

<b>Jalalabad</b> Chance of Rain 14°C 7°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Snow Showers 6°C -5°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 19°C 6°C	<b>Mazar</b> Partly Cloudy 14°C 6°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 14°C 4°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy -2°C -10°C	<b>Kabul</b> Snow 6°C 0°C
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

# 'MoFA New Leadership Committed to Reforms'

KABUL - Following Pajhwok Afghan News startling revelations that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) was teemed by near and dear ones of government officials and lawmakers, the spokesman of MoFA on Tuesday prompted to say that new leadership was committed to introduce tangible reforms in the ministry. Two days back Pajhwok found that mostly sons and close relatives of government officials and ...*(More on P4)...(10)*



## Damaged Gardez-Logar Road Needs Reconstruction

GARDEZ - The Gardez-Logar highway has been extensively damaged by heavy vehicles in southeastern Paktia province and needs immediate reconstruction, officials and residents said on Tuesday. They warned if early steps for reconstructing the highway were not taken, the damaged portions would cost equal to building a new road. Provincial council member, Taj Mohammad Mangal, said the road's deteriorated condition had created many problems for passengers and drivers. "Big cracks have appeared in the road, which is in a bad condition until Logar province," he said. The 118-km highway was constructed by a Turkish construction company six years ago, when it was considered one of the country's standard roads. But the road started developing holes and cracks from Gardez to Logar due heavy vehicles. Mangal said further damage to the road would render it useless in the near future if the government did not launch its reconstruction at the ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Survey Launched for Listing Afghans in Pindi



ISLAMABAD - A survey has been launched for working out a database of Afghan nationals residing in Rawalpindi. The local notables and Mohalla committees have been tasked with keeping strict watch over the movement of Afghan nationals and their guests. The database will be utilized at the time of implementation of Punjab government's policy on repatriation of Afghan refugees. Rawalpindi Police has initiated the process of evolving database of Afghan nationals living in Rawalpindi whereby the details of all the areas wherein Afghan nationals are settled is being collected. The police has also chalked out internal security plan of Rawalpindi city afresh and eight checkpoints have ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Closure of PC Offices Affects Local Governance

NEILI/BAMYAN CITY - Provincial council members in central Bamyan and Daikundi provinces say the closure of their offices has a negative impact on good governance. A month back, the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament, amended the law on provincial councils, barring them from evaluating the performance of local departments. The lower house's decision sparked protests by provincial



council members in all provinces and they closed their offices. Council members in Daikundi said they were unable to resolve people's problems after the PC of office had been closed. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Kandahar Bank Robbers Ready to Return Money

KANDAHAR CITY - Officials who raided their own bank in southern Kandahar province last month have issued a statement on a website saying they took away the money to save it from robbers and would return the cash if their demands were met. The three central bank workers have reportedly escaped with about 86 million afghanis after robbing their own branch in the Spin Boldak border town. Security cameras at the branch



showed its vault had been cleaned out and the group had removed CCTV recordings before fleeing to Pakistan, but investigators were hopeful that footage could be recovered from ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## "His Excellency" Need to be Used for CEO Abdullah Abdullah: CEO Office



KABUL - The Chief Executive Officer's office of the government of Afghanistan has asked all governmental and non-governmental organizations related to Afghanistan to use "His Excellency" in front of the name of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah. An official letter from the CEO's office is sent to the governmental organizations in this regard. The letter asks all governmental and non-governmental organizations to use "His Excellency" for CEO Abdullah Abdullah where his names comes in their outgoing letters. In the letter the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is asked to share the issue with the United Nations as well as other international organization ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Kunduz Municipality Revenue Surges Manifolds



KUNDUZ CITY - The Kunduz Municipality revenue increased by 12 million afghanis (\$209,680) this year, an official said on Tuesday. Last year's income of the municipality stood at 45 million afghanis, while the amount in the current year has surged to 75 million afghanis. Mayor Najibullah Omarkhail told Pajhwok Afghan News that the revenue was collected from market rent, levy of "cleanliness tax" on shops, fuel, municipality-owned property and licenses issued to business investments. He ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Contractor for Qaisar-Laman Highway Asks for Security, More Funds



KABUL - Deputy Minister of Public Works Ahmad Shah Wahid said on Monday that the second round of meetings between the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) and the Turkish-American company ECCI over the contract for the planned Qaisar-Laman Road ended without an agreement. ECCI was reportedly only willing to commence the project if adequate security was provided for the company's personnel and sufficient fund from the Afghan government backing it. According to Mr. Wahid, ECCI has asked the Afghan government for more money to finish the incomplete highway project, but the amount is likely out of Kabul's range at a time when public debt is at an all-time high and foreign aid is

growing more scarce. "It is very difficult for the government and Ministry of Public Works to pay the amount that they have been asked for," he said. In addition, Mr. Wahid expressed concerns over reports of the withdraw of public protection forces from Badghis who were assigned the task of providing security for the highway construction. Insecurity around the project sites was the initial factor that derailed ECCI's work in 2014. Local officials in Badghis have also voiced anxiety about the possible withdraw of public protection force assigned for security on the Laman-Qaisar highway. "We created this province after making heavy sacrifices, and I am very concerned about ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Municipality Workers Threaten to Go on Strike

MAIDAN SHAHR - Municipality workers of Maidan Shahr in central Maidan Wardak province on Tuesday claimed they had not been paid their stipend for the last five months. They warned if the government did not pay attention to address their legitimate issue then they would go on strike. Abdul Qadeer, an employee of the municipality, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had not been paid because of shortage of municipality budget. He said other departments were being paid regularly.



Asad, another employee, said this was their fifth month ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Top Pakistani Cleric Welcomes Afghan Talks



KABUL - The influential Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) has welcomed peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban and said that only peace could ensure prosperity in Pakistan and the neighboring country, the PUC central chairman said. Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi told this to a delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Tribal Ulama Council in Lahore, the capital city of Pakistan's Punjab province. He said both the Afghan government and Afghan Taliban were needed to settle their issues ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Khost Governor Vows Jobs for Youth

KHOST CITY - The acting governor on Tuesday said his administration was trying to appoint youth in civil and military institutions of southeastern Khost province. Abdul Jabbar Naeemi was addressing a conference "Youth Capacity Building" in Khost City, the provincial capital. About 150 youth and civil society representatives were present at the conference aimed at enhancing youth capabilities and assessing their problems. The governor said they were trying to appoint as many as possible youths in various civil and security administrations and to resolve their problems. He said he had discussed with President Ashraf problems being faced by the youth of Khost.



He also announced that two commissions would be formed to investigate problems of youth on provincial and central government levels. One of the participants, a civil society activist, told Pajhwok Afghan News the government should assess the problems of youth and resolve them permanently. "If our problems are solved, believe me, all challenges in the Afghan society will be overcome. It is very important to support the youth." Another attendee, Spin Rawan, told Pajhwok Afghan News severe security challenges and education related problems were main issues the youth were struggling with. (Pajhwok)