

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Partly Cloudy	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	40°C 24°C		28°C 13°C		38°C 22°C		36°C 21°C		34°C 18°C		21°C 8°C		30°C 16°C

Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

MoI Confirms Daesh Presence in Parts of Country

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has acknowledged Islamic State (IS) group or Daesh has active presence in some parts of Afghanistan but the country's security forces can deal with the emerging threat. MoI spokesman Seddiq Seddiqi told journalists on Tuesday his information regarding IS presence was based on intelligence reports. "Presence of Daesh in the country is a threat that we face. We are alert. Our intelligence forces work hard on this issue," Seddiqi said, adding once again security forces had the capability to deal with any threat from any group. According to Seddiqi former al-Qaeda,



Taliban and Haqqani network fighters were swelling the ranks of Daesh. Gen. John F. Campbell, commander of Resolute Support mission, two days back stated that Daesh was enrolling fighters to its ranks in Afghanistan and had not started its operations. Seddiqi welcomed people's uprising against insurgents in different parts of the country, but denied distribution of any weapons to them. He added the MoI focused on better training and equipping of national police and local police so that the need for local people to get arms should not arise. The insurgents, ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Fidai Takes Office as New Logar Governor



PUL-I-ALAM - Mohammad Halim Fidai on Tuesday took office as the governor of central Logar province with pledges to ensure good governance and real service to the people. Fidai was introduced to the people of Logar as the new governor by Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) deputy head Farid Mamozai at a ceremony in Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital. Soon after his inauguration in late September, President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree that declared all governors as acting officials. The introduction ceremony for Fidai was attended by parliamentarians, provincial council members, religious scholars, IDLG officials and common people. In his address, ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

School Students Stage Protest in Uruzgan

TARINKOT - High school students on Tuesday staged a protest rally in front of the education department in central Uruzgan province against several problems crippling the education process. The students gathered in front of the education department's building in Tarinkot, the provincial capital, and chanted slogan against the education officials, including the director. They cited the lack of professional ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Scores of Rebels Dead, Wounded in Helmand Fighting

LASHKARGAH/ KHOST CITY - At least 23 militants have been killed, 13 wounded and three others detained in Marja, Nad Ali and Sangin districts of southern Helmand province, the 215th Maiwand Military corps said in a statement. Eighteen insurgents were killed and 13 others injured in overnight attacks by insurgents on police check posts in different areas of Sangin district, the statement said. Five more assailants were eliminated and three others wounded in a clash with security forces in Marja district, the statement said, adding three Taliban fighters were captured by Afghan security forces in clearing ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Hajj Minister Presents 100-Day Work Plan



KABUL - The Hajj and Religious Affairs Minister Faiz Mohammad Usmani on Tuesday presented his 100-day working plan to the president, saying supervision of Friday prayers specifically sermons and the exact number of masques were his ministry's priorities. Each ministry had been tasked by the president to prepare a 100-day working plan to make sure every ministry is actively working to eliminate administrative corruption and remove flaws and drawbacks. Explaining his plan, Usmani said creation of new 700 posts in the ministry for Ulama and converting the existing 4,426 contract based post to permanent status was part of his plan. He said in the future no religious scholar will be working on contract base. He said earlier the contract based employees took trivial amount of salaries, adding that creation of fresh 700 posts has encouraged Ulama and they lauded the decision. Distribution of carpet to worship places, creation of an institution for training of Imams, ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Kandahar Customs Revenue up by 33pc



KANDAHAR CITY - The customs department of southern Kandahar province collected nearly one and a half billion afghanis in revenue over the past five months, showing a 33 percent increase, an official said on Tuesday. Customs Director Syed Jamal Hashmi told Pajhwok Afghan News during an exclusive interview that the increase was a result of the growth in volume of trade and the implementation of reforms in customs affairs. He said the Ministry of Finance had set the Kandahar Customs Department two billion and 700 million afghanis target for the ongoing fiscal year, but they collected one billion and 495 million afghanis during the first five months of the year, showing a 33 percent increase over the target. He said they had been set the same target for 2014, when they collected two billion and 188 millions, indicating a 19 percent decline compared to revenue collections in 2013. ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

