is the result of our past sacrifices; it is not a gift. We are following our goals in the government and if required we will make sacrifices once again," he said. He warned that Jamiat-e-Islami will not refrain from their call for the implementation of the National Unity



Government (NUG) agreement. He added: "We are firm in our call for the implementation of the NUG agreement to change the system." At the same event, the Chief Executive of the NUG, Abdullah Abdullah,

said: "We will combat terrorists and accusations that are not acceptable for us." The Jamiat members said there must be no difference between good and bad terror groups. "Jamiat will gather different ethnic groups in its coalitions and will introduce a government which involves all groups. Jamiat will have a wide role in the next government," said Ahmad Zia Massoud, President Ashraf Ghani's special envoy for reforms and good governance. Members of the party also called for reforms in electoral bodies and the issuance of the electronic National Identity Cards. (Tolnews)

Daesh Recruiting Fighters in Logar's Azra District

PUL-I-ALAM - Local officials in central Logar province said on Wednesday Daesh -- also known as Islamic State (IS) -- had started recruiting fighters and dispatching hundreds of them to Achin district for training. Hameedullah Hameed, administrative chief for Azra district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Islamic State was recruiting youngsters to swell its ranks in the embattled district. "But no area of the district is being controlled by Daesh, whose recruitment drive is being directed from the Achin district of neighbouring Nangarhar province. The recruits are then Hameed added the Daesh rebels wanted to use the new recruits for terrorist activities in the upcoming spring in different parts of Afghanistan. He said Azra was among the insecure districts of the country and shared border with Pakistan, where Daesh militants were present as well. Haji Ibrahim, a resident of Akbarkeh... (More on P4)...(11)

Daudzai Warns Against Hostilities Between Afghanistan, Pakistan



KABUL - Rumors that Pakistan's military was contemplating military intervention in Afghanistan, has led to a warning by former Afghan minister of Interior Mohammad Omar Daudzai that such a move would lead to terrible consequences for Pakistan. Daudzai made the remarks during a special ceremony in Kabul on Wednesday, marking the 3rd Hoot revolution of the people of Kabul against Soviet occupation. Daudzai said Pakistan's violation of Afghanistan's territory would lead to all-out war between the two countries. "As an Afghan citizen, I would like to tell Pakistan if you (Pakistan) put your evil foot on the sacred land of this country, the Afghan people will cut off your legs and throw them back to the other side of Attock river," said Daudzai. Daudzai also asked the Afghan political leadership and government officials to be vigilant... (More on P4)...(12)

Corruption at its Peak at Rahman Mina Hospital

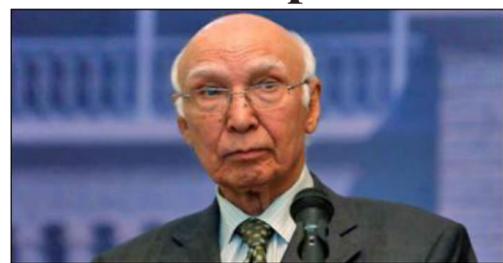
KABUL - Some midwives at the Rahman Mina Hospital (RMH) in Kabul are allegedly fleeing patients, multiple sources claim, with a graft-tainted official being re-appointed head of the facility. Well-placed sources say problems of the hospital could not be addressed under the leadership of different officials. Patients complain doctors prescribe them unnecessary medicine and ask for needless laboratory tests. A former head of the hospital acknowledged large-scale corruption haunted the hospital, an issue that prompted him to submit resignation. The public health minister, however, rejected the allegations against Dr. Mohammad Kamran Bashari and chief midwife Farida. Corruption complains The Rahman Mena Hospital is a state-run facility that is supposed to provide free health services to the people. Although three heads of the hospitals have been replaced in less than three years, ... (More on P4)...(14)

Truck Bombing Plot Foiled in Ghazni: Mol

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Wednesday said a truck full of explosives was identified and destroyed before entering to the capital of southern Ghazni province. A statement from the MoI received by Pajhwok Afghan News said that the terrorists planned to carry out a deadly attack using explosive-laden truck in Ghazni city. The source said the truck filled with hundreds kilograms of explosives was identified and then destroyed by Afghan security forces in Mansour village of Nawa district of Ghazni province on Tuesday. Two would-be suicide bombers also killed in the incident, the statement said, adding 21 roadside bombs planted by Taliban militants in Garmser district of Helmand province were also defused during a clearing operation. Ghazni provincial police chief said he was unaware about the explosives-laden truck. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan FM Regional Countries Must Boost Anti-Terror Cooperation

TEHRAN - Pakistani Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz says regional countries must strengthen their cooperation in the campaign against terrorism. In a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran on Tuesday, Aziz extended his appreciation for the Islamic Republic's expression of sympathy over the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan. He added that Pakistan has adopted measures to prevent the recurrence of such terrorist incidents. Multiple terrorist attacks have rocked Pakistan over the past few days. More than 70 people were killed and over 150 others injured in a huge bomb explosion at a shrine in the



town of Sehwan in Sindh Province on February 16. The Daesh Takfiri group claimed responsibility for the attack. The terrorist incident came a day after an assailant riding a motorbike attacked a van transporting a judge in the city of Peshawar. The driver of the van was killed and five people, including the judge, were injured. The Peshawar attack came hours after two bombers hit a government compound in the tribal area of Mohmand near the Afghan border. At least three policemen and two passers-by died in the attack. On February 13, a deadly bombing rocked Lahore, the capital of Punjab Province, killing over a dozen people. (Presstv)

