

<b>Jalalabad</b> Clear 41°C 27°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Clear 32°C 16°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 39°C 22°C	<b>Mazar</b> clear 38°C 27°C	<b>Herat</b> clear 36°C 19°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Clear 26°C 11°C	<b>Kabul</b> Clear 35°C 21°C
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# Afghanistan Ready for TAPI Implementation: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has said Afghanistan is ready with regard to implementation of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India natural gas pipeline (TAPI) project. Ghani, who met his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on the sidelines of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), said Afghanistan benefitted from imported Turkmen electricity and was paving the ground for Pakistan to ben-



Benefit as well. A statement from the Presidential Palace in Kabul said the two presidents met on Thursday afternoon and discussed bilateral relations and pro-

gress on regional connectivity projects. Berdimuhamedow urged President Ghani to participate next month in the Aqina railroad inauguration in order traders of the two countries could discuss how to expand bilateral trade. The Turkmen president also said the occasion would be used to sign a memorandum of understanding on the Lapis Lazuli transit trade. Berdimuhamedow said he was enthusiastic to visit Afghan provinces where the TAPI gas pipeline would pass through. The two presidents discussed progress on the TAPI...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Accountability Key to Discouraging Corruption: Arsala



GARDEZ - The governor of southeastern Paktia province on Thursday said fighting corruption required all government departments to be ready for accountability. Nasratullah Arsala told a gathering held to discuss anti-corruption efforts, that all government officials should familiarise themselves with the culture of accountability. He said officials should not think they were exempted from being held accountable. "We should offer ourselves for accountability of what we have done and the culture should become common in all agencies. Some newly-appointed officials think they will not be asked." United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) office head in the southeastern zone, Mushtaq Ahmad, said officials of all government affairs should first learn about rules and regulations to make their affairs transparent. He said transparency and accountability would make government institutions reliable, strengthened and their capabilities increased. "We should say we can't ensure transparency in government institutions until they are strengthened and their capacity is increased." Meanwhile, Paktia provincial council member Mohammad Rahman Qaderi said the provincial council members and civil society activists should seriously monitor government organizations' affairs...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Nepal Bans its Citizens from Working in Afghanistan



KABUL - Nepal has barred its citizens from working in Afghanistan after a suicide bomb attack killed 13 Nepali guards in Kabul this week, an official said Friday. The government said the safety of Nepalis working in danger zones was its "major concern" and it would look to repatriate the thousands of citizens already working in Afghanistan, although it gave no time frame. "The government... has decided to impose a ban on sending workers to Afghanistan," said Govinda Mani Bhurtel, spokesman for the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The latest victims were among 14 security guards who were killed Monday in a Taliban suicide blast targeting their bus as they headed to work at the Canadian embassy in Kabul. A 15th man died in...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Afghanistan to Increase Fruits, Vegetables Exports to Russia



KABUL - Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) said Thursday that the country will export nearly 300,000 tons of fresh fruits and vegetables to Russia as Moscow has applied customs duty exemption on Afghan products. The ACCI said Afghan businessmen are trying to use the opportunity and rise their exports to Russia.

"We have encouraged our businessmen. We have organized meetings over the past few days in order to decide and increase our exports, through air and land, to Russia," said ACCI deputy chief Khanfar Alokozay.

A number of experts meanwhile urged Afghan government to boost its fruits, vegetables and other...*(More on P4)...(16)*

# US Rules out Including India, Iran in Afghan Peace Bid

WASHINGTON - The United States has ruled out involving India, Iran and any other country in the Afghan peace process until actual negotiations with the Taliban kick off.

"With regard to the quadrilateral there clearly is a role at some point for other countries in the region," Special US Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Olson said as he essentially ruled out involving India and Iran in the ongoing Taliban peace efforts through the four-way talks involving the US,



China, Afghanistan and Pakistan. "There are number of other fora like the Heart of Asia Process which could at appropriate time facilitate reconciliation, but for the moment the challenge

is to get the negotiations going," he said at the Atlantic Council early this week.

Olson was responding to a question on why Afghanistan's two important neighbors India and Iran have not been included in the peace process with the Taliban. "Because India and Iran has much more stake in Afghanistan than China," said T Kumar of Amnesty International in a question to the top American diplomat. "Quadrilateral offer the modalities that brought together...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Afghan Refugees are Not Terrorists, UNHCR Tells Pakistanis

KABUL - The UN refugee agency head on Thursday urged Pakistanis not to blame Afghan refugees for terrorism in their country, warning that the roughly 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan risked becoming a "forgotten" crisis. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi, who visited a repatriation centre outside Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, called on the international community to invest more funds to help the refugees.

