

Back Page

January 24, 2017

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 11°C 7°C	Ghazni Snow 3°C -2°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 9°C 3°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 6°C 1°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 3°C -3°C	Bamayan Snow 1°C -9°C	Kabul Snow 2°C -1°C
---	--------------------------------------	---	---	--	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Governor Accuses Iran, Pakistan of Taliban Aid

KABUL - An Afghan governor has accused Iran and Pakistan of meeting and arming Taliban militants in his province. Hayatullah Hayat, governor of restive Helmand province, said at a press conference late Sunday his allegations were based on findings made by the country's spy agency, the National Directorate of Security. Helmand has been the site of some fierce armed resistance by the Afghan Taliban in the last couple of years. "A number of foreign individuals from Iran and Pakistan had come to the Garmsir district, they have been seen visiting a number of areas together with the Taliban," Hayat said. The governor also linked the recent intensity in attacks in the area to the arms and sup-



ported allegedly provided to the militant group by Iran and Pakistan. "We have recovered at least two Iran-made rockets that were fired by the Taliban at the provincial capital Lashkargah," he said, adding that four Pakistani militants were allegedly killed in the province by an airstrike last week. Some local officials claim more than 100 Iranians visited

Garmsir three days back, and allegedly viewed the situation on the frontlines along with the Taliban. Attaullah Afghan, member of the Helmand provincial council, said Iran had been allegedly meddling in the region for quite some time. "Iran has joined hands with Russia, and the two are now backing the Taliban here to keep the war raging on," Afghan said. In the past, Afghan officials have also claimed to have recovered Russian arms in northern Kunduz province neighboring Tajikistan. Russia and Iran had not recognized the Taliban as legitimate rulers of Afghanistan during the militant group's rule over Kabul from 1996 to 2001. However, last year, Russian ... (More on P4)...(8)

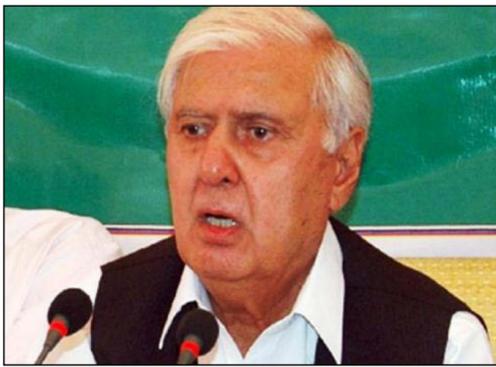
50pc of Khost's Private Health Facilities Operate Illegally



KHOST CITY - More than 50 percent of private health centres, clinics and medical stores in Khost City, the capital of southeastern Khost province, have been functional without work permits from the municipality. Public Health Department A total of 701 health facilities are functional in Khost City, the department says. They include 377 medical stores, 15 clinics, 95 check-up centres, 58 laboratories, 45 dental clinics and 24 ultrasound facilities. Additionally, 31 major pharmacies, 31 pharmaceutical branch offices, 11 X-ray clinics and others private health facilities are also functioning. Officials say a total of 347 health centres have obtained licences, with the rest functioning without legal documents. The registered health centres include 261 medicine stores, five clinics, 15 private check-up centres, 28 laboratories, 20 ... (More on P4)...(9)

Increased Contacts to Defuse Af-Pak Tensions: Sherpao

PESHAWAR - A veteran Pakistani political leader has called for increased contacts at all levels to boost Kabul-Islamabad relations. Qaumi Watan Party chairman Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao told a news conference in Peshawar on Sunday that lingering tensions boded ill for both neighbours. He asked the governments, establishments and people of countries to step up contacts so as to minimise bilateral tensions. Growing misunderstanding was inimical to the future of the region, Sherpao



said, urging the leadership of both countries to play their role in improving ties. (Pajhwok)

Qatari Businessman Invests \$20mn in Farah's Agriculture Sector

KABUL - Businessman and owner of the Qatar Algharafa Charity Foundation has invested \$20mn in Farah province to improve and develop the agriculture and livestock sector. The foundation will establish dates and pistachio orchards and prepare pastures for people who have livestock. "We have brought 3,000 of the best date saplings of the world and will bring another 17,000 saplings. After that, we will establish a factory to process dates and thousands of Farah residents will get jobs here," Shahid Jawad, the foundation's spokesman said. Jawad added that the foundation would create pastures on 15 acres of land.



