

Jalalabad Clear 43°C 07°C	Ghazni Clear 33°C 16°C	Kandahar Clear 44°C 26°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 36°C 23°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 39°C 24°C	Bamayan Clear 24°C 08°C	Kabul Clear 35°C 19°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Governor Stresses Quality Religious Education inside Country

FIROZKOH - The governor of western Ghor province underlined improvement of religious centers inside Afghanistan aimed at preventing students from travelling to foreign countries for religious education. Ghor Governor Sima Joyenda expressed these views while inaugurating a new building for Abu Hanifa Madrassa in the capital of the province on Sunday.

The more the government improves religious centers, the more people support the government, she said, adding: "We as Muslims should pay more attention to improve religious



centers to prevent our youngsters from going to foreign countries for religious education." Government officials say that a number of Afghan youths pursuing religious education

in neighbor countries and then they are trapped by terrorists who used them for subversive acts in Afghanistan. Ghor education director Sibghatullah ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Governor Laghman Teachers to Get Residential Plots



JALALABAD - The governor of eastern Laghman province on Sunday pledged that promotion of education was his top priority that teachers would be given residential plots to promote the vital sector.

Laghman Governor Abdul Jabbar told Pajhwok Afghan News that every challenge in the education department would be resolved for a devel-

oped Afghanistan. "It is my top priority to give residential plots to teachers since they have legal right to be given residential land to focus on more on educating our next generation," he added.

The province is popular for its agricultural land and needs special attention in this sector, the governor expressed these views in an interview. "There are ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Deputy Head Accuses Ghazni PC of Inefficiency

GHAZNI CITY - Deputy head of Provincial Council (PC) in southern Ghazni province on Sunday alleged majority of members were illiterate, in collusion of land grabbing and were indifferent to resolve problems of people in this remote province. Abdul Jami Jami in his exclusive interview told Pajhwok Afghan News said that PC



members failed to materialize their pledges made with people during canvassing. PC could begin work on due date because the results were announced after seven months of delay, he added. In addition, members did not attend council's session for over a month due to Wolesi Jirga decision to shrink their powers of observation over local departments. PCs members rejoined their offices after presidential decree allowing them to exercise their powers of evaluation and observation.

According to Jami, PC was dominated by warlords who did not have understanding of law and complex issue. "The last tenure of PC was more active than us. We did not serve the people during the last few months in office," Jami acknowledged.

He said tribal balance was not kept in mind as far as representation of people is concerned. Majority of candidates had been in the council for personal interests.

He said PC members were under immense pressure from Wolesi Jirga members and they adopted the policy guided by the lower house members. He alleged Ghazni PC did not perform its constitutional responsibility and remain a burden on government.

About investigative role of the council, he said: "We are downed by 90 percent in evaluation and scrutiny of provincial government departments."

He alleged majority of council members were inefficient of resolving problems of masses. According to Jami, majority of members did not attend office for months. *(Pajhwok)*

Ghani Assigns Team to Investigate Jalrez Carnage

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has appointed a team of high-level government officials to investigate the tragic Jalrez incident which left about 30 local police forces dead with their bodies allegedly desecrated, said a statement from the Presidential Palace.

The battle in Jalrez, one of the most restive districts in central Maidan Wardak province, broke out last Thursday when a number of Taliban insurgents stormed the district and seized all nine police posts. "President Ashraf Ghani has ordered a high-level team to investigate the attack and present the report as soon as possible," the statement read.



The three-day battle ended Saturday after the reinforcement troops deployed to the area launched an operation, leaving about 40 Taliban fighters dead and 18 others injured, the provincial media office said Saturday.

After the situation virtually came under control, the Interior Minister Noor-ul-Haq Olomi and the Army

Chief Gen. Qadam Shah Shaheem visited Jalrez where they promised the locals to avenge the brutal Jalrez killings.

During a meeting with the provincial governor, police chief and other local government officials, Olomi ordered launch of a massive anti-insurgent operation throughout the province. *(Tolonews)*

Armed Strangers Roam Freely on Kunduz Streets: Residents

KUNDUZ CITY - The residents of northern Kunduz province on Sunday informed that strangers armed men roaming on streets in the provincial capital, creating fear among locals but the government was unable to question their identity.

According to local officials more than 7,000 illegal armed men were seen roaming in Kunduz province, creating chaos and sense of insecurity among residents of the locality.

The armed men are famous as "Arbaki" among Kunduz residents.

Arbaki is the tribal group that takes part in security of their



locality without receiving any perks from the government. Now they are referred to the mercenaries that are supported by the government to fight insurgents, but are not part of the government.

After fighting in Chardara, Khan Abad districts and Gortapa locality illegal armed men flocked Kunduz city turning it into a military zone.

Majority of these men come from Khan Abad district without uniforms but fully armed and could be seen around markets and local departments.

Ezatullah, a resident of Kunduz, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "These gunmen without uniform and strange looks perform grotesque movements that terrorize people. They ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

US Soldiers Used 'Restraint' in Kabul Confrontation

NATO probe team concludes that it was extremely unlikely that US troops had shot any Afghans during last week's episode

KABUL - A military investigation into a violent confrontation between Afghan residents of Kabul and US soldiers last week has concluded that the troops acted with "admirable restraint" even after a US soldier was stabbed, a military official said.

