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| Jalalabad Clear 28°C 15°C | Ghazni Chance of Rain 13°C -1°C | Kandahar Partly Cloudy 27°C 7°C | Mazar Chance of Rain 14°C 8°C | Herat Clear 21°C 9°C | Bamayan Chance of Rain 7°C -3°C | Kabul Chance of Rain 17°C 7°C |
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Ghani, Carter Remark on Future of Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - President Ashraf Ghani and his governing partner, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, have made clear to the Afghan people that for all the assistance that the U.S. military and international community provides, the future of Afghanistan is ultimately for the Afghans to "grab hold of and for Afghans to decide," U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said on Monday in a joint Pentagon appearance with Ghani.



Secretary of State John Kerry, who, along with Carter, was to meet later in the day at the Camp David presidential retreat with Ghani and Abdullah, also appeared at the Pentagon gathering. In his remarks, Ghani said that Afghanistan is "not going to be a burden. We ... are going to put our house in order. We are a front-line state." Afghanistan "will never be defeated," he said. "Terrorism is a threat, it is evil, ... (More on P4)...(7)"

In A Major Boost, AAF Gets 6 Armed Helicopters

KABUL - In a significant boost, the first six of 17 armed helicopters have been delivered to the nascent Afghan Air Force (AAF), NATO said on Sunday. The MD-530F Cayuse Warrior helicopters are scheduled for delivery over the next several months. The delivery marks a milestone in efforts to supply military aircraft to the AAF.

In a statement, NATO hailed the delivery as a success for Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A) and the advisors training and assisting Afghan pilots. Discussions for the MD-530 began in June 2014, when NATO Air Command-Afghanistan (NAC-A) was asked by the ISAF commander to look at ways to deliver the AAF organic combat airpower capability by summer 2015.

Lt. Col. Robert Mitchell, CSTC-A foreign military sales logistics branch chief, said: "There is an incredible amount of communication between agencies with equity just to make one case ... (More on P4)...(12)"

Farmers' Day Marked in Kabul, 3 Other Provinces



KABUL/AIBAK - Farmers' Day was observed on Sunday with exhibitions and concerts in Kabul, Samangan, Herat and Paktika provinces.

Hamidullah Wardak, an organizer, said exhibitions would continue for three days in the Badam Bagh locality of Kabul where agricultural and industrial products would be on display.

He urged the public to consume domestic products to support local business and thereby cooperate with efforts to create more employment opportunities. The day was ... (More on P4)...(13)

MPs Seek Deterrent Punishment for Farkhanda's Killers

KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga members on Monday demanded the government award harsh punishment to the individuals involved in the broad daylight lynching of a 27-year-old woman in Kabul.

The woman, Farkhanda, was subjected to mob violence on Thursday after she was accused of ... (More on P4)...(8)

Police are Responsible for Farkhanda's Killing: Protesters

KABUL - Dozens of citizens with a large number of women from civil society groups rallied in Kabul on Monday to protest the brutal killing of Farkhanda who was set on fire by angry civilians over alleged burning of Holy Quran.

The members of National Solidarity Party also attended the protests held near Shah-e-Do Shamsheera Mosque of Kabul where the ... (More on P4)...(9)

Team Appointed to Investigate Farkhanda's Murder

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani formed a commission on Saturday to investigate the killing of a mentally ill woman in front of Shah-i-Do Shamsheera mosque in Kabul.

An angry mob beat Farkhanda to death on March 18 before setting her body on fire. She was accused of burning a copy of the holy Quran, a charge rejected by the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs.

The President Palace said in a statement Ghani had constituted the commission



to investigate the case in light of Sharia teachings and human rights principles ... (More on P4)...(10)

Barekzai Promises Reform, Decision on Removal of Current EC Members

KABUL - MP Shukria Barekzai, the Chairman of the new Electoral Reform Commission, has vowed to bring reforms to the structure and authorities of the national Electoral Commissions (EC), indicating that some commission members could be removed from their

positions. The reform commission was formed just before President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah departed for their trip to the United States. Under mounting pressure to pursue electoral reform, President Ghani ... (More on P4)...(11)



Carter Hails Ghani's Role in Rebuilding Afghanistan



WASHINGTON - US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter on Sunday praised President, Ashraf Ghani's role in rebuilding his war-ravaged country.

Ghani and his Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdullah started their official engagements on Monday morning from the Pentagon, where they thanked the US forces for its role in bringing peace to Afghanistan. ... (More on P4)...(14)

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