

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Chance of Rain	Herat	Chance of Rain	Bamiyan	Chance of Rain	Kabul	Clear
16°C 7°C		6°C -4°C		17°C 4°C		9°C 5°C		15°C 11°C		-2°C -3°C		5°C -1°C	

Daily Outlook
Weather Forecast

India Renews Support for Democratic, Peaceful Afghanistan

India has pledged support to the people and government of Afghanistan in their efforts to build a united, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, stable, prosperous and inclusive nation.



KABUL - Addressing the India-Central Asia Dialogue in Samarkand, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said India and Central Asian countries had sustained and enriching contacts with Afghanistan over centuries. A statement from the foreign ministry in New Delhi quoted her as saying that India supported efforts for peace and reconciliation, which were inclusive, Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled.

Under the 'New Development Partnership' launched in September 2017, new projects are being taken up: Shahtoot dam, a drinking water project for Kabul; Low-cost housing in Nangarhar province; 116 high-impact community development projects; A host of other infrastructure development projects. Over 3,500 Afghan nationals are trained and received education in India every year. "You would all agree that a peaceful and ... (More on P4)... (10)

...serving gains of the last 18 years. The violence and terror imposed on Afghan people should end, she said, It should strengthen unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. The minister said her country extended development assistance to Afghanistan of over \$ 3 billion, focused on reconstruction, infrastructure development, capacity building, human resource development and connectivity. Under the 'New Development Partnership' launched in September 2017, new projects are being taken up: Shahtoot dam, a drinking water project for Kabul; Low-cost housing in Nangarhar province; 116 high-impact community development projects; A host of other infrastructure development projects. Over 3,500 Afghan nationals are trained and received education in India every year. "You would all agree that a peaceful and ... (More on P4)... (10)

Herat Protesters Vow to Boycott Presidential Poll



HERAT CITY - Residents and some Wolesi Jirga candidates on Saturday rallied in western Herat province and vowed not to partake in the presidential election if the Independent Election Commission (IEC) did not recount votes cast in the Wolesi Jirga polls.

The protesters said only biometric votes were credible and demanded recount of all votes cast in the Oct 20-21 parliamentary elections.

They warned if transparency, justice and fairness in the Wolesi Jirga polls were not ensured, they would boycott the upcoming presidential election.

The protesters, chanting "we want justice" "votes should be recounted" "only biometric votes are credible" held a gathering in front of the Governor's House building.

Gul Agha, one of the protesters, said the purpose of their protest was to seek justice and said candidates who obtained Wolesi Jirga seats with money were not acceptable.

"If the government doesn't pay attention to our demands and

fails to ensure transparency, we will not participate in the presidential election and will not allow the ballot boxes to reach our localities," he said. Ahmad Shafiq Bahrozian, a Wolesi Jirga candidate, said: "The future parliament and government will have no legitimacy if the government doesn't respond to the protesters and ensure justice and fairness." Eng. Abdul Razeq Hakemi, another Wolesi Jirga candidate, said: "Around 100,000 fake votes were created in the commission and we have launched a campaign for seeking overall justice and transparency in elections." Herat IEC Head Ahmad Shah Qanuni said: "Candidates were present in the vote counting process before and after the results were announced, now when the process has gone a long way and we are at the end stage, so how could we address their demands." He said if non-biometric votes were declared as invalid country-wide and the process of recount was launched, the Herat IEC would also follow suit. (Pajhwok)

Gunmen Attack Police Station in Western Afghanistan, Five Killed

KABUL - Five people were killed on Saturday in clashes between the police and gunmen who attacked a police station in Afghanistan's western Herat province, officials said.

Two gunmen who stormed the building killed three policemen, a civilian and a child, the spokesman for Herat provincial governor, Jailani Farhad, said, adding that four policemen were also wounded before the attackers were killed.

Members of the Afghan National Security Forces seized a vehicle packed with explosives from the attack site. No militant group claimed responsibility for the assault, launched two days after Taliban fighters launched a series of attacks on checkpoints in four Afghan provinces, killing 32 members of the security forces and pro-government militias.

