

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	35°C 21°C		25°C 11°C		36°C 19°C		32°C 19°C		31°C 16°C		18°C 5°C		28°C 13°C



President Stresses Transparency in Awarding Contracts

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has directed officials of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum to ensure greater transparency in the bidding process and awarding of contracts of excavation of natural resources, a statement from the Presidential Palace said on Sunday.

The president issued the directives during a meeting of the National Procurement Committee (NPC) which was held Saturday night, the statement said.

Officials of Defence, education, interior, energy and water ministries were present in the occasion. The president ordered the Ministry of Mines to release undisclosed contracts and present offer them for open bidding process.

The representative of each ministry had presented their view point during the meeting



against the objections of NPC members. Ghani again urged the ministries concerned to ensure transparency and avoid any gambling in the procurement contracts. The president said every ministry ... (More on P4)...(8)

130 Laghman Schools Operate Under Open Sky



MEHTARLAM - As many as 130 schools have no proper buildings in eastern Laghman province, where a total of 300 schools are operational, an official said on Sunday.

Provincial education Director Hazrat Mujeddedi told Pajhwok Afghan News 22 schools had boundary walls and 230 had no boundary walls in the province.

More than 198,000 children, including 84,000 girls, were enrolled in these schools taught by 4,447 teachers, the education director said.

He said students attended their classes under open sky and beneath trees in schools which ... (More on P4)...(9)

Ghani, EUOPL Condemn Kabul Suicide Bombing



KABUL - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has strongly condemned Sunday's suicide car bombing that killed three people and injured at least 18 in Kabul.

The attack occurred at about 9:00 local time and was apparently targeting a European Union Police Mission (EUPOL) convoy that was traveling close to the airport. Two vehicles were in the convoy but only one was hit. Among the dead was a contract worker for EUPOL who is believed to be a British national, a source said on condition of anonymity.

Ministry of Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqi earlier confirmed the numbers killed and injured. He said among the dead were two ... (More on P4)...(11)

4 Abducted Passengers Still in Taliban's Captivity

GARDEZ - Provincial police Chief Brig. Gen. Zalmai Oryakhel told Pajhwok Afghan News some of the abducted passengers in southeastern Paktia province had been released after an operation carried out on Saturday but Taliban claimed they released some of the passengers by their own.

He said that provincial council members had been tasked to ensure safe release of the remaining abductees.

Mohammad-ur-Rahman Qadari, secretary of provincial council and a local resident of the district, said five passengers were still in Taliban's custody and they were mediating to ensure early ... (More on P4)...(12)

5 Distance Learning Edu Centers Opened in Wardak

MAIDAN SHAHR - At least five distance learning education centers have been made operational on Sunday in central Maidan wardak province, an official said.

Ahmed Shah, director education and information technology, told Pajhwok Afghan News the government inked an agreement to open 200 online computers centers. The online centers, he said would provide an opportunity to students of remote areas to be linked with capital Kabul to learn through internet.

The online centers had complete courses from grade 7th to 12th which could be accessed easily, which would facilitate students to study different courses.

Director education Fazal-ur-Rahman Tariq added two centers were opened in Maidan Shahr and three others in Chak and Narkh districts. As many as 250 computers were provided and each center would have 50 computers to be linked with internet and 200 students could use them on daily basis, he added.

Tariq hoped to extend this facility to all schools so that every student could be benefited from computers and internet facilities.

Mirwais Amiri, provincial council member, said most of the students could not afford quality education but the online education centers would give them opportunities to learn through modern technology. (Pajhwok)

'Acting Khost Governor be Replaced with Efficient Person'

KHOST CITY - A number of provincial council members, civil society activists and religious leaders of southeastern Khost demanded the government replace the incumbent acting governor with an "efficient and qualified person." Addressing a press conference in Khost, the provincial capital of southeastern Khost province, on Sunday, the residents warned they would press the government to appoint a new governor to the province.

