

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Herat</b>	Mostly Cloudy	<b>Bamayan</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	22°C 6°C		10°C -2°C		22°C 4°C		16°C 6°C		18°C 3°C		5°C -3°C		14°C -1°C

Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

# Many Senators Spend Night inside Parliament

KABUL - Some 30 to 40 outgoing senators spent the night between Wednesday and Thursday inside the Meshra-no Jirga's building to discuss a course of action how to prevent newly-elected members from taking oath.

One of them was Senate deputy chairman Rafiullah Gul Afghan, who told Pajhwok Afghan News they would not allow the oath ceremony for new senators until fraud in the April 5 provincial council elections was not properly investigated.

Last month, provincial councils (PCs) elected their senatorial candidates as required by the Constitution. One-third (34) members of the 102-member house are elected by district councils (one per province)



for three-year terms. One-third (34) by provincial councils (one per province)

for four-year terms, and one-third (34) are nominated by the president for five-year

terms. However, elections for the district councils were not held in

the 2005 parliamentary elections. Half of the presidential nominees have to be women, two representatives from the disabled and impaired and two from the Kuchis.

Gul Afghan said a number of outgoing senators, who contested the April election, had failed in their reelection bid due to widespread fraud.

"I and Zabul representative Mohammad Daud Asas are among several others whose rights have been denied by the two electoral bodies. If we are not returned our rights, we will not allow the new senators to be administered oath," he warned.

Gul Afghan and Asas had led several protests in Kabul, accusing the election watchdog ... (More on P4)...(12)

# Herat Officials Dismissed by Ghani Still on Duty



HERAT - Two weeks after the formally dismissed district police chiefs of Herat by President Ashraf Ghani are still allegedly executing their duties, sparking huge criticisms among provincial council members. Expressing these statements on Thursday, the provincial council members of the western province claimed that the continuity of job by these police commanders had caused further insecurity in some of districts.

In addition, they claimed these dismissed officers were making a wrong use of their power.

Earlier, Ghani during his visit of Herat sacked nearly 30 officials including the governor, police

commanders and a female prosecutor.

"Expectations regarding improved security situation raised when everyone was awaiting new appointments in these security positions," provincial council member Sardar Bahaduri said. "Not only these persons are not removed, but they are also misusing their authority." These protesting members of provincial assembly called on Ghani to appoint new persons to these vacant positions as soon as possible.

Despite many efforts by TOLONews reporter, the Police Chief of Herat didn't appear to comment in this regard.

... (More on P4)...(13)

## Taliban Kidnap 8 Deminers

PUL-I-ALM - Taliban gunmen on Friday kidnapped eight deminers of a mine clearing NGO after torching their vehicles in central Logar province, the governor's spokesman said.

Din Mohammad Darwesh told Pajhwok Afghan News that militants abducted two workers of the Hello Trust, an NGO, along with six of its drivers. The kidnappers took away their vehicles as well, he added.

The captives had been taken to Zarghoon Shahr, a village in Mohammad Aghi district, he noted. Azizullah, a resident ... (More on P4)...(14)

## Air Pollution More Dangerous Than Insurgency: NEPA

KABUL - Blaming the worst air pollution of Kabul on lack of government's serious programs to fight the tragedy, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) called air pollution more dangerous than insurgency.

As the winter arrives, the air pollution in the capital city increases two-fold following wood burning and use of fossil fuels like coal, seriously impacting the environment and causing several diseases.

Earlier, the Kabul residents had also complained of



worst air pollution, saying two to three persons in each family were getting sick due to polluted air. Blaming the previous gov-

ernment for polluted environment in a meeting Thursday in Kabul, the NEPA officials asked the unity ... (More on P4)...(15)

## Illegal Armed Men Constant Threat

FEROZKOH - Expressing grave concern over human rights violation, the human rights department in western Ghor province recorded 152 civilians had been killed the current year.

Women, children and elderly people were among the dead. Another 148 persons were injured in the same period, director of the body said.

Jawad Razai, director human rights, blamed local warlords followed by militants and other powerful groups for the civilians' casualties. According to his department, ... (More on P4)...(16)

## Don't Let Fazl Enter Kabul, Protesters Ask Govt.



KABUL - A number of people staged a protest rally in the capital Kabul on Thursday, asking the government not to allow Pakistani politician and cleric Maulana Fazl Rahman to enter Kabul.

Fazl is largely viewed as a sympathizer of Taliban militants. Last month, he said jihad was legitimate against foreign forces in Afghanistan, a statement that sparked anger against the cleric, who heads his own faction of the Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI-F) party. Mahmood Sayyed, a protester, criticized Fazl's upcoming Kabul visit and said the Afghan government should not allow anyone who supported the war and mayhem in Afghanistan.

