


Jalalabad Clear 37°C 21°C	Ghazni Clear 26°C 11°C	Kandahar Clear 36°C 17°C	Mazar Clear 33°C 19°C	Herat Clear 31°C 15°C	Bamayan Clear 16°C 4°C	Kabul Clear 28°C 13°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Taliban Advancing in Baghlan, Warns PC Chief

KABUL - A senior public representative on Monday warned that people would block the Kabul-Balkh highway if the government did not take steps to improve the security situation in northern Baghlan province. Baghlan provincial council (PC) chief Safdar Muhseni issued the warning at a press conference in Kabul, saying the road would be blocked if the government did not strengthen security in

Baghlan and failed to decide the fate of the provincial governor and the police chief. Muhseni said Taliban insurgents had launched their operations in Baghlan-i-Markazi district and Dand Ghor area of the provincial capital, Pul-i-Khumri, over the past one year, overrunning 13 Afghan military bases. He said the military bases had mysteriously fallen to the insurgents as there had been ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Usmani Curtails Powers of Hajj Ministry High ups

KABUL - Some officials of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs on Monday criticised their new minister Faiz Mohammad Usmani for curtailing powers of the secretaries, directors and other high-ranking officials at the ministry. Abdul Hakim Muneb, a secretary at the ministry, said most of their powers had been curtailed after the arrival of the new minister. He said some officials had been removed from their positions. The minister through a letter No. 3561 has stripped some secretaries and directors of their powers and sacked oth-



ers. The letter says orders from the ministry should not be dispatched to the public and private sector institutions without the minister's or secretary's signature. It said removal, transfer and hiring ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

6 Foreign Firms Eye Air Traffic Control Contract



KABUL - Bids from at least six foreign companies to take on the contract for the country's air traffic control were discussed at a consultative meeting in Kabul, the aviation authority said on Monday. The Afghanistan Civil Aviation

Authority (ACAA) in a statement said the consultative meeting between ACAA officials and representatives of the companies conferred on the conditions for the contract. However, the statement did not reveal the names of the ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Afghanistan Issuing Political Passports to Taliban Leaders

KABUL - Reports suggest that Afghan government is issuing political passports to Taliban. Hasht-e-Subh newspaper, a reliable Afghan media outlet reports that the government is issuing 210 political passports to Taliban leaders. The media outlet quoting a source states that during the recent visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif to Kabul it was agreed that some of the Taliban leaders need to be removed from the blacklist of the United Nations and reo-



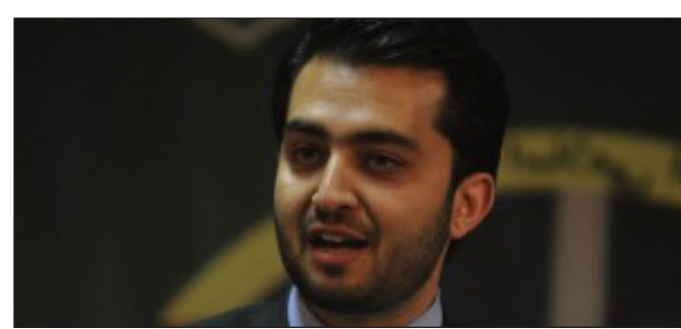
pening their political office. Source is saying that currently 180 Taliban leaders are using Pakistani passports but government will change their Pakistani passports to Afghan passports. He is further saying that 210 Taliban leaders are scheduled to receive Afghan political passports. Representatives of Taliban and peacemakers from the country recently had face-to-face talks in Qatar in which considerable improvement for initiating peace talks were ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Kazakh-Afghan Cooperation Discussed

BISHKEK - First Vice Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev met on May 18 with Minister of Mines and Petroleum of Afghanistan Daud Shah Saba, reports the press service of the Kazakh prime minister. The sides discussed the issues of humanitarian and economic cooperation. Mr Sagintayev said Kazakhstan is friendly towards Afghanistan ruled by Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah. He expressed hope that new rulers of the country will be able to implement new reforms aimed at well-being of the Afghans. It was noted at the meeting that the trade turnover between the countries increased, however potential of trade-economic relations is not fully used. In 2014, the trade turnover between the two countries was \$336.6 million. The sides touched upon the cultural and humanitarian cooperation issues as well as cooperation in education. Sagintayev highlighted that Kazakhstan actively supports international efforts aimed at stabilization of situation in Afghanistan. (AKIpress)

NDS Rejects Training of Intelligence Operatives by Pakistan

KABUL - The Afghan Intelligence - National Directorate of Security (NDS) rejected that the NDS operatives would be trained and equipped by Pakistan. Speaking during a press conference on Monday afternoon, Sediqi said reports regarding the deployment of security personnel to Pakistan for training based on the new agreement are false. Sediqi further added that the



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Pakistan is not against the national interests of the country and the agreement was ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

