

Jalalabad Clear 41°C 27°C	Ghazni Clear 32°C 17°C	Kandahar Clear 42°C 26°C	Mazar Clear 43°C 30°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 39°C 23°C	Bamayan Clear 26°C 11°C	Kabul Clear 35°C 21°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Officials

Takhar's Military Operation Ongoing to Clear All Insurgents

TELEQAM - The military operation in Khwaja Ghar district of northern Takhar province to clear all insurgents is ongoing and the Taliban has sustained massive casualties, local officials said on Wednesday. The operation was launched in Khwaja Ghar district on Tuesday. Insurgents have been cleared from ten villages and only two remain under Taliban control, district governor Mohammad



Omar Omar said. "The efforts still continue to clear all districts from insurgents and the insurgents had massive casualties in clashes with the security forces," he said. Insurgents attacked police posts in Khwaja Ghar about five days ago and clashed with security forces in which two policemen were killed. The Taliban have not yet commented. (Tolnews)

\$400m Projects to be Initiated in Nangarhar



JALALABAD - The governor on Wednesday said he would try to increase coordination among donor agencies and government organisations in implementation of projects in eastern Nangarhar province. Salim Khan Kunduzi was talking to UN Habitat officials during a meeting at the governor's house, where they signed two projects worth around \$400 million. The UN Habitat would reconstruct pavements around the city and Qassam Abad Township besides constructing streets, culverts and cleaning irrigation canals as part of the projects. One of the projects would cost \$3 million and the other around \$1 million. About 30km irrigation channels would be cleaned, 19 streets and around 500 culverts constructed, the governor explained. "I want NGOs not to initiate projects independently," he said, adding that he had discussed it with all NGOs working in Nangarhar and had asked them to coordinate with the departments concerned before... (More on P4)...(7)

Japan Donates 106 Machineries for Road Maintenance



KABUL - In latest move to support Afghanistan, the Embassy of Japan on Wednesday announced the handover of 106 different machineries to the Ministry of Public Works for road maintenance in 25 different locations in 12 provinces. A statement from the Japan Embassy said that the Tokyo

decided to provide additional machineries for seven locations in five provinces, including Saripul, Herat, Kapisa, Takhar and Samangan in order to enhance road maintenance capacity, especially against snowfall, avalanche, flood and other natural disasters. The handover ceremony was... (More on P4)...(8)

New Bamyan Governor Received Amid Protests

BAMYAN CITY - Taher Zahir, the newly-appointed governor for central Bamyan province was introduced on Wednesday amid protest by some lawmakers and people. Zahir was appointed as governor by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) last month, but he delayed resuming work due to opposition by some lawmakers against his appointment. Bamyan lawmakers, including Mohammad Akbari, Safura Ilkhani and Sayed Fakoor along with their supporters staged protest demonstration as Taher Zahir arrived in Bamyan City, the provincial



capital. Zahir who was accompanied by a delegation from Kabul said he might work with a political party but he would deal all people of the province equally. During a ceremony arranged in his honor, Zahir said:

"Bamyan has a democratic community and people can express their views openly. There is support and opposition but I think that opposition cannot hamper development activities." Bamyan... (More on P4)...(9)

Families of Kabul Blast Victims Speak Out

KABUL - Bereaved families of those killed in Tuesday's deadly car bomb called on government Wednesday to step up efforts to stop such attacks. The blast occurred on Tuesday near the Qazi Plaza on the airport road when a suicide car bomber, targeting a NATO-convoy, detonated his explosives. Afghan officials on Tuesday



said one person had died in the deadly suicide car bombing near the Qazi Plaza on the airport road but people in the area say the death toll was much... (More on P4)...(10)

Farah Farmers Export Watermelon worth 1.6 Billion Afs

FARAH CITY - Farmers in western Farah province earned more than 1.5 billion afghanis in revenue by exporting tones of watermelons to different parts of Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, an official said on Wednesday. Eng. Abdul Manan Matin, Farah agriculture director,

told Pajhwok Afghan News in addition to increased farms of watermelon, the quality of the crop was also improved this year in Farah province. He said farmers received more benefits from their watermelon exports as compared to past years. The collection process of the crops would... (More on P4)...(11)

Female Ghor Governor Pledges to Empower Women

FEROZKOH - The newly-appointed female governor for western Ghor province on Wednesday took charge with pledges to fight administrative graft, resolve tribal disputes, improve security and empower women. Seema Juinda was welcomed at a ceremony arranged in her honour, in which thousands of people took part. Seema, who previously represented Ghor in the parliament, expressed her gratitude to the unity government for appointing her as the governor of Ghor province for the



first time. Seema, a former teacher, said bridging the gap between residents and the government and increasing coordination among local departments including civil-military agencies would be

her top priority. She said women had been neglected in Ghor and she would try to bring about positive changes in their lives. "Now that the government has... (More on P4)...(12)