"A few days ago, Fazl said jihad is legal in Afghani-

stan, so why the Afghan government should let him come to Kabul and talk peace with him," he questioned.

Fazl is due in Kabul today as part of a Pakistani delegation that includes Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Asfandyar Wali and Afrasiyab Khattak and some other politicians to discuss regional security.

Sifatullah Zwak, a member of Afghan National Movement party, said the government should avoid striking any kind of deal behind closed doors with Pakistan, something they would strongly resist. The demonstrators adopted a resolution asking the government not to repeat the past mistakes and never allow Afghans' enemies to decide against the interests of Afghan people. (Pajhwok)

## Ghani Condemns Paris Shooting That Killed 12

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a French magazine office which left 12 people dead and about 20 others wounded.

The Paris shooting occurred Wednesday after three armed attackers stormed a satirical magazine "Charlie Hebdo," a weekly known for lampooning Islam and other religions.

According to foreign media reports, one suspect has surrendered while the hunting for two other suspects continues. "Killing of defenseless people and civilians is a heinous act of terrorism, and there is no justification for this brutal act," Ghani was quoted as saying in a Presidential statement released on Thursday.

Terrorism was a common threat for the region and the world, and it required joint efforts to fight against it, the statement added. Ghani offered condolences to the President of France, François Hollande, families of the victims and the people of France.

In response to Paris shooting, an Afghan media supporting agency, NAI, has emphasized that neither anyone had the right to kill innocents nor to satirize any ... (More on P4)...(19)

## 60 Inmates Released from Herat Jail

HERAT CITY - Sixty prisoners have been released from the central jail in western Herat province in compliance with a presidential decree issued on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), an official said on Thursday.

Brig. Gen. Abdullah Azizi, in-charge of the jail in Herat City, said a total of 200 inmates would be released ... (More on P4)...(17)

## Two Taliban Commanders Join Peace Process

FAIZABAD - Two Taliban commanders have joined peace process along with their fighters in northeastern Badakhshan province of Afghanistan.

According to the local government officials, the two Taliban commanders were leading eleven insurgents and were involved in anti-government insurgency activities.

Provincial police spokesman Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai said the two Taliban commanders were operating in Tagab and Tashkan districts.

The two Taliban commanders were identified as Nasir Ahmad and Dawlat Khan Zamani. The Taliban militants group has not commented ... (More on P4)...(20)

## ANA Well Prepared to Defend Motherland

KABUL/MAZAR-I-SHARIF - In the backdrop of growing security challenges in the country, the Afghan National Army (ANA) was impregnable and well-prepared to defend the motherland, commander of the 111 corps said on Thursday.

Lt. Gen. Qadam Shah Shahim said this during transfer of security responsibility from the foreign troops to Afghan security forces here in Kabul.

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) were now capable to defend their country without the help of



foreigners.

The commander said that officials of 111 corps had served in Badakhshan, Helmand and Kapisa provinces, he said, adding that the brilliant force would be available any time to tackle secu-

urity challenges.

Lt. Gen. Mohammad Ayub Salangi, acting interior minister, expressed satisfaction that the ANSF was an impregnable force now to protect the country. He ... (More on P4)...(18)

## Regional Powers Can Help Revive Peace Talks: Karzai



KABUL - Former President Hamid Karzai said on Thursday regional powers Russia, China and India could play an important role in pushing forward the nascent Afghan peace process. Karzai told this to Russian ambassador to Afghanistan Alexander Mantyskiy during a meeting at the former's office in Kabul.

The Karzai office in a statement said the former president lauded Russia's efforts at bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan. The statement said there had been a considerable discussion between the two sides on a variety of issues. Karzai said Afghanistan and Russia had historic relations and ... (More on P4)...(21)

## Landmines Impede Advance in Dangam: Police

ASADABAD - Police on Thursday said security forces were slowly advancing to annihilate Taliban militants due to landmines in the Dangam district of eastern Kunar province.

Last month, hundreds of local and Pakistani Taliban launched attacks on Dangam residents spearheading an uprising against them, torching dozens of homes and displacing hundreds of families.

As the clashes between heavily armed insurgents and residents continued for at least 10 days, Afghan security forces launched a ground



and air offensive against the attackers.

Kunar police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Habib Syedkhel told Pajhwok Afghan News Afghan security forces had reached strategic hilltops and had established check

points there to defend residents.

He said during the month-old operation in Dangam, so far 183 insurgents, including key commanders, had been killed and another 121 injured. ... (More on P4)...(22)