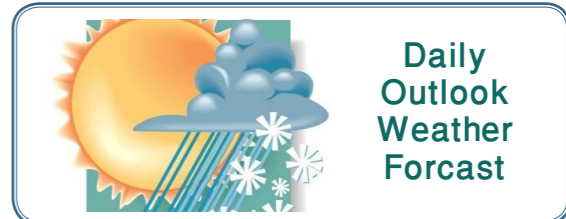


Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 41°C 27°C	Ghazni Clear 34°C 16°C	Kandahar Clear 42°C 24°C	Mazar Clear 41°C 29°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 38°C 23°C	Bamayan Clear 26°C 10°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 36°C 20°C
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Kabul Delegation Begins Probing Jalrez Carnage

MAIDAN SHAHR - The president-nominated delegation has begun its investigation into the carnage in Jalrez district of central Maidan Wardak province. Last week, 24 Afghan Local Police (ALP) men and at least 30 militants were killed during clashes on the Kabul-Bamyan Highway in the district, while local residents said 40 policemen had been killed.

The clashes broke out after a large number of heavily armed insurgents attacked



ALP posts in the area. Despite repeated requests by the trapped ALP personnel,

reinforcements did not reach them in-time, officials had said.

President Ashraf Ghani nominated a delegation led by his advisor Eng. Mohammad

Yousaf Pakhtun to assiduously probe the incident from every aspect.

The president recommended the delegation to review the deaths in coordination with the provincial governor, provincial council members, religious scholars, local elders and others and share a detailed report with the Presidency.

Attaullah Khogyani, the Maidan Wardak governor's spokesperson, told Pajhwok Afghan News the delegation ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Haqjo Appointed as New AISA Head

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has appointed Moham-



amad Qurban Haqjo as the new head of Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) after two months of delay followed by mounting criticisms by the traders and economists. Haqjo, who was the former head of Afghanistan Chamber

of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), was selected out of five candidates introduced to Ghani, according to a formal document received by TOLONews which shows approval of his appointment by Ghani.

The other candidates for the post were Motalil Komaki, Reza Farzam, Abdul Walid Tamim and Abdul Bari Jalalzai.

AISA is the country's only organization that issues licenses to investors and focuses on supporting investments. The leadership vacuum at AISA ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

UNAMA Welcomes Direct Talks with Taliban Representatives

KABUL - The head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Nicholas Haysom, on Wednesday welcomed the direct talks held between Afghan Government and Taliban representatives in Islamabad, Pakistan, and urged the parties to take the next steps towards a reconciliation and peace process.

Recalling his briefing last month to the Security Council in which he specifically urged direct talks between the parties, Haysom reiterated that Afghans want an end to the pervasive violence that affects every aspect of their lives.

"In the long term, peace is not a luxury, it is a necessity," said Haysom. "I welcome the direct face-to-face engagement by the parties as the only way to achieving progress towards a negotiated agreement and ultimately the peace that Afghanistan deserves." He also said it was important to acknowledge that the talks were only the first steps in what could be a long and challenging process.

Haysom, who is also the UN Secretary-General's Special ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

US Welcomes Afghan-Taliban Peace Talks

'The United States commends the government of Afghanistan's prioritization of peace and reconciliation,' says White House

WASHINGTON - The U.S. on Tuesday welcomed recently begun peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, saying that the talks demonstrate Kabul's commitment to de-escalation.

The two sides met for talks in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, to begin direct peace talks for the first time on Tuesday. Neither side many any public comments on the content or results of the talks, but local media reported that the meeting lasted two hours



at an undisclosed location and was attended by two "senior" Pakistani officials. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said that the talks are "an important step

in advancing prospects for a credible peace." "The United States commends the government of Afghanistan's prioritization of ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

None from Taliban Doha Office Attended Pakistan Talks

KABUL - As the Afghan government and Taliban representatives concluded their one-day talks in Pakistan and agreed to meet again, a Taliban source on Wednesday said no one from their office in Qatar attended the dialogue.

Hosted by Pakistan and observed by officials from China and the United States, the meeting between the Kabul officials and Taliban representatives took place in Murree, a tourist resort north of



the nation's capital Islamabad.

The first confirmed direct contact singled the start of a

formal peace process to end the 13-year-old war in Afghanistan and yielded optimism. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Parliament Rejects First Female Supreme Court Nominee

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Wednesday rejected Anisa Rassouli as a member of the



Supreme Court's High Council - if approved; she would be the first female judge in the Supreme Court in the country's recent history.

Rassouli got 88 votes in her favor as she required 94 votes to get approved as a senior judge in the Supreme Court. She was introduced to the Parliament about two weeks ago after President Ashraf Ghani during last year's election campaign promised to appoint a female judge to the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the Parliament

approved Khalilullah Sediq as the governor of Central Bank and Sayed Yousuf Halim as a member of Supreme Court.

Sediq obtained 100 votes and Halim received 103 votes from a total of 187 MPs present at the voting day. Before the voting process started, Halim while presenting his future plan promised to the lawmakers to ensure justice, fight corruption and introduce new strategies to the country's judicial system.

Pointing to the Kabul Bank crises, the new central bank governor promised to introduce new strategies to avoid any further banking crises in the country and appreciate the value of Afghani currency. This comes as earlier this week, the Wolesi Jirga also rejected Masoom Stanekzai as the minister of defense. He got only 84 votes out of 107 required. (Tolonews)

Logar Police Chief Fires, Reshuffles Several Officials

PUL-I-ALAM - The new police chief for central Logar province on Wednesday said he had dismissed and reshuffled several police officials in order to combat corruption and improve security.

