

Jalalabad Clear 35°C 24°C	Ghazni Clear 24°C 16°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 37°C 26°C	Mazar Clear 37°C 28°C	Herat Clear 37°C 22°C	Bamayan Chance of Rain 19°C 03°C	Kabul Chance of Rain 27°C 20°C
---	--	--	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--	--

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Part of Kohistanat District Falls, ALP Men Defect to Taliban

SUR-I-PUL - A part of the Kohistanat district in northern Sur-i-Pul province fell to Taliban after Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander joined militants along with his colleagues, a public representative said on Monday.

Mohammad Noor Rahmani, provincial council head, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Hassan Arbab, the ALP commander in Qila Shahar area, had defected to Taliban.

Assadullah Khuram, a PC member, also confirmed the incident and said the area fell to Taliban on Sunday afternoon.

Maj. Gen. Mohammad Asif Jabbarkhail, police chief, confirmed



the commander and his companions had joined Taliban fighters. A fierce gun battle erupted soon after the attack, he said, adding security forces had controlled high terrain areas.

Meanwhile, Sar-i-Pul police spokesman Amanuddin Aman said that only four of 84 villages of the Kohistanat district were currently under security forces control while the rest of villages were captured by militants.

He said that Hasan Arbab along with his seven members joined the Taliban militants. Heavy fight were underway in the 20 kilometers of the district center with the militants, Aman added. (Pajhwok)

Masooma Muradi All Resources to be Used for Daikundi Development

KABUL - The female governor for central Daikundi province on Monday pledged to work out a comprehensive strategy to resolve problems and challenges facing different sectors with the cooperation of the departments concerned.

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) introduced Masooma Muradi as Daikundi governor last month but she resumed charge after some delay due to protests from some lawmakers.

In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Muradi said she would leave



no stone unturned for the development of Daikundi --- one of the most backward provinces.

"I'm planning to evaluate the departments and tackle major issues on a priority basis with the help of government and non-...(More on P4)...(8)

German-Funded Raghistan District Building Completed

FAIZABAD - The Raghistan district in northeastern Badakhshan province celebrated the opening of a new administrative building on Monday, a statement from the German Cooperation with Afghanistan said.

Civil servants of the district administration now have a better work environment, helping them to improve their performance and provide better services to the local population.

The building was set up by the Badakhshan governor's office at a cost of 33 million afghanis from the Federal Republic of Germany. The new two-storey administrative ... (More on P4)...(10)

Over a Dozen Taliban Perished in Badakhshan Airstrike

FAIZABAD - At least 13 Taliban have been killed and six others wounded in airstrike conducted by Afghan Air Force in the Warduj district of northeastern Badakhshan province, an official said on Monday.

Deputy Police Chief Col. Shaki Dad Haidari told Pajhwok Afghan News the bombardment took place late Sunday. Two children had been killed by rockets shell fired by the Taliban, he alleged.

Dawlat Mohammad Khawar, the town's administrative chief, said a huge cache of weapons and ammunition ... (More on P4)...(12)

Thousands of Students to be Enrolled for Higher Education

KABUL - The Ministry of Information and Culture on Monday signed contracts with a number of private higher education institutes to help around 10,000 school graduates to pursue higher education with 25 percent discount.

Sayed Kamal Sadat, deputy director of youth department, said the contract was signed with 26 private higher and semi-higher institutes to offer higher education to 10,000 students with 25 percent discount in fee.

He said 370 other school graduates were granted to be enrolled to the institutes free



of any charges.

Private Health Science Institutes' Union head Abdul Hameed Rahmanzai Safi told Pajhwok Afghan News that wanted to improve public interests and provide different education facilities to students. "It is our responsibility to work for the development of Afghanistan, social justice, protection of human values and balanced improvement," he said, adding the government and private sector should work together to promote the capacity of youths. (Pajhwok)

Mafia Groups Behind Spiraling Insecurity in Kunduz: Safi

KUNDUZ - The governor of northern Kunduz province has said on Monday mafia circles are major obstacles to construction and security in



the province.

Mohammad Omar Safi, while presenting report of his first 6-months activities in office said lack of proper planning by the previous government, presence of Taliban and illegal armed men and drug smuggling

were major reasons of insecurity in the province. He has submitted a set of suggestions to the government. During his period in office,

riated in the province with Taliban gaining grounds in some areas resulted in displacement of more than 18,000 families.

The governor complained he could not implement the urban master plan for Kunduz city due to interferences by mafia circles and some powerful individuals in the province.

He did not name anybody but said if the government took coordinated action against them security would be restored in Kunduz.

