

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 19°C 8°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Cloudy 7°C -4°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 17°C 5°C	<b>Mazar</b> Partly Cloudy 13°C 6°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 12°C 1°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Cloudy 0°C -8°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 7°C -3°C
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**General Dostum**

# Hekmatyar's Presence in Kabul to Have Positive Impact on Security

KABUL - The First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum has said the presence of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-e-Islami, in Kabul will have a positive impact on security situation of the country. Gen. Dostum made the remarks during a meeting with the top officials of Hezb-e-Islami, including Hekmatyar's son Habib-ur-Rehman Hekmatyar in Kabul. He said Hekmatyar's presence in Kabul will also help the Afghan forces to gain more morale in fight against the terrorist groups. The delegation by Hezb-e-Islami also included Juma Khan Hamdard, Humayoun Jarir and some other key



leaders of the party. The two sides discussed the ongoing security situation of

the country, specifically focusing on security situation in northern parts of Afghanistan. According to the Office of the First Vice President,

some of the key topics discussed during the meeting, included security and stability of the country, national unity and partnership, and implementation of the articles of peace deal between the Afghan government and Hezb-e-Islami. The top leaders of Hezb-e-Islami informed the First Vice President regarding the necessary preparations to welcome Hekmatyar to Kabul. In his turn, Hekmatyar's son, Habib-ur-Rehman, said the recent reports regarding the deteriorating health condition of the party's leader are not accurate and that preparations are underway for his return to Kabul. (KP)

## Pakistan Temporarily Opens Border Gates with Afghanistan



KABUL - Pakistani authorities on Tuesday temporarily reopened border with Afghanistan for two days to allow movement of valid visa-holding nationals amidst tensions, however, trade activities would remain suspended. The crossing points at Torkham and Chaman will be opened on Tuesday and Wednesday both for Pakistanis who had gone to Afghanistan on valid visas and wish to return to Pakistan as well as the Afghan nationals who had come to Pakistan and now wish to return to their country via land routes. Islamabad shut Torkham and Chaman border crossings after a deadly suicide attack at the shrine of Sufi saint Lal Shahbaz Qalandar on February 16. The attack that left over

80 people dead was claimed by Jumaatul Ahrar, a splinter group of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, based in Afghanistan. After the attack, Pakistan had handed over Afghanistan a list of 76 wanted terrorists believed to be hiding across the border. Kabul had, however, rejected the allegations and insisted Pakistan reopen the key crossings between the two countries. Last week, the Afghan ambassador had said he would request his government to airlift Afghan nationals stranded in Pakistan due to border closure, if Islamabad did not open the crossing points in two days. Thousands of people and vehicles have been stuck on both sides of the border due to the closure of the busy crossings. (IRNA)

## Police in Volatile South Complain of Not Being Paid



KABUL - Police in parts of volatile southern Afghanistan have not been paid for weeks, officials say, undermining morale at a time when Taliban militants traditionally increase attacks on security forces. The NATO-led coalition in Afghanistan has repeatedly warned that the effectiveness of police and soldiers to fight the insurgency has been undermined by irregular pay and leave, exacerbated by corruption and weak leadership from commanders. Dost Mohammad Nayab, spokesman for the governor of Uruzgan province, said local officials had spoken "repeatedly" with the interior ministry about wage arrears, but had received no satisfactory response, echoing comments from other officials in the region. "Our police forces haven't been paid for a month," said Ghulam Farouq Sangari, police chief in the neighboring province of Zabul. "When we speak with the interior ministry, they just say there are some problems with the system." An interior ministry spokesman said there had been

problems with salary payments in Uruzgan and the eastern province of Nuristan due to a failure of the transfer system at one large Afghan bank. "We are now working on finding another way of transferring money to them," said spokesman Najib Danish. However, another government official said the problem was also caused by concerns in some areas that payrolls were being inflated by non-existent "ghost police" and exacerbated by delays in getting the national budget approved in parliament. "When that happens, it delays all the payments," said the official, who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to talk to the media. **IN THE LINE OF FIRE** Police units, usually worse paid and equipped than the military, are a core part of Afghanistan's security forces, taking on much of the fighting against Taliban insurgents and often suffering higher casualties than the army. Their pay has been a problem for years, despite efforts by the...

## Medical Facilities under Attack by All Sides: Report

KABUL - Afghan government forces, the Taliban and other parties to the country's conflict have repeatedly targeted medical facilities and staff, negatively impacting children's health, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict said in a new late Monday report. For the first time, Watchlist called on the UN Secretary General to list the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) as one of the parties responsible for these attacks. The Watchlist's 27-page report, which focuses on 2015 and 2016, details how parties to the conflict, through more than 240 attacks, have



temporarily or permanently closed medical facilities throughout Afghanistan, damaged or destroyed facilities, looted medical supplies, stolen ambulances, and threatened, intimidated, extorted, detained and killed medical personnel. The report said that ANDSF have restricted and sometimes blocked access to health care and used medical facilities for military purposes, which is in violation of international humanitarian law. While the Taliban and ... (More on P4)... (10)

