

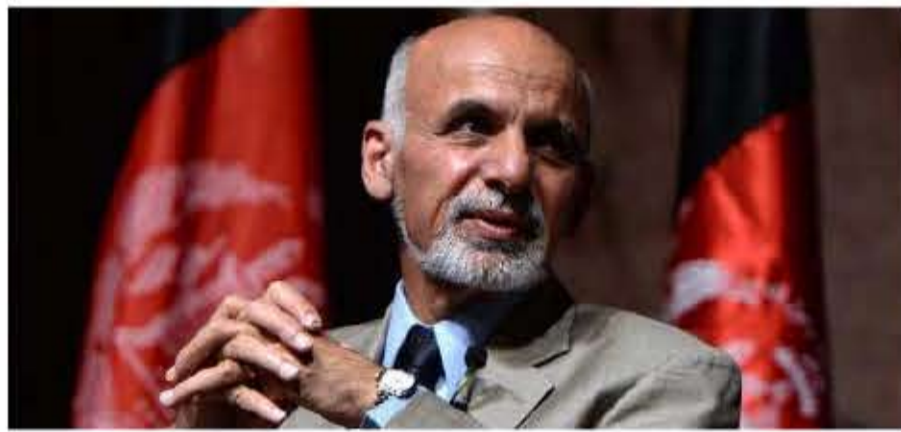
Jalalabad Chance of Rain 13°C 8°C	Ghazni Clear 6°C -7°C	Kandahar Clear 14°C -1°C	Mazar Clear 13°C 4°C	Herat Clear 13°C 2°C	Bamayan Clear -1°C -13°C	Kabul Clear 8°C -3°C
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

President Empowers PCs to Assess Departments' Performance

KABUL - Through a decree, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has granted provincial councils the right to oversee performance of local departments, a well-placed source said Sunday.

The decree, the source within the government told Pajhwok Afghan News, was issued late Saturday. The new powers granted to the provincial councils were different from those they enjoyed in the past.



He added the representative of provincial councils and officials of Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) had prepared a draft regarding powers of the provincial councils which would be sent to the Wolesi Jirga for approval.

Earlier, the council of ministers meeting headed by the president had decided to take back overseeing and evaluation powers of the provincial councils. (Pajhwok)

Ministry of Interior 400 Rebels Killed



KABUL - At least 400 insurgents have been killed in the ongoing offensive in southern Helmand province, the spokesman of Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Sunday.

Sadique Siddiqui told reporters in Kabul that the military operation codenamed "Zulfiqar" was one of the most successful anti-insurgents ... (More on P4)...(11)

Nangarhar to Get Local Police Force Soon: MoI



JALALABAD - A senior official at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Sunday said that high-level consultations were underway to establish local police force in eastern Nangarhar province to further bolster security.

Col. Mohammad Khalil Oriakhel, head of the local police force, said this during a workshop in Jalalabad, the provincial capital of Nangarhar.

"Initially, we will hold consultations with tribal elders and residents of localities to set up a force while in the second phase, a proper mechanism will be chalked out for creation of local police," he remarked. He informed that the MoI had ... (More on P4)...(13)

MoFA Overrun by Officials Appointed on Nepotism Basis

KABUL - The findings by Pajhwok Afghan News (PAN) has revealed most diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) are either family members or relatives of government officials or members of National Assembly, who have been appointed on the basis of nepotism trampling established rules, regulations and merit policy.

The findings disclosed that mostly sons and close relatives of government officials and members of



parliament appointed to key posts to Afghanistan embassies abroad where most of them sought political asylum. While article 60 of government employment clearly outlined that at least BA especially in Law, ... (More on P4)...(12)

MoD Dispatches Team to Rescue Panjsher Affected Families

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) dispatched a team to central Panjsher province, which helped rescue a number of families trapped by avalanches.

Over 260 people were killed and 100 others wounded in the latest wave of blizzards and avalanches in parts of the country, including



the worst-hit Panjsher province. The statement said that the ministry had dispatched 24 more flights yesterday to rescue marooned people. It said that the rescue team consisted of 71 members.

However, the statement did not share exact figures of those rescued. ... (More on P4)...(14)

RS Expresses Grief over Loss of Lives in Avalanches

KABUL - US Army Gen. John Campbell, Commander Resolute Support (RS) and US Forces Afghanistan expressed grief over the loss of lives and destruction as a result of avalanches in central Panjsher province and

the challenges of natural disaster, he said that brave Afghans were rescuing one another and digging out from these awful circumstances.

"Also, we give thanks to bordering nations who've



other parts of Afghanistan. In a statement issued on Sunday, Campbell said: "Resolute Support is committed to the enduring success of all Afghans, and we share their grief and mourn with them during this difficult time."

Praising Afghans to meet

pledged support, proving the bonds between neighbors are stronger than any storm," Campbell said in his apparent reference to neighboring countries, including Pakistan by extending relief assistance to Afghanistan.

"During our next memorial ... (More on P4)...(15)

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