

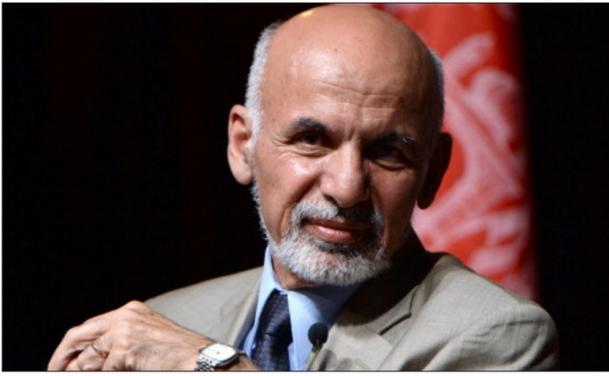
Jalalabad Clear 26°C 13°C	Ghazni Clear 13°C 1°C	Kandahar Clear 24°C 9°C	Mazar Clear 21°C 10°C	Herat Clear 23°C 9°C	Bamayan Clear 5°C -4°C	Kabul Clear 18°C 4°C
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

Ghani to Drum up US Support for Peace Talks, Security

KABUL - At the head of a high-level delegation, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani is scheduled to visit the United States on Saturday, an official said on Wednesday.

A government source told Pajhwok Afghan News the president and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah would lead the delegation to Washington on March 21. During his six-day trip,



Ghani will meet his US counterpart Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry and other administration officials. The president will also address the congress, the Institute of Peace and Atlantic Council.

Improved economic and security cooperation between the two countries would be the main topic for discussion, the official added. He will also drum up US support for the renewed peace drive. (Pajhwok)

MPs Lobbying for Trust Fund to Aid Security Forces

MAIMANA - Residents of the Andkhoi district of northern Faryab province on Wednesday praised security forces for maintaining security during last fall's presidential election and purging the area of militants.

Security forces were praised at a huge gathering attended by the district chief, local influential figures and Wolesi Jirga and provincial council members, who presented flower bouquets to men in police uniform.

The town borders Turkmenistan and is surrounded by four districts.

Addressing the gathering, lawmaker Bashir Ahmad Tayenj said: "We consider it our duty to support our security forces who effectively maintained security for the elections. The Afghan forces have been in the lead and successful in their operations after the security transition from foreign troops."

The Wolesi Jirga member said they had formed a group in the assembly to lobby for the establishment of a trust fund "Soldier" and a day to be in name of security ... (More on P4)...(9)

Muslimyar Wants Remaining Cabinet Picks Named Soon



KABUL - The Upper House chairman on Tuesday asked the President Ashraf Ghani administration to name the remaining cabinet members soon.

Speaking to journalists in Kabul, Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said if the Taliban really desired peace parleys, then they should set free the 31 hostages.

"Last time also, cabinet members were introduced after an inordinate delay. I know there are challenges but I want the government to refer them for a vote of confidence soon," he added.

He voiced concern over the performance of caretakers in a government that has been championing reforms and said the prevalent situation needed to end.

Of the 25 ministers-designate and heads of independent departments introduced to parliament two months back, only eight managed to win votes of confidence. Muslimyar said Afghanistan required stability more than any other country and the government should make peace only with the groups that were prepared to accept the constitution.

"Talib is our brother. We want peace. We welcome peace with everyone who respects our constitution and achievements of the last 13 years," he remarked.

If the Taliban were serious about peace with the government, they should release the 31 passengers they had abducted on the Herat-Kabul highway.

If they were not prepared to release them, then the president and CEO should take stern action against captors, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

Afghan Air Force's First Six Armed MD-530s Arrived



KABUL - The US Air Forces Central Command announced Wednesday that the first six Armed MD-530s arrived in Afghanistan last night.

According to Train, Assist, Advise Command-Air and 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, the armed MD-530s will increase the Afghan Air Force aerial fires capability nearly six-fold for Fighting Season 2015.

This comes as Pentagon awarded MD Helicopters Inc. a maximum \$44.2 million firm-fixed-price contract last year to develop and provide an armament package for the MD-530F helicopters that were ... (More on P4)...(10)

Ahmad Zia Massoud

Amendments Needed to Combat Corruption

KABUL - The president's special representative for reforms and good governance on Wednesday called corruption a big obstacle to Afghanistan's development and prosperity. Some amendments to the constitution were needed for elimination of the scourge, Ahmad Zia Massoud told a conference on eradicating corruption in Kabul. Afghanistan had made significant ... (More on P4)...(8)



Summit on Afghan Peace Process Planned in Turkey

KABUL - Several political leaders, including former president Hamid Karzai and Taliban's representatives, have been invited to a conference on Afghanistan's peace process to be organized in Turkey in the near future.

The summit is planned by a French peace research centre, which has previously organized such gatherings on

Afghanistan in Paris and Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

A source close to the organizers of the Turkey conference on Afghanistan told Pajhwok Afghan News former president Karzai had been invited to the event. Leaders of various political parties, Taliban's and government's representatives ... (More on P4)...(11)



Everyday is Nawroz with MTN Afghanistan!

We wish you a prosperous and joyous year filled with happiness, health, and success.
Happy New Year.



everywhere you go