

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Partly Cloudy	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	45°C 30°C		36°C 19°C		44°C 27°C		44°C 32°C		40°C 25°C		28°C 11°C		38°C 21°C

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Khwaja Ghar District Purged of Militants: Official

TALOQAN - Following anti-militants offensive, the Khwaja Ghar district in northern Takhar province has been completely purged of insurgents, the spokesman for the acting governor said on Friday. Sunatullah Taimoor told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban had been flushed out of the district in a joint operation by Afghan security forces. "Commando and ANA soldiers started military operation at 2:00, which took two hours to cleared the district



of rebels. Later, the security forces entered Dasht-e-Archi district in Kunduz province for a military operation," he said, adding that security forces expel militants from Dasht-e-Archi district, which is situated at the border of Khaja Ghar district. At least 16 militants were killed and eight others wounded in last two days while security forces remained unhurt during the offensive. Mohammad Omar, Khwaja Ghar district chief, praised ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Osmani Saves \$10m on Hajj Expenses



KABUL - Faiz Mohammad Osmani, Minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs, on Thursday told a press conference that his ministry had cut costs this year by \$10 million. Osmani, who had been reporting back following his Saudi Arabia trip said: "We have a \$10 million USD decrease in this year's Hajj expenses." The minister said that a delegation of 13 officials had spent a month in Saudi Arabia, on the eve of Hajj. He said that the visit, to make arrangements for Afghan pilgrims, ended on a positive note as he had been able to cut costs and arrange accommodation and local food for pilgrims, among other things. "We have saved \$3 million USD in our Hajj expenses for

pilgrims and for the first time Afghan food will be provided three times a day for locals, and we have prepared proper accommodation for 24,000 Afghan pilgrims," said Osmani. About \$133 USD will be spent per person on food for the duration of their stay, Osmani said. The Hajj minister said that the holy Zam Zam water will also be distributed following an agreement reached with a Saudi company. "The holy Zam Zam water will be sent to Afghanistan by reliable Saudi companies and then we will distribute them to the pilgrims," Osmani said. In addition, he said that savings on air tickets for pilgrims had also been achieved after Ariana Afghan Airlines won the contract to transport pilgrims ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Gap Between Rulers and Ruled Widening in Uruzgan

TIRINKOT - The Provincial Council (PC) in central Uruzgan on Wednesday alleged that a lukewarm approach to addressing residents' grievances had created a gulf between the people and the government. The Uruzgan provincial council has nine members. Due to differences among members, the council elected its administrative board six months after being sworn in. Abdul Karim Khademzai, provincial council secretary, in an interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, claimed some local officials had established private prisons where people were tortured. Without any evidence, he added, in some districts, officials detained innocent people on pretext of being members of Taliban and introduced them to judicial organs. The officials then released the individuals after taking bribes. "Because of these reasons people's opposition to the government have intensified and the gap between them have widened," he added. He said an ordinary citi-



zen was released from prison after paying 400,000 Pakistani Rupees and was currently undergoing medical treatment in Kandahar province due to torture. He said majority of people visiting provincial council office had complaints about local officials asking for bribes. That is why, Khademzai said, people were getting alienated from the government and the security situation was deteriorating because some youth had no option but to swell insurgents' ranks. "We started working some months late, but still we have tried to resolve people's problems." ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Pakistan Ambassador Summoned over Border Skirmish



KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Thursday summoned the Pakistani ambassador over cross-border fire in the Barmal district of southeastern Paktika province that left one Afghan border policeman dead and another wounded. Earlier on Wednesday, MOFA said eight Pakistani

soldiers were also killed during the overnight exchange of fire in the Angoor Adda locality of the district that took place on Tuesday night. According to a statement, Pakistan's ambassador Ibrar Hussain was summoned over the incident today's morning. The statement said Deputy Foreign ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Work on 95km Jawzjan-Balkh Gas Pipeline Launched

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Construction works on a 95-kilometre gas pipeline project stretching from northern Jawzjan to Balkh province was launched on Thursday. Mines Minister Daud Shah Saba inaugurated the project in the presence of local officials in the Kod Barq area of Dehdad district between the two provinces.



Saba said the 95-km long pipeline would be completed over the next two year with funds from the Ministry of Mines. He said the gas from Shiberghan fields would be used to generate power for industries in Balkh. He said the

Kod Barq fertiliser production plant, the glass-making factory and the Ghazanfar Group of Companies would be supplied electricity to be produced from the natural gas. Balkh Technical and Sectorial

director Zabihullah Akhari, who attended the ceremony, told Pajhwok Afghan News the pipeline had been started two years ago from Shiberghan, the capital of Jawzjan, to Balkh province and ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Businesses Virtually Paralysed by Insecurity: Kunduz Traders

KUNDUZ CITY - A majority of businessmen in northern Kunduz province, demanding beefed-up security, say recent gunbattle between the Taliban and Afghan security forces have left a far-reaching negative impact on trade and economic activities.



