

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	42°C 26°C		27°C 14°C		41°C 26°C		41°C 28°C		37°C 20°C		21°C 9°C		33°C 18°C

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Afghanistan Ranks 4th Most Dangerous Country: Survey

KABUL - In a new report, the Institute for Economics and Peace has placed Afghanistan as the 4th most dangerous country in the world. In its annual report, the Institute for Economics and Peace assessed peace and stability in 163 countries, placing Syria as the world's most insecure nation while Iraq came in second, Sudan third and Afghanistan fourth. Iceland and Australia have been placed on the top of the most peaceful countries in the world.



The situation in Afghanistan improved this year compared to last year. In 2015 Afghanistan had been placed third after Syria and Iraq. In response to the report, the Afghan presidential palace has said that positive change on the political front and the growing capabilities of the Afghan security forces have been the main reasons for Afghanistan being third. "Placing Afghanistan in the upper part of the list indicates two important elements. First there is a political will to improve the situation ... (More on P4)...(11)

Kunduz Residents Complain Prices Hiked in Ramadan

KUNDUZ CITY - With the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan, the prices of essential items have doubled in northern Kunduz province, residents complained on Thursday. Ramadan is supposed to be a month of charity and blessings, but residents of Kunduz City say essential goods are being sold at double the rates in whole of the country, particularly in Kunduz. Haji Hakim, a resident of Kunduz city, said: "The prices of all food items have increased by not less than double. I don't know why prices go up during Ramadan. We want the government to keep in check such shopkeepers and traders." Another resident, Karim, expressed ... (More on P4)...(12)

Govt. Asked to Ensure Security on Highways



KABUL - Reformist Youth Association (RYA) on Friday expressed concern over increased kidnapping cases on highways, asking the government to ensure security of the routes across the country.

RYA head, Sayed Jawad Sultani, told a joint press conference that security situation has been deteriorating in the country and passengers' kidnapping cases on highways endanger the future of Afghan youths.

Last Wednesday, Taliban militants abducted 21 passengers from a 404-model passenger bus in Bagh-i-Amir area on Kunduz-Takhar highway. Twelve of them have been rescued by Afghan forces while the rest were still suffering in rebels' detention.

Last week, 200 more people had been kidnapped when a dozen of them were killed. Many of them have been released as a result of mediation of tribal elders but eight are still in Taliban's captivity.

However, Sultani said that worsened security situation caused passengers being kidnapped on highways and then brutally being killed.

"Unfortunately only civilians were the victims of the past three decades of war in Afghanistan, we request the government to give priority to the safety of people's lives and prevent their casualties," he added. A large demonstration would be held for justice, if the government did not take practical steps for controlling the situation, he warned.

Gulalai Akbari, a lawmaker from Badakhshan province, said the government intentionally wanted to disrupt the security of northern region.

"The Afghan government does not have a clear policy regarding war and peace, therefore security situation in northern regions also gets worse," she said. A political analyst, Kako Jan Niazi, who was also present in the press conference, accused the government of incompetency, saying it did not take any action to rescue the passengers who were kidnapped a week ago. (Pajhwok)

Kabul Municipality Official Arrested for Corruption, Misuse of Authority

KABUL - Another senior official of Kabul municipality has been arrested on charges of misuse of power and corruption. A source in Major crimes Task Force in the Ministry of Interior, said Haji Safiullah Abadi, head of municipality for Kabul's 12th police district, was arrested by the personnel of the task force. The source further added that Abadi will likely be handed over to the Attorney General Office tonight. This comes as two senior officials in Kabul Municipality

were arrested over corruption charges by the Afghan police forces late last month. The two senior officials were Engineer Mohammad Aslam and Kamal Qasimyar who were arrested over corruption charges. Engineer Mohammad Aslam Akrami was the administrative and finance deputy mayor and Ahmad Kamal Qasimyar was the head of the Human Resources department of Kabul Municipality. Akrami was previously serving as the acting head of Kabul Municipality. The Minis-



try of Interior confirmed that the two senior officials were arrested based on the evidences proving their hand in misuse of authority and involvement in corruption. The arrest of the senior Municipality officials comes as the Afghan ... (More on P4)...(13)

Details Emerge About Killing of Afghan and American Journalists

KABUL - Award-winning American journalist David Gilkey and his Afghan videographer colleague Zabihullah Tamanna were killed last Sunday while traveling with an Afghan army unit that came under fire in southern Helmand province, in a sign of just how dangerous the conflict remains for the media trying to cover it. But, six days after the tragic incident, new details emerged about the Taliban ambush on the vehicle the two journalists were traveling in.

