

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 24°C 11°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 12°C 0°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Partly Cloudy 23°C 9°C	<b>Mazar</b> Partly Cloudy 18°C 9°C	<b>Herat</b> Partly Cloudy 22°C 8°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy 4°C -7°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 14°C -1°C
---	---	---	--	--	--	---

**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Current Challenges due to Poor Management: Massoud

KABUL - Speaking at the 22nd death anniversary of General Mohammad Panah, a former Jihadi leader, the President's Special Representative on Reforms and Good Governance, Ahmad Zia Massoud, said the reason behind the current war and challenges facing the country was due to the lack of good political management and the lack of management capabilities. Massoud urged National Unity Government (NUG) leaders to work towards maintaining people's welfare, and not at grabbing government seats. "We cannot win the current war by saying a few English words. Unless we mobilize our people, until millions of our people are mobilized, it will be difficult to win the war with



just civil service staff and by a few people who are in power," he said.

CEO Abdullah Abdullah also addressed guests attending the ceremony in Kabul and

spoke about the achievements of General Panah, as well as the ongoing violence in the country and the peace process.

"Today our country is under attack. ... (More on P4)...(10)

## Afghan with Valid Visas can Travel to US: Embassy



KABUL - The US embassy in Kabul on Thursday rejected social media rumors regarding a travel ban on Afghans. The embassy tweeted the Afghans nationals with valid visas could travel to the United States. "Contrary to social media rumors about the US executive order on immigration, Afghans with valid visas may

travel to the United States," the embassy said. Earlier, the Trump administration issued a fresh executive order on immigration, excluding Iraq from the countries whose residents were barred from entering the US. Residents of Iran, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Somalia are still banned from travelling to the US. (Pajhwok)

## Trump Admin Barred from Deporting Afghan Citizen

PESHAWAR - The Trump administration has been barred from deporting an Afghan with a special visa reserved for those who have assisted the US military in the war-torn country. The Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit on Wednesday issued a temporary stay of the deportation in response to an appeal from the Afghan's lawyers, the Stars and Stripes reported. For privacy reasons, lawyers



refused to identify the Afghan, who was detained by Department of Homeland Security officials at the Newark International Airport on Monday night. (Pajhwok)

## Rahimi Security Organs Need Fundamental Reforms

KABUL - The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) office on Thursday said fundamental reforms were needed in security organs for improving the country's security situation. Mujib Rahman Rahimi, a spokesman for CEO Abdullah Abdullah, told a press conference here that some changes had been brought to security institutions and the a process was ongoing. "Our security organs need reform and some progress in this has already been made, but



still there is need for drastic changes," he said. About the introduction of a number of new individuals to security institutions, he hoped

the organs' leadership would improve under new officials. The reform process and utilizing new experiences would continue ... (More on P4)...(12)

## US Senators Call for more Troops to Break Afghanistan 'Stalemate'

KABUL - US senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham have favoured dispatching more troops to Afghanistan to break the existing stalemate, a media report said on Thursday.

In an opinion piece in the Washington Post, the senators argued that a restrictive U.S. policy and lack of boots on the ground handcuffs military action in the embattled nation, one in which America is still at war with terror groups such as al-Qaida. Make no mistake: Afghans are fighting ferociously to defend



their country from our common enemies. At the same time, we must recognize that the United States is still at war in Afghanistan against the terrorist enemies who attacked our nation on Sept.

11 and their ideological heirs. We must act accordingly. In a specific example, McCain and Graham said the U.S. was blocked from targeting Taliban forces last summer, but forces were ... (More on P4)...(13)

## Ahadi Seeks Donors' Attention to Electoral Transparency

KABUL - Afghanistan New National Front (ANNF) party chief Anwarul Haq Ahadi on Thursday asked donor countries to pay attention to transparency in the upcoming elections in Afghanistan.



Ahadi was addressing a gathering in which the National Reconciliation Process of Afghanistan (NRPA) and Maidan Wardak People's Council (MWPC) announced their support to ANNF here. Ahadi said his party wanted donor countries to ensure transparency in next elections as the government did not listen to their suggestions. An exact date for holding of the long-delayed elections to the Wolesi Jirga and district councils is yet to be announced, but the government says the polls would be held next solar year beginning on March 21. The former finance minister

said future democracy of Afghanistan lied in transparent elections and the government should not conduct a false election process. Elections without transparency would give birth to disruptive movements that would hurt the people and the government, he said, asking the unity government to pave the ground for organizations who could help ensure transparency in polls.