Farah ALP Members Join Taliban Ranks

FARAH CITY - A number of Afghan Local Police (ALP) in Balabuluk district in western Farah province joined Taliban ranks, an official confirmed. The number of deserters has reportedly stood between five to 20. Iqbal Baher, Farah police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News 13 ALP personnel, including their commander Sher Aqa, joined Taliban on Tuesday night in Grani locality. He did not go into details but Farid Bakhtawar, provincial council... (More on P4)...(13)

Pilot Questioned after Complaining About Poor Living



KABUL - An Afghan Air Force (AAF) pilot named Abdul Rahman Rahmani has been brought in for questioning by the AAF's criminal investigation department allegedly regarding remarks he made on social media about pilot living conditions. Rahmani, who has participated in a large number of army operations, is now said to be suspended pending investigation. He had recently made comments on Facebook about poor living conditions and inadequate food rations, an issue that has been raised in the past by AAF pilots. While lawmakers in Parliament have expressed outrage at the treatment of Rahmani and other members of the security forces by their superiors and ministry administrators, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) has assured that Rahmani will not be detained for speaking out. News of Rahmani's situation came to via a letter sent to TOLNews by a source on condition of anonymity. Nevertheless, representatives in Parliament have spoken... (More on P4)...(18)

Growing Insecurity Hampering PC Members' Work

KALAT - The members of provincial council in southern Zabul province claimed



discharging their duties efficiently but deteriorated law and order situations were greatest hurdles to address pressing issues of residents of the province. Asadullah Kakar, secretary provincial council, told Pajhwok Afghan News that strengthening unity among different tribes of the province was of one the major achievements of the council. A committee of local elders from different tribes has

been formed who provide complete support and share suggestions with provincial council members when any issue takes place in the province, he added. The provincial council members pay regular visits to their areas to observe the situation closely and hear people grievances, he says. They have been striving, he said to resolve people's problems at the earliest, with their main focus on education, health and agricultural sectors since the local residents need immediate support in these sectors. Police and security departments as well as civilian officials' performance had been evaluated and the officials concerned were asked to improve their performance. Asadullah Kakar, a resident of the locality, said that people were confronted with a number... (More on P4)...(16)

MP 80 Police Remain Surrounded in Uruzgan



KABUL - Hundreds of Taliban gunmen have surrounded about 80 policemen in their compound in central Uruzgan province for the last nine days, a lawmaker said on Wednesday, blaming the government for taking no action to rescue them. Lawmaker Obaidullah Barez said a local police commander, Samad, and 80 other policemen had been surrounded by more than 800 insurgents in the Khas-Uruzgan district for the last nine days. Barez said the

commander had so far lost 12 men to the clashes with the insurgents and despite in contact with security officials, no measures had been taken to assist them. He claimed two of the policemen had committed suicide to avoid surrendering to the insurgents. "The 80 policemen are facing death, if you (government) don't send reinforcements, at least send them some weapons and ammunitions. The government purposefully wants to destroy... (More on P4)...(17)

Presidential Citadel Condemns Recent Kabul Suicide Attack

KABUL - Presidential Palace in a statement condemned a recent suicide attack in the vicinity of the 9th police district of the city on the main road to the airport, around 500 metres (550 yards) from the US embassy around 1:30 pm on Tuesday that left two civilian killed and 17 others wounded. The executive office has denounced the suicide attack and instructed the security forces to destroy the enemies all. EO has also noted that dealing with the enemies of people is not working and the enemies must decisively suppressed. The attack was condemned by the United Nations, NATO which accused the Taliban of "callous disregard" for the lives of ordinary Afghans. The explosion sent a plume of fire into the air and ignited the cars and buses all around. The U.S. Embassy also condemned the Kabul bombing and offered condolences to the families of those killed and injured. "The attack resulted tragically in civilian casualties and demonstrates... (More on P4)...(14)

Violence Against Women Falls in Balkh: Official

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - The women's affairs department and the provincial chapter of Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission (AHRC) hold different views about violence against women in northern Balkh province. The women's affairs department says incidents of violence against women have decreased during the first three months of this Afghan calendar year while the rights body says there has been no decline in crimes against the gender. Women's Affairs Director Shehla Hadid told Pajhwok Afghan News they had registered 68 incidents of violence against women since March. She said 87 such incidents took place during the same period last year. She said most of the incidents this year resulted from domestic violence, which could be blamed on extreme poverty. But AHRC northern office officials say there has been no decrease in violence against women. Fauzia Nawabi, women's affairs official on the mission, ... (More on P4)...(15)