Colleagues of Gilkey and Tamanna who were traveling in a separate vehicle at the time of the attack said they think it was a pre-planned attack and the Taliban were already informed about their journey to Helmand. In an interview with TOLOnews, Gilkey's colleagues said that other vehicles were also on the same road, but the Taliban did not target them.

"We waited for two hours for our friends David and Zabi. Because we thought they had a flat tire. We waited and we didn't receive information. Because no one could speak English. We were trying to communicate as best as we could," said one NPR journalist Monika Evstatieva who had been accompanying the two slain journalists in Helmand.

"We were in the front car with the general and its rare to have the commanding officers in the front. He usually rides the second or third or the fourth car. So we wonder if they shot David and Zabi believing they were ... (More on P4)...(16)

Customs Revenue Lines Pockets of Some Individuals



GARDEZ - A number of residents and officials alleged the customs revenue collected in southeastern Paktia province is lining the pockets of commissioners and other local government servants. The goods imported from Pakistan through the Gardez-Dand-i-Patan route are taxed before they reach the market. But drivers claim the authorities are encouraging them to use illegal routes for goods transportation.

Jan Mohammad, a trucker, told Pajhwok Afghan News that commissioners traveling in black-filmed vehicles were supported by local officials. "These commissioners guide drivers to use sub-roads and avoid paying the customs duty."

Another driver frequenting the route, Alam Afridi, confirmed: "We bypass the Dand-i-

Patan custom check but have to deal with the commissioners; we have to tolerate many problems at night, but we don't have any other options."

"My name is Meraj. We transport goods via the roads commissioners want us to use. These roads also damage our trucks, but the duty that should be paid to the customs department is collected by commissioners," confirmed another driver. Public representatives also confirmed the custom revenue was ending up in the pockets of some individuals. Mohammad Ibrahim Ghashtali, a lawmaker from Paktia, said agents of corrupt officials were having a field day. He accused local officials of involvement in illegal activities and said: "Touts of senior ... (More on P4)...(15)

India in Talks with NUG to Ensure Release of Kidnapped Woman

KABUL - India is in touch with the Afghan authorities to ensure the release of an Indian national, who was kidnapped in Kabul on Thursday night.

India media reports stated sources said the Indian embassy is in touch with senior Afghan authorities and the government is also in touch

with the woman's family in Kolkata.

The Afghan authorities are making all efforts to secure the early release of the 40-year-old woman.

As per reports, the woman, working with an NGO, was abducted from Taimani area of Kabul, India media reports. (Tolonews)

Pakistani Beggars Carrying out Intelligence Activities: MoI

KABUL - The Afghan Ministry of Interior on Friday said Pakistani beggars are being used to conduct intelligence surveillance activities.

The ministry said Afghan security forces have found evidence to this effect.

An increase in poverty and unemployment in Pakistan has led to an increase in beggars. In turn they come to Kabul and other cities where they beg for a living, said officials.

"Unfortunately such people can be witness, our police also have some reports that some people are there who belong outside Afghanistan. They are Pakistani and they come here and beg on the streets, but in general such people are



a headache and they can be involved in any kind of incident and their existence is questionable," said Sediq Sediqqi MOI spokesman.

Meanwhile a number of analysts believe that the neglect by government in this regard can be dangerous and added it might be

possible that the foreign beggars may have connections with terrorists and pave the way for terrorists to conduct attacks.

Some others believe that with the coming of holy Ramazan, foreign beggars not only carry out intelligence activities, but they ... (More on P4)...(14)

Ban on Camera Drones A Violation of Mass Media Law: Journalists



KABUL - Afghan media companies and journalists have slammed government's move to ban the use of drones camera during media coverage of events in the country, terming the move a violation of the mass media law adding that it is an attempt to restrict media activities.

Some members of the Afghan media have also expressed outrage over the government's move calling it censorship by government.

"The ban on camera drones is a clear violation of national and international laws, it is also a clear violation of mass media law. If these restrictions continue, this will pose serious harm to the journalist community and media," Afghan journalist Farhad Amini said. "If such technology is ... (More on P4)...(17)

Afghan Forces Handed over only the Gate at Angoor Ada

SHARAN - Residents of Barmal district of southeastern Paktika province say Pakistani paramilitary forces have handed over only the gate at the Angoor Ada border crossing to Afghan forces and remain in control of other military facilities. On May 21, the Pakistan army handed over the border crossing facility to Afghan authorities at Angoor Ada, which straddles both sides of the boundary between the two countries. Barmal district residents in the Angoor Ada area say the Pakistani militia forces had only handed over the gate to the Afghan forces and other facilities remain with them. ... (More on P4)...(18)