"My appeal is that, not only to the authorities but also to the local population: refugees as you know are not terrorists," Grandi said. Pakistani officials have recently hinted at the possibility of deporting Afghan refugees, amid tense relations with Kabul. A decision to renew their

legal status by June 30 has not yet been announced, although past deadlines have been extended at the last minute.

The number of Afghans voluntarily returning home is down sharply this year as violence worsens in Afghanistan, where the government and its US allies are fighting a stubborn Taliban insurgency. So far, about 6,000 Afghans have chosen to return home from Pakistan

in 2016, compared with 58,211 voluntary repatriations last year, according to the UNHCR.

Police in Peshawar have increased raids on Afghan refugees and have so far detained hundreds of them, amid worsening diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. On Monday, Pakistan's foreign policy chief Sartaj Aziz told a television channel that Afghan refugee

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## Ghani's Foreign Trips Raises Power Vacuum Query



KABUL - Critics and political experts Friday rebuked the Afghan government for not assigning a caretaker president while President Ashraf Ghani is on foreign trips, saying the practice brings about a power vacuum in the country. Experts argue that either Ghani has no trust in his deputies or he is resorting

to the unprincipled approach in the wake of his disagreements with Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah. Meanwhile, the presidency has hit back at critics over their claims of a power vacuum in the country while the president is on foreign trips, saying that it...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Afghanistan Committed to Eradicating Polio: Feroz

WASHINGTON - The Afghan government is 'passionately committed' to eradicating polio from the country, a top Afghan health official said Thursday. The public health minister acknowledged insecurity, inaccessibility and unacceptability posed major hurdles to address the challenge of polio eradication effort.

Ferozuddin Feroz told a Washington audience that Afghanistan was among the only two countries in the world where the crippling disease was still rife. Noting that six polio cases have

been detected so far in Afghanistan, Feroz said the Afghan government was working on a strategy to contain the virus.

At the same time, he said, insurgents were not letting health workers to reach certain parts of the county. "Then there is also false believe that polio is a non-Islamic thing," the minister said in response to a question at the Wilson Center, a top American think-tank.

In addition to working on a community program, Feroz said the Afghan government has...*(More on P4)...(15)*

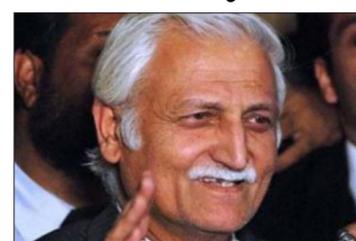


## Pakistani Senator Criticize the Country's Taliban Policy

ISLAMABAD - A Pakistani senator has criticized the Taliban policy adopted by Islamabad and warned that the dichotomy in the state's policy towards militants has brought Afghanistan and Pakistan close to a dangerous collision. "Pakistan refuses to acknowledge that the Taliban ideology on both sides of the Durand Line is to destroy modern state structures," Pakistan Peoples Party Senator Farhatullah Babar quoted in a report by Dawn said. He was speaking during a gathering organized for the launch of a report on 'Pak-Afghan Relations Under Evolving Regional Scenario', published by the Pakistan In-

stitute of Policy Studies.

Babar further added "We also pretend that while the Afghan Taliban is motivated to drive out foreign forces, the Pakistani Taliban is seeking to destroy the state itself. It is this dichotomy in state policy that had led the two close neighbours on the path of a dangerous collision." He said Mansour's possession of Pakistani identity documents raised serious questions about who has provided sanctuary and protec-



tion to the Afghan Taliban in Pakistan, and dealt a blow to the narrative of sovereignty. "Where is sovereignty when the likes of Mansour are freely using our land to launch attacks in Afghanistan?" According to Babar, Mansour's successors are less likely...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Nimroz Women Enthusiastic to Join Police Force

ZARANJ - Women in southwestern Nimroz province are increasingly becoming interested in joining police force as many females are waiting for their applications to be accepted, an official said on Thursday. Amina Hakimi, women's affairs director, told Pajhwok Afghan News they carried out an awareness-creating campaign for women to encourage them to work in government civil and military departments. "The purpose of our campaign was to make women believe in their abilities that they can work on low and high scale posts in government organizations," she said. Due to her department's efforts, women are showing willingness to work in government sector and some are interested in joining police force. She said a small number of policewomen had been approved for Nimroz and they should wait until more female police personnel were approved. Meanwhile, a security official at the provincial police department, who wished to go unnamed, confirmed many women were interested to join police in the province. According to statistics, 38 policewomen were employed last year, increasing their number 52 while another 25 aspirants have applied to join the force. Policewomen discharge duty in administration and search homes and individuals and are provided with all privileges like their male colleagues. The provincial police official asked the central government to approve more policewomen for the province...*(Pajhwok)*