The law and order situation has been alarming during the past few months in Kunduz, where security further deteriorated when the Taliban captured Chardara and Dasht-e-Archi districts. In addition, over 18,000 families reaching to 100,000 in

numbers had been displaced from different areas of the province due clearing operation by Afghan forces. Abdul Rasoul Amiri, deputy director of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and industries (ACCI), said war had caused 70 percent de-

cline in trade activities in Kunduz and majority of the businessmen fled the province. He said growing violence had caused huge decline in trade activities and exchange of goods and services at Sher Khan ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Islamabad Summons Afghan Envoy to Ledge Protest

KABUL - The ambassador of Afghanistan was called to the Foreign Office in Islamabad and a demarche was made regarding detention of an official of Pakistan consulate general at Kandahar by Afghan authorities, a statement said on Friday. A statement released by the Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs said that the Pakistani official was forcibly taken away and kept in detention. It said that serious concern was also expressed on the unprovoked firing by the Afghan Border Police at Angoor Adda gate on Pakistan side, which resulted in injuries to two security personnel. It was ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Sgt. Najib Posthumously Awarded Gallantry by President

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani awarded a medal and an apartment to Sergeant Najibullah who died in an armed clash with Pakistani soldiers on the Pak-Afghan border in southeastern Paktika province, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

Tuesday night's clash erupted after Pakistani forces allegedly tried to construct a border gate in the area inside Afghanistan's territory during night time. The clash left an Afghan border police officer, Najibullah, dead and another two wounded, while 10 Pakistani soldiers were said to be killed. Najibullah foiled Pakistani troops scheme to construct gate. Praising Najib's bravery and sacrifices for protecting Afghan soil, the president awarded a medal and a three bed room apartment to Najib's legal heirs in Kabul. The president also paid one month extra salary to Najib's colleagues of 402 border police who offered resistance to the Pakistani attack. (Pajhwok)

Construction Work on 3 Kapiisa Road Kicked-Off

MAHMOOD RAQI - Construction work on three roads has been initiated in first Kohistan district in central Kapiisa, which would be completed with a cost of \$12 million, an official said on Thursday. Abdul Fatah Shafiq, the district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that construction of 100 kilometers long road would connect first Kohistan, second Kohistan and Kohband districts with each other. The transit road which would have four link roads in first Kohistan would be ready for traffic this year, he added. Shafiq added that a road would be extended to Sanjan area in first Kohistan where no road project could be initiated during the last 14 years. People, he said were facing with numerous problems because of absence of a proper road in the area. The road would cost \$12 million, which would be built through Public works department, the district chief said. Hussain Sanjani, head of provincial council, said the building of ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Absence of Sincere Approach, Will Hurdles to Peace



KABUL - The absence of sincere mediators and strong determination are main hurdles in achieving durable peace and security in Afghanistan, speakers expressed these views at a meeting on Thursday. Several analysts initiated literary discourse session by the little known "Saba Fikar" organization. During the third round of discussion, two researchers presented their findings about local and foreign challenges that halted the peace process from moving forward. Maulvi Shehzada Shahid, spokesman of the High Peace Council (HPC), and former

Taliban diplomat Abdul Salam Zaef presented and explained their view points on main hurdles to the peace process. Shahid mentioned lack of strong determination for peace, public have not been united and officials have difference of opinions, foreign pressure over Taliban and government and interference of neighboring states were main hurdles in the way of peace process. He pointed out that lack of good governance, unavailability of implementing law and the growing injustices in the country had also affected ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

'Khost-Gardez Road to be Completed by Year End'



GARDEZ - The Khost-Gardez Highway in southeastern Paktia province will be opened for traffic by the end of this year, officials said on Thursday. The construction of the 105 kilometers long highway has been delayed for last seven years due to certain reasons. Eng. Abdullah Durrani, director public health, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 88 km long road had been completed and construction work on the remaining 17 km had been kicked-off. An Indian construction company had a contract which had recently been awarded

to an Afghan Construction Company, he said, adding that government departments, provincial council members and local elders were regularly monitoring the project to ensure quality of work. Mohammad Rahman Qadri, provincial council secretary, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "We have held several meetings with officials of the company and enquired about the quality of work." Qadri said the company officials had assured to complete the construction of the road by the end of this year. "We ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Construction Work on Taloqan Road Kicked-Off

TALOQAN - Work to construct 4.5 kilometers long road from Taloqan City to Saray Sung airport has been started with German cooperation in northern Takhar province, an official said on Friday.

Abdul Latif Ibrahim, acting governor, told Pajhwok Afghan News that construction of the road would facilitate thousands of families. The German government allocated around \$2.4 million for completion of the road. "I try to get funds from both governmental and non-governmental organization to facilitate local residents to build the airport," he pledged. The Saray Sung airport is situated in Hazar Samoch area. The people need the airport but development work has been halted therefore residents could get benefit from the ...*(More on P4)...(21)*