

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 11°C 6°C	Ghazni Snow Showers 0°C -9°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 14°C 1°C	Mazar Chance of Rain 7°C -3°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 8°C 2°C	Bamayan Snow -1°C -12°C	Kabul Snow 2°C -3°C
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

Ghani Promises Advancement for Women

KABUL - Commemorating National Women Day, President Ashraf Ghani said that his promises made to advance and have more women present in the government will be fulfilled. At the event celebrating women on Thursday, Ghani exclaimed that leadership monopoly will be put to an end in Afghanistan and ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to remove individuals who were appointed based on personal connections. "We are ... (More on P4)...(10)



Noor Wants UN to Probe RW Allegations

MAZAR-E-SHARIF - Atta Mohammad Noor, the governor of the northern Balkh province, on Friday demanded the United Nations to thoroughly probe the Human Rights Watch (HRW) what he called "baseless allegations against him." Copies of a written statement



handed over to journalists in a press conference by Murnir Farhad, the governor's spokesman.

The HRW report released Tuesday (March 3) calls on new President Ashraf Ghani and his government to prosecute officials and commanders "whose serious human rights abuses have long gone unpunished."

The report titled Today We Shall All Die: Afghanistan's Strongmen and the Legacy of Impunity, said the "previous Afghan government and the United States enabled powerful and abusive individuals and their forces to commit atrocities for too long without being held to account." The report based on 125 interviews HRW has carried out since August 2012 profiles eight "strongmen" linked to police, intelligence, and militia forces responsible for serious abuses in recent years.

The eight men named were Hazara leader Abdul Hakim Shojoyi, former Takhar police chief Khair Mohammad Timur, ... (More on P4)...(14)

Journalists Opposed to MoI, NSC Decision



KANDAHAR CITY - Southern zone journalists on Thursday opposed a government decision banning police spokesmen and other security officials from sharing information with media representatives.

The National Security Council and the Ministry of Interior Affairs had directed police spokesmen not to share security related issues with journalists.

The MoI said only its spokesmen could share such information with journalists.

Journalists on Thursday held a gathering in southern Kandahar province, calling on President Ashraf Ghani to review and cancel the decision, which they called as unpractical and against the Constitution.

Journalist Samia Ghairatmal said the recent decision, if enforced, would not ... (More on P4)...(15)

Child Labor in Samangan Coal Mines

AIBAK - Samangan is home to some of Afghanistan's largest coal mines, yet many of those who work inside them are just children. According to a reporter, Karimi Amini, who visited mines in the Dare Soof district of Samangan province and investigated the child labor conditions in the mines there.

The need for child workers in the mines is said to be the result of how small and narrow the tunnels inside of them are. Despite the tunnels being dug - primarily by local residents and smugglers - without consideration of proper safety standards, many child laborers work inside them for up to eight hours a day.

"These tunnels are not standard; the standard tunnels are two and half meters of height," Dare Soof District Governor Ahmad Ali Hassani said. "People have dug the tunnels with the shovels that they have, at low heights, and they use children and mules to extract the coal."

The Dahne Toor coal mine, located in Dare Soof, is thought to contain over one hundred tunnels. The mine averages some 6,000 employees, two thousand of which are consisted child laborers. Ahmad ... (More on P4)...(17)

Abdullah Invited on State Visit to Pakistan



KABUL - Pakistan's prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif has invited Afghanistan's chief executive officer Abdullah Abdullah to pay an official visit to Islamabad, the country's ambassador said here on Thursday.

Syed Abrar Hussain extended the invitation to Abdullah at his office in Kabul, the CEO's office said in a statement, which quoted Hussain as saying they hoped Abdullah's Pakistan visit would help further improve relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Pakistani envoy also offered condolences to Abdullah over the recent natural calamity in Afghanistan, in which more than 300 people lost their lives.

Abrar Hussain said Pakistan was investigating the arrest of Afghan ... (More on P4)...(12)

Karzai Urges Nation to Back Govt. for Stable Afghanistan

KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai stressed on nation to fully back the national unity government for greater peace, security and stability of Afghanistan.

