

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 25°C 14°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 13°C 6°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Partly Cloudy 24°C 14°C	<b>Mazar</b> Partly Cloudy 16°C 10°C	<b>Herat</b> Chance of Rain 18°C 8°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy 7°C 2°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 12°C -4°C
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# Farmers Playing Key Role in Afghanistan's Development

President Ashraf Ghani

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said the policy of domestic agriculture products consumption would be expanded from the defence ministry to other government institutions to help generate markets for domestic production, a statement from Presidential Palace said on Friday. The president expressed the view during a meeting with some farmers from Paktika, Khost, Paktia and Logar provinces who called on him here, the statement said. Agriculture Minister Asadullah Zamir said the ministry had expanded its development projects to the districts and villages. Earlier, the agenda for the expansion of agriculture



was limited to the provincial capitals, he added. Ghani assured the farmers that development projects initiated by the agriculture ministry would be implemented in their provinces this year. The president hailed hard work of the farmers in current

critical situation of the country and termed the farmers the real sons of the motherland. He said: "We are becoming more independent with every additional piece of land that you grow. Every woman who works in bee farming or poultry farming is in fact playing key role in the development of Afghanistan." Speaking of the behalf of farmers, Dr. Shah Mahmood, thanked the president for his support to the farmers and said in the past two years huge difference has been noticed in the development of agriculture in the southeastern provinces of the country. He said if the agriculture products...

## Ministry to Deliver 10,000 Tons of Seed to Farmers



KABUL - Officials from the ministry of agriculture and irrigation on Thursday said that it will distribute 10,000 tons of improved seed to Afghan farmers this year in order to help local farmers harvest better crops. They said that in addition to the seed, fertilizers will also be provided to the farmers. Afghanistan needs nearly 60,000 tons of seed annually, but government provides only 10,000 tons. According to officials, the ministry of agriculture and irrigation can only afford to supply this amount and is not able to meet the overall needs of farmers in terms of supplying seed. "We need between fifty to sixty thousand metric tons of improved seed to facilitate all farmers across Afghanistan, but in view of our budget capacities, we are able to deliver only 10,000 tons of improved seed," said Lotfullah Rashid, spokesman for the ministry of agriculture and irrigation. Meanwhile a number of agricultural experts have said that a seed shortage and lack of fertilizers could have major implications on crops. "They must conduct the necessary..."

## Debt Bondage has Serious Consequences for Communities

KABUL - Some individuals lend money to poor families that are forced into hard labour -- a practice called human trafficking under the law. In a number of provinces, including Kabul, some impoverished households have been lent money and given low-wage jobs on orchards, at homes, shops, bricks kilns, farmlands and other places. Indebted families and individuals work for lenders, but with the passage of time, their debt burden balloons. Ghulam Siddique, a resident of the Qarabagh district of Kabul, is one of such workers.

A father of nine, he is compelled to work along with his 14-year-old son on an orchard all day long. Their job involves a lot of hard labour. Tragedy and continuing challenges of Ghulam Sediq At 40, Siddique has visible wrinkles on his dark visage due to hard labour and there were more signs of tiredness and disappointment in his face. With a spade in his hand standing near a canal, the man told Pajhwok Afghan News he had borrowed money from an orchard owner two years back. "Two..."

## Arif Shah Jahan Appointed new Governor of Farah

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has appointed Mohammad Arif Shah Jahan as the new governor of western Farah province, a statement from Presidential Palace said on Friday. Jahan was referred to the post of governor by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and the president approved his appointment, the statement said. Jahan earlier worked as National Directorate of Security (NDS) director in Ghazni province and remained representative of Ghazni in Wolesi Jirga. He would replace Mohammad Asif Nang who serves as Farah governor to more than two years. (Pajhwok)

## 77 Rebels Killed, 16 Wounded in Country-Wide Operations: MoD



KABUL - Seventy-seven militants, including 22 Daesh rebels, have been killed and 16 others wounded in security forces separate operations in different parts of the country in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Friday. The operations had been conducted in Kapisa, Logar, Khost, Paktia, Kandahar, Faryab, Farah, Herat, Kunduz and Helmand provinces, according to MoD statement. Twenty-three militants, including seven foreign rebels, were killed and three others wounded in the Pashtunkot district of Faryab, the statement said adding 15 motorcycles, machine gun and anti-aircraft gun was also seized. Twenty-two more rebels were killed in Nesh district of Kandahar, as many Daesh rebels were killed in Nangarhar's Nazyan district and three were killed in Kunduz. Four more insurgents were killed in Laghman. (Pajhwok)