The Taliban has inflicted a heavy toll on government forces this winter, while the U.S. military with their government allies have killed Taliban field commanders with air strikes. (Reuters)



Ghani signs guidelines, maps of urban design framework

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani, signing guidelines and maps of the urban design framework, on Sunday stressed on the use of domestic materials in construction works.

A statement from the Presidential Palace to Pajhwok Afghan News said the president chaired a meeting of the High Urban Development Council in the Chahar Chinar Palace Sunday morning.

Acting Urban Development and Land Minister Mohammad Jawad Paikar presented a report to the meeting about the adaptive plan for the integration of the Ministry of Urban Development and



ing, at first, the head of the Ministry of Urban and Land Affairs, Mohammad Jawad Paikar, presented a report on the adaptive planning for the integration of the Ministry of Urban Development and

Housing and the former Land Office with a focus on developing a modest view or road map. Paikar also provided information about the history of the Ministry of Urban Development and ... (More on P4)... (8)

Officials Concern Over Extortion by Taliban on Helmand Projects

KABUL - The Helmand Provincial Council says Taliban make money from extortion on development projects in the southern province.

Head of the council, Attaullah Afghan, said the group mostly gets money from the projects being implemented in insecure areas of the province.

"All the people and Helmand governor confirm the issue that Taliban gets money from development projects. They even talk to telecommunications companies' owners in Lashkargah city and ask them to give them money otherwise they will prevent the



implementation of project in the areas that they are controlling," said Afghan.

Helmand Governor Yasin Khan did not comment on Taliban's extortion from development projects but he

said the number of development projects in Helmand has increased.

"This year, there were more development projects comparing to the last year. The projects include ... (More on P4)... (9)

Sherpao Calls for Including Afghanistan in CPEC

PESHAWAR - A Senior Pakistani political figure fears a civil war may erupt in Afghanistan if the government in Kabul is not included in fresh peace negotiations.

Quami Watan Party chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao told a news conference here on Saturday the administration of President Ashraf Ghani must be part of talks with Taliban.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project must be extended to Afghanistan, the former interior minister stressed, asking Islamabad to boost trade with the neighbour.

The visa regime should also



be relaxed and Afghans provided with medical treatment facilities in Pakistan, the ex-chief minister demanded, calling for removing the Kabul-Islamabad trust deficit. (Pajhwok)



Taliban's Shadow District Chief Among 12 Killed in Balkh Airstrike

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - The Taliban designated chief for Zari district of northern Balkh province has been killed along with 11 of his comrades during an airstrike in Sholgar district of the province, officials said Sunday.

Mohammad Hanif Rezayee, spokesman to 209th Shahin Military Corps in North, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Qari Qudratullah, the Taliban's shadow district chief for Zari district was killed during an airstrike on the outskirts of Sholgar district late on Saturday.

He said that the Taliban district chief was moving from Sholgar district to Zari district when came under attack. Qari Qudratullah and 11 of his comrades were killed in the incident.

Rezayee said that 12 motorcycles belonged to the Taliban were also destroyed in the attack.

Haji Baqi, a resident of Sholgar district, told Pajhwok that bombardments happened in parts of the district on Saturday evening. However, Baqi had no information about casualties.

Taliban did not comment yet about the incident. (Pajhwok)

8 Of A Family Injured in Kabul Gas Cylinder Blast



Kabul - Eight members of a family, including a child, have been injured as a result of a gas cylinder blast in Kabul, an official said on Sunday.

Basir Mujahid, spokesman for Kabul police, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Ahmad Shah Baba Mena in the limits of the 12th police district on Saturday evening.

Eight people, including a child, were wounded as the gas cylinder exploded, he

said, adding all the injured were evacuated to Istiqlal hospital. Some of them are in critical condition.

Mujahid added detectives had detained three individuals with two pistols and a knife in the limits of the 7th police district. The detainees were accused of armed robberies. Another robber, Qais, who had been involved in firing into the air and robberies, was captured in the 8th police district, Mujahid informed. (Pajhwok)