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Jalalabad Cloudy 10°C 11°C	Ghazni Snow -3°C -4°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 11°C 8°C	Mazar Cloudy 8°C 9°C	Herat Cloudy 12°C 13°C	Bamayan Snow -3°C -3°C	Kabul Snow 1°C -4°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Rouhani Calls for Immediate Work on Joint Projects with Afghanistan



TEHRAN - In a meeting with Afghanistan's Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah in Tehran on Wednesday, President Rouhani hoped for political stability and unity in Afghanistan to make enhancement

of mutual cooperation possible. He referred to projects for development of Iran's southeastern port city of Chabahar and the connection of Iran's railway to the Afghan city of Herat as ma-

major areas for accelerated cooperation between the two countries. President Rouhani also assured the Afghan government and nation of Iran's unwavering support. The Afghan official, for his part, underlined the Kabul

government's resolve to expand relations with the "friendly and brotherly" country of Iran, in all fields. Heading a diplomatic delegation, Abdullah arrived in Iran on Wednesday to attend a memorial service

held for Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former president of Iran, chairman of the Expediency Council, and Tehran's representative in the Assembly of Experts, who passed away at the age of 82 on Sunday. (Monitoring Desk)

Farah Officials Taliban Find Access to Russian Weapons



FARAH CITY - Local officials on Thursday cited Taliban's access to Russian weapons and night vision binoculars the reason behind increased casualties among Afghan forces and falling of some areas in western Farah province. A letter from Farah police headquarters, a copy of which is available with Pajhwok Afghan News, says 84 policemen were killed and 38 others wounded in Taliban attacks in two months in the province. The letter cites insufficient strength of the police force a serious challenge and asks

the governor's house to resolve the problem. However, Farah Civil Society Network head, Baryalai Ghafari, said according to his information 130 police and Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel had been killed and 30 wounded in militants' attacks on security posts in the past two months. The casualties took place at 13 security posts located between Bala Buluk district and the provincial capital Farah City, as well as in Bakwa, Pushdrod and Pushtokoh districts. He said 11 security posts ... (More on P4)... (11)

Family of Kabul Blast Victim Wants Justice



KABUL - The family of Noor-ul-Haq Stanikzai, one of 50 people who lost their lives in deadly blasts on Tuesday in Kabul, have called on government to bring those behind the attack to justice. Stanikzai's family also called on government leaders to put aside their political differences and ethnic issues and instead focus on ensuring comprehensive security measures are put in place in order to ensure the safety of the people. Stanikzai worked at the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament). Tuesday's attacks devas-

tated his family. He has left behind six children - the oldest is 21 years old and the youngest only three years old. "Government must arrest them and punish them," Stanikzai's son Elham said. "People leave the country and then they drown on the way, because of this situation. Why would they leave if things were good here?" asked the victim's father. Tuesday's twin suicide attacks on parliament office workers left over 50 dead and dozens wounded. Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks. (Tolonews)

Injured Kandahar Governor in India for Treatment

KANDAHAR CITY - The governor of southern Kandahar province Dr. Humayun Azizi, who suffered injuries in Tuesday's bomb attack, has been flown to India for better treatment, an official said on Friday. Azizi's spokesman Samim Khpalwak told Pajhwok Afghan News the governor's health condition was improving but doctors had advised him not to speak due to his teeth injuries and burns on the face.

Khpalwak rejected rumors about the deteriorated health condition of Azizi and said the governor was in stable condition. He said Azizi spoke with his family members on telephone this morning. Eleven people, including five diplomats from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), were killed and 18 others wounded in the powerful blast in a guesthouse in the governor's house in Kandahar City, the provincial capital, last Tuesday. The UAE ambassador and the Kandahar governor were among ... (More on P4)... (14)

Private Varsities Asked Not to Hire Foreign Teachers

KABUL - The Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) has stressed appointment of Afghan teachers in the private sector-run universities and other higher educational institutes and asked these institutes to avoid extending visas for foreign teachers. The Higher Education Ministry's private universities and higher educational institutes' affairs directorate in a follow up letter number 521 has made it clear that the need of teachers should be fulfilled locally. Prof. Mohammad Amir Kamawal, the directorate head, said the decision to appoint local teachers had been taken in response to public demand. He said many Afghan youth having completed master's degrees remained unemployed. He said the government was spending a lot on higher



education and the Afghan youth were talented. "It is unfortunate that we please with hearing names of foreign teachers who cannot find the same job in their own countries." He said if international standard teachers came to Afghanistan for teaching, they were welcomed and giving the name of teacher to every foreigner was a betrayal. Kamawal said the decision about appointment

