

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Clear	<b>Bamayan</b>	Clear	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	40°C 23°C		27°C 12°C		37°C 19°C		36°C 21°C		34°C 18°C		20°C 7°C		30°C 14°C



## WJ Asks President to Revoke ISI Agreement



KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga members on Wednesday considered signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the mainstream intelligence agencies of Pakistan and Afghanistan against "national interest and asked the president to revoke the deal."

Earlier, the Afghan spy agency confirmed signing MoU with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence or ISI to share intelligence against terrorists on their respective sides of the border.

Hasibullah Siddiqui, the spokesman of the Na-

tional Directorate of Security (NDS), told reporters in Kabul both intelligence agencies would share intelligence gathering, technical information and inform each other about possible security threats under.

He said a similar agreement signed in 2008-09 could not yield positive results as areas of cooperation between the two spy networks remained ambiguous in the earlier agreements.

He said the recent deal had clearly identified common areas of cooperation in the fight ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Karzai Shows Deep Concerns about Pak-Afghan Intelligence Agreement



KABUL - The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai has said he is deeply concerned with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Afghan Intelligence and Pakistan's Military Intelligence - Inter Services Intelligence (ISI).

The office of the former president issued a statement calling on unity government leaders to immediately cancel the agreement.

The statement further added that the former President has also called on the leaders of the unity government to prevent signing such agree-

ments which are against the national interests of the country.

The signing of the agreement has sparked uproar among the current and former Afghan officials with reports suggesting that the NDS chief Rahmatullah Nabil opposed to ink the agreement.

Sources privy to the development said Sunday that the agreement with ISI was signed by deputy NDS chief three days ago.

The sources further added that the agreement will allow ISI to train and equip the Afghan ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

# President Stresses Meritocracy at MoFA

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said on Tuesday the country's foreign policy should not be confined to a few individuals and those involved in the area should be familiar with foreign politics.

The president, who chaired a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and his ministry senior officials at the Presidential Palace, listened to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)'s first 100-day plan, a statement from the palace said.

The 100-day plan calls for fundamental reforms in the



Foreign Ministry's human resources, general diplomacy, economic development,

security, cultural and training affairs. The plan covers strengthening contacts with

countries and international organizations, regional co ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Taliban Delegation Visits Iran



KABUL - Taliban's spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid on Wednesday confirmed that a Taliban delegation visited neighboring Iran this week.

The spokesman said that the delegation headed by Mohammad Taib Agha, Taliban's political office head, had visited the country.

This report has however not been confirmed by independent sources.

The spokesman said the delegation had held talks with Iranian officials about the current situation in Afghanistan, the region and the world as well as the situation of Afghan refugees in Iran.

According to Zabiullah Mujahid, this trip comes after a number of other foreign visits including previous trips by Taliban to China, France and Japan.

Iranian and Afghan government officials have yet to comment. *(Tolonews)*

## Iran "Unaware" of Taliban's Tehran Visit

KABUL - The Iranian foreign ministry on Wednesday said was unaware about a recent visit by a Taliban delegation to Tehran.

Earlier, Iranian media had also reported that the delegation led by Tayyeb Agha had arrived in Tehran.

Marzieh Afkham, the Iranian foreign ministry spokeswoman, however, on Wednesday said she was unaware of the visit. "We are not aware about the visit. Those sources that have spread the news should be asked on what ba-



sis they have published such news," she questioned.

Tehran-based Shargh Daily, Tasnim News Agency had reported a Taliban delegation led by Tayyeb Agha had vis-

ited Tehran twice before and had met with officials.

Members of the Taliban's Qatar have also visited China, Australia, Germany and Japan in the past. *(Pajhwok)*

## Human Rights Watch

# 41 Attacks on Hospitals, Workers over Past Year

KABUL - The Human Rights Watch (HRW) deplored that armed groups had attacked hospitals, clinics, and health personnel in several violent incidents in Afghanistan over the past year.

The HRW and the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition said in a joint report released on Wednesday that attacks on medical facilities,

health workers, and patients have occurred in at least 17 countries undergoing conflict and civil unrest since January 2014. The report "attacks on health: Global report" highlighted recent attacks in countries around the world. Over the past year armed groups have attacked hospitals, clinics, and health personnel ...*(More on P4)...(12)*



## Balkh Has Resources to Generate Renewable Energy

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - An official on Wednesday said many facilities were available in northern Balkh province for investors in the energy sector.

Zabihullah Akhtari, a senior official at the Governor's House, was talking to Pajhwok Afghan on the sidelines of a conference "Renewable Energy and the Media" in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital.

The conference was arranged by journalists in the north with support from Germany to discuss new methods used to produce energy.

Akhtari said facilities in form of radiation from the sun, wind, garbage piles in the city and geothermal resources at the Hairatan dry port were available to produce the renewable energy.

He said they had completed initial surveys in the four resources and were ready for investment to produce energy.