## Ghani Accepts Sri Lankan Ambassador's Credentials

KABUL - Afghanistan is trying to expand trade relations with Sri Lanka through establishing an air corridor with that country, the president said on Tuesday. Ashraf Ghani said this during a meeting with the newly-appointed Sri Lankan ambassador to Afghanistan, according to a statement from the Presidential Palace. Ghani accepted the credentials of Ambassador Gagan Pulasthi Bulathsinghala. Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani was also present. The ambassador conveyed the best wishes of the Sri Lankan president and prime minister to Ghani. Later, both sides exchanged



views on developing and expanding cooperative relations between the countries in various spheres. The statement quoted Ghani as ... (More on P4)... (11)

## Domestic Violence Victims in Ghazni Demand Justice



GHAZNI - Women victims of domestic violence from Ghazni province on Tuesday called on the leaders of national unity government to serve justice and to help them regain their rights. They warned they would commit suicide unless the legal and judicial institutions pursue their cases. The women blasted the local officials in Ghazni for not opening their cases for legal proceedings. Marzia is one of the do-

mestic violence victims in Ghazni who has arrived in Kabul with her father, sister and aunt. Marzia says she was married four months ago, but her husband hanged himself. She claimed that her father-in-law then asked her for sex. "Fifteen days had passed since the death of my husband. I was crying, he (the father-in-law) came and said that I had to accept his demand ... (More on P4)... (15)

## Residents Want Unregistered SIM Cards Deactivated

SAR-I-PUL - Some residents of northern Sar-i-Pul province have complained about what they said unchecked distribution and use of unregistered Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards as some individuals use the illegal SIMs to create problems for others. Habiba, a resident of Sar-i-Pul city, the provincial capital, told Pajhwok Afghan News she had consistently received calls from unknown phone numbers which were unregistered. She said the calls from unknown numbers would come mostly at night time and it compelled her to change phone number or hand it to a male family member to get rid of the disturbance. A vendor, who sold unregistered SIM cards in Sar-i-Pul city but wished anonymity, said not only boys but girls also used illegal SIM cards. Some girls use to call boys and encourage them to send credit cards, he said. However, Brishna Hazhir, a civil society activist, said in most cases boys were involved in harassing girls through unregistered SIM cards or fake Facebook ID. ... (More on P4)... (16)

## Afghan Forces Say Taliban Plot to Kill MP in Kabul Foiled

KABUL - The Afghan security forces thwarted a plot by the anti-government armed militant groups to assassinate a lawmaker of the Lower House of the Parliament, Wolesi Jirga. The Afghan Intelligence, National Directorate of Security (NDS), said two terrorists appointed for the attack were arrested by the intelligence operatives before they manage to carry out the attack, Khaama Press reported. A statement by NDS said the two terrorists have been identified as Abdul Wahid son of Syed Hussain and Salahuddin son of Syed Ali. The two militants have confessed that they were appointed for the attack by a Taliban group leader and an operative of the Pakistani military intelligence, Inter Services Intelligence. The statement further added that the men have also confessed that they were paid to carry out an attack on a lawmaker of the Wolesi Jirga against money. No further details ... (More on P4)... (17)

## Pak-Afghan Border Closure No Solution: Shireen Mazari

KABUL - A senior Pakistani politician on Tuesday said 'terrorism will not be defeated by closing the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.' The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) chief whip Shireen Mazari criticised Islamabad's decision to seal the Pak-Afghan border, saying it was not solution in the country's fight against terrorism. "Terrorism will not be finished by closing the Pakistan-Afghanistan border," Mazari told a session of the National Assembly. Pakistan's border crossings with Afghanistan had been sealed in the aftermath of a suicide bombing at the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sindh - the deadliest in a series of recent attacks in the country. The military leadership had claimed the attacks were carried out by militants operating from safe havens in Afghanistan. Mazari asked why Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had alleged a day earlier that India was conducting terrorist activities in Pakistan when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had



said during a recent visit to Turkey that Pakistan wanted to do business with India. "If terrorism can be defeated by closing the Pak-Afghan border, then why not close the Wagah border as well?" Mazari asked. "What is our foreign policy and who develops it?" she added. Pointing to the Army's recently-launched Operation Raddul Fasaad, Mazari also questioned why the policies that had created "fasaad" (discord) in the country had not been done away with. Adding to Mazari's criticism of Pakistan's foreign policy, PPP MNA Shahida Rehmani, pointing ... (More on P4)... (12)

## 25 Women Detained on Drug Smuggling Charges

KABUL - Twenty-five women have been detained on drugs smuggling charges during the past eleven months, the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTS) on Tuesday, expressing concern over the use of females by the mafia. A statement from the CJTS to Pajhwok Afghan News said the 25 women had been detained by police in various provinces on the charges of smuggling drugs. The detainees have been referred to the CJTS for further investigation. It said the number of women

accused of drug smuggling this year showed a surge over last year's arrests. The task force said drug smugglers hired women because females were rarely searched at security posts. The statement quoted CJTS officials as testifying the women possessed different amounts of narcotics when they were arrested. Four of the women were arrested at the Hamid Karzai International Airport with more than five kilograms of heroin in their purses and stomachs ... (More on P4)... (14)