

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 37°C 06°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 33°C 19°C	Kandahar Clear 41°C 27°C	Mazar Clear 40°C 29°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 37°C 23°C	Bamayan Clear 26°C 12°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 36°C 21°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

MoD Expresses Support for Continued U.S. Presence

KABUL - Ministry of Defense (MoD) spokesman Dawlat Waziri on Thursday reiterated the Afghan forces' continued need for financial support and extended military assistance from the United States in order to combat militant groups effectively.

"We are still relying on financial aid from the international community, particularly cooperation from the U.S., in order to support us in training, air support and military equipment," Waziri said.

The comments come after a con-



roversial week for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Early Monday morning, an errant U.S. airstrike mistakenly attacked an Afghan National Army (ANA) base in Logar province, resulting in the death of seven soldiers. Separately, Afghan military experts and political commentators have recently expressed ... (More on P4)... (8)

JEC Meeting to be Held in Islamabad on Aug 26



KABUL - Afghan Ambassador Janan Mosazai called on Pakistan Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Wednesday and discussed with him the upcoming Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting.

They agreed the 10th JEC meeting would be held on August 26, the Pakistan Embassy here said. The meeting will be held in Islamabad where the

Afghanistan side would be led by Finance Minister Eklil Ahmad Hakimi, while Dar would head the Pakistani team.

Dar added Pakistani had already undertaken preparatory work and directed Economic Affairs Division Secretary Saleem Sethi to review progress on different projects and ascertain the implementation status of the decisions taken during the ... (More on P4)... (9)

US Drone Kills Top Al-Qaeda Commander

KABUL - A US air strike killed a senior Al Qaeda commander along with two other militants in southeastern Paktika, the Pentagon said Friday.

Dawn.com stated the attack occurred on July 11 which killed Abu Khalil al-Sudani, a "high-ranking Al-Qaeda operational commander" and in charge of suicide bombing, the Pentagon said in a statement released to reporters in Iraq who were travelling with US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter.

"Al-Sudani was one of three known violent extremists killed in the strike. The death of al-Sudani will further degrade Al Qaeda operations across the globe," the statement said.

The Pentagon described Sudani as a senior shura member and head of Al Qaeda's suicide and explosive operations, and said he was directly linked to plotting attacks against the United States.

"He ... (More on P4)... (12)

Pakistan Arrests Chief Afghan Taliban Cleric

KABUL - Pakistani forces have arrested the Afghan Taliban's Ulema Council chief and other pro-Taliban clerics during raids on their homes in the capital of southwestern Balochistan province, sources said on Thursday.

A source close to the Taliban in Balochistan told Pajhwok Afghan News that the raids that took place on Tuesday at various parts of Quetta, the provincial capital, were aimed at curtailing Afghan Taliban's activities in the province.

The Pakistani forces first raided the home of Sheikh Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai, the Taliban Ulema Council chief, in the Ishaqabad area and arrested Ishaqzai and took him to an unknown location, according to the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Mullah Toor Jan Akhund aka Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai is a resident of Band Taimur area of southern Helmand province and cousin of Gul Agha Ishaqzai.

Gul Agha Ishaqzai, a former gunman of Taliban supreme leader Mullah ... (More on P4)... (15)

Poll Watchdogs Insist on Reform Panel's Impartiality

KABUL - Election watchdogs on Thursday said the Electoral Reform Commission would not be effective

Organization officials told a joint press conference in Kabul that the electoral system could not be reformed

elections and major reasons behind fraud should be identified and addressed through a mechanism.

Mal said the government had set the Electoral Reform Commission a three-month deadline to come up with a framework for reforms. He said three months were not enough to review and prepare a reform plan.

NLO head Fahim Seddiqi said most members of the reform body were affiliated with the two leaders of the unity government, something election observers were concerned about.

He said the panel's composition raised questions about government's sincerity in bringing reforms to the ... (More on P4)... (10)



if influenced by the government.

Established through a presidential decree issued on the eve of Eidul Fitr, the commission formally launched its activities on Wednesday.

Election Watch Afghanistan (EWA) and New Line

with theories, but with practical measures.

EWA head Shah Mahmoud Mal said the reform panel should review technical and legal problems in the system.

He said political interferences marred previous

Ex-Rebel Leader Against Foreign Meddling in Peace Talks

KABUL - "Afghanistan High Rescue Council (AHRC)" on Thursday said "biased neighbours" and other foreign countries should not be allowed to meddle in the Afghan peace process.