The investigation examined the tense moments after a Taliban bomb ripped through a heavily armoured convoy of US troops travelling down a busy street in Afghan capital city. As the US soldiers, who were unharmed, got out of their trucks to form a cordon, they were confronted with a

scene of devastation. A mix of passing motorists and shopkeepers had taken the brunt of the blast. At least one Afghan was killed and nearly two dozen were wounded.

What happened next was confusing and violent. Witnesses to the scene, interviewed by reporters, said Afghans began to throw stones at the soldiers and shout "Death to Americans."

A US soldier opened fire, with some witnesses reporting that the shots were clearly aimed away from the crowd and intended as a warning. But others accused the soldiers of firing into ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Pakistan Still Looking to Destabilize Southern Afghanistan: Gen. Raziq

KABUL - Kandahar Police Chief General Raziq on Sun-



day maintained that Pakistan remains a major destabilizing force in Afghanistan, suggesting a gap between the national unity government's hopes of turning over a new leaf with Islamabad and the reality of conditions on the ground.

"War is all over the country," said Gen. Raziq, who has become famous for his uncompromising tactics and effective campaign against militants in the southern provinces. "Insurgents have not been empowered; they are helped by Pakistan and are equipped with powerful weaponry," he

added. Despite overtures between Kabul and Islamabad, to the public eye, very little seems to have tangibly changed in the dynamic between Afghanistan and Pakistan when it ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

MoI Commission Formed to Probe Jalrez Massacre



KABUL - Spokesman of the ministry of interior claimed the ministry adopted measures to dispatch reinforcements to Afghan Local Police (ALP) in Jalrez district but the supply could not be sent to the area.

Speaking to reporters, Sidique Sidiqi said ministry of interior (MOI) and ministry of defence (MoD) initiated investigations to unearth what caused casualties of ALP men in Friday gun battle in the Jalrez district of central Maidan Wardak province.

At least 30 militants and 24 ALP men were killed and 18 other rebels wounded in Ka-

bul-Bamayan Highway clashes in central Maidan Wardak province on Friday.

The ALP forces also lost control of 12 security posts. However, security officials had said Afghan forces regained control of all 12 posts in Jalrez district.

He said Maidan Wardak remained relatively peaceful in recent years and no major incident of insecurity noticed except this tragedy.

The spokesman without giving details said external and internal enemies of Afghanistan wanted to fuel ethnic and other kinds of mayhem to achieve their vested interests. ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

'Top Security Officials Neglected Jalrez Attack'

KABUL - Civil society activists and bereaved family members of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) men who lost their lives to the Jalrez attack on Sunday asked the government and parliament members to remove senior officials responsible for negligence in preventing the carnage.

They told journalists in Kabul that the parliament should adopt measures to punish security officials who demonstrated lethargy in preventing the bloody Jalrez

incident in central Maidan Warak province on Friday. They called for the interior minister and the spymaster to be impeached.

At least 30 militants and 25 ALP were killed and another 18 rebels wounded in Friday's clashes on the Kabul-Bamayan Highway in Maidan Wardak province.

The ALP forces also lost control of 12 security posts before the posts were recaptured in Jalrez district.

Also in central Bamayan province, ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Congo Virus Kills 8 Persons: MoPH

KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on Saturday said of 10 patients infected by Congo virus, eight of them have been died in recent days.

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is caused by infection with a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) in the family Bunyaviridae. The disease was first characterized in the Crimea in 1944 and given the name Crimean hemorrhagic fever.

The onset of CCHF is sudden, with initial signs and symptoms including headache, high fever, back pain, joint pain, stomach pain, and vomiting. Red eyes, a flushed face, a red throat, and petechiae (red spots) on the palate are common.

The MoPH spokesman Dr. Wahidullah Mayar said that 35 suspected cases of virus have been detected in Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Helmand and Nuristan provinces where 10 of the cases had been confirmed.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News that one case was detected in Paghman district of Kabul while rests were in other mentioned provinces.

A week ago, Pajhwok Afghan News published a report about the proven signs of the virus detected in various parts of the country, but the MoPH had rejected the report.

Mayar about Pajhwok Afghan News report said: "There was misunderstanding among relevant MoPH departments and we gave you wrong information."

The MoPH spokesman said that ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Anti-Drug Campaign Initiated in Khost



KHOST CITY - The Milli Ghurzang Party on Sunday launched its anti-drugs campaign in southeastern Khost province with support from local elders.

Dr. Sakhi Sardar, the political party's head for Khost, told a meeting held in this regard that the anti-drug drive had been commenced in villages, mosques and schools.

He said local elders, influ-

ential people and religious leaders were tasked with creating awareness among people about the hazardous effects of drug use on health.

Nasir Ahmad Rokhan, a civil society activist, asked the government to rely on civil society organizations and local residents rather than wasting million of dollars on anti-drug operations.

He ...*(More on P4)...(17)*