

<b>Jalalabad</b> Clear 17°C 2°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Clear 9°C -5°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 15°C -3°C	<b>Mazar</b> Clear 12°C 2°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 13°C -1°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Clear -4°C -13°C	<b>Kabul</b> Clear 12°C -4°C
------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

# Most of Cabinet Picks May Fail to Win Trust Vote: MPs

KABUL - Some members of the Wolesi Jirga -- or lower house of the parliament -- on Wednesday said majority of cabinet nominees would not be able to get trust vote as they lacked professional experience. Barring a handful of qualified nominees, most of the cabinet choices would try to strike secret deals with lawmakers to win a vote of confidence, the legislators believed. More than 105 days after its inauguration, the unity government on Monday finally announced a long-awaited list of 27 ministers-designate, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and the Afghanistan Bank



heads. Maulvi Abdul Rahman, an MP from northern Balkh province, said the cabinet

picks were inexperienced and non-professional. The people of Afghanistan did not wait for three months to see such faces as cabinet members, he remarked.

While stressing the need for competent and committed political leadership, he said if the cabinet members and MPs did not cut deals, most of the ministers-designate would fail to win trust votes. Qudratullah Zaki, a lawmaker from northern Takhar province, alleged the cabinet had been announced on ethnicity lines. Many of the ministers-designate lacked professionalism, he opined. Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy observed the ball had been pushed into the Wolesi Jirga court. He said public representatives should use their vote in the supreme interest of the country and avoid cutting deals. (Pajhwok)

# US Designates TTP Head Maulana Fazlullah as Global Terrorist



WASHINGTON - The United States on Tuesday designated Maulana Fazlullah of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as a global terrorist. The announcement from the State Department came soon as Secretary of State John Kerry left Pakistan. In a statement, the State Department said it was under Maulana Fazlullah that TTP claimed responsibility for the December 16 attack on a school in Peshawar, killing at least 148 individuals, mostly students. As a result of this designation, US nationals are prohibited from engaging in transactions with Fazlullah. This freezes property and interests of the militant leader that are in the United States, or come within the United States or the possession or control of Americans. Fazlullah was elected as TTP commander in November 2013, following the death of former Hakimullah Mehsud. The Department of State designated TTP as a terrorist organization on September 1, 2010. TTP was also listed in the United Nations 1267/1989 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee on July 29, 2011. Prior to becoming the TTP chief, Fazlullah claimed he was behind the killing of Pakistani Army Major General Sanaullah Niazi in September 2013, ... (More on P4)... (10)

# Peshawar School Massacre: Afghan Forces Nab 5 Suspects

KABUL - Based on actionable intelligence from Pakistan, Afghan security forces have detained five men for their alleged involvement in a deadly attack on an army-run school in Peshawar. The December 16 terrorist attack on the Army Public School and College killed more than 150 people, mostly students, and wounded more than 250 others. Pakistani intelligence

agencies shared information with Afghan authorities regarding the presence of the suspected attackers in Afghanistan, a private TV channel reported on Wednesday. Geo News said the suspects had been in contact with the school attackers over the telephone and their conversations led to their arrest. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.



Two days back, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lt. Gen. Rizwan Akhtar met his Afghan counterpart and ... (More on P4)... (8)

# Support for ANSF Grows After Foreign Troop Pullout

KANDAHAR CITY - Following transition from NATO-led troops, public support for Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) has dramatically increased in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Wednesday. Abdul Qudus Baes, a peace committee official, told Pajhwok Afghan News the body had decided to visit each district of the province to push the cause of durable peace in Kandahar. "We have already travelled to Dand and Arghandab district, where we talked to tribal elders and residents about the need for peace and drummed up support for ANSF," he said. "The purpose of ... (More on P4)... (9)