He said the renewable energy could find market on industrial level in Mazar-i-Sharif and local level in districts if businessmen came forward to invest in the four natural resources.

Akhtari said residents of Khulm, Nahr-i-Shahi, Dehdad, Balkh, Kaldar and Shortapa districts benefitted from imported electricity but residents of another eight districts did not properly avail the facility.

He said successful attempts had been made on government and private level to produce solar energy in Balkh.

He said solar panels and other related equipment were openly sold in the market benefitting common people and the government as well.

He also said small hydro-power plants had been set up in various areas, electrifying from a signal home to an entire village.

The official revealed the Ghazanfar Group had started ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

He said the renewable energy could find market on industrial level in Mazar-i-Sharif and local level in districts if businessmen came forward to invest in the four natural resources.

Akhtari said residents of Khulm, Nahr-i-Shahi, Dehdad, Balkh, Kaldar and Shortapa districts benefitted from imported electricity but residents of another eight districts did not properly avail the facility.

He said successful attempts had been made on government and private level to produce solar energy in Balkh.

He said solar panels and other related equipment were openly sold in the market benefitting common people and the government as well.

He also said small hydro-power plants had been set up in various areas, electrifying from a signal home to an entire village.

The official revealed the Ghazanfar Group had started ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## 15 Afghan Doctors Sent to Pakistan for Training

JALALABAD - The Public Health Department Director of eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday said that 15 Afghan doctors of National Kidney Hospital had been sent to Pakistan for training.

The 60-bed hospital was constructed by Pakistan at a cost of \$4 million, which was inaugurated in 2014. However, the facility could not be made functional until now because of lack

of equipment and professional staff.

Public Health Director Dr. Najibullah Kamawal had discussed the issue with Pakistan's Ambassador Syed Ibrar Hussain during his recent visit to Jalalabad, the provincial capital.

He told that Pakistan did not transfer necessary machinery worth \$6 million, therefore, the hospital could not be made operational so far. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Badakhshanis Received 5.25MT Soya Products

BADAKHSHAN - Nutrition & Education International (NEI) conducted a "train the trainer" session in the remote area of Badakhshan province on Wednesday. Twenty-five local women were trained on soybean nutrition and how to integrate soybean products to enhance the diet. The participants learned how to cook soy Qorma and



other delicious foods. These women will train 500 other village women and distribute soy flour (5.25 metric tons) and ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Badghis Border Siege Thwarted After Large-Scale Offensive

QALANAW - Afghan Border Police Forces (ABPF) have fought off insurgents who tried to claim the posts in Mor-e-Chaq in Bala Murghab district of Badghis province - along the Afghan - Turkmenistan border - over the past few days.

The commander of 207 Zafar Army Corps, Gen. Taj Mohammad Jahed said that an intense offensive was launched Tuesday night to drive out the insur-

gents.

On Tuesday morning officials warned that over two hundred insurgents had launched a heavy attack on border posts in the area. He said at the time that reinforcement troops were being sent in to help.

According to Jahed, during the operation the forces defeated the Taliban insurgents and killed at least twenty.

Two ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Iran, Afghanistan Sign MoU on Road Transportation Cooperation

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Road Maintenance Organization and Afghanistan Deputy Minister of Transportation signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on road transportation cooperation between the two countries in the fifth joint commission meeting.

[Iran, Afghanistan sign MoU on road transportation cooperation]

Davoud Keshavarzian said that tens of thousands of trucks are shuttling between the two countries annually and officials in this commis-

sion considered ways to facilitate shuttle of trucks. He stressed that facilitation of issuing visas to transit truck drivers was also discussed in the meeting.

The deputy minister of road and urban Development also announced establishment of a working group to see to the problems of road transportation by holding regular meetings in both capitals and present its report to the commission.

Deputy Minister of Transportation of Afghanistan for Planning Jarallah Mansouri said that during 2-day meeting many problems were solved in order to provide easy and safe drive for trucks ...*(More on P4)...(17)*



## Top Pentagon Aide Aimed to 'Slow Roll' Investigation into Waste of Money

WASHINGTON - A legal advisor to the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff attempted to "slow roll" an investigation into the waste of \$36 million on a facility in Afghanistan that three generals said the military never needed, according to U.S. officials -- allegations to which the advisor says he takes "strong exception."

The military's Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) released a report Wednesday detailing how the Department of Defense



spent \$36 million in taxpayer money to build a command center known as 64K -- because it's 64,000 sq. ft. -- at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Prior to construction, three top generals on the ground in Afghanistan told the military brass that the facility was unnecessary and there was already a building that was

"more than sufficient." That didn't stop the military bureaucracy, however, and another general said that the facility should be built because it wouldn't be "prudent" to cancel plans after the money was already allocated to the project, according to the SIGAR report.

So the facility was built -- months later than projected -- and it was never once used by U.S. forces before being turned over to the Afghan government, SIGAR said.

When SIGAR visited the facility in ...*(More on P4)...(18)*