MoFA Claims UAE Deported only Illegal Afghan Workers

KABUL - The two week deadline for the departure of Afghan traders from the United Arab Emirates has ended and so far no traders have been deported - only illegal workers, said officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to officials, the UAE's ambassador to Kabul has returned home to address the issue with his Foreign Ministry. "The UAE ambassador to Kabul was invited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week to discuss the matter. He has gone to UAE and will be discussing the problems with their officials, and will attempt to address the issue," says Shekib Mostaghni, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The figure of six hundred are not all traders, some of them are workers who have been working illegally. But government is trying to resolve the issue". Meanwhile, officials at the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries accuse government of not helping ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Soaring Maternal Mortality Rate Still a Challenge

KABUL - Soaring maternal mortality rate during pregnancy has remained a serious challenge for Afghanistan despite a fourfold decline as compared to 15 years back. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Public Health Ministry and Afghan Midwives Association, said in a joint statement on the occasion of international day of midwives one out of five women still lost life due to pregnancy



in the country. Dr. Najia Tariq, deputy health minister, while addressing a gathering held to mark the day said mothers' mortality rate in Afghanistan has declined three to four times as compared to last 15 years. "But still maternal mortality remains a major challenge for public health ministry and we have a long way ahead to ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Activists Want Helmand Governor Appointed

LASHKARGAH - Civil society activists in southern Helmand on Sunday urged President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to appoint a new governor without further delay. Farhad Dawari, an activist, told journalists in Lashkargah, the provincial capital, that running affairs by acting officials had given rise to corruption and there was acute need for a fresh face to head the affairs.

"Acting governor and other officials don't feel responsible and don't work. That's why the security has deteriorated and the president should pay attention to resolve the crisis," he said, adding it was high time a strong administration be set up in the province. Abdul Ali, a civil society activist and local elder, said the president should put an end to the problem of acting governor and a new coordination ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Rampant Corruption in Health Sector Irks Faryab Residents

MAIMANA - The residents in northern Faryab province complain about rampant corruption in health sector and the inappropriate behavior of medical staff with patients. But health officials insist patients are being provided with better health services. They blame the district chiefs of negligence in discharging of their duties. Faryab is among northern provinces bordering Turkmenistan. It has around 1.7 million populations.

Although the health sector had considerable achievements in the last decade in the province with construction of many hospitals and health centres, residents and district chiefs complain the services provided are not satisfactory. Abdul Razaq Kakar, Garzewan district chief, said the district had five health clinics with proper buildings. He claimed the personnel and officials of the hospitals were in connivance of mafia ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Court Verdict on 19 Policemen in Farkhunda's Case Today

KABUL - The primary court in capital Kabul would decide cases of 19 policemen allegedly involved in Farkhunda murder case on Tuesday, an official said. Judge Safiullah Mujadidi said earlier the court postponed verdict for 19 police officers charged in Farkhunda mob killing case because there was need for more investigations. An angry mob beat 27-year-old Farkhunda 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. Mujadidi awarded capital punishment to Zain-ul-Abidin son of Gulabuddin, Mohammad Yaqoob son of Mohammad Yasin, Mohammad Sharif son of Sharafuddin, Abdul Bashir son of Abdul Shakoob on the charges of killing ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Pakistan Envoy Inaugurates 2nd Lane of Torkham-Jalalabad Road

KABUL - Pakistan's Ambassador to Kabul on Sunday inaugurated the construction of the additional carriageway of the Torkham-Jalalabad Road, a statement said.



An inaugural ceremony was held in Jalalabad to kick-start work on the second lane of the Torkham-Jalalabad Road, a statement released by the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul said. The ceremony was attended by a large number of people including parliamentarians, tribal notables and senior Afghan officials.

Addressing at the inaugural ceremony, Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Syed Abrar Hussain, said his country attached utmost importance to its ties with brotherly country, Afghanistan, and has actively been contributing to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. He said the construction of the road would not only improve regional connectivity but would tremendously facilitate the Afghan transit trade and travel of business community and the general public as well. The Ambassador highlighted the projects built with Pakistan's bilateral ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Helmand PC, Civil Society Ink Cooperation Agreement

KABUL - The provincial council (PC) and a civil society group in southern Helmand province on Monday signed an agreement on cooperation, the group said. The "Helmand Civil Society" in a statement said the agreement-signing ceremony was attended by hundreds of tribal elders and members of social councils from various parts of the province. Speaking on the occasion, Helmand PC head Haji Mohammad Karim Atal said



the basic aim of the agreement was to resolve people's problems. While Helmand Civil Society head Sardar Mohammad Hamdard urged the masses to cooperate with them in finding solution to their problems in the corruption-hit

Helmand province. Other speakers talked about problems and insecurity in Helmand. Under the agreement, the group and the PC would make joint efforts to preserve national values, ensure security and make efforts at achieving peace and banishing corruption from government departments. They would join hands in praising positive activities of the government and criticising its negative activities in joint sittings in line with the country's laws. (Pajhwok)