

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Partly Clody	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Cloudy	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Partly Clody	Kabul	Clear
	12°C 0°C		4°C -6°C		14°C -2°C		7°C 2°C		9°C -3°C		-3°C -16°C		6°C -10°C

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

MPs Claim they will Summon Ghani Over Tuesday's Attacks

KABUL - Members of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Wednesday condemned Tuesday's tragic explosions and said President Ashraf Ghani must be summoned to brief them on the chain of events that claimed the lives of dozens of people in a string of explosions. "If you look at CCTV footage, a white Corolla vehicle explodes 10 minutes (after the first explosion). Now you can imagine the negligence of security personnel," MP Abdul Qadir Zazai said. "Forms are here, but why we [lawmakers] are not signing it. This indicates that we are not sincere with our claim. I, as a lawmaker, am telling lies to the people," said MP Ghulam Hussain Nasiri. A number of lawmakers re-



ferred to Article 69 of the Constitution and said based on that Article, MPs maintain the authority to summon the president of the country. "Deputy Head of the National Directorate of Security

says that almost 35 percent of the information they gather is not credible. Why should it be like this?" said MP Shekiba Hashimi. Other lawmakers meanwhile said they have started col-

lecting MPs' signatures for consensus to summon Ghani, arguing that attacks on such a large-scale indicate a breakdown in intelligence. "You designate a construction engineer as head of the

National Directorate of Security and how can you have expectations from him. You [lawmakers] appoint an uneducated person who even did not attend police academy for a single day as minister of interior. You [lawmakers] appoint the person as minister of defense who falls asleep during the day and does not have any kind of experience and served in every regime," said MP Ramazan Bashardost. Reports indicate that more than 50 people were killed in twin blasts in Kabul which was claimed by the Taliban. Almost 36 of the victims were Wolesi Jirga employees and 11 others were Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) staff members. "Intelligence has been exploited in the name of ... (More on P4)...(8)

Kabul and Kandahar Explosions Spark Global Condemnation



KABUL - Tuesday's deadly bombings in Kabul and Kandahar sparked strong condemnation from leaders in Afghanistan and countries around the world. Afghan CEO Abdullah Abdullah also came out strongly against the attacks and said on twitter "I condemn the coward and heinous terrorist attacks in #Kabul, #Kandahar & #Helmand today. The enemies will be held accountable." Abdullah had also been referring to the first suicide bombing of the day that took place

in Lashkargah, Helmand. At least seven people were killed in this explosion. Pakistan issued a statement condemning the Kabul and Kandahar incidents and said: "The government and people of Pakistan extend their deepest sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured." "Pakistan reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations and reaffirms its commitment for continued ... (More on P4)...(9)

Large Swaths of Land Remain Usurped in Balkh



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Hundreds of acres of land part of the master plan for the capital of northern Balkh province has been usurped by powerful individuals, an official said on Tuesday. Mazar-i-Sharif mayor Nasir Ahmad Aini told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview that government land which was part of the master plan had been occupied during the decades-long conflict. However, the provincial council claims besides the master plan's land, hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private land has been usurped in areas around the city. The new mayor 450 acres of land had been usurped

in the municipality's old master plan and arbitrarily distributed. Aini said powerful individuals during the civil war when local governments were cut off from the central authority had grabbed the said land. He said the land's occupation had impeded the municipality plan of constructing a park. The mayor said he had launched serious efforts at recovering the usurped land. But provincial council members said besides the municipality land, hundreds of acres of land both public and private had been occupied on the outskirts ... (More on P4)...(11)

Ghazni Residents Happy with ALP Performance



GHAZNI CITY - Residents of three districts in southern Ghazni province say they are happy with the role of Afghan local police in maintaining security. Haji Mirza Mohammad, a resident of Maqur district, told Pajhwok Afghan News the number of ALP personnel had lately been reduced, resulting in increased insecurity. He said the government instead of resolving people's problems was increasing them. Ab Band district resident, Rahimullah, said ALP forces should be raised and deployed in their district for keeping security. He said local policemen could

solve local problems because they knew people, their language and connections. "We are ready to join ALP on the condition if the government pays us salaries on time," he said. Abdullah, a resident of Gilan district, said security issues existed in the districts but ALP personnel could control the situation. He said Gilan bordered Khaki-Afghan district of southern Zabul province where Daesh operated and the government must pay attention to Gilan district's security. He said most parts of the district localities were still under Taliban control. Ahmad Jamil, a civil society activist, said ALP forces did not get their salaries in-time. (Pajhwok)

