

Jalalabad Clear 37°C 26°C	Ghazni Clear 32°C 19°C	Kandahar Clear 42°C 27°C	Mazar Clear 38°C 29°C	Herat Clear 36°C 23°C	Bamayan Clear 29°C 12°C	Kabul Clear 35°C 22°C
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Daily Outlook
Weather Forecast

US, Pakistan Reaffirm Shared Afghan Peace Desire

WASHINGTON/KABUL - Ahead of the next round of talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government, the United States and Pakistan on Tuesday reaffirmed their shared desire for achieving lasting peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Pakistan and China show their interest to be 'guarantors' for a peace deal between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Pakistan, in the presence of United States and China,



hosted direct peace talks between Afghan officials and Taliban representatives earlier this month. The second round of the peace talks is expected soon but the venue has not been confirmed so far. About a week ago, President Ashraf Ghani on a visit

to southeastern Khost province said the next round of talks with the Taliban would take place over the next three weeks. He said the next round would discuss Taliban's demands. In his Eid message, Ghani had said negotiations with the Taliban were the only way to "end the bloodshed" and bring peace to the country, welcoming Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar's Eid message, in which he had endorsed the peace talks... (More on P4)...(7)

Masked Men Boarded Afghan Plane in Iran, Reveals Document

KABUL - A leaked document shows an Iranian airline illegally flew masked passengers to Iraq on an Ariana Afghan Airlines plane. A copy of the document obtained by Pajhwok Afghan News carries signatures of Daud Sharifi, the Ariana Afghan Airlines chief. The paper was sent to the National Security Council (NSC) and the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament. The document number 515, dated 10 July, 2015, states: "As you are aware, Ariana planes are a public asset and should be used for the protection of national interest and the inter-



est of Ariana company. "But, unfortunately, for private gains, Nasir Ahmad Hakimi, Mohammad Hanif and Omar Mastoor have signed a contract for the Airbus A310 with the Iranian company Taban Air, which is detrimental to the national interest... (More on P4)...(8)

20 Dead, 34 Injured in Faryab Suicide Blast

MAIMANA - At least 20 people were killed and another 34 wounded on Wednesday when a suicide attacker struck a district bazaar in northern Faryab province, an official said. The blast took place at around 11:45am, said Faryab police spokesman Syed Massoud Yaqubi. Most of the victims were civilians. The dead included a policeman and a child



was among those wounded. Dr. Ehsanullah, an official at the Afghan-Turk Hospital in Maimana, confirmed receiving the wounded people, including Afghan National Police (ANP), border police and National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel. He said 10 of the wounded were in critical condition. Abdul Mobin, a border police official who was injured in the blast, said: "We were in the Qara Ghoili locality of Almar when we got a report about a suicide attacker's entry into the bazaar. As we reached the bazaar, the blast took place." ... (More on P4)...(11)

MoUD Worried About Illegal Residential Construction

KABUL - Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) officials on Wednesday expressed concerns about the continued growth of informal, unsanctioned residential construction in cities around the country, but especially in Kabul. They have warned that the urban sprawl will make planned urban development programs more difficult to implement in the future. According to the ministry, power-brokers in various parts of the country have developed illegal residential housing on land they have seized in order to exploit rising demand for urban living



space. Out of 350 recently founded villages, officials say 200 of them are unsanctioned. Officials warned that a law delineating construction violations and their consequences is currently in the works, and would soon be passed and implemented in order to prevent further proliferation of illegal housing construction. "In order to prevent the construction of illegal towns, we are working on a law of construction violations, and with the approval of the law, even those who confiscated 1 meter ... (More on P4)...(9)

WJ Set to Rise for Summer Recess Today



KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga (WJ) -- or lower house of parliament -- is scheduled to rise for a 45-day summer recess on Thursday (today) at a time when some lawmakers acknowledge the assembly's poor performance during the past four months. Nazir Ahmadzai, second deputy speaker, told reporters on Wednesday that the

lower house would go on vacation from tomorrow. During the past four months and a half, the house debated more than 874 issues and took necessary steps for their resolution. In addition, the assembly held 15 extraordinary sessions for observation purposes. The lower house, he said, approved six draft laws and an agreement and rejected a presiden-

tial decree in 56 general sessions. During the period, the assembly granted votes of confidence to 18 ministers-designate, heads of two independent institutions and a member of the Supreme Court. He asked the government to be quick in introducing the... (More on P4)...(10)

Kunduz PC Head Pockets 6m Afs, Claims Governor

KUNDUZ CITY - The governor of northern Kunduz province on Wednesday accused the provincial council chief of embezzling six million Afghani, an allegation the council head rejected as baseless. Speaking to journalists, Governor Mohammad Omar Safi said the money had been allocated by the Department for Disaster Preparedness for rehabilitation of calamity-hit residents of Imam Sahib district. "The provincial council head has pocketed six million Afghani and there is no clue where the money has gone,"



he claimed. The governor said when they sent a delegation to enquire about the money, the provincial council head and his colleagues staged protests against him. Last week, some residents staged a protest demonstration, accusing the governor of failing to ensure security and demanded his resignation. According to the governor, there were problems which could not be addressed over the past 14 years in Kunduz, where illegal armed and mafia groups remained major sources of insecurity... (More on P4)...(12)

