

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	24°C 12°C		16°C 0°C		19°C 5°C		20°C 8°C		19°C 5°C		13°C -1°C		14°C 1°C



October Deadliest Month in Past two Years: Study

KABUL - A study carried out by TOLOnews shows that October was the deadliest month in the past two years. According to figures presented by security departments, more than 6,000 insurgents, nearly 500 security forces and more than 700 civilians were killed or wounded in October. The report says that insurgents' movements increased in October against September and that security forces mostly carried out offensives in response to insurgent activities. TOLOnews has recorded 1,164 security incidents in the month of October that shows an increase of 21 percent compared to September. Security forces conducted



662 ground operations. Military operations carried out by security forces increased by 26 percent in the month of October. October was a busy month for the insurgents and they increased their activities by 18 percent. In addition to bombings, kidnappings and rocket attacks, they carried out 143 group attacks. "The insurgents' movements reduced in the month of September and the security forces have had a chance to prevent their activities in the month of October. But it did not happen and insurgents' movements increased in October," said Sayed Abbas...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Attack on German Consulate in Balkh Widely Condemned

KABUL - A deadly vehicle-laden explosion in the vicinity of German consulate in Afghanistan northern Mazar-e-Sharif city on Thursday night for which Taliban outfit claimed responsibility has been widely condemned on Friday. The deadly offensive claimed at least four lives and injured more than 100 others including women and children, besides damaging scores of houses and properties nearby. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in a statement released by his office put the attack on the enemies of Afghanistan and condemned it in its strongest terms. "Afghanistan's enemies, who are against all international and human laws and are committing crimes against humanity by attacking public and diplomatic places, should realize that this act of terror (Attack on German Consulate) will not weaken the will of Afghanistan and Germany in their combat against terrorism," Afghan president said in the statement. Similarly, Afghan Foreign Ministry termed the deadly attack as a coward terrorist act and stated that "terrorists by targeting diplomatic missions and residential areas once again demonstrated their enmity with Afghanistan, its international friends and human beings." Joining the condemnation, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in a statement released here expresses its sincere condolences to the families of victims and wished a speedy recovery to those injured ones. "Attacks deliberately targeting the civilian population and violence aimed at spreading terror among civilians may amount to war crimes under customary international humanitarian law," said a statement of UNAMA released...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Taliban Attack on German Consulate Kills 6



KABUL - An attack on a German consulate building in northern Afghanistan late Thursday killed six people and wounded more than 100, mostly civilians, though Germany's foreign minister on Friday reported consulate staff members were unharmed. Frank-Walter Steinmeier expressed his condolences for victims of the attack, in which a suicide truck bomber rammed the compound in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Taliban militants heavily damaged the consulate after fighting their way into the building during an intense gun battle that lasted for hours after the initial blast outside the German compound about 11 p.m. local time. The truck bomb explosion blew apart a protective barrier around the consulate, shaking buildings and breaking windows over a wide area. A spokesman for the Islamist insurgency in Afghanistan said several heavily armed Taliban suicide bombers stormed the German consulate moments after the initial explosion. With a direct route to the consulate buildings cleared by the first blast, a local police official said another suicide attacker...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Question Remains over what Trump's Afghan Policy will be

KABUL - The shock victory of republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has many people guessing what the president-elect's policy will be on Afghanistan. Some reports indicate that Afghan president Ashraf Ghani had closer ties with the democrats rather than the republicans and even Hillary Clinton's campaign manager John Podesta was lobbying to further promote relations between Ghani and the American officials. The reports say that Ghani was paying \$50,000 USD per month to Podesta's firm. An article published on the New York Times last year says that Ghani had assigned the Podesta Group to lobby for Afghanistan in the United States. The reported stated that the US department of state documents show Ghani, shortly after assuming office, hired the Podesta group at a cost of \$50,000 USD (a month) to lobby for the Afghan government in the United States and help improve ties between him and the US. The report says that Ghani, while attending a banquet in his honor by the US Secretary of State John Kerry, thanked several American officials including John Podesta. "There was also behind-the-scenes lobbying, and not all of it came for free. Shortly after taking office in September, Mr. Ghani's government hired the Podesta Group for \$50,000 a month to lobby on behalf of Afghanistan and help with public relations, according to filings with the Justice Department. One of the founders of the firm is John D. Podesta, who served as counselor to Mr. (Barack) Obama and represented the administration at Mr. Ghani's inauguration. Mr. Podesta is no longer involved with the firm," the New York Times report read. "Mr. Podesta, in fact, was one of the 14 dinner guests on Tuesday to whom Mr. Ghani referred by name in his remarks. As a result of the groundwork laid by many of...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Hikmatyar to Trump Withdraw Troops, Let Afghans Decide Their Future