AHRC head and former Taliban official Maulvi Syed Akbar Agha told a party gathering that their aim was to unite the Afghans. "We are gathered here to unite Afghans. We want a ceasefire deal during the peace talks which cannot succeed if bloodshed continues."

Agha, who led the Taliban's Jaish-i-Muslimeen wing during their regime, said the Afghans would trust more the



peace process if a ceasefire deal was struck.

Without naming anyone, Agha said there were individuals in Afghanistan who could better mediate between the government and the Taliban and could bolster people's trust in the peace process.

"The Afghan nation is ready

to offer guarantee to America, China and Pakistan that they can solve their differences on their own," he said.

Calling durable peace vital for Afghans, he said: "The peace process will yield no results until it lacks transparency and the people are kept in dark about progress in the talks." ... (More on P4)... (13)

Activists Blast Scholars for Opposing Female Governor

CHEGHCHARAN - The council of religious scholars in western Ghor province has come under fire after the council members opposed



appointment of a female governor for the province and called it un-Islamic. Recently, a number of Ghor Ulema Council members warned in a joint declaration to disobey Seema Joyenda, the first fe-

male governor for the province. Calling appointment of female governors contrary to Islamic principles, the scholars demanded Joyenda to step down - a demand turned down by the governor. "We expect the government to introduce a male governor," Ulema Council member Mawlawi Mohammad said, noting that a woman can't be a prayer leader for men. Earlier, the council's spokesman in his social media account called women "incomplete." However, many other religious experts and social activists accuse the Ghor Ulema Council of ... (More on P4)... (16)

Bamyan Woman Urges Government for Justice

BAMYAN City - A number of women in central Bamyan province who had become

victim of violent incidents demanded justice from the government.

Maliha, the resident of Waras district, said she was sexually attacked by a man and since one year she and her husband had been perusing her case to get justice and punish the accused man.

She told Pajhwok Afghan News that Wahid wanted to sexually attack her again, but security officials halt him from

doing so and seized him in his house.

Maliha said the court fined



Wahid only 50,000 Afghani and did not sent him to the jail. The accused individual was roaming in the area and continued harassing women.

Hussain Karbalai, the husband of Maliha, warned he would ... (More on P4)... (17)

25 Taliban Fighters Killed in Helmand



LASHKARGAH - Security forces and Taliban militants clashed in several districts of southern Helmand province, with each side claiming it had inflicted heavy casualties on the other.

Helmand police chief Brig. Nabi Jan Mullakhel told Pajhwok Afghan News that Taliban insurgents mounted attacks on security posts in the Musa Qala district last night at about 2am.

He said the security forces had prior information about the assaults and killed 25 attackers and wounded a dozen more by timely acting.

Some Taliban corpses remained in the area, he said,

but did not say if security forces suffered any casualties in the pre-dawn skirmishes.

The same night, Taliban gunmen attacked security posts in the Kajaki district, injuring three Afghan Local Police members, according to Mullakhel. The ensuing clash left six attackers dead and several others wounded, he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Governor Mohammad Jan Rasoulyar confirmed last night clashes between security forces and insurgents in Musa Qala and Nawzad districts. However, he said they could not reveal exact information about casualties due to the ongoing ... (More on P4)... (11)

Respond to Public Demands, Balkh MP Asks Govt.

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Wolesi Jirga member from northern Balkh province Haji Abdo has said the incumbent government had come to power with public mandate and it should respond to people's demands.

The lawmaker was addressing a gathering in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, on Thursday. Besides media representatives, tribal elders from different areas, civil society activists and provincial

council members were present at the gathering.

In his address to the gathering, Abdo urged the Afghans to respect the country's Constitution, which he called the best way to rescue the country.

The lawmaker said for a bright future of Afghanistan, it was necessary to preserve the gains made over the past 14 years.

He said today Afghanistan wanted ... (More on P4)... (14)

Paktika Security Relatively Good, Claims Governor



SHARAN - The Paktika governor on Thursday claimed the security environment in his province was relatively good, saying several districts would have fallen to the Taliban without public cooperation with his administration.

Speaking to residents during his maiden visit to Mata Khan district, Governor Amin Shariq acknowledged cooperation from the people

in maintaining security. "A number of districts would have collapsed, if the masses had not helped us."

He assured the residents of all-out efforts to develop the district in terms of security, economic prosperity and education. He said the security in Paktika was better than other provinces.

But at times, Shariq added, militants sneaked into the ... (More on P4)... (18)