

<b>Jalalabad</b> Clear 13°C 3°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Cloudy -4°C -15°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 15°C 1°C	<b>Mazar</b> Cloudy 9°C 2°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 10°C 0°C	<b>Bamiyan</b> Cloudy -8°C -12°C	<b>Kabul</b> Clear 1°C -6°C
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## Mohaqiq will Continue to Stay in Office: Natiqi

The acting chief of Hezb-i-Wahdat Islami said on Friday Mohammad Mohaqiq would continue to work as 2nd deputy chief executive.



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani was not authorised to sack the deputy CEO, who was dismissed soon after he joined Hanif Atmar's team as a candidate for vice-president. In reaction to Mohaqiq's dismissal, the party warned the move would trigger instability. Uncertainty would not serve the interest of any individual or group, it said. Mohammad Nateq Natiqi told a news conference in Kabul

that the national unity government had been formed on the basis of an agreement. He added Mohaqiq had been appointed as 2nd deputy chief executive based on a massive public mandate. Natiqi slammed his firing as a violation of the agreement. The president did not have the authority to remove the deputy CEO, the Hezb chief insisted, saying Mohaqiq would continue in

his office. On the other hand, the Presidential Palace says Ghani has the power to hire and fire officials under Article 64 (clause 13) of the Constitution. Natiqi accused the president of trampling several times on the power-sharing deal over the last 18 months. The party had decided that Mohaqiq would stay in office till the expiry of the government's tenure. (Pajhwok)

## Ghani, Interpol Chief Confer on Financial Crime Control

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani hopes Afghanistan can control financial crimes through coordination and cooperation with Interpol. Ghani said this during a meeting with Interpol Secretary-General Jürgen Stock on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. A statement from the Presidential Palace said the two sides discussed cooperation on training Afghan police and preventing economic crimes. It added the issues of black money from drug smuggling and preparing a new syllabus for Afghan National Police also figured at the meeting.



"We will be able to control financial crimes through cooperation and coordination with Interpol," the president was quoted as saying.

While welcoming Ghani's views, Jürgen Stock said Interpol was ready for all-out cooperation with Afghanistan, the statement concluded. (Pajhwok)

## Pakistan Offered FTA in Return for Helping US in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - During his recent visit to Islamabad, an influential US lawmaker is believed to have discussed with Pakistani leaders a proposal for a free trade agreement (FTA) in return for assistance in ending the Afghan war. Senator Lindsey Graham, who visited Islamabad this week, told a news briefing at the US embassy that he would ask President Donald Trump to meet Prime Minister Imran Khan and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Following a visit to Afghanistan, Graham had said, "If we can go to Pakistan and put a free trade agreement on the



table to get the Pakistanis to push the Taliban to the peace table, and you can end the Afghan war." A Republican member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Graham has indicat-

ed people in the White House also desired to explore both possibilities -- the FTA proposal and Trump's meeting with Khan and Ghani. Dawn quoted US-based diplomatic ... (More on P4)...(8)

## Over 100 Arrested in Raid on Afghan-Turk Schools in Balkh

MAZAR-E-SHARIF - Balkh police reportedly raided Afghan-Turk schools in Mazar-e-Sharif city on Thursday night,



arresting almost 100 teachers, students and employees of the schools - including six Turkish citizens. Salih Bayir, Mustafa Alyar, Serat Gunes, Cengiz Caragoz, Cemal Kose and Ismail Kizmaz are the Turkish citizens who have been arrested by police, claimed an Afghan-Turk teacher. According to Afghan-Turk school teacher, Shukurullah Samadi, those arrested include 60 students, 15 teachers and 30 employees of the school. Samadi said at least 20 of those arrested have been released while others are still in security forces custody. Footages obtained by TOLOnews show that some rooms of the school have been searched by police during the raid. "Police raided the (boys) school at around 2:30am and

detained a number of teachers," said Samadi. "At 3am, they (police force members) raided girls' high school."

Students' parents at a gathering near the schools said the move was unlawful. Some students claimed that the security forces entered every part of the compound in search of students and teachers while broke the main gate as they were not allowed to enter the girls school at the first stage. "Entering into girls' dormitory at night itself is illegal. If they hold the order of court, then we will cooperate with them, but they don't," Zafar, parent of a student said. Balkh police, meanwhile, said they have executed the order of relevant officials. "The move has been made based on an order. You know that the Afghan-Turk schools' educational certificates have lost credibility. It is a waste of time for ... (More on P4)...(10)

## Afghan Refugee Families in Mansehra to be Relocated

PESHAWAR - About 1,100 Afghan refugee families living in the Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province will be relocated, says an official. Details of the refugee families settled in Barari, Sheikhabad and Ichrian camps are being collected by the district administration. The refugees are living in areas where different projects are currently being executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Naeem Shahzad Khan, district administrator of Afghan refugees department, said land revenue officials had conducted a survey of the families in urban parts of Mansehra. The survey was completed at camps near the Hazara Motorway. "We would relocate all of them to 5-marla (housing) schemes in Khaki," the official said. (Pajhwok)



KABUL - Afghanistan ambassador to Saudi Arabia Syed Jalal Karim has discussed facilities for Afghan pilgrims with the Saudi Hajj and Umra minister. A statement from the Afghanistan Embassy in Riyadh received by Pajhwok Afghan News said ambassador Karim, who is also president's special advisor, met with Saudi Hajj Minister Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benteen. A number of other Afghan diplomats also attended the meeting, in which both the

sides discussed Hajj and Umra facilities for Afghans and bilateral cooperation. Karim thanked the Saudi king Salman Bin Abdul Aziz and crown prince Mohammad Bin Salman and the Saudi people for their efforts and services for pilgrims from around the world and hoped the country's 2030 vision would bring more facilities for pilgrims. He thanked the Saudi government for facilities it offered to Afghan pilgrims and demanded more cooperation in this regard. (Pajhwok)

## Rally in Nimroz Demanding Peace

ZARANJ - Thousands of people on Thursday demonstrated in southwestern Nimroz province, demanding an end to the war. They welcomed President Ashraf Ghani's latest peace efforts and the US negotiations talks with the Taliban. The protestors carried placards inscribed with slogans "We want peace" and "Stop war". Attiq Noorzad, Nimroz civil society chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News their demonstration was aimed at demanding seek and voicing support for the latest peace efforts and meetings. The Afghan government has created a delegation and a peace consultation board while the US and the Taliban have so far met four times. Fazal Karim Rasooli, another protestor, told Pajhwok that people from different walks of life and tribes participated in the peaceful demonstration. According to him, around 5000 people took part in the demonstration, ... (More on P4)...(9)



## Team Set up to Probe Civilian Casualties in Helmand



KABUL - The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Friday announced constituting a delegation to investigate claims of civilian casualties during

an airstrike in southern Helmand province. A day earlier, area inhabitants told Pajhwok Afghan News at least 16

civilians were killed in an airstrike in Sangin district. Residents said all victims were members of one family. Eight children, three women and two men of Noor Mohammad's family were among the victims. Governor Yasin Khan confirmed the raid, acknowledging harm to civilians. However, he did not give the number of casualties. In a statement, MoD said a large-scale military operation had been ongoing in Sangin for the past three days. A team had been tasked with probing possible civilian casualties, it added. (Pajhwok)