KABUL - The Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) leader, Gulbadin Hikmatyar, has asked US President-elect Donald Trump to pull out its troops from Afghanistan as the decade long war yielded no outcome and let Afghans to decide their future. Hikmatyar expressed the view in an open letter to Trump who defeated Hillary Clinton and become the 45th president-elect of the world powerful country in November 8 election. He writes: "It is hoped the US leadership this time will take a sincere decision regarding the afghan unproductive war, a decision which the earlier leadership of Bush and Obama administration failed to take that could have bring the ongoing war to an end." Hikmatyar told Trump the new leadership of US would



inherit nearly two decades of useless war that claimed the lives of over 300,000 innocent Afghans, over two million were forced to migrate, thousands of NATO soldiers had been killed and wounded and billions of dollars were wasted. He addressed the US president-elect and said the people of Afghanistan wanted to see Trump in the white house who would help bring the Afghan war to an end that brought miseries to Americans and Afghans. The HIA leader said continuation of Afghan war would not be in the interest of...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Women-only Market Inaugurated in Takhar Capital

TALOQAN - A huge market for women sellers and buyers has been built in capital of northeastern Takhar province. This market has many shops, but only six women have opened shops there so far. Madar Jan Rostaye is the first woman to have opened a shop in the market. She told Pajhwok News efforts were being made to encourage more women to make shops in the market. "Women can also shop here. I am the first woman to open a shop. "I encourage other women to follow suit. Now I am very happy that we have six women shopkeepers here. I believe women can also be good shopkeepers," Rostaye remarked. Zarmina, a resident of the provincial capital, said in a conservative country like Afghanistan, women were unable to deal with male shopkeepers. "If such markets are constructed all over the country, women will be able to help their families in economic matters," she added...*(More on P4)...(12)*



KABUL - Some Afghan politicians on Thursday said that Afghanistan should take the necessary steps to secure its strategic partnership with the United States. Referring to the significance of Afghan-US strategic ties and implications on regional politics, Mohammad Omar Daudzai, former minister of interior, said that neighboring countries are attempting to isolate Afghanistan. He suggested government should take the initiative to hold on to the nation's allies. Daudzai also slammed the ongoing political rift between leaders of the nation-

Politicians Afghanistan Must Secure its Strategic Partnership with U.S

al unity government, adding that the ongoing turmoil is damaging the morale of the Afghan security forces battling militants. Afghanistan was never a slave of Russia nor of Pakistan and it would not be a slave of the U.S, said Daudzai, but added that relations with the U.S was in the interests of the country. "Partnership with America and NATO is in the interests of the people and the country. This is crucial for the survival of the country, but the enemy tries to harm this partnership, so that Afghanistan is left alone," he said. "The entire nation hopes that leaders of the national unity government hold face to face discussions. But the surprising thing is that they talk against each other and the other day they sat in the same meeting and talked to each other, they should reveal their disagreements to the media as it impacts the morale of the people and the soldiers and this would only encourage the enemies of the country," said Daudzai. Meanwhile some other politicians...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Security Positions Politically Exploited: Salangi

KABUL - Former deputy minister of interior for security affairs, general Ayoub Salangi on Friday said that many military positions within the security institutions have been politically exploited, warning that the approach could leverage more security challenges for the country. Speaking to TOLOnews, Salangi asked government to take steps to curb political infiltration within the Afghan security institutions. Experts believe that dealing



with the security institutions politically has been the main cause of the surge in fatalities within the ranks of the security forces. Recently, General John Nicholson, the commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan, said that the political rift between government leaders could lead to a dramatic surge in the activities of militant groups in Afghanistan. "If these individuals are not hired into the job on the basis of merit and political and party affiliations were preferred, this could lead to a turbulence within the security and defense forces and...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Faryab Governor Comes Hard on Some Ministries

MAIMANA - The governor of northwestern Faryab province on Thursday criticized a number of ministries for failing to carry out development projects and accused them of negligence and incompetency. Sayed Anwar Sadat said the ministries of energy and water, public works, urban

development, public health and higher education had failed to meet their pledges about development activities in their related areas. He said the construction of a 30-kilometer road in Maimana city, the provincial capital, the 30-kilometer Maimana-Balcharagh road and asphalted of the 30 kilometers Maimana-Attakhan road were among 2016 year projects which could not be implemented. "The construction of Almar Dam cost \$53 million but the project is yet to be implemented despite six years have already passed and eventually the contract for...*(More on P4)...(15)*