

Jalalabad Clear 20°C 3°C	Ghazni Clear 7°C -6°C	Kandahar Clear 15°C -2°C	Mazar Clear 17°C 8°C	Herat Clear 18°C 2°C	Bamayan Clear -1°C -8°C	Kabul Clear 13°C -1°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Spike in Kandahar Civilian Casualties Worries AIHRC

KANDAHAR CITY - The year 2015 was the deadliest for civilians in southern Kandahar province, where 874 civilians suffered casualties in security incidents, officials said on Tuesday. Up to 448 civilians, including women and children, were killed and 426 others wounded as a result of clashes, suicide attackers, roadside bombings and target killings in Kandahar in 2015, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) official Farhad Saqib told Pajhwok Afghan News 168 civilians were killed and 282 others wounded in roadside bombings.



Another 60 were killed and 56 injured in suicide attackers while airstrikes by foreign troops took seven civilian lives, he said, adding 14 others were wounded in last year's air raids. "Nine peo-

ple had been killed and eight wounded by rockets that hit civilian houses in 2014. In 2015, deaths in such incidents rose 63 and injuries to 76," the rights campaigner said. Nineteen male, 21 women and 23 children were among the 2015 fatalities resulting from rocket strikes. Moreover, 150 people including women and children were fell victims to target killings last year. Saqib voiced concern over the increased civilian casualties, saying the commission had been calling for minimising civilian casualties. ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Germany Sees Iran as Key to Stabilizing Middle East

BERLIN - Germany wants to work with Iran to help calm regional conflicts now that the Islamic Republic is emerging from international isolation and also prevent tension escalating with regional rival Saudi Arabia, Germany's foreign minister said on Tuesday. Iran emerged from years of being considered a pariah state at the weekend after the United States, European Union and United Nations lifted sanctions linked to its nuclear program under an international deal which involved Germany. Iran was the key to stabilizing the Middle East, referring to conflicts in Syria and Yemen, the minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, said. "We need Iran to calm the conflicts and re-establish stability in this



crisis-hit region. And I hope Iran is ready for this," Steinmeier told foreign journalists. Steinmeier said calming the war in Syria was central to solving Europe's ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Unity Govt. No Longer Legitimate: Ahadi

KABUL - The Afghanistan New National Front party (ANFN) on Tuesday supported setting an Oct 15 date for parliamentary and district council elections, but called for fresh presidential election on the same date. ANFN chief Anwarul Haq Ahadi told a news conference in Kabul that the government was responsible for delaying the election process. The Afghan Constitution demands elections to the Wolesi Jirga or lower house through free, general, secret and direct balloting. The parliamentary elections were



due in April or May after the sitting parliament completed its five year's term on June 22, but the elections could not be held for a lack of funds. Subsequently, President Ashraf Ghani extended the parliament tenure through a presidential decree until fresh elections are held. Ahadi said his party supported transparent elections as fraudulent elections could not represent people's votes ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

US Commends Australia's Support for Mission in Afghanistan

KABUL - The Obama administration on Tuesday appreciated Australia's continued support for the US mission to train and advise Afghan security forces. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull discussed the need to continue close collaboration on security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Carter expressed appreciation for Australia's contributions to the coalition against the Islamic State, as well as Australia's continued support in Afghanistan, the US Department of Defense said. A statement from the de-



partment quoted the secretary said he looks forward to Australia's participation in the counter-Daesh coalition meeting in Paris, slated for Wednesday. Before his arrival in Washington, Turnbull paid an unannounced visit to Afghanistan on Monday when he promised contributing 20 more troops to the NATO mission. As part of the new NATO mission to train and advise Afghan forces, 200 Australian soldiers are already stationed in the conflict-wrecked country. "It is absolutely critical that we recognise that security is a global issue." (Pajhwok)

Afs 6 mln Missing from Education Directorate of Daikundi

KABUL - Six million Afghans have gone missing from the Education Directorate of central Daikundi province. Clerk of the Education Directorate had reportedly withdrawn six million Afghans from the bank a few days before who has been missing since then. Sayed Mustafa Musawi, Finance Manager at the Education Directorate said that the clerk's cell phone is also not working. Meanwhile, Governor of Daikundi province has said that security agencies are looking into the incident. According to Masuma Muradi, those responsible for the theft would be arrested sooner and the issue would be resolved. A similar incident took place in eastern ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

2,000 Paktika Farmers Get Improved Wheat Seeds

SHARANA - Improved quality wheat seeds weighing 110 tonnes have been distributed to nearly 2,000 farmers in the southeastern province of Paktika, the governor said. Aminullah Shariq told Pajhwok Afghan News hoped the improved quality seeds would increase wheat yield by several folds. He said his administration was trying to facilitate farmers because most residents of the province were associated with farming. "We are happy getting the improved seeds," one of the beneficiaries, Omar Khan, said, but added the agriculture department should have distributed the seeds a few months earlier. The seeds, enough to be grown on 1900 acres of land, were distributed to farmers in ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Mangal Bagh Group Gaining Strength in Nangarhar

