

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Chance of Rain	Kabul	Clear
	39°C 24°C		27°C 12°C		39°C 22°C		38°C 24°C		37°C 20°C		17°C 6°C		29°C 14°C



Schools Closed in Baghlan Due to Insecurity

MEHTARLAAM - A number of schools and education centers have been closed due to missile attacks in Pol-e-Khomre capital, northern Baghlan province. According to local officials clashes and the recent increase in missile attacks in Pol-e-Khomre have forced authorities to send students home. "The recent missile attacks have forced the officials to take the decision to stop stu-

dents from going to school," said Abdul Qayoum Shariyati one private school director. "In consultation with the Baghlan education department we have taken the decision to close schools for few days," said Saiful Rahman Farhadi a Pol-e-Khomre's Schools director. Baghlan education department confirmed the decision and said schools closed three days ago due to the attacks. "We ... (More on P4)... (12)

No Sign of Peace Progress in 8 Months



KABUL - It has been eight months since formation of the national unity government, but there is still no significant progress in peace talks with Taliban. However, analysts stress safeguarding of constitution and past achievements. With the formation of unity government, efforts to move peace process forward amid

Pakistan pledge to cooperate in the negotiations that should start in March but no sign of talks is visible. Today, Thursday, the unity government has completed eight months of its governance but growing insecurity and militants' attacks continue to haunt common President Mohammad Ashraf ... (More on P4)... (13)

Some 100,000 Suspected Afghans Declared 'Aliens' in Pakistan



PESHAWAR - The authorities in Pakistan have declared some 100,000 suspected Afghans as "aliens" in the country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, it has been reported. A spokesman for Pakistan's National Database and Regis-

tration Authority (NADRA), Faik Ali Chachar, said the computerised national identity cards (CNICs) of the suspects have either been blocked or the authority has refused to renew them. "The Nadra has meticulously been ... (More on P4)... (15)

Concerns about Appointment Delays Grow Among MPs, Civil Society

KABUL - A number of lawmakers in Parliament and civil society activists have identified the continued service of acting governors and interim directors in important government offices as the primary cause behind the government's inability to address mounting security and economic problems. To make matters worse, with just 25 days left until the end of the legal term for MPs in the House of Representatives, and no plans yet to hold the parliamentary election originally scheduled for May 2015,



there could be a massive new portion of the Afghan government divested of authority and serving as a placeholder in the coming month. On Thursday, however, legislators

Kabul, Islamabad Need to Intensify Bilateral Contacts

Salahuddin Rabbani

KABUL - Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani in his meeting with Sartaj Aziz, advisor to the Pakistan's prime minister on foreign affairs, stressed to further intensify bilateral contacts between the two countries. A statement from the Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday said that the meeting between the two dignitaries took place on the sidelines of the 42nd OIC Council of Ministers meeting



in Kuwait. It said that they reviewed the implementation of the understandings reached during the recent visit to Kabul of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. They also discussed the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan in facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of reconciliation in Afghanistan and the upcoming Heart of Asia Conference to be hosted by Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

President's Visit to Qatar Postponed



KABUL - The Presidential Palace said on Thursday that President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's official visit to Gulf state of Qatar has been postponed. Ghani was supposed to visit Qatar at the head of a high-level delegation on Friday. Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, a presidential spokesperson, told journalists the visit had to be postponed due to president's domestic engagements. He did not give any date for president's visit to Qatar. Mohib also welcomed Turkmenistan's cooperation and offer for hosting Afghan peace talks, saying peace in Afghanistan was in the interest of neighboring states. Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow in a meeting with Shaker Kargar president's special envoy, had stated that his country was ready to host Afghan peace parleys with the UN mediation. (Pajhwok)

19 Hostages Reunite with Families, Demand Release of Those Still Captive

KABUL - Nineteen individuals who were part of the group of 31 Hazara travelers kidnapped along the Kabul-Kandahar highway over two months ago were reunited with their families on Thursday. Local leaders have indicated eight or nine more of the abducted travelers are still alive, but in critical condition. The former second vice-president of Hamid Karzai,



Mohammad Karim Khalili, has been heavily involved in negotiating the release of the hostages, who were taken by militants in Zabul province. In a ... (More on P4)... (14)

Forces Supporting IS Need to be Exposed: MP

JALALABAD - Hazrat Ali, a lawmaker in the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament from eastern Nangarhar, while expressing serious reservations about unexpected surge in Daesh or Islamic State (IS) strength has urged government to identify forces who provided the new terror group its continued support. The lawmaker expressed this in a gathering of tribal elders from eastern zone on Friday.