The foundation has also created a center to breed birds and rare animals, which will then be released into the wild. Farah governor Mohammad Nasir Mehri said the foundation asked Afghan government to provide them with more land to cultivate agricultural products. The Algharafa Foundation had initially invested in buildings mosques and schools in the province. (Wadsam)

42 Drug-Related Cases Exposed in Afghanistan within a Month

KABUL - A total of 42 drug-related cases were exposed in Afghanistan during the 10th month of current Afghan calendar, as the country struggled to fight the narcotics, authorities said on Monday. "The Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) and other law enforcement agencies have cracked 42 drug cases and made 44 arrests during the month of Jaddi (Dec. 21 to Jan. 19) elsewhere in the country," Counter-Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force of Afghanistan (CJTF) said in a statement.

The CNPA and Afghan security forces also found and confiscated narcotics during the period, according to the statement. Among the drugs and materials, 201 kg heroine, 3,510 kg of morphine, over 6,260 kg of opium, 180 liters liquid chemical substance, 1,094 kg solid chemical substance, and more than 197,000 kg of hashish, were found, the statement said. After an initial investigation, the CNPA has handed over the cases to the Central Narcotics Tribunal (CNT), a special Afghan court for jurisdiction of major drug cases, the statement noted. Meanwhile, 48 cases of illegal drug production and distribution were also exposed and 51 persons were captured during the ninth month of the current Afghan calendar, according to the statement. Some 4,800 tons of opium has been produced in Afghan provinces where government security forces had little presence in 2016, according to Afghan officials. (Xinhua)

ICC Rankings: Rashid, Shahzad Stay Among Top 10



KABUL - Three leading Afghan players, following their title-triumph at the Desert T20 Challenge in the United Arab Emirates, have maintained their positions in International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings. Leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who grabbed nine wickets in the tournament, has maintained his fifth position in the MRF Tyres ICC Player Rank-

ings for T20I Bowlers -- the best ever by a bowler from an Associate team. Rashid, who shot into prominence in the ICC World Twenty20 in 2016 when he took 11 wickets in seven matches and went up to fifth position during a series against the UAE in December, has a career economy of 6.14 runs. Opener Mohammad ... (More on P4)...(10)

2 Criminal Gangs Busted in Kabul: NDS



KABUL CITY - National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel have arrested two criminal gangs in capital Kabul, the spy service said on Monday. A NDS statement said the groups comprised of 10 members had been arrested in Kabul. The groups were involved in killings and robberies in different areas of Kabul, it claimed.

The statement said the robbers were held in the limits of the 7th police district of Kabul city when they were trying to rob a man who had recently returned from England. Three vehicles were also seized from the detainees, the NDS statement said, without providing exact time of the arrest. (Pajhwok)

Some Ministries Impeding Laghman Development: Governor

KABUL - Abdul Jabbar Naeemi, the governor of eastern Laghman province, has accused some ministries of not cooperating in addressing public problems. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, he asked the central government to pay more attention to the development of Laghman in line with public demands. He said the provincial government had written to the central government regarding its needs and priorities but some ministries did not cooperate with it in meeting public demands and delayed the process for months. Four years back, he recalled, some development projects



were approved for the province and initial work was also launched. But the projects could not be completed due to the non-cooperative attitude of some ministries. Without naming any ministry, the governor complained no attention had been paid to priority development projects. The ministries did not issue orders as per information provided by his government. Naeemi claimed one ministry produced documents regarding development projects in Laghman at a cabinet meeting without the consent of the ... (More on P4)...(11)

45 Insurgents Killed in Clearing Operations: MoD



KABUL - At least 45 insurgents were killed during clearing operations by security forces across the country in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement on Monday. In addition, 25 insurgents were injured during the operations. The operations were

launched in Kapisa, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Kunduz and Helmand province, reported the statement. Security forces also seized some weapons during the operations, it said. The Taliban have not yet commented about the statement. (Tolnews)

Humanitarian Crisis as Patients Denied Entry into Pakistan

JALALABAD - Afghans travelling to Pakistan for medical treatment complain of harsh treatment at the Torkham crossing, saying they are denied entry into the neighbouring country even in emergency situations. They claimed their ailing relatives were not allowed to cross the Torkham border without passports. Af-

ghan officials acknowledged hundreds of people without passports had been turned back. Nasratullah, a resident of the Qarghayee district of eastern Laghman province, traveled to Torkham to take his sister to Pakistan for treatment. But police did not allow him as his sister did not possess a visa/passport. At 12:00 noon, Nasratullah

told Pajhwok Afghan News he had arrived in Torkham at 7:00am but security officials did not allow him to enter Pakistan. They had an appointment with a doctor in Peshawar, and the fee they had paid lapsed. Khan Mohammad, a resident of the Gardi Ghaus area of Nangarhar, said he had been waiting at the crossing point in the ... (More on P4)...(12)