Karzai said this at a gathering arranged in connection of the Shaheed Abdul Ali Mazari Day, founder of the Wahdat-Islami party, in Kabul.

Jihadi commanders, cabinet members and other officials attended the gathering. The country could progress well



after better education of today's youth, he remarked.

"I again urge you to send your sons and daughters to school be-

cause educated youth are the best investment for a bright tomorrow of our country," he noted. Though ... (More on P4)...(11)

HN, Quetta Shura Must for Talks' Success: Pakistan

KABUL - Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that talks with Taliban would be successful only if the Haqqani Network (HN) and Quetta Shura become part of the process, media reports.

In his interview with the BBC, Asif said that Pakistan was making efforts afresh to get talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.



Asif said Pakistan was playing a positive role in reconciliation efforts adding that the possible

talks would not be successful unless all the factions of the Taliban, ... (More on P4)...(13)

Ulumi Urges Afghans to Cooperate with Police



KABUL - Interior Minister Noorul Haq Ulumi on Thursday said people's cooperation with security forces held key to improved law and order situation in the country.

Talking to a delegation of tribal elders in Kabul, Ulumi said security forces were trying their level best to maintain security across the country, but public trust in them was an important factor.

The minister acknowledged the use of force was not the only option to ensure peace and stability in the country, but people's contribution in this regard was highly important.

He noted justice and economic prosperity could not be achieved until peace did not prevail, adding that police were the sons of the soil and they would play their role in the country's stability. (Pajhwok)

Khalili Wants Kochis Problems Resolved

KABUL - Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that talks with Taliban would be successful only if the Haqqani Network (HN) and Quetta Shura become part of the process, media reports.

In his interview with the BBC, Asif said that Pakistan was making efforts afresh to get talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Asif said Pakistan was playing a positive role in reconciliation efforts adding that the possible talks would not be successful



unless all the factions of the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network and the Quetta Shura, were included in it. He termed it useless to keep any of the

groups away from these talks. Pakistan would perform its positive role in restoring peace and bringing reconciliation ... (More on P4)...(16)

Deborah Lyons Canada Supports Afghan Female Politicians

KABUL - Canada's ambassador to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, on Thursday said her country was making efforts at strengthening Afghan women's abilities in politics because departments run by female administrators experienced low levels of corruption. Lyons was addressing a training workshop for female members of provincial council members on its last and seventh day in Kabul.

The workshop organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) was aimed at introducing female members of provincial councils to each



other and training them on how to effectively plan their programmes.

The ambassador said her country had spent 6.3 million Canadian dollars strengthening women's political participation and empowerment in Afghanistan and would con-

tinue to implement needed programmes in this regard.

"In countries where women are leaders or in police, corruption level there is too much low," she said.

Afghanistan is ranked third among the world's most corrupt ... (More on P4)...(18)

KMU, USAID to Introduce New Engineering Degree



KABUL - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Thursday announced a new engineering degree program with Kabul Medical University (KMU), a statement said.

A statement released by USAID said that the KMU and the USAID initiated the project at a ceremony on February 9, which was designed to train techni-

cians on how to repair critical medical equipment. Modern medical equipment in Afghan hospitals and clinics is often provided by international donors and frequently needs specialized technicians for proper operation and maintenance.

In certain harder-to-reach provinces, critical equipment can sit idle if trained ... (More on P4)...(19)

80 Percent of Afghanistan Demined

KABUL - According to a number of demining organizations, 80 percent of Afghanistan has been cleared of mines.

They have said that only 520 square kilometers of land still remain to be demined, which they have stated would take almost eight years to remove the threat of

mines. The Mine Detection Center (MDC) said that by 2023 all of Afghanistan will be free of mines.

It is said that since 1989 demining organizations have been clearing the country. So far more than 2.1 million mines have been discovered and destroyed. (Tolonews)