Kabul Denounces Charsadda Suicide Bombing

KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has strongly condemned Tuesday's deadly suicide attack on a court in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. A statement from the MoFA said Afghanistan denounced the brazen assault on a local court in Tangi sub-district, where at least 10 people including three bombers were killed and more than 20 others injured. While sympathising with the victims' families, the people and government of Pakistan, the ministry prayed for the martyrs' souls and wished the injured a swift recovery. Terrorist groups, by carrying out such brutal attacks, proved their disregard for core humanitarian principles and Islamic teachings, the statement added. It said the Afghan government would once... (More on P4)...(13)

Kunduz Airport Gets New Terminal worth \$1.4m

KUNDUZ CITY - Local officials on Wednesday said the civil airport of northeastern Kunduz province has got a standard terminal worth \$1.4 million. Governor Asadullah Omorkhel, during his visit to the airport, said the terminal construction process had begun four years ago. The facility with capacity for 1,300 passengers had been constructed based on standard engineering and cost \$1.4 million, paid by the Ministry of Transport, he said. "We seriously need a standard airport. Fortunately, the airport's new terminal would be inaugurated in the near future; work on the expansion of the airport is also underway," the governor added. Anwar Sadat, chief of Kunduz airport, called the development good news for Kunduz residents and said the terminal would provide more facilities for passengers. On the other hand, provincial council head Amraddin Wali, happy with the project implementation, asked the government to pay attention to the airport's expansion. Construction of the terminal was an essential need of Kunduz residents, he said. (Pajhwok)

Disaster Risk Reduction Document Prepared

KABUL - Wais Barmak, Minister for Disaster Management, addressing a joint conference with Economic Corporation Organization (ECO) titled National Consultative Workshop here in Kabul said that the purpose of the session was to take practical measures for establishing a national risks management plan for dealing with the natural disasters. The ways which are effective in controlling the natural disasters and utilizing experiences of the regional countries in this regard are the main subjects of the workshop, he said.



Barmak said the bill had been completed and would be shared with the Presidential Palace for approval in the next few days. Based on the Natural Disasters Risks Reduction plan, the employment structure would be reformed, human capacity improved, alert system installed in vulnerable areas and coordination would be tightened for better management of disasters. Barmak went on to say that the organizational structure of his ministry was not at the level to cope with the natural disasters but he assured natural disaster risks would be reduced with the newly prepared plan. He... (More on P4)...(15)

Afghan Refugee Confronts US Senator on Trump's Policies

WASHINGTON - An Afghan refugee to the United States has publicly taken a US senator to task about President Donald Trump's actions during his first month in office, including the immigrant issue, AP reported. At a political meeting in Iowa Falls, Sen. Chuck Grassley was confronted by an Afghan refugee who said he worked as a translator for the US military. He was concerned about his status in the US and President Donald Trump's execu-



tive orders on immigration. Here follows a transcript of the encounter: "Sir, Mr. Grassley, you said you are going to protect the American people, but people who protect the United States of America what do you think about that? I am an Afghan and I served this country very proudly as an interpreter for (inaudible) I'm here and I will (inaudible) I am going through very hard time, everybody knows me here... (More on P4)...(17)

Helmand Residents in Fear over Taliban Presence



KABUL - Local officials in Helmand say Taliban has taken the control of Lashkargah city's PD4 district and have infiltrated parts of the PD3 of the city as well. Reports from Helmand indicate that security forces and the Taliban are confronting each other from a distance of 200 meters in PD3 of Lashkargah city. "No one can walk on the streets and roads in mornings. The roads are closed in the evenings and everyone has to hide in their houses," said Nematullah, a resident of Lashkargah. TOLnews reporter Samim Faramarz who has traveled to Helmand said a few students are seen on roads and go to school in fear. "Taliban is near our school. Sometimes gunfights start, but we come here to school because we have to," Abdul Samad a student said. "Many bullets cross near our house. Life is difficult here," said Sultana, a resident of Lashkargah. He added that a child sustained injuries due in fighting near their home. Meanwhile, Jabar Qahraman, the provincial head of operations, ... (More on P4)...(16)

Germany Approves Faster Deportation of Failed Asylum-Seekers

BERLIN - Germany's Cabinet approved a plan Wednesday that will make it easier to deport rejected asylum-seekers. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the measures mean that deportations of rejected asylum-seekers will be faster and more people will be sent back home. Germany was flooded with 890,000 asylum-seekers in 2015 and has been working to streamline how it deals with them, speeding up granting asylum to those who qualify for it and sending home those who don't. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who faces a general election in September, has called repeatedly for a "national effort" to make sure that people without the right to stay leave the country. The new measures include tweaking regulations to make it easier to take into custody people believed to be dangerous before deporting them, and giving authorities more leeway in observing them, de Maiziere said. Other measures include allowing authorities to evaluate data on cell phones and computers when the identity of an asylum seeker is in doubt. (AP)