# Afghanistan's Native Detained in Tajikistan with 50 Kg of Drugs



BISHKEK - arrest-3 Law enforcement officers of Tajikistan arrested an Afghan citizen, 42, in the city of Khorog in the east of the country. He is suspected of trafficking 50 kilograms of drugs. The 50-kg package, found during the examination, contained opium and hashish, a spokesman of the Interior Ministry told CA-News on Wednesday. No other details on the detention were provided. A criminal probe was launched, and the case is under investigation. (AKIpress)

# Insecurity Spurs Illegal Mining in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - The recent spike of insecurity has resulted in increased illegal mining in various parts of eastern Nangarhar province, residents and officials confirmed. They fear if the tide of insecurity is not reversed, the time is not far when all mines in Nangarhar will be plundered. A tribal elder in the Sherzad district, Haji Mir Mohammad, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Taliban insurgents held away in most parts of the town, where residents dug up mines without government's permission. He said the government had awarded contracts to some businessmen in Jalalabad for extraction of gemstones in the Sherzad district, but those illegally extracting the stones far exceeded the number of contractors. "Everyone digs the minerals for himself. These illegal miners sell the riches across the border via smuggling routes," the elder said. Another tribal elder in Mamakhel area of Kama district, Malak Ahmadzai, said he had observed large-scale illegal digging of semi-precious stone in Goshta district. He took a sample of the stone to Pakistan, but failed to sell it because he was told the stone had "When you visit the mountains there, you will find huge piles of semi-precious stones because there is no security and the government cannot intervene." Ahmadzai said the government ... (More on P4)... (13)



# Outrage in Nangarhar over Failing Teachers, Education Officials

JALALABAD - Provincial Council members and local residents in eastern Nangarhar province banded together on Tuesday to voice outrage at the conduct of teachers in area schools. They claimed teachers have skipped classes, pursued simultaneous employment and personal interests at the expense of their students. According to residents, provincial education officials have done nothing to address the misconduct of the teachers. Provincial Council members said most of the incompetent teachers

were given their jobs on the basis of personal relations rather than their educational background. "In Laalpur district, some of the teachers work on their agricultural lands during the harvest season, they also take the students in the fields and promise to give them passing marks on exams," Nangarhar Provincial Council member Obaidullah Shinwari said. The Provincial Council members were largely together in their attribution of blame to local education officials. "I think



the education quality in Nangarhar is very low and the education officials do not concentrate on the issues," another Council member named Mohammad Nasir Kanwala said. According to Zabiullah Ezamarai, also a member of the Provincial Council, Nangarhar's struggling education system will turn young Afghans off of education and cause ... (More on P4)... (11)

# Projects Worth Over Afs 26mn Completed

CHEKHCHARAN - With a cost of 26,880,000 AFN, 20 projects of the National Solidarity Program of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) were recently completed in Dolatyar, Dolina, Saghar and Tolak districts of Ghor province. According to the Provincial Manager of NSP in Ghor province, these development projects include the construction of retaining walls, irrigation canals, irrigation water reservoirs, embankments, micro-hydro power stations, community centers, culverts, graveling rural roads, ex-

# Helmand Officials Want NUG Attention on Kajaki Dam

LASHKARGAH - Referring to a serious power shortage in the southern province, the Provincial Council members of Helmand has asked the National Unity Government (NUG) to resume work on Kajaki project. The Kajaki Dam is one of the two major hydroelectric power dams in Helmand which according to many has been halted following political issues. "The fundamental works on Kajaki Dam have not been complet-

ed yet because of political issues," a member of provincial council Bashir Ahmad Shakir said. "Many other issues are also the reason for halting this important project" But the officials at Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) -- country's power utility -- blame the issue on insecurity. DABS officials acknowledge that funds for this project already exist but insecurity is the biggest challenge to complete it. "There are security is-



issues where workers can't move easily in the site and the grounds routes can't be used for transporting the materials as well," said Wahidullah Tawhidi, DABS press officer. Meanwhile, the lawmakers also asked the ... (More on P4)... (14)