Ahadi also criticized the government for what he said poor management. "The ANNF wants a honest and legitimate government, I think the national unity government is demagogic and lawbreaker." "We agree that security and economy need resources, but good governance does not need money so the government has clearly failed, the government could hire professional ... (More on P4)...(14)

## 3 Elders Allegedly Beheaded in Sar-I-Pul



SAR-I-PUL - Daesh affiliates allegedly beheaded three influential elders in Sayyad district of northern Sar-i-Pul province, a public representative said on Thursday. Asadullah Khurram, a member of the provincial council, said the three tribal elders of Miyan village had gone to Qara Khwal village to attend a turban-wearing ceremony at the invitation of Taliban militants. The trio while returning home from the ceremony on Wednesday afternoon were firstly shot dead by Daesh

militants and then beheaded them, he said. Pajhwok could not establish contact with local residents. However, a government official, wishing anonymity, confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News Khurram's account, saying the slain elders belonged to the Hazara minority tribe. However, the media cell at the provincial police headquarters claimed the three men were killed by Taliban insurgents. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the killing. (Pajhwok)

## Ulema Denounce Actions of Pakistan, Iran



KABUL - The Afghanistan Ulema Council has strongly denounced the harassment of Afghan refugees in neighbouring Iran and Pakistan. The Ulema Council slammed recent terrorist attacks, particularly the storming of the Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan Military Hospital, as un-Islamic. During a meeting with President Ashraf Ghani, they condemned the border closure by Pakistan, harassment of Afghani migrants in that country and cross-border shelling.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said the ulema asked Pakistan to immediately end its cruel acts that violated all humanitarian principles. They expressed grave concern at the sending of Afghan youth to Syria, asking the Iranian authorities to end the process and help in resolving Afghan migrants' issues. The clerics in the statement also asked the government to pay serious heed to enrolling children and youth in education institutes especially for religious ... (More on P4)...(11)

## Abdullah yet to React to Noor's Diatribe

KABUL - A spokesman for Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Thursday said the CEO had adopted no clear stance on recent remarks by Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor. On Monday, Noor, who is also secretary of the Jamiat-Islami (JI), called his support to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) during presidential election the biggest mistake of his political career. Noor accused Abdullah of betraying the party and the masses, something that had hurt many. He apologized to the people about his support to Abdullah. Mujib Rahman Rahimi, a spokesman for Abdullah, told a press conference here that the CEO had expressed



no opinion about the Balkh governor's statement. "So I also as a spokesman cannot comment about Noor and just wish him success." However, he said all government officials should consider the administrative structure of the country and perform their duty in line with the constitution of the country. (Pajhwok)

## Crossing Points to Reopen Soon: Pakistan Minister



KABUL - Pakistan minister for commerce and trade Ghulam Dastagir has said Islamabad would soon reopen crossing points on Durand Line with Afghanistan, according to a media report. Addressing a news conference, the minister expressed the hope that the talks between the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs and the Afghan national security adviser in London would prove to be helpful in resolving the outstanding issues between the two countries.

On Pakistan's consent for two more categories of WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement, Dastgir said Pakistan had offered a Preferential Trade Agreement to Afghanistan two years ago and the draft was struck at the Afghan National Security Council. "Pakistan wants a balance between trade regulation and facilitation with Afghanistan," he added, while admitting that in Pakistan the impact of the border closure was being felt from Peshawar to Karachi. (Pajhwok)

## Thousands of Returnees Get Aid in Nangarhar, Laghman

KABUL - Thousands of returning families have received aid in eastern Nangarhar and Laghman provinces, an official said on Thursday. Around 2,000 families were given cash and food items by the Nangarhar Department of Refugees and Repatriation and several humanitarian organizations. Refugees and Repatriation Director Ghulam Haidar Faqirzai told Pajhwok Afghan News the families had returned from Pakistan in 2016. He said 1,400 families

received food items and around 700 others were given cash support. Each family received 6,000 afghanis in cash, Faqirzai added. Around 40,000 returnees have received cash and food items from different organizations over the past 10 months. A survey of other returnees was underway and they would also get assistance, he promised. According to another report, 3,250 returnees in neighbouring Laghman province also received food and other ... (More on P4)...(15)