Jan Mir Zazai, secretary of provincial council, demanded the government ought to share the commission's findings against acting governor Abdul Jabbar Naemi



following a suicide attack in the province. Habib-ur-Rahman Khosti, a religious scholar, said the affairs of the province were being run by the acting governor which created problems for local people. "The president should take immediate step and appoint a competent person as governor," he added. Saheb Gul Farhad,

head of the Hewadpal Zwak Foundation, said that Khost people would keep up their struggle to get their legitimate demand accepted. Mohammad Dawood Waqfi, a religious leader, said that president should not overlook the sacrifices and should fulfill his commitments he made before election with the people of this province. (Pajhwok)

Senate to Investigate Paghman 'Night Letters'

KABUL - The Meshrano Jirga on Sunday formed a delegation to investigate "night letters" that opposed funeral prayers for deceased government officials in the Paghman district of central Kabul province.

The letters had been distributed two weeks ago in various parts of Paghman asking religious scholars and imams not to lead funeral prayers for government and security officials.

Upper house member from Kabul, Nisar Haris, told the session that the night letters had raised concerns. He said such acts should be investigated and prevented; otherwise the secu-



rity situation in Paghman would become different. Senate Chairman Fazl Hadi Muslimyar said: "The distribution of night letters is not a matter of concern. A delegation should be appointed to investigate the issue." Muslimyar tasked senators from Kabul and members of the house Defence Commission, Nisar Haris and Farhad Sakhi, to investigate the issue and present a report in the house on Tuesday next. ... (More on P4)...(13)

Parwan Residents Start Repairing Road of their Own

CHARIKAR - Tired of waiting for government help, the residents of Kohi Safi district in central Parwan province on Sunday started repairing the 30-kilometers road.

The people of the district had been demanding authorities to reconstruct the dilapidated road connecting the district centre with the Barikab locality. The road was asphalted in 2004.

After government failure to construct the bumpy road, around 150 residents decided to start reconstruction of the road of their own. ... (More on P4)...(10)

Construction Work Launched on Pashmol Canal

KANDAHAR CITY - Reconstruction work on the Pashmol canal in Zheri district of southern Kandahar province has been launched, a project that would help irrigate thousands of acres of land.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by deputy governor Abdul Ali Shamsi, Zheri district chief Haji Jamal Agha and a number of tribal elders.

Shamsi told Pajhwok Afghan News the canal was being reconstructed under the Food Zone Programme with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Reconstruction of the 18-kilometre long canal, which had not been repaired over the past 35 years, was estimated to cost \$171,000, he said.

The project would help thousands of families in the district to irrigate their fields and orchards, the official said. He said currently farmers used machines to fetch ground water for irrigation purpose and ... (More on P4)...(14)

Senate Commission

Uruzgan Problems to be Resolved

TARINKOT - The Senate commission on interior, security and defence traveled to southern Uruzgan province on Saturday to hear public problems and complaints about the performance of local officials and to observe law and order from close. Mohammad Nadir Baloch, a lawmaker from Nimroz who headed the delegation, held a meeting with residents of the area, which was attended by local elders, religious leaders, senior officials and a number of activists.

Acting governor Amanullah Taimori said the delegation arrived at a time when residents of the province feared Taliban would stage series of attacks to deteriorate law and order in the province.

He complained the central gov-



ernment did not yet appoint provincial police chief in the province. Former provincial police chief Matiullah Khan was gunned down in Kabul mysteriously but his replacement could not so far take place. He thanked the Senate commission for visiting the province at a time when the province needed serious attention to stabilize its security.

Baloch told the meeting the delegation intended to observe law

and order closely and know about people's problems.

He pledged their problems would be shared with high officials and that the departments concerned would be directed to work out a strategy to resolve their issues.

He said that special focus would be given to improve the vital education sector, expedite work on development projects and resolve other pressing problems of the province. (Pajhwok)



U.S. soldiers stand guard at the site of a suicide car bombing in Kabul, on Sunday May 17, 2015. Four people were killed and several others wounded when a suicide car bomb exploded near the airport of the capital Kabul, sources and witnesses said. (Xinhua/Ahmad Massoud)