RS Condemns Taliban's Zabul Attack Vehemently

KABUL - The headquarters Resolute Support (RS) strongly condemned attack by Taliban that resulted in dozens of Afghan civilian casualties, including women and children, in Qalat, the capital of the southern Zabul province. On Monday, at least 68 people were wounded when a suicide bomber ploughed his car into the provincial council office of southern Zabul province on Monday morning, an official said. The incident took place in front of the provincial council office in Qalat City, the provincial capital at around 11:15 am. "This attack is a clear sign that the Taliban, despite their claims otherwise, is targeting innocent men, women and children. We are disgusted by the Taliban's complete disregard for human life. They continue a reckless war waged against innocent civilians," said Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, Resolute Support Deputy ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

21 Security Personnel Killed in Nawzad Fight

LASHKARGAH - At least 14 policemen and seven Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed in a fierce firefight with Taliban in the Nawzad district of southern Helmand province, an official said Tuesday. A provincial council member Attaullah Afghan told Pajhwok Afghan News a group of militants stormed a number of security posts in Nawzad district on Monday night. Fourteen policemen including district crime branch chief and seven ANA soldiers were killed during the fight, he said, adding that six other police personnel suffered injuries. A tank and some weapons and ammunition were also seized by rebels. The security committee head of the provincial council Bashir Ahmad Shakir expressed concern about the increasing insecurity in the province. He said that security forces have suffered heavy casualties in Sangin and Musa Kala districts during several rebels' attacks in the past two days. He linked the deteriorated situation to the negligence of the central government and said security of northern districts and central areas of the province would also get worse if focus was not shifted to am ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Afghanistan

Pakistan Warnings to Taliban Bold Step

KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Tuesday welcomed Pakistan's warning to Afghan Taliban to immediately shun their spring offensive in the war-torn country. Afghan Taliban last month announced spring offensive code-named Azam to target Afghan security forces and government institutions. After a visible thaw in bilateral relations between Kabul and Islamabad, Pakistan came down hard on Taliban by warning the militants' group to immediately call off their spring offensive in Afghanistan or face dire consequences. Pakistan's Tribune.com reported the message was recently



conveyed to Taliban leadership through 'intermediaries', said a senior government official, who has the knowledge of this crucial move by Islamabad. "The Afghan authorities have also been in the loop," said the official, who wished not to be named given the sensitivity of the matter. Shikab Mustaghni, spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed Pakistan's warnings to Taliban to shun violence. He said Pakistani leader ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

MoI Denies Arming People, But 'Supports' Uprising

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior on Tuesday said that civilians will be not be given arms but that the ministry will support people rising up against anti-government armed groups. In addition, in a press conference, Sediq Seddiqi, spokesman for the ministry said that raising the capacity of police forces and having a strategic program for maintaining security of the country are among the priorities of the ministry. Sediqi emphasizes that all



reported civilian uprisings are not by armed people, and in many instances, people have taken action against anti-government armed groups using resources like stones and sticks. Although the ministry has continued to deny claims of arming civilians, it does ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Kunduz Governor Reports Taliban Allegiance to Daesh

KABUL - Kunduz provincial governor Mohammad Omer Safi has said that Afghan insurgents are fighting alongside Daesh in the country's besieged Northern Province. Speaking to Associated Press, Safi said that the Taliban in these areas have pledged allegiance to Daesh in an attempt to create a safe haven for insurgents being driven out of Pakistan's northern Waziristan tribal region. Safi said that in addition to switching from hit-and-run attacks to seizing and holding territory, the Taliban have also been joined by other militants, including from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. The IMU has



have pledged allegiance to Daesh last year. According to him, there are ominous signs of a growing Daesh presence in northern Afghanistan. He said fighters have raised the group's black flag in nearby villages, and that foreign fighters from Turkey, Chechnya, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have been found among the dead. However, a western intelligence official who ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

provincial council Corruption Rampant in Some Ghor Departments

FIROZKOH - The provincial council in western Ghor province says their findings show rampant corruption in some of local departments, stressing for a comprehensive plan to tackle the menace of corruption. More than 60 candidates run for provincial elections in Ghor, out of which only 15, including three women could secure seats. The provincial council head says since they started work, they have evaluated the performance of 22 non-governmental organizations and major departments of health, education and rural development departments were rife with corruption. Fazel Haq Ehsan, provincial council head, told Pajhwok Afghan News those depart-

ments having more facilities had more corruption and vice versa. He added they had also found anomalies in public welfare projects undertaken by some non-governmental organizations and rural rehabilitation and development department. According to Ehsan, a provincial council team in Lalo-Sarjangal district found that the water projects, well digging, and construction of bridges and culverts had poor quality. According to a survey jointly conducted last year by the provincial strategic planning team, provincial council, representatives from Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and civil society ...*(More on P4)...(21)*