

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 21°C 9°C	Ghazni Cloudy 9°C 0°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 11°C -1°C	Mazar Cloudy 0°C -9°C	Herat Cloudy 1°C -8°C	Bamayan Chance of Snow 6°C -3°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 11°C -2°C
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Terrorists Trying to Sow Seed of Sectarianism: Mohaqeq

KABUL - The CEO's second deputy, Mohammad Mohaqeq, said on Wednesday that terrorists are trying to create sectarian conflict between the Shias and Sunnis in Afghanistan and that inclusive security measures are needed so as to prevent a repeat of Monday's deadly mosque bombing in Kabul. Mohaqeq made the remarks during the burial ceremony of two of the victims of Monday's bombing at Baqir-ul-Ulom mosque - Khudadad and Mohsin.

"There are indications that the enemies of Afghanistan are plotting to use special tactics and infiltrate the Madrasas (religious schools) and mosques, however ma-



for parts of their activities have been dismantled. But the thing is that Daesh operatives who carry out crimes in Iraq and Syria will not

be able to implement their schemes in Afghanistan," said Mohaqeq. The families of the victims are still reeling from shock

at the loss of their loved ones and have called on government and the international community to ensure that justice is served

on those guilty of planning the attack. "The criminals carried out such attacks and try to disintegrate us, but they will not reach to their objectives; we want the government to take initiatives to secure the citizens," said religious scholar Waizada Behsudi. Khudadad was the eldest son in his family and was father to a boy in class 5. "I am a student and we lost our breadwinner, we want the government to help families of the martyrs," said Khaliq, Khudad's son. The attack on Baqir-ul-Ulom mosque left at least 46 dead and more than 80 others wounded, said Mohaqeq - a revision on the original

death tally of 32. Monday's deadly attack on the Arbaeen ceremony marks the fourth attack on Shias in the past few months. Daesh claimed responsibility for the bombing. The group also said they carried out two attacks during the Shia ceremony of Ashura on October 11, in Kabul, and on October 12, in the northern province of Balkh, that altogether killed at least 32 people. The group also claimed a July 23 attack against a demonstration by mainly Hazara Shia in Kabul, killing at least 85 and injuring 413, the deadliest attack in Afghanistan on civilians since 2002. (Tolonews)

3-Day Women's Handcrafts Exhibition Begins in Kabul



KABUL - A three-day exhibition showcasing women-made handcrafts kicked off in Kabul on Wednesday. The exhibition is organized by businesswomen from different provinces in Aryya Township. More than 38 different kinds of handcrafts including hand-made dresses, jewelry, painting, rug, jams and others are put on display at the show. Maleha Jami, one of the organizers, told Pajhwok Afghan News the main purpose of the exhibition was to promote women's handcrafts and to encourage businesswomen. She urged the government to provide a permanent place for women's exhibitions.

Mohammad Qurban Haqqjo, deputy commerce and industry minister, said the government supported craftsmen and trying to solve their problems. He said a country's economic growth relied on using available resources and Afghanistan also could get benefit from women's handcrafts. Shahnaz Akbari, secretary of commerce and industry ministry, said she was interested in domestic products which attracted her to the exhibition. She believed domestic and national products were of high quality and urged people to support and buy local products. (Pajhwok)

47 Raisin Storage Facilities Built in Gardez, Zurnat

GARDEZ - Forty-seven raisin storage facilities worth 28 million afghanis have been built in southeastern Paktia province, an official said on Wednesday. At a ceremony, Irrigation and Livestock Director Walid Ahmad Tasal said the storage facilities in Gardez city and Zurnat district were constructed in six months and were ready for use.

Each facility has the capacity to store 12 tonnes of raisins, according to Tasal, who said 25 percent of the cost was paid by gardeners. Similar facilities will be built in other districts as well.

The project was implemented under the National Horticulture and Livestock programme. CDC Director Mohammad Naem called the initiative a good step towards the protection of farm products.

He promised the implementation of similar projects in near future, hoping the gardeners would pay serious attention to protecting the stores.

Syed Hakim, one of the gardeners, thanked the authorities for building these facilities, which would help preserve farm products. (Pajhwok)

UN Mission Calls for Expediting Electoral Reforms

KABUL - The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Wednesday welcomed appointments of new commissioners to electoral bodies, saying the move signals a new phase in rebuilding trust in the institutions. A statement from the UN mission acknowledged the critical task of expediting electoral reforms on the basis of the legal framework and moving forward with necessary preparations. The commissions had an important responsibility to establish a realistic electoral timeline in order to uphold the people's constitutional right to participate in elec-



tions, the statement said. UNAMA encouraged the commissions to work with stakeholders in an inclusive, transparent and impartial manner. It congratulated the commissioners on their appointments, saying the mission stood

ready to provide technical assistance for the Afghan-led electoral process. New commissioners on the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) were sworn in on

Tuesday. By issuing two separate decrees, the president has appointed Najibullah Ahmadzai, Abdul Qader Quraishi, Maleha Hassan, Wasima Badghisi, Maazullah Dawlati, Rafiullah Baidar and Gul Ajan Abdul Badi Sayyad as IEC commissioners and Gulam Dastagir Hidayat, Abdul Basir Faez, Ali Reza Rohani, Humaira Haqmal and Abdul Aziz Aryae as IECC commissioners. Earlier, the Selection Committee had introduced 21 persons to the president as nominees for the IEC and 15 others for the IECC. (Pajhwok)