Loosely-Run Judicial System Irks Political Inmates

JALALABAD - The chief prosecutor on Wednesday said political prisoners at the central jail in eastern Nangarhar province had complained about unjustified delays in legal proceedings of their cases. Prosecutor Mohammad Wali Hashimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the prisoners complained to a delegation that visited the prison. A statement from the governor's house said appellate court judge Abdul Wali Qazizada, at the head of a delegation comprised of prosecutors and other officials, directly listened to complaints of inmates and assured them of solution to their problems. Nangarhar prisons warden Col. Mir Hazrat Stanikzai briefed the delegation about the situation of prisoners. The prisoners welcomed the delegation and hoped for positive change in attorneys' offices and judicial sphere. They said reforms in judicial departments could help increase transparency in processing cases and resolving issues. The statement from the governor's office said the prisoners complained about delays in their cases' investigation. They said amnesty decrees were not properly implemented and some prisoners languished in jail beyond terms. They asked the delegation to address their problems. Nangarhar attorney, Mohammad Wali Hashimi, said the problems prisoners faced stemmed from the legal vacuum. All prisoners after their first trial could be bailed out but political inmates were deprived of this privilege, as they should wait until the final trial. Hashimi and NDS prosecutor, Sayed Ahmad Shah Ahmadi, confirming a number of prisoners' issues, informed the inmates about some cases and noted down the inmates' issues. Qazizada expressed happiness over recent reforms in prosecutor's offices, saying a considerable change had occurred in prison affairs due to the changes in judicial organs and ... (More on P4)...(12)

British Military Take over Command of NATO Instant Response Force

LONDON - British Ministry of Defense (MOD) officials announced Wednesday that British forces have taken command of NATO's Response Force and its flagship Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). Government Defense Minister Earl Howe witnessed the handover of the NATO's VJTF at an official ceremony at the Imjin Military Barracks in Gloucester. It commits thousands of British troops to be on standby and ready to deploy within days. The force will comprise of 3,000 British troops standing ready, supported by NATO allies, to respond to any threat to the alliance. As Britain takes over the



command from Spain, the 20th Armoured Brigade will lead the force with the 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, 26 Regiment Royal Artillery, 35 Engineer Regiment and 1 Logistic Support Regiment also contributing troops. The United States, Denmark, Spain, Norway and

Poland will support the British brigade, adding capabilities such as armoured infantry companies, aviation and mechanised infantry, said the MOD in a statement. To further project Britain's global influence, the Royal Air Force has also taken the lead in the air component of the NATO Response Force. (Xinhua)

5 Suspects Held in Connection with Kandahar Attack

KANDAHAR CITY - Police on Wednesday claimed arresting five suspects in connection with yesterday's attack in southern Kandahar province. Police Chief Gen. Abdul Raziq told reporters here that 11 people were killed and 18 others, including the United Arab Emirates ambassador and Governor Humayon Azizi, were wounded in the assault. Gen. Raziq said Deputy Governor Abdul Ali Shamsi, Foreign Affairs Director Shah Ahmad Saeed, Afghan Diplomat in Washington Dr. Yama, Wolesi Jirga Member Baz Mohammad Jawzjani, Senator Sirajuddin Safari and five diplomats from the UAE were among the dead. He said a tip off was received about a possible attack on the ... (More on P4)...(10)

Joint Chamber Backs 2nd Phase of Beyond Boundaries



PESHAWAR - The Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) has lent its weight to the second phase of an ambitious civil society initiative to boost regional cooperation. It pledged all-out support for "Beyond Boundaries Project - Phase II" as a 12-member delegation of officials from Pakistan and Afghanistan held a meeting with the Board of the PAJCCI in the port city of Karachi on Tuesday. PAJCCI has undertaken several activities to help re-establish confidence-building measures between the business communities, general public and governments of the estranged neighbours. The Afghan delegation was led by MP Khalid Pashtoon, while the Pakistani side was headed by former police officer and security analyst Dr. Shoab Suddle.

PAJCCI Director Junaid Makda briefed the delegations, highlighting the chamber's achievements in strengthening business across the border. He referred to several initiatives that formally aided policy-making and arbitration and nourish regional integration. He called tariff rationalization and development of an export house as need of the time. Pashtoon encouraged the chamber to voice mutual concerns for amicable resolution. He said Afghan businesses were compelled to do business with Iran as facilitation from Pakistan had been compromised. Afghanistan's former deputy minister of commerce Muzammil Shinwari transit trade between the two countries had declined drastically from 65 to 27 percent due to official bottleneck. He said Karachi was the most ... (More on P4)...(13)

Govt. Questioned over Tuesday's Deadly Attacks

KABUL - The four deadly bombings that occurred in Kabul, Kandahar and Helmand on Tuesday have sparked criticism by residents of the capital city and other provinces. The residents said the bombings question government's inability and efficiency to prevent attacks by insurgents. Previously, people asked

questions over the attack Against TOLO TV employees, the attack on the American University of Afghanistan, an attack on Bani-ul-Olum Mosque in Kabul and a number of others. Residents also asked government to prevent such incidents and ensure the safety of Afghans across the country. (Tolnews)

Computer Programming Scheme for Girls Kicks-off in Samangan



AIBAK - The Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) on Wednesday launched four-months free of cost computer programming course for 120 girls in Aibak, the capital of northern Samangan province, an official said. Women Affairs Director Khadija Husna said the programme was being funded by the Agha Khan Organisation.

She said school graduates and students of higher education institutes could take part in the education programme. She said the purpose of this initiative was to encourage girls to the learning of computer programming and skills. Ismael Sadaat, a computer teacher who is part of the scheme, ... (More on P4)...(14)