## American Woman Supporting Afghans for 38 Years Granted Citizenship



KABUL - An American woman supporting the Afghan people for the past 38 years has been awarded citizenship by the Afghan government. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, said President Ghani granted the citizenship to the woman, Marie Caroline during a ceremony organized in the Palace. According to a presidential

## Police Criticized over Increase in Criminal Incidents

KABUL - Kabul residents sharply criticized security departments on Friday over the increase of criminal incidents in the city and said they are tired of armed robberies, kidnapping and targeted killings. A family living in Kot-e-Sangi area of Kabul city said armed men tried to kidnap their son-in-law. Kart-e-Parwan residents meanwhile complain about the high number of armed robberies in their area. "Robberies have increased in this area," said Daud, a shopkeeper. According to Kart-e-Parwan

## No Uplift Projects in Most Ghazni Towns Last Year

GHAZNI CITY - The governor on Thursday said insecurity deprived 14 of 18 districts of southern Ghazni province of development projects last solar year. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Governor Abdul Karim Matin said: "Most of the residents of these districts are Pashtun, some of them face high security threat and others moderate." He said Zanakhan, Nawa, Geru, Ajristan, Khogyani, Rashidan...

## Pakistani Forces once Again Shell Lalpura District

JALALABAD - Pakistani forces once have again fired 75 rockets into the Lalpura district of eastern Nangarhar province, local officials alleged on Thursday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Pakistani forces slammed the rockets into the district over the past 24 hours. He said 75 rockets fired from Pakistan hit Rinaw Parchaw, Mullakhel and Nazarkhel areas. The shelling disturbed ongoing operations against Daesh in the area, he added. The objective behind the shelling was to scuttle the operations against Daesh in Achin, Kot and Haska Mina districts, Khogyani claimed. However,...

## Afghanistan's Flour Import from Pakistan Slump

KABUL/PESHAWAR - Afghanistan acquired 2/3 part of annually consumed flour from its domestic production while only 1/3 of flour was imported mainly from Kazakhstan while Afghanistan mostly relied on Pakistan in this regard in the past, according to experts. Mohammad Qasim Kabari, director of the economic statistics at the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO), said Afghanistan required 4.75 million tonnes of flour in 2006 and only 554,000 tonnes were imported.



He said Afghanistan imported 258,000 tonnes of flour and wheat from Pakistan, 166,000 tonnes from Kazakhstan and the rest from Uzbekistan, Iran, the UAE and Turkmenistan in 2006. Kabari did not provide information about the country's flour requirements between 2006 and 2016 but said Afghanistan needed 5.9 million tonnes of flour in 2016 when...

## IFJ Seeks Action against Police for Attacking Reporter

KABUL - A global organisation of Journalists (IFJ) said Ahmad Bashir Attayee, an Ariana TV reporter, was assaulted while covering Nowroz (Persian New Year) celebrations on Wednesday night. Cameraman Ahmad Waled Sediqi was also beaten for

recording the assault on the reporter and his camera was broken, said a statement from the IFJ. The authorities have been urged to investigate the issue and publicly report on the findings. It added: "..."

## Etisalat Recognized As The Number One Brand



KABUL - Brand Finance, a leading independent branded business valuation and strategy consultancy, in its latest evaluation ranked Etisalat the number one brand in the sector of telecommunications in the Middle East. The ranking was based on Etisalat's unique brand activities, international sponsorship projects such as sponsorship of FC Barcelona, involvement in local beneficial events as well as increase in revenue. Among several key factors contributing to Etisalat's current position, was company's unsurpassed move from a rating of AA- last year to AA+ in 2017. This is the first time Brand Finance has evaluated a brand based on its products, services and achievements. Headquartered in UAE and with its footprint in more than 18 countries in Asia, Africa and Middle East, Etisalat is offering unmatched voice and data services for over 170 million happy customers. Meanwhile, maintaining the reputation as an affiliate of Etisalat group and the fastest growing telecom...

## Azizi Bank Launches the Green Campaign in Kabul



KABUL - Azizi Bank planted more than 1250 saplings in the vicinity of Kabul city on its endeavor to see a greener Kabul in association with Kabul Municipality. The campaign was officially flagged off from the Kabul University where more than 100 trees were planted in the presence of the Mayor - Kabul Municipality, Chancellor - Kabul University, Special guests from the University of Poland, CEO & DY. CEO - Azizi Bank & other distinguished guests and media. Thereafter a team was formed and plantations took places at the following areas of Kabul City - Airport Road, Darulaman Road, Qargha Road, Dahan-e-Bagh Road and Arzan Qemat Road. Azizi Bank will continue its endeavor for a Greener Afghanistan and will shortly move into the other provincial locations. Azizi Bank, the largest banking group in Afghanistan have placed a strong Corporate Social Responsibility plans for the year and will continue to support the cause of the society. (PR)