Brig. Gen. Mohammad Daud Ahmadi took charge as provincial police chief last month when he pledged bringing drastic reform to the police force for the sake of improved security.

In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Ahmadi said he removed officials who had either shortcomings or had public complaints against them. "I fired some of them and transferred others," the police chief said, revealing that he had also dismissed the Mohammad Agha, Barak-i-Barak and Azra district police chiefs.

He said the three district police chiefs were incompetent and did not perform duty in a proper way. He rejected if anyone was removed for political or personal gains. "My only goal is improve-

ment in the security and do justice service to the people," Ahmadi said, urging Logar residents to cooperate with police in maintaining security and doing away with corruption. Though in fewer numbers, police had been able to prevent districts from falling to the insurgents, the police chief said. Adalat Abdul Rahimzai, deputy head of the provincial council, acknowledged the new police chief had introduced considerable reforms to strengthen security. "On people's behalf, we support the police chief's activities. Bringing reforms to address shortcomings and problems in the police force is actually our demand," he remarked.

Praising security forces, the public representative said the forces worked day and night to maintain security across the country at the expense of their lives. Matiullah Abdul Rahimzai, who was appointed as the ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Pakistan Hosts a Meeting to Facilitate Peace and Reconciliation in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - As part of the commitment to facilitate an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, a meeting was hosted by Pakistan between the Afghan Government and Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan representatives. The meeting was held in Murree on 7 July 2015. The representatives of China and the USA also participated in the meeting.

The participants were duly mandated by their respective leadership and expressed their collective desire to bring peace to Afghanistan and the region.

The participants exchanged views on ways and means to bring peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. It was agreed that for lasting peace in the region, each side would approach the process in sin-

cerity and with full commitment.

The participants recognized the need to develop confidence building measures to engender trust among all stakeholders.

The participants agreed to continue talks to create an environment conducive for peace and reconciliation process. The next meeting will be held at mutually convenient date after Ramazan.

The Government of Pakistan expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of Afghanistan and Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan for their willingness to work towards bringing lasting peace in Afghanistan. We also thank other partners in peace, including the United Nations, for their contribution to peace, stability and development of Afghanistan. (PR)

Commander among 14 ALP Members Join Taliban: Official

MAIMANA - At least 14 Afghan Local Police (ALP) force members including their commander have allegedly joined the Taliban in north-western Faryab province.

The incident happened in Pashtunkot district, Abdul Qadeer Qaderi, the district governor said Wednesday.

"The police commander who have joined the Taliban was also the commander of public uprising against the Taliban in the district," Qaderi said. "He fled the area along with his forces following an attack of Taliban."

According to the district governor, the ALP commander had left the area on the pretext of launching a counter attack on the Taliban. This comes a day after the head of Provincial Council of ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

New Jawzjan Governor Formally Assumes Office

SHIBERGHAN - Maulvi Lotfullah Azizi on Wednesday officially began as the governor of northern Jawzjan province, vowing to launch four key projects during his first year in office.

Speaking at his introduction ceremony in the provincial capital, Shiberghan, the new governor said he would launch the four major projects as his top priority. He identified the projects as an agricultural farm, construction of 2,500 residential plots for teachers, establishing water canals in Shiberghan and a 200-bed hospital. These projects would be launched and completed during his first year in office, the governor said.

Azizi said the projects would help create thousands of jobs for Jawzjan residents. "If I come to know some is taking bribe or is accused of embezzlement and corruption, I will deal with him personally," he warned.

Inayatullah Babur Farahmand, a member of parliament, said the security situation in Jawzjan had deteriorated, with criminal incidents like murder and abductions on the rise. He mentioned the lack of electricity, potable and irrigation waters other grievances of the residents and urged the new governor to promote the ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Pakistan Raises Tariffs on Afghan Fruits

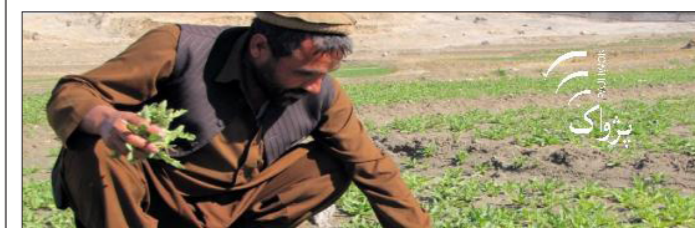


KABUL - Market analysts in Kabul on Wednesday claimed that Pakistan has increased tariffs on imports of fresh fruits from Afghanistan, a move said to be in clear violation of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit and Trade Agreement (APTTA) signed in 2011.

Critics have pointed blame

at the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoC), arguing the government has done too little to help Afghan farmers and fruit traders get access to important markets like Pakistan. They say Pakistan raises tariffs, or takes similar steps, in order to exploit harvest seasons in Af ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Afghan Farmers Produce Record Soybean this Year: NEI



KABUL - Following continuous assistance by an NGO, Nutrition and Educational International (NEI), Afghan farmers produced the most amount of soybeans in the history of the country this year, a statement from the NEI said on Wednesday.

With the assistance NEI assistance, an estimated 13,000 Afghan farmers are cultivating soybean this year. NEI distributed seeds and ferti-

lizers and provided all technical training to farmers in 22 provinces throughout the country.

Soybean cultivation began in early spring and around 2,400 hectares of land was used for farming. This is an increase of 400 hectares of land under soybean cultivation in comparison to last year. Last year, 2,000 MT soybeans were produced by the ...*(More on P4)...(18)*