Captive Professors Want Trump to Negotiate their Release

KABUL - The Taliban have released a new video of two professors from the US and Australia who they abducted near the American University in Kabul in August last year. Seized from their car after classes on the campus, the professors have not been named publicly on the request of authorities. A month later, US forces raided a compound in Jalalabad, but the captives were not found there. In the video, the professors requested US President-elect Donald Trump to strike a deal with the captors for their release. The video of Kevin King and Timothy Weeks was posted online by the Taliban. The Australian captive says that four armed Taliban kidnapped

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

NATO Praises New Zealand's Afghan Contribution



KABUL - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said the aim of their presence in Afghanistan was to prevent the country from once again becoming a safe haven for international terrorists. Welcoming New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English to the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Stoltenberg said he was grateful for the contribution of New Zealand for many years to the NATO presence in Afghanistan. He said he was glad that New Zealand continued to contribute with personnel and mentors to the Afghan National Army Defence Academy. "I think it just shows that NATO and New Zealand, we work together to fight terrorism

and to stabilise Afghanistan." To a question about likely increase in NATO troops in Afghanistan again, the secretary general said Afghanistan faced many different and difficult challenges and the situation there was not an easy one. Stoltenberg said several terrorist attacks were seen in the last weeks and months, illustrating the challenges and the dangers in Afghanistan. He said NATO had a large number of forces doing combat operations in Afghanistan until 2015 and since that year the alliance had been able to hand over responsibility for the security in Afghanistan to the Afghans themselves. (Pajhwok)

UAE Diplomats to Afghanistan Are Now Back Home

KABUL - A military aircraft carrying the UAE's Ambassador in Afghanistan, Juma Mohammad Abdullah Al Ka'abi, landed in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. Al Ka'abi, UAE diplomat Mubarak Al Saedi, and an Afghan translator working at the embassy, were received by a minister and senior officials. Fares Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Security and Military Affairs, Mohammed Mir Al Raisi, Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a number of officials from the Ministry of Presidential affairs, the Armed Forces and state institutions, were at the airport to welcome them. The families of the ambassador and the diplomat were also at the airport. They were later sent to hospital for treatment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs ... (More on P4)... (15)

Parliamentary Exchanges Proposed to Boost Af-Pak Ties



PESHAWAR - Parliamentary exchanges could boost cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the speaker of Pakistan's Sindh Assembly said. At a meeting with members of the Pakistan-Afghan Joint Committee (PAJC) at Provincial Assembly, Agha Siraj Durani said: "I would love to visit

the Afghan parliament along with other Pakistani MPs." The speaker added he would also like to extend all possible cooperation on cementing cooperative relations between the neighbours. Speaking on the occasion, the sports secretary signaled his willingness to take all possible steps ... (More on P4)... (16)

HPC Official under Fire for Calling Taliban 'Angels, Holy Group'

KABUL - An official of the Afghan High Peace Council (HPC) official is under fire for calling the Taliban militants 'Angels and a Holy Group'. The acting provincial governor of northern Balkh province and Chief Executive of Jamiat-e-Islami Ata Mohammad Noor reacted towards the remarks by Abdul Hakim Mujahid, an adviser to the High Peace Council of Afghanistan.

Calling the remarks by Mujahid as illogical, Noor emphasized on the need to ascertain the enemies inside the system before going to face them in the battleground. Noor further added that such individuals should be put behind the bars for insulting the national martyrs and killing the innocent Afghan people on daily basis. killing the innocent ... (More on P4)... (17)

U.S. Probe Clears Forces over Civilian Deaths in Kunduz

KABUL - A U.S. military investigation confirmed that dozens of Afghan civilians were killed in a special forces operation near the northern city of Kunduz last year, but found troops had acted in self-defence and decided against them. The report, published on Thursday, said 33 civilians

were killed and 27 wounded last November when a U.S. and Afghan Special Forces unit returned fire against Taliban fighters in the village of Boz, near Kunduz, and called in air support. "The investigation concluded that U.S. forces acted in self-defence, in accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict, ... (More on P4)... (18)

Ghazni Residents Complain About Poor Health Services



GHAZNI CITY - Residents of three districts in southern Ghazni province complain about what they say unsatisfactory health services and a shortage of doctors. A resident of Gilan district, Abdullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News in the solo health centre in the district only one doctor discharged duty. "How can one doctor cope with patients coming

from all over the district?" he asked. According to him, people injured in accidents on the Kabul-Kandahar highway were also delivered to the same health facility. He said pregnant women gave birth to children at home or walked for three hours to reach Ghazni city, the provincial capital. ... (More on P4)... (19)