Ulema Urge Abdullah to Appoint Them Govt. Advisors



KABUL - Religious scholars who met Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Wednesday called for appointing religious scholars as advisors in security and other government organs. A statement from the CEO office said Ulema committee of advisors for the CEO called on Abdullah at his office on Wednesday. The committee shared its performance report and a plan to remove the distance between the government and religious scholars with the CEO. The scholars stressed the

government should work on removing misunderstandings of religious scholars about the government by appointing them as advisors in different organs, particularly in the security sector. The statement said Abdullah called the Ulema as leaders of society and said the government was committed to resolving their problems and increasing coordination with them. Abdullah said he would consider Ulema's appointment as advisors to government organs and would take action to implement their plan. (Pajhwok)

Restoration of Trust Seen as Central to Better af-Pak Ties



KABUL - Participants of the Pugwash Conference in Islamabad have urged Afghanistan and Pakistan to resolve their bilateral issues for the sake of cordial relations. Forcing Afghan refugees to leave Pakistan, banning visas and other facilities at Torkham, building facilities on the border and playing a dishonest role in the peace process are the problems that have vitiated Afghan-Pakistan relations. The views were expressed during the conference arranged by Pugwash, a Canada-based organization, in the capital of Pakistan on Tuesday. The event was attended by politicians, former military officers, MPs and civil society activists. An Afghan participant of the conference, Hekmat Safi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the conference was

co-opened by Anwarul Haq Ahadi, who said relations between the neighbors could not be mended unless bilateral problems were identified.

There is a common perception in Afghanistan that Pakistan supported Afghan Taliban, an issue Islamabad should work on to win back the trust of Afghans, according to Ahadi, a former minister.

Ex-Pakistani ambassador Sadiq Khan said that Kabul and Islamabad needed to understand each other's concerns. Listing problems would not help, but both should work to find solutions, he suggested.

Dr. Ghairat Bahir, a representative of the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA), said Islamabad did not need to look at Afghanistan through what... (More on P4)... (10)

2 More Security Officials Suspended over Kabul Attack

KABUL CITY - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has suspended another two officials --- local controller chief and detective chief - of the sixth police district of Kabul following Monday's suicide attack on a mosque. The MoI a day earlier announced suspending four officials of the police district where a suicide bomber attacked a religious ceremony in Baqir-Uloom mosque, killing and wounding dozens of people. The ministry's leadership had decided to suspend duties of the sixth police

district chief, intelligence chief, crime branch chief and counterterrorism chief over the incident. A statement from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said after suspending the four officials, the duties of local controller chief and the detective chief had also been suspended. The statement said a delegation had been appointed to investigate the attack. The delegation included MoI crime branch chief and has been tasked with fully investigation the attack. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan's Wrong Policies behind Afghans' Hatred

ISLAMABAD - A former Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan has criticized Islamabad's recent policies towards Kabul and said the wrong policies had increased Afghans' hatred. Rustam Shah Momand was speaking at a day-long seminar organized by a Canada-based organization Pugwash in Islamabad on how to improve relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The event was attended by politicians from Pakistan and Afghanistan, lawmakers, tribal elders, political analysts and civil society activists. The former Pakistani envoy

in Kabul strongly criticized some recent Pakistani policies on Afghanistan. He said Pakistan pursued a wrong trade policy with Afghanistan and putting restrictions on movement between the two countries through Torkham border crossing and making mandatory visas for Afghans was a mistake. Momand said thousands of Afghans were currently languishing in Pakistani jails and they should be released. He said the Pakistani government should allow ailing Afghans to enter the country without visa. "These are the policies that have increased the... (More on P4)... (8)

NSC Concerned at Border Violations by Pakistan

KABUL - Afghanistan has voiced concern over Durand Line violations by the Pakistan military, saying such acts amount to spurning the international law and conventions.

The issue was raised during a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC), chaired by President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday evening. While denouncing Monday's suicide bombing of a Shia mosque in Kabul, the council said the inhuman act was committed by the enemy of the people of Afghanistan. The participants were

briefed on the security situation in conflict-hit provinces, including Helmand, Nangarhar, Uruzgan, Farah, Kandahar, Ghor, Faryab, Badghis and Kunduz. The NSC took strong notice of continued violations of the Durand Line by Pakistani military and termed the act against international law and global conventions. The council issued necessary directives to the authorities concern in this regard. Police reforms were also discussed and the Interior Ministry instructed to go through a plan already approved. (Pajhwok)

Russia Strongly Condemns Kabul Mosque Attack



KABUL - Russia on Wednesday strongly condemned a bomb attack on a Shiite mosque in Kabul, saying the attack's organizers sought to foment interreligious strife in Afghanistan. The Russian Embassy in Kabul in a statement said the attack on November 21 killed 32 people and injured over 50.

Responsibility for the attack has been claimed by the Afghan wing of the Islamic State terrorist group. "This is not ISIS' first bloody act in Afghanistan targeting Shiite Muslims. Obviously, its organisers seek to foment interreligious strife with a view to further escalating the conflict in Afghanistan," the... (More on P4)... (9)