While taking office, Safi had promised construction of railways, power supply, asphaltting of roads, extension of the airport, implementation of the urban master plan for Kunduz city, and con ... (More on P4)...(13)

ability to work for the development of Afghanistan, social justice, protection of human values and balanced improvement," he said, adding the government and private sector should work together to promote the capacity of youths. (Pajhwok)

Saleh Announces New Political Alliance, Affirms Support for ANSF

KABUL - Amrullah Saleh, the former head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and the founder of the Rawand-e Sabz-e Afghanistan (Afghanistan Green Trend) political party, held a press conference on Monday to announce the signing of an agreement with two other groups declaring their support for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and any others dedicated to defending the people of Afghanistan.

Accompanying Saleh's Green Trend party, leaders of the Sulaiman Ghar cultural society and Noor social movement were also at the press conference to announce their new memorandum of understanding.

In his remarks, Saleh warned the public that the nation's true enemies are those trying to divide it into factions. And he said that any group looking to combat terrorists in Afghanistan should be least support ... (More on P4)...(9)

USAID Launches Jawana Women's Leadership Skills Course

KABUL - The US Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Jawana women's leadership skills course with a ceremony at the Geology Faculty of Kabul University.

A statement from the USAID on Monday said that 100 Afghan women, between the ages of 18 and 30, attended the ceremony. Guests included representatives from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled, USAID, univer-

sity students, members of women's civil society organizations, women and human rights activists and community representatives.

The young women, who have either a high school diploma, ... (More on P4)...(11)



Kabul Urged to Stop Pakistani Construction Near Border

SHARAN - The governor of southeastern Paktika province on Monday urged the central government to help stop the construction of Pakistani installations near the Angoor Adda, a restive town near the Durand Line.

Aminullah Shariq expressed these views in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Af-

ghan News, saying high-ups had been informed about Pakistani troops' construction in Angoor Adda over the past two months.

The construction also caused the killing of seven Pakistani soldiers and an Afghan border policeman when the issue led to an armed clash between ... (More on P4)...(14)

80 Prisoners Released from Jail in Herat



HERAT - 80 Prisoners, including three women, have been released from the central captivity in western Herat province.

Officials say these people were arrested on petty-charges and there were no terror suspect among them.

Brigadier General Abdullah Azizi, officer of the provincial jail in Herat says that the prisoners were released following a decree by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani

issued on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

He said that based on the decree the imprisonment period of some other inmates have also reduced.

This comes after over 400 prisoners were released from the same jail about three months before.

There are currently nearly 3,000 inmates in the provincial captivity of Herat who are detained on different charges including terrorism. (KP)

22 Killed in Attack on Baghlan Wedding Ceremony



PUL-I-KHUMRI - At least 22 people, including two children, were killed and nine others wounded in a family feud in Deh Salah district in northern Baghlan province, an official said on Monday.

Brig. Gen. Abdul Jabbar Purdali, police chief, said the bloody clash happened overnight when armed men opened a volley of gunfire on a wedding party, killing 20

people and wounding nine others.

A delegation consists of senior officials had been sent for investigation, he added. Police have reached the scene to deal with the situation.

Irfan, a wedding guest, said 24 people had been killed and 12 others wounded, including a brother of the police chief for Dehna Ghuri district. The battle ... (More on P4)...(15)

Mullah Yaqoub Might be Selected as Taliban Head if Omer's Death is Confirmed

KABUL - Mullah Omar's eldest son is standing against Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor to lead Afghan Taliban if his father's death is confirmed.

Pakistan's The News media reports that sources close to Taliban are saying Mullah Mohammad Yaqoub, 26, who is the eldest son of Taliban's supreme leader Mullah

Mohammad Omar and a graduate of a well-known Karachi Madrasa (Seminary) is being discussed by the Taliban Shura to take over the command of the Taliban if Omar's death is confirmed.

Although questions have been raised about Mullah Omar's fate for years but most recently it became hot when a ... (More on P4)...(16)

Train Kids in Music to Curb Violence, Say Experts

KABUL - Afghan musicians complain though improvements have been made in the area of music, yet special children's training in this performing art has been ignored.

They say music, theatre, painting, calligraphy, sculpture, and cinema could help rescue children from the psychological effects of war. Research shows children, if learned on musical instruments, can better achieve their targets.

Milad is one of the children evincing a keen interest in learning musical instruments. Less than six years of age, he enjoys playing music with a tea-tray and humming Ahmad Zahir songs.

Mary, mother of Milad, said her son hummed songs in bathroom and wanted to become a good signer. But she regretted no one supported her son.

"Milad has been enjoying listening music when he was five months old. I used to keep radio set besides him to listen music whenever I was busy. When the music stopped my son had to wake up from deep slumber," his mother recalled.

Bilal Naim, director of the Sound Art of Kabul University's Arts Institute, said people paid less attention to supporting their children in learning music and it caused many children ... (More on P4)...(17)