

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Partly Cloudy	Kabul	Clear
	29°C 17°C		18°C 5°C		27°C 11°C		20°C 11°C		23°C 7°C		9°C 2°C		22°C 9°C

Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

Pentagon to Seek Funds for 352,000 Afghan Troops Till 2017

CAMP DAVID - The Pentagon will seek Congressional approval to fund sustenance of 352,000 Afghan troops through 2017, US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said on Monday following talks with the visiting Afghan leaders.

"Today we can announce the Defense Department intends to seek funding for Afghan forces to sustain an end strength of 352,000 personnel through 2017," Carter told reporters at a news conference at this presidential retreat.

Carter said it was part of unwavering commitment to a strong and enduring



strategic partnership with Afghanistan. The issue will be further discussed at the White House with President Obama during talks with Ashraf Ghani.

Both Carter and Secretary of State John Kerry refrained from responding to questions on changes in the troop drawdown plans, saying talks on the issue were still ongoing and a final decision would be taken by President Obama.

"Obama and Ghani have had regular discussions about the transition that is taking place in Afghanistan. Ghani has requested some flexibility ... (More on P4)...(10)

Kunar Residents Warn of Retaking School Land



ASADABAD - Residents on Tuesday warned of retaking land they had donated for a girls' school in the Dangam district of eastern Kunar province if the government did not complete construction work on its building.

A contract for construction of a building for the school in Bidad area had been concluded in Kabul and residents had devoted a piece of land for it four years ago, but the structure is yet to be fully built.

A resident of the area, Itbar Khan, who had donated half an acre of his land to the school, told Pajhwok Afghan News construction work on the school building had been halted four years ago.

He said tribal elders and residents had tried their level best to get resumed the construction work, but in vain.

He said if the government had no intention to complete the school building, he would start cultivating crops on the devoted land.

"Construction work on the school building was stopped four years ago. The contractors had once brought some woods used in construction works, but they took them away later. The school currently depicts a picture of rubble."

Khan said every new provincial education director had promised resuming construction work on the school, but they did nothing in practical.

Provincial council's deputy head, Jamaluddin Sayar, also confirmed construction work on the school building had been stopped four years ago. He said currently displaced families were housed in the facility and they led a miserable life due to no facility on the land.

"Work on the school was stopped four years ago. Residents have been complaining to us and we have assured them that the issue will be taken up with the governor's house."

Provincial Education Director Syed Jamaluddin Hasni said the Ministry of Education had signed a contract for the school building with a local company in ... (More on P4)...(15)

42 Suspects Detained in arkhanda Murder Case

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior on Tuesday said 42 people, including police officials, had been arrested in connection with the broad daylight lynching of a 27-year-old woman in Kabul.

The woman, Farkhanda, was savagely murdered by a rampaging mob last Thursday after what residents said she criticised a controversial cleric at a well-known mosque in Kabul for selling charms and amulets.

Those detained in her murder case included 20 police officials and 22 civilian men, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

The detainees were being questioned, said the statement, which added that all those involved in the incident would be booked as per directives of the Interior Minister.

It said the Ministry of Interior was committed to seriously investigating Farkhanda's killing and bringing to justice all the perpetrators.

The mob of men pushed Farkhanda from a roof, run over by a car and set on fire before her body was thrown in the Kabul River in full view of several policemen. ... (More on P4)...(12)

Protests Continue over Farkhunda's Death

KABUL - Once again hundreds of citizens staged protests Tuesday in the capital Kabul over the killing of Farkhunda, demanding the government to prosecute the perpetrators in public.

This time held near the Supreme Court of Afghanistan, the protestors again chanted anti-police slogans and called on the punishment of those policemen who neglected brutal killing of the 27-year-old woman.



Farkhunda was severely beaten to death, burnt and thrown into muddy Kabul River by a mob in the presence of police last week on Thursday after a Mullah accused her of burning Holy Quran, an accusation strongly rejected by ... (More on P4)...(11)

20,000 More Girls to Attend School

KHOST CITY - As many as 20,000 more girls would be enrolled in school in south-eastern Khost province this academic year, the education director said on Tuesday.

In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Eng. Bakht Noor Bakhtiar said awareness programmes - led by tribal elders and religious leaders - had encouraged families to send their daughters to school.

