

Kandahar Governor Chides Some District Chiefs

KANDAHAR CITY - The acting governor of southern Kandahar province on Sunday lashed out at some district chiefs for spending much of their official time in the provincial capital instead of their offices.

Dr. Toryalai Weesa, addressing a coordination meeting with administrative and police chiefs, asked officials to stay in their respective areas and work for resolving people's problems instead of spending their time in Kandahar City.

"The district chiefs have no right to arrive in Kandahar City without a valid reason. If they arrive and stay



here, they should daily visit the governor's house for signatures in the attendance book."

The acting governor mentioned the district chiefs of Shorbak, Mian-shin and Maroof towns, who spent much of their time in Kandahar City.

"This is not good when district chiefs leave all their affairs unfinished and watch movies in their homes and go on excursions all the day," Weesa said.

He also chided some district chiefs for paying visits to Kabul and other areas without informing the governor's house. ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Barkatullah University to Open Campus in Afghanistan

BHOPAL - The Barkatullah University, Bhopal, in a prelude to explore the possibility of opening up a campus in Afghanistan, has signed a 'Letter of Intent' with the neighbouring country's Shaikh Zayed University.

After the 'Letter of Intent, we have plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shaikh Zayed University (SZU) for academic exchange, Vice Chancellor, Barkatullah University (BU), Prof M D Tiwari told PTI today.

The LoI was signed with Afghanistan Ambassador

to India Shaida Mohammed Abdali here yesterday. "In a month or two, we are likely to send a delegation to Khost province of Afghanistan where SZU is based," he said.

"We want to work with SZU on mutual teaching, learning, syllabus and other areas. There will also be students exchange programme between the two universities under the MoU," he said.

"If this works out well, we have plans to open a campus in Khost province. This is not an overnight affair. For opening the

campus overseas, we have to take permission from Madhya Pradesh government and External Affairs Ministry," he said.

On the security of BU students who might go to Afghanistan, he said Abdali has told them that things were peaceful in his country and it was developing. Last year, BU had signed an agreement with a university based in Denmark's Aalborg province for students exchange programme. Three students of BU have been offered jobs in the Aalborg University, he added. *(Monitoring Desk)*

Defusing 5,000 Bombs without a Word of Appreciation

LASHKARGAH - An Afghan soldier claims he has defused more than 5,000 landmines over the past five years but no government official has ever commended his job.

Ziaul Haq, the deputy head of a mine-defusing team of the Afghan National Army, told Pajhwok Afghan News on Sunday he had defused landmines planted on roads and in agriculture fields during military and search operations.

He said there was no operation in which he had not partici-



pated. "Despite the fact I have saved lives of thousands of civilians, government officials and soldiers, officials have never acknowledged my efforts," Haq said with resentment.

A minor mistake in defusing a

landmine could lead to death; the job needs professional skills and consistent attention. Haq claimed items used in making landmines were brought from Pakistan. Besides the danger his job...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Kabul University's Computer Dept. Gets New Building

KABUL - After completion of construction work, the Kabul University's computer science department got a new building which was officially inaugurated on Sunday.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the university's Chancellor Habibullah Habib told reporters the new building was constructed at a cost of \$8 million provided by the Japanese government. He said the four storey building had the capacity of 1,100 students.

Higher Education Minister Usman Babari thanked acting minister of the government of Japan for extending all out cooperation to complete the new facility.

He recalled earlier the students were faced with multiple problems due to absence of a suitable place for computer students.

Akfumi Fukuoka, a senior official of Japanese embassy pledged his government would continue cooperation with Afghan government in different sectors. *(Pajhwok)*

AP Journalist's Killer Sentenced 20 Years Imprisonment



KABUL - Supreme Court has reduced the death sentence of Naqibullah to 20 years imprisonment.

Naqibullah a police officer had shot dead a Associated Press photo journalist Anja Niedringhaus in eastern Khost province last year.

According to New York Times documents pertaining Naqibullah's sentence has arrived in Attorney General's Office.

"We are glad the judicial system in Afghanistan has completed the case

against their attacker and trust the sentence will be carried out in full. And as the sad anniversary approaches, our thoughts and care are with Anja's family and with Kathy," Kathleen Carroll, The A.P.'s executive editor says.

Naqibullah was previously sentenced to death but his sentence is not reduced to 20 years in prison.

Naqibullah had opened fire on AP staff in eastern ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

2,000 ANA Officers Complete Training Course

KABUL - Afghan National Army (ANA) officers on Sunday promised to discharge their duties honestly and serve the country in war and peacetime.

Over 2,000 soldiers and lieutenants, who received graduation certificates at the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMITC), promised boldly fighting the enemy of Afghanistan in every part of the country.

KMITC Commander Brig. Gen. Aminullah Pathyani said the graduating officers had completed military training and would be assigned to ANA units.

Ahmad Jan, one of the lieutenants, said: "It was my desire to join the ranks



of ANA. I have undergone two months of training and now I am prepared to serve the country even in the most dangerous areas."

Ministry of Defence (MoD) official Maj. Gen. Habib Hesari claimed Afghan security forces were

capable of defending the country without the help of foreigners. He predicted militants would increase their attacks this summer.

He called the professional growth of Afghan forces a priority, hoping ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

8 Rebels Dead in Military Offensive; Arms Recovered



KABUL - Eight militants have been killed and three arms depot discovered in southern Ghazni and southeastern Paktika provinces, officials said Sunday.