Hundreds of tribal leaders attended the event arranged to demand central government to shift more focus on the development of eastern provinces. Hazrat Ali, an influential figure and lawmaker, while speaking to the participants questioned ... (More on P4)... (16)

Salma Dam to be Completed in One Year

HERAT CITY - The construction work on vital Salma Dam in western Herat province has no security hurdles or any other obstacle and the project will be built within one year, the governor pledged. Mohammad Asif Rahimi told a gathering all technical equipments had been dispatched to the area to start construction work on the direly needed scheme without further delay. "The only obstacle to initiate work is the rising level of water in the facility and engineers are waiting for the month of July," he noted. He ruled out any kind of problem hampering or delaying construction work. He expressed optimism that the facility would be completed at the earliest. Gen. Taj Mohammad Jahid, commander of the 207 Zafar Military Corps, also said there were no obstacles in way of the vital dam. He warned no one would be allowed to create hurdles in the way of the dam. But a number of residents of Herat City, the provincial capital, ... (More on P4)... (17)

Badakhshan Unrest Involves Local, Foreign Hands

FAIZABAD - Some officials of northeastern Badakhshan province on Thursday alleged foreign spy networks, meddling by some jihadi commanders and lawmakers were known factors fuelling spiraling insecurity in the province. Osama Basir, a representative of the governor house, expressed this in a gathering in Faizabad, the provincial capital. He alleged internal and external factors had deteriorated law and order in the province. Around 200 people, includ-



ing local officials, members of provincial council and elders attended the gathering organized by the provincial office of the Afghanistan Independent Human Right Commission (AIHRC), United Nation Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNA-

MA) and other civil society organizations. Some local commanders, lawmakers and officials were involved in trampling law of the land and forced authorities to accept their terms in a particular case. In addition, rampant poverty and unemployment were added to the growing lawlessness in the province. He the activities of foreign intelligence agencies, including Pakistan's ISI, had played role in worsening security situation of Badakhshan. (Pajhwok)

New Police Chief for Uruzgan Introduced

TARINKOT - Interior Minister Noorul Haq Ulumi on Thursday said the security situation in central Uruzgan province would improve soon and efforts required to train police and meet their needs would be made. Ulumi was speaking in Tarinkot, the provincial capital, at a gathering marking the first day in office by the newly-appointed provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Tooryalai Abadyani.

Former Uruzgan police chief Matullah Khan was mysteriously killed by unknown gunmen in an unknown location in central capital Kabul on March 28. Initially it was claimed Khan had been killed in a targeted suicide attack later claimed by the Taliban, but investigations showed he had been shot dead. Ulumi praised Matillah Khan as an experienced police commander and said: ... (More on P4)... (19)

Ghazni Education Sector in Grip of Serious Problems

GHAZNI CITY - Severe shortage of qualified teachers, lack of curriculum books and absence of proper buildings for a number of schools in southern Ghazni province are main hurdles hampering progress of education in the province, residents say on Friday. Haji Tahir Khan, an elder from Zankhan district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a number of schools facing dearth of qualified and professional teachers.

"Most of the schools in my district have lack of teachers. The teachers don't discharge their duties in far-flung educational institutions because the education department deploys them in schools in Ghazni City, the provincial capital," he complained. In addition, some of the schools in his district were not functioning because Taliban had threatened locals not to send their kids to schools, he added. ... (More on P4)... (20)

Farah Residents Satisfied with PC Performance

FARA CITY - Majority of residents of western Farah province on Thursday expressed satisfaction over the performance of provincial council while some accused the council's members of not taking initiatives to develop the province. But Farid Bakhtawar, head of provincial council, pledged they had taken a number of steps for the progress of the province. Ashoqullah Amiri, a resident of

Fara City, the provincial capital, said: "I believed the provincial council members are more active as compared to the previous members. The previous members were elected purely on tribes basis while the incumbent body is more democratic." The provincial council members were extending residents with all out cooperation and leave no stone unturned to resolve problems ... (More on P4)... (21)