His department planned to



enroll 60,000 new students, including 20,000 girls, in schools this solar year, he said.

"Currently 100,000 girls are attending school and their number will ... (More on P4)...(13)

Mohibi Appointed as Kabul's Acting Governor

KABUL - In compliance with a decree from the Presidential Palace, Mahboobullah Mohibi has been appointed as Kabul's acting governor, an official said on Tuesday.



Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) spokesperson Tawab Ghorzang told Pajhwok Afghan News Mohibi, a former deputy governor, had been appointed as acting governor.

His appointment comes after the acceptance of ex-governor Abdul Jabbar Taqwa's resignation on March 10. Until the appointment of a new governor, Mohibi will serve in an acting capacity.

Mohibi has been Kabul's deputy governor for the past two years. Previously, he served the IDLG and the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission. (Pajhwok)

High Expectations for Ghani, Abdullah U.S. Trip



KABUL - The expectations set for President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah's trip to the United States by political leaders and commentators in Afghanistan are high. More than just consultations, many in Afghanistan have suggested the national unity government leaders must come back with Washington's assurance of an ex-

tension of the presence of foreign troops and financial aid to Afghanistan if the trip is to be considered a success. Although the talks will encompass economic, political and social cooperation and development in Afghanistan, a major focus of the trip is expected to be security issues. In particular, the national unity leaders are expected... (More on P4)...(16)

Camp David Has an Old Afghan Connection

CAMP DAVID - The picturesque presidential retreat of Camp David has an Afghan connection, a reference to which by Secretary of State John Kerry and the President Ashraf Ghani was converted into some lighter moments at a news conference by Chief Executive Dr Abdullah Abdullah.

"Camp David was named after the grandson of Dwight Eisenhower, who in 1959 became the first American president to visit Afghanistan," Kerry told a news conference here along with Ghani,



Dr Abdullah and Defense Secretary Ashton Carter.

"And en route from the airport in Ka-

bul, Eisenhower was greeted by tens of thousands of cheering citizens. While in ... (More on P4)...(14)

Jawzjan Carpet Market Slumps, Fuelling Concerns

SHIBERGHAN - Carpet manufacturers in northern Jawzjan province on Tuesday complained rug prices had slumped by 50 per cent, discouraging the people associated with the industry.

Earlier, they said, a 6-metre carpet sold for 34,000 afghanis, but the prices had fallen to 18,000afs. In the current situation, they have option but to go to neighbouring countries in search of employment.

Local officials say more than 20 percent of Jawzjan residents, including women, were employed in the carpet industry. The carpets woven in Aqcha district are famous globally.

Jamila, 50, who had come to



Shiberghan for selling her hand-made carpets, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Before the market was much better. What we used to sell for 400 afghanis now doesn't sell for even 200afs."

She expressed her concern at the price decline, saying carpet-making was her only source of income. She warned if the situation continued, the

industry would suffer a major setback.

Mah Gul, another weaver, said she had crafted Afghanistan's map on one of her carpets, but nobody was ready to buy it. She asked the government to find a market for their products; otherwise their families would suffer.

Tokhta Murad, a businessman, said ... (More on P4)...(18)

Eastern Zone Ignored in Cabinet Formation: Elders



JALALABAD - Tribal elders accused the unity government of ignoring eastern provinces in formation of the cabinet.

The elders expressed these views at a gathering they held at the Tribal Affairs Department in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province.

Nangarhar University teacher Noor Mohammad Sultani said: "The residents

of eastern zone had fully participated in the presidential election and they voted for both Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, but the two leaders did not respond to the commitment of our people."

Malak Jahanzaib, an elder from Momand tribe, said that the president and the chief executive officer (CEO) should honour their ... (More on P4)...(19)

Surkhrud Elders Meet to Decide on ALP Deployment

JALALABAD - A strong 100-member Afghan Local Police (ALP) force was supposed to be deployed in the Surkhrud district of eastern Nangarhar province on Monday, but it was postponed due to lack of coordination among local elders, officials said on Monday.

The issue was discussed during a meeting at the gov-

ernor's house, where ALP Commander General Maj. Gen. Ali Shah Ahmadzai, other high officials and a large number of tribal elders were present. Tribal elders from the district, who attended the meeting, were divided over the issue.

One of the elders, Lal Agha Kakar, who spoke on behalf of ... (More on P4)...(17)