In a statement, officials of the 203rd Afghan National Army (ANA) Corps confirmed the casualties during an operation codenamed in the Andar district of Ghazni province during the past 24-hour. Security forces torched nine motorbikes and another vehicle transporting explosives in the Gaberi area of the district, the statement said, adding the offensive had been underway for the last 10 days. Separately, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) claimed recovering three huge ammunition caches and arrested three rebels. In a statement, the NDS said security officials destroyed hideouts of the Haqqani Network containing suicide vests, explosive materials, land mines, weapons and ammunition in the Gayan district of Paktika province. Thirteen suicide vests, 16 rocket-propelled grenades, five Kalashnikovs, 70 landmines, 500 kilograms of explosives and other ammunition were recovered during the raid. The arms and explosives, it said, were to be used for terror attacks. Three suspects, it said had been detained in connection of the weapons. *(Pajhwok)*

Protest against Governor Slammed as Illegal

KHOST CITY - Some provincial council members, tribal elders and religious scholars on Sunday slammed as illegal a protest movement by two lawmakers and their supporters against the governor of southern Khost province.

Maulvi Sardar Mohammad, the Mujahideen Unity Council head in Khost, said the protest led by Kamal Nasir Osuli and Humayun, was unlawful. They claimed there were gunmen in the protest camp in front of the governor's house.

The lawmakers have accused the governor, Abdul



Jabbar Naemi, of incompetency and administrative corruption - a charge rejected by the provincial administration.

"These illegal armed individuals are not only creating problems for government officials, but also disrupting traffic in the city," Mohammad said, asking security organs to disarm the irresponsible

armed men and do away with problems being created for residents.

A tribal elder from Lakan area of Khost City, Mohammad Qayum Khan, said the protest movement was illegal because it involved illegal armed people.

"These individuals are equipped with Kalash ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Semi-Higher Education Institute Opens in Khost

KHOST CITY - A semi-higher education institute has opened in the Musakhel district of southeastern Khost province, an official said on Saturday.

The institute offers education in multiple disciplines, including economics, computer science, engineering and electrical technology.

Deputy Director of Education Matiullah



Fazli told Pajhwok Afghan News called the opening of the institute as a useful step toward promoting education in Khost. "It represents

hope for students having passed 9th and 10th grades or those who have failed the university entrance test," the official said. *(Pajhwok)*

Drought Damages Crops, Forcing Displacement

ZARANJ - The falling level of water in Helmand River has damaged 50 percent of crops and forced displacement of families in southwestern Nimroz province, an official said on Sunday.

Livestock and agriculture officials said the decreasing water level in the river passing through Nimroz had harmed farmers in Kang and Chakhansor districts as well as Zaranj, the provincial capital.

Agriculture Director Mohammad Akbar Sharifi told Pajhwok Afghan



News that farms producing 500 tonnes of wheat had been affected. The problem that surfaced last month persists to date.

He said lack of rain and a decline on Helmand River level had landed people in a serious situation. Releasing water from Kajaki dam into the river would resolve the problem of irrigation, he suggested.

Sharifi warned 28,000 hectares of farms would be harmed if the water level did not increase within one week. He said that 50 families had already been displaced from Kang district.

A resident of the district, Mohammad Nazar, said he had cultivated 50 acres of his land with wheat but 50 percent of the crop had gone parched due to lack of irrigation water.

"If the situation continues, we would be left with no option but to leave the area because our economy is entirely dependent on farming." The district's administrative head, Mohammad Juma Ilmi, confirmed most ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

ICU, CT-Scan Facilities Open in Civil Hospital



JALALABAD - Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and CT-scan facilities were on Saturday opened at the provincial civil hospital in eastern Nangarhar province to deal with emergency situations and injured people.

Public Health Minister Dr. Ferozuddin Feroz, who inaugurated the 10-bed ICU in the hospital in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, said the facility had been established with financial support from his ministry and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

He said the ICU cost nearly \$1 million and would provide standard treatment facilities to residents of the region.

"We did not have the best quality ICU and CT-scan machines in the hospital, but now we have them. We made the machines functional today to provide quality healthcare services to the people," the minister said.

Meanwhile, provincial Public Health Director Dr. Najibullah Kamawal said latest machines had been installed at the ICU. He said people had to go foreign countries for treatment due to the absence of such facilities in local hospitals.

The public health minister also laid the foundation stone of a medical store as part of the proposed "health complex in the east." The storage facility would cost \$7 million.

Dr. Feroz said the boundary wall of the complex planned on 100 acres of land had been constructed. The minister said the complex would have three sections - hospital, vaccination centre and medical stores. He said the total costs on the complex had been estimated at \$11.5 million and he only laid the foundation of the medical store.

The minister said the complex would be completed with funds from new annual budgets and would provide healthcare services on regional level.

Deputy Governor Mohammad Hanif Gardiwal said work on construction ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

2 Children Dead of Fast-Spreading Measles



FEROZ KOH - Health officials in western Ghor province on Sunday said two children lost their lives due to measles.

Officials said treatment of kids had been intensified and more than 300 children got successful treatment.

Dr. Juma Gul Yaqubi, director Ghor Civil Hospital, told Pajhwok Afghan News patients were cured in the last two months. Currently, more than 10 more patients were admitted to the hospital, he informed.

Yaqubi said majority of the patients were from the provincial capital, Charsada and Dawlatyar districts.

Measles is an infectious viral disease causing fever and a red rash, typically occurring in childhood. Lack of vaccination and proper medical care

could prove deadly, he informed.

Residents of far-flung areas expressed concerns over spreading of the disease, saying that health clinics were far and travelling to hospitals cost them a lot.

Gul Ahmad, a resident of Bardiz locality in Charsada district, said more than 100 families lived in the village. Apart from children, he said, elders were also infected to the disease.

He said the lone clinic in the locality was 40 kilometres away without proper facilities. "More than 20 persons are admitted to the provincial hospital from my village. My wife and two kids have also been admitted."

He complained that only one way travel to the provincial hospital cost 800 ...*(More on P4)...(16)*