KABUL - Officials and Residents said Tuesday that the strength of Mangal Bagh-led Lashkar-i-Islami group, which has joined forces with Islamic State, has been on the increase in the Shinwari zone of eastern Nangarhar province. The Mangal Bagh Afridi-led group has recently joined hands with Daesh militants in the Shinwari zone encompassing three districts near the Pakistani border. A government official in Achin district said fighters loyal to Bagh were operating in Achin, Nazyan and nearby areas and they conducted joint operations with the Islamic State fighters. A member of an uprising group in Achin, Noshar Khan, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Lashkar-i-Islami and Islamic State militants had recently started holding meetings at various places. "The Mangal Bagh group has joined forces with Daesh in Achin and Nazyan districts. All these militants after crossing the Durand Line into Shin-



wari zone create problems for local residents." Saqim, a resident of Nazyan district, said he was member of an anti-Daesh militia. He said in areas where Daesh had a presence, Mangal Bagh fighters could also be seen there. Nangarhar police chief Brig. Gen. Fazl Ahmad Sherzad said the Mangal Bagh-led group had long been operating in areas along the Durand Line. He said Afghan security forces had the ability to keep all such groups at bay. Sherzad confirmed a son of Mangal Bagh and a key commander of his group had been killed in an airstrike in Abdulkhel area of Achin district last week.

Four days ago, local officials said a US drone targeted a meeting of Lashkar-i-Islami militants in the area. Achin district chief Haji Ghalib Mujahid said Bagh's son Ajnabi and commander Shams were among eleven people killed in the drone strike. Nangarhar intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Dad Mohammad Harifi, however, said they had no evidence to prove if Mangal Bagh-led militants had ever attacked security posts in Nangarhar. "In these areas, there is no group having the ability to deteriorate the security situation," he said. (Pajhwok)

Youth Participate in Balkh Cancer Awareness Campaign

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Dozens of youth on Tuesday marched during a cancer awareness campaign in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, asking health officials to take effective steps to combat the disease. The youth marched on Sultan Razia Lycee road during the anti-cancer awareness drive conducted by the Global Volunteer Association, deputy head of the body, Dr. Rashad Azizi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Most of the youth were addicted to smoking cigarette,



hashish, hookah and others drugs that caused cancer, but sports were the best way of fighting addiction and staying physically fit, he said. One of the participants, Sultan Azizi, said health officials should take practical steps for preventing the disease

through civic education campaigns. Diagnostic facilities for blood, abdominal, lung and breast cancers were recently installed in the province, but they were not sufficient, said Dr. Mohammad Shafiq, who runs a private clinic. (Pajhwok)

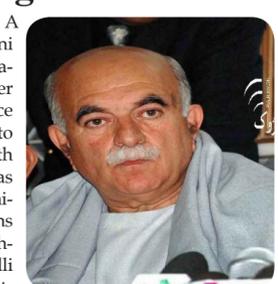
Iran-Afghanistan Commonalties More Than Ever

KABUL - Iran's Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, said on Monday that Iran-Afghanistan commonalties are today more than the past. Salehi told a Poetry Festival that Iran-Afghanistan commonalties in the past three decades are times higher than those in the past century. He said presence of millions of Afghanistan in Iran have added up to mutual engagement and communications. He added that during the Sacred War, thousands of Afghans lost their lives and tens of thousand Afghans turned war veterans. (IRNA)



Achakzai Ties Regional Peace to Stability in Afghanistan

PESHAWAR - A senior Pakistani Pakhtun nationalist leader has said peace will continue to elude the South Asian region as long as Afghanistan remains unstable. Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai said: "It is not possible to envision peace in the region without stability in Afghanistan..." Addressing a gathering of lawyers in Lahore on Monday, the political leader from Balochistan province called for non-interference in Afghanistan for the sake of stability in the region. Achakzai also underlined the need for a negotiated settlement of issues between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The Riyadh-Tehran rivalry would endanger peace in the entire Muslim world, he warned. "Vying for global or regional supremacy can never ensure peace. We need to steer clear of becoming a proxy state. Ironically, past policies neither ensured stability nor enabled us to become a nation," he observed. (Pajhwok)



9 Policemen Killed in Insider Attack

KABUL - Nine policemen killed in an insider attack in Uruzgan province, officials said Tuesday. Dost Mohammad Nayab, spokesperson for the governor of Uruzgan province said that security



agencies are looking for the policemen who went missing from the check post after the attack on Sunday evening. He added that the four policemen missing have probably carried out the attack. According to Nayab, ammunition and weapons are also missing from the check post and the suspects are believed to have taken them away. This comes days after four policemen were martyred by their comrades inside a police check post in Urozgan's neighboring Kandahar province which is also located in the southern part of the country. This part of the country has been the scene of most of the insider attacks. In the middle of 2014, policemen from inside a security post in Gezab District of Urozgan province had established links with Taliban which led to attack on the same post leaving 10 policemen martyred. (KP)