

Jalalabad Clear 38°C 26°C	Ghazni Clear 33°C 16°C	Kandahar Clear 43°C 26°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 37°C 29°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 32°C 22°C	Bamayan Clear 22°C 12°C	Kabul Clear 34°C 20°C
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NUG Leaders Yet to Deliver on Promises of the Political Agreement

KABUL - The leaders of National Unity Government (NUG) have not yet addressed key elements of the political agreement signed between President Ashraf Ghani and his CEO Abdullah Abdullah, Mohammad Natiqi, head of the commission overseeing implementation of the agreement said on Wednesday.

These include the constitutional amendment of the Loya Jirga and the distribution of electronic national identity cards. Natiqi added government efforts to bring about systematic reforms to the Afghan election law were not enough. While many believe that implementation of the political agreement is key to ensuring the continued existence of the NUG, two



years have passed since it was formed and Ghani and Abdullah have not met their promises in terms of the agreement. "The commission intended to amend the constitution has not been created. The second issue is the roll-out of electronic national identity cards which has not been started in practice," said Mohammad Natiqi. "They (leaders of the NUG) only worked on the power sharing issue, the political agreement has not been fully implemented," MP Farooq Majroh said. This comes at a time when tensions between government officials over appointments in key government positions are rising to new heights. However, president Ashraf Ghani has ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Above 350 Acres of Usurped Govt. Land Retaken in Kunduz



KUNDUZ CITY - More than 350 acres of government land illegally encroached by powerful individuals has been recovered during the past two months in northern Kunduz province, the governor said on Wednesday. Asadullah Omarkhel told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview that the land was recovered due to strong determination and efforts of the provincial government. Without naming them, Omarkhel said some former jihadi commanders had been involved in grabbing of the 350 acres of government land. He said structures on the land had been demolished. According to the governor, a commission ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Taliban Reacts Towards Pentagon Chief's Visit And Remarks in Afghanistan



KABUL - The Taliban militants group in Afghanistan reacted towards the visit by the US defense secretary Ashton Carter in Afghanistan on Tuesday.

The visit by Carter followed days after the US and NATO leaders reaffirmed long term support to Afghanistan and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). Renewing the group's stance to continue insurgency in the country, the Taliban group spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, said "Our struggle against the invaders shall continue until the complete independence of our country and establishment of pathway for an Islamic system. No threat can ever stop our struggle in this path." This comes as President Barack Obama announced last week to keep 8,400 US troops in Afghanistan through January 2017. Obama had planned to draw down the number of American troops in the country to 5,500 by the end of the year. There are currently 9,800 U.S. troops in the country. In the meantime, Obama last month approved broader role for the US military to assist the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) to fight the Taliban-led insurgency.

The US forces in Afghanistan launched strikes against the Taliban militants late last month and days after ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Governor Claims 400 Ghost Soldiers Found on Helmand Payroll

LASHKARGAH - Hayatullah Hayat, the governor of Helmand province, has claimed to have discovered more than 'ghost soldiers' within the ranks of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and on the province payroll.

Those 'ghost soldiers' have subsequently been removed, he said. "We are planning systematic changes in the ranks of the police forces. Our assessments indicate that there are ghost soldiers within the ranks of the security forces in Helmand. So far we have discovered at least 400 and scrapped them from



the list," he said. The statement follows a few months after rumors surfaced about the existence of thousands of 'ghost soldiers' on the payroll within the Afghan National Security

Forces (ANSF), something that sparked great controversy in the country.

In addition, the provincial governor reported the immanent activation of the second phase of the 'Khanjar 13' military operation aimed at eliminating the insurgents in several regions across the country.

"The second phase of Operation Khanjar 13 will soon commence. We will target vulnerable areas in this operation," Hayat added. The Helmand provincial council has asked the ANSF to repress the insurgent Taliban during the operation and curb their presence in ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Iran-Made Treasure Hunting Equipment Seized in Bamyan Province

BAMYAN CITY - The Afghan security forces have confiscated a state of the art equipment made by Iran to identify treasures and precious earth materials in central Bamyan province.

Provincial governor Mohammad Tahir Zahir said two suspects were also arrested in connection to excavation of historic sites to seize monuments. He said the suspects were arrested by the operatives of the provincial National Directorate of Security. Zahir further added that the Iranian-made equipment ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Afghanistan Trounce Ireland By 39 Runs in 2nd ODI

KABUL - The national team defeated Ireland by 39 runs in the second One Day International (ODI) in Berlin, a spokesman for the Afghanistan Cricket Board said on Wednesday.

Mohammad Shahzad and Najibullah Zadran set the tone for the 39-run triumph in Belfast, where the two teams are playing a five-match ODI series, on Tuesday.

Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) spokesman Farid Hotak told Pajhwok Afghan News Ireland won the toss and invited the national squad to bat first. Afghanistan were bowled out for 250 in 49.2 overs of the game, as Shahzad Mohammad scored 66 runs and Najib Zadran 59. Javed Ahmadi

contributed 29 and Samiullah Shinwarichipped in with 24. The visitors, cruising at 76 without loss, slipped to 125 for 4 but a 70-run stand between Zadran and Shinwari saw them waltz to gradual stability.

Zadran hit six fours and two sixes in his 61-ball knock before being dislodged by Barry McCarthy, who finished with 4 for 59 - the best ODI figures for the medium-pacer.

Ireland could not chase the target, losing all their wickets in the 49 over for 211 runs. Mohammad Nabi and Rashid



Khan took three wickets each, with Dawlat Zadran and Mirwais Ashraf claiming two scalps apiece.

O'Brien smashed a 27-ball 35, but Ireland came under pressure as the asking rate mounted steadily. He was fifth man dismissed before the ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

800 Flour Mills Closed As Afghanistan Stops Wheat Import from Pakistan

KABUL - Around 800 flour mills have reportedly shut down in Pakistan as Afghanistan has stopped import of wheat from the country.

According to local media reports, citing the relevant authorities in Pakistan, the export of flour from Pakistan to Afghanistan was suspended temporarily on Tuesday after authorities in the neighbouring country increased custom duty on the commodity.

The reports further added that flour exporters and



dealers in Peshawar stopped export of the commodity to Afghanistan as they were asked to deposit additional amount as custom duty by the Afghan authorities at Torkham border.

Another newspaper, The Express, reported that the Afghan government has hinted at banning the import of wheat flour from ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Strong Winds Fuel Eye Ailments in Herat: Doctors

HERAT CITY - Eye ailments have surged by 80 percent in western Herat province as a result of continued strong winds, doctors said on Wednesday.

Dr. Jamal Abdul Naser Akhundzada, director of Noor Hospital, told Pajhwok Afghan News up

to 450 people affected by eye problems had visited the hospital over the past four months.

He said continued winds caused problems for the people with sensitive eyes. "The number of patients has increased by 80 percent compared

last year's visits." The main reason was growing population in Herat and inadequate access to health services, Akhundzada explained, saying gales caused eye ailments and spread of viruses. He recommended ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Pakistan Constructs Helipad, Installations in Paktika

SHARAN - Civil society activists and Provincial Council (PC) members on Wednesday claimed Pakistani security forces had launched the construction of a helipad and military installations in the Gomal district of southeastern Paktika province.

Yaqub Khan Manzoor, Youth Cultural Society (YCS) head in Orgun district, said Pakistani security forces had started work on different facilities. "Construction of the helipad is underway in the Nazam locality of Gomal, 15 kilometres into Afghanistan." He said the Pakistani troops had built a gate and other military struc-

tures in Khandak and Warsak areas. He suggested the immediate destruction of the installations built on Afghan soil.

Mubin Faqirzada, a provincial council member, confirmed the Pakistan military installation in Khandak Warsak areas. He said a past survey had shown that huge oil and gas reserves existed in the two neighbourhoods. But Governor Ilyas Wahdat rejected the claims as untrue, saying a government delegation would be dispatched to the area to assess the situation. Pakistani and Afghan forces recently traded fire over the construction of a gate in Torkham. (Pajhwok

Pakistani Dealers Suspend Flour Exports to Afghanistan

PESHAWAR - Pakistan has suspended flour exports to Afghanistan after an increase in custom duty on the commodity and signing of an agreement between Kabul and New Delhi, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Peshawar-based flour exporters and dealers halted supplies to the landlocked country as they were asked to deposit an additional amount in custom duty by the Afghan authorities at the Torkham border.

Dawn quoted flour dealers as saying that an agreement had been reached between Afghanistan and India on flour supplies at subsidised rates. Afghan-



istan has also signed an accord with Tajikistan, but Pakistani flour is still preferred. About 70 trucks loaded with flour cross into Afghanistan via the Torkham border on a daily basis. "But the exports have been halted for the time being," one of the dealers told the daily.

Customs officials at Torkham confirmed suspension of flour exports to Afghanistan. Clearing agents and flour exporters met in Torkham to review the situation and discussed ways how to deal with the issue. Participants of the meeting, worried by the ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Waziri Hail Special Forces' Gains in Nangarhar, Kunduz Provinces

KUNDUZ CITY - General Bismillah Waziri, the commander of special operations unit of the Afghan National Army (ANA), on Wednesday praised the commandos for having made considerable gains in Helmand, Nangarhar and Kunduz

provinces over the past few months.

He added that the number of youths joining the commando units is on the rise.

Waziri said that the Taliban have lost the ability to face the Afghan security forces on the

battlefields. As a result, their activities have decreased compared to the preceding year.

He said commando forces have conducted complicated military operations over the past three months in various regions ...*(More on P4)...(17)*