

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamiyan	Chance of Rain	Kabul	Clear
	20°C 11°C		12°C -1°C		17°C 6°C		10°C 2°C		13°C -1°C		5°C -5°C		15°C 3°C

Daily Outlook
Weather Forecast

Kabul, Islamabad Need to Adopt Policy of Understanding

- Parliamentary Affairs Minister Farooq Wardak has stressed that Afghanistan and Pakistan need to adopt the policy of conciliation instead of confrontation.



KABUL - Wardak expressed these views during a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ali Khan in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, a statement from the Afghan Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs said. Zardasht Shams, deputy ambassa-

dor of Afghanistan in Islamabad, was also present at the meeting where both the ministers shared matters of mutual interest. Mohammad Ali Khan stressed on improvement in bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries and added under Paki-

stani premier Imran Khan a huge opportunity for improving bilateral relations was available. Khan said Pakistan was willing to provide facilities in provision of visa and increase in trade between the two countries. Wardak ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

USAID Helps to Unlock Capital for Small Businesses

KABUL - In an effort to increase access to credit for business owners, USAID Afghanistan signed a seven-year, \$15 million USAID Development Credit Authority (DCA) partial credit guarantee with Ghaznar Bank, a local commercial bank in Kabul.

The credit guarantee is collateral to partially supplement the amount that businesses need to qualify for a loan with an expectation that the lender will reduce collateral requirements in the future. The increased access to finance will be instrumental in helping businesses participate in cross-border and regional trade to



help the Afghanistan market prosper, USAID stated. Despite sufficient market and industry knowledge, access to finance is a major challenge for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

USAID also stated that unpredictable market conditions embolden financial institutions to require higher collateral and offer short tenor loans, further limiting the availability of credit for otherwise ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

US, Russia Must Merge Afghan Peace Efforts: Karzai



KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai has urged the US and Russia to merge their efforts at advancing the Afghan reconciliation process. The former president expressed these views during two separate addresses at the 4th international meeting of Astana Club, a statement from Karzai's office said.

Karzai termed participation of the High Peace Council (HPC) and Taliban delegations in Moscow conference as a positive step and hailed Washington's recent efforts for reconciliation in the war-torn country. According to the statement, the former president asked the ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

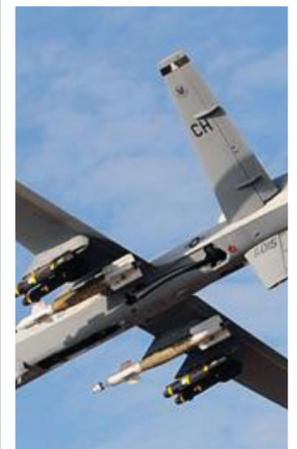
Airstrike Hits Taliban Convoy in Ghazni, 60 Killed

GHAZNI CITY - A foreign forces airstrike hit a Taliban convoy in southern Ghazni province and killed at least 60 insurgents and wounded several others, an official said on Wednesday.

The Taliban's convoy of vehicles was targeted in Zardak area on the Ghazni-Uruzgan highway late Tuesday night, said Ghazni police spokesman Ahmad Khan Seerat. He told Pajhwok Afghan News at least 60 insurgents were killed and several others wounded in the foreign forces airstrike. Clashes also happened in Malistan and Jaghori districts, he said.

According to Seerat, one policeman and two ANA soldiers were killed and another policeman wounded after militants stormed security check-posts in Bakawal area late Tuesday night.

Elsewhere in northeastern Takhar province, two policemen were killed and three others wounded as militants attacked their check-posts in Jaghat area of Ishkamesh district, said the provincial police spokesman ...*(More on P4)...(8)*



Japan Pledges \$13m for Drought Affected Persons in Afghanistan



KABUL - The Japanese government extend an Emergency Grant Aid of \$13 million, in response to the damage caused by drought in some provinces of Afghanistan, through the World Food Programme (WFP), a statement from the Japanese embassy in Kabul says on Wednesday. This Emergency Grant Aid would help provide human-

itarian assistance in the areas of Food and Nutrition in Afghanistan, the statement said.

The food assistance is expected to contribute to 473,000 vulnerable people affected by drought, natural disasters and seasonal food insecurity, to stabilize their food consumption, develop self-reliance, help in prevention of malnutrition among drought affected population and encourage school attendance.

In October 2018, WFP Afghanistan launched its full-scale response to provide emergency food assistance to 2.5 million drought affected people in need, across 20 of the most affected provinces ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

IDPs Say Jaghori, Malistan People in Urgent Need of Help

GHAZNI - A number of people from Jaghori and Malistan districts of Ghazni province, who were forced to flee their homes due to recent clashes in their areas, said people still in Jaghori and Malistan are in serious need of help.

These residents, who are now displaced, fled from Jaghori and Malistan districts to Ghazni city and have said clashes are ongoing. According to them, the Taliban advanced on areas near the district center in Malistan on Monday night. "Taliban stopped our vehicle and we waited there for one hour. Then we did not see what happened. We were in the back of the truck," Nasiba, a resident of Jaghori said.

"Last night Taliban advanced close to the district bazaar



which is named the old bazaar," Mohammad Esa, a resident of Malistan said.

Although there are no details about exactly how many families have been displaced in Jaghori and Malistan in

recent days, the Afghan Red Crescent Society on Tuesday sent aid to 1,000 displaced families in Ghazni. Nawroz Ali Alizada, deputy head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, said the aid ...*(More on P4)...(10)*



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