Nimroz Fire Department Housed in New Building

ZARANJ - A newly-constructed building for the fire department of southwestern Nimroz province was on Tuesday put into service, an official said. The building spread over 35 acres of land in Changi area near Zaranj airport has five blocks each having 12 rooms. Fire brigade chief Lt. Col. Mohammad Zahir told Pajhwok Afghan News construction of the building cost \$13 million, which had been provided by the United States. "Previously we worked in a single room office at the police headquarters, but now we have our own building," he said. However, some residents of Zaranj City said the fire department was located around 26 kilometers away from the city and it would take one hour for firefighters to reach the city of a fire occurred. One of them, Ahmad Javed, said: "The fire department is located away from the city in an area where no one lives. Its road to the city is sometimes blocked by sand dunes." The fire department chief acknowledged the long distance between the city and his department, but he said it was located close to the teachers' township. He said more residential buildings were being built in the area. He said a branch of the department was also operational inside the city. The aim of the new building's closeness to the airport was to ensure timely arrival in case of a fire breakout at the airport, Zahir added. But Zahir complained about the shortage of personnel and equipment. He said the department currently had only two firefighter vehicles and they were insufficient. (Pajhwok)

5 ANA Soldiers, 14 Rebels Killed in Fresh Violence



GHAZNI CITY/MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Fourteen Taliban insurgents and five Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed during clashes in southern Ghazni and northern Balkh provinces, the military and the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday. The Afghan National Army's 203rd Thunder Corps said in a statement nearly a dozen militants were killed and eight others wounded during a joint search operation by the army, police and local uprising members in the Andar district

of Ghazni on Tuesday. The Taliban managed to carry away the dead bodies of their 10 colleagues from the battlefield, while security forces seized a huge quantity of armaments and the dead body of a Taliban fighter, the statement said. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in said five ANA soldiers were killed during operations and blasts. The statement from the ministry offered no further details. In northern Balkh province, ... (More on P4)...(13)

Faryab Power Transmission Lines Snapped By Fighting



MAIMANA - Power lines extended from Turkmenistan to northwestern Faryab province have been cut off as a result of armed clashes between Afghan forces and Taliban militants, an official said Wednesday. Khawaja Sabz Posh district police chief Lt. Col. Mohammad Akbar Bashash told Pajhwok Afghan News the electricity lines were cut off in Gorzad area on the last night. He said that no side suffered casualties during the clash. Faryab energy officials said around 70,000 families in Maimana, the provincial capital and its eight districts

used the imported electricity and the power was currently cut for Maimana city, and Khawaja Sabz Posh, Pashtun Kot, Sherin Tagab and Dawlatabad districts. The loadshedding has created problems for the residents of the province. Ahmadullah resident of Maimana city said, "All our tasks are run by electricity, even our mobile phones have no charge." He said that the weather was also very warm and most of the people used fans and air conditioners, which were currently off due to lack of electricity... (More on P4)...(14)

Arghandiwal Seeks Stern Action Over Logar Airstrike

KABUL - Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) non-violent faction leader Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal on Wednesday strongly condemned a US airstrike that killed eight Afghan soldiers and wounded six others in central Logar province. The Monday's airstrike involving two US helicopters bombed an ANA outpost in the Baraki Barak district, promoting President Ashraf Ghani to order an investigation. But Arghandiwal, also a former economy minister under ex-president Hamid Karzai, put the ANA death toll from the airstrike at 12. In a statement, the HIA leader said another 20 Afghan troops were wounded in the incident. The statement said the HIA strongly condemned the incident and called for its perpetrators to be prosecuted. "The action committed by the American forces in Logar province was against all international agreements and



human rights principles," the statement said. Those responsible for the "un-Islamic and inhuman action" should be brought to justice as soon as possible, the statement said. Arghandiwal asked foreign troops not to repeat such blind attacks and the unity government to strengthen coordination among security forces. The Arghandiwal-led HIA faction is part of the unity government. Its member Eng. Mohammad Khan is first deputy chief executive officer. (Pajhwok)

Clashes Cause Financial Losses to Khogyani Residents



GHAZNI CITY - The residents of Khogyani district of southern Ghazni complain they suffered financial losses due to clashes between security forces and Taliban militants. Khogyani district is about 25 kilometers west of Ghazni City, the provincial capital. The security situation in the district has been worst since last 13 years.

Mohammad Ashraf, a resident of Merza Khail area, told Pajhwok Afghan News the security situation had worsened compared to the previous year. "I can't leave home due to clashes on a daily basis. My wheat crop dried after I failed to irrigate it. Fruits in my orchards will decay if not harvested." ... (More on P4)...(15)