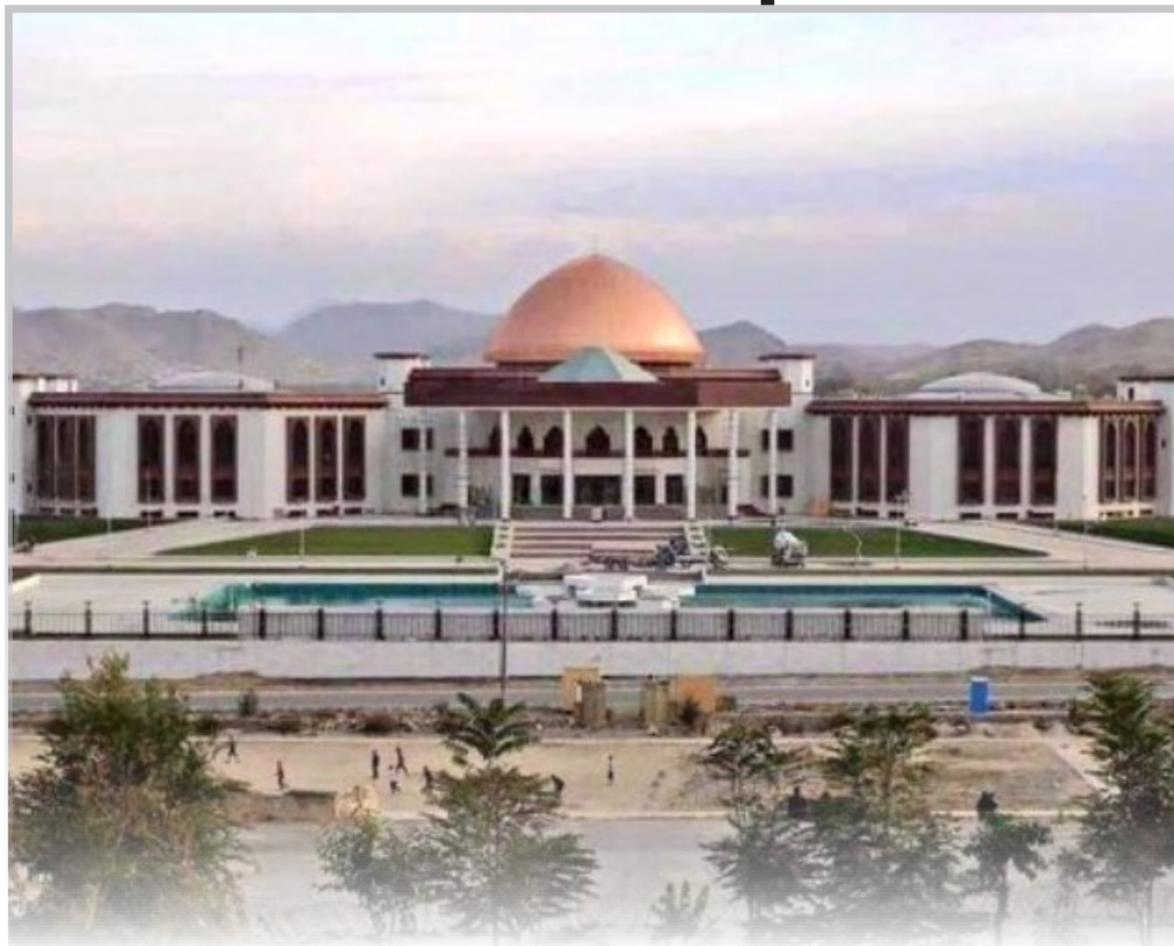


Jalalabad	Sunny	Ghazni	Sunny	Kandahar	Sunny	Mazar	Sunny	Herat	Sunny	Bamiyan	Sunny	Kabul	Sunny
32°C	17°C	22°C	6°C	38°C	10°C	24°C	12°C	25°C	7°C	17°C	3°C	24°C	8°C

Daily Outlook
Weather Forecast

Mortar Rounds Land Close to Parliament Building in Kabul, No Casualties Reported



KABUL - Three mortar rounds landed close to parliament building in Kabul city earlier today but caused no harm or damage. Officials in Kabul Police Headquarters confirmed that the mortar rounds landed close to the parliament building at around 10:15 am

local time. The officials further added that the attack did not cause casualties or damages to the properties. No individual or group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. (Khaama Press)

First Afghanistan Province Declared Mine-Free - Thanks To an All-Female Team Who Cleared Them



KABUL - Last year, landmines still killed or injured an average of four Afghans every day. During the past four decades of war, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan has cleared more than 18 million explosive remnants of war, about

737,000 anti-personnel mines and over 30,000 anti-vehicle mines since 1989. But by the end of October, the country's first province will be declared mine-free - and the job has been done by a small but determined ... (More on P4)... (5)

In Sar-I-Pul, Violence Against Women Up by 31pc



SAR-I-PUL - Violence against women has surged by 31 percent in the first half of the ongoing solar year in northern Sar-i-Pul province, an official said on Monday. Women Affairs Director Nabila Habibi said her department had recorded 39 incidents of violence

against females over the past six months in the province. The incidents recorded last year included six cases of murder, 13 of beatings, four of harassment, six of alleged rape, three of insult and one each of suicide forced marriage and self-immolation. ... (More on P4)... (6)

5-Day Polio Vaccination Campaign Gets Under Way

KABUL - An extended sub-national immunisation campaign for polio eradication began today (Monday), the Ministry of Public Health announced. The five-day campaign targets over 8.5 million children under five years of age in 324 districts across the country, the ministry said in a statement. "We are concerned that following the long pause in polio vaccination in parts of the country, more children have become vulnerable to poliovirus," the minister of public health said. Dr Ferozuddin Feroz underlined the importance of vaccinating the children who could not be reached in the previous campaign. He called on parents to get their children vaccinated

at campaign sites at local health facilities. The polio campaign will run from October 14 to October 18. From 2019 to date, at least 16 children have been paralysed by the polio virus. Fifteen of them are from the southern region (8 from Uruzgan, 5 from Helmand and 2 from Kandahar). One case was reported from Kunar. (Pajhwok)



Taliban Reverse Ban on Anti-Polio Drive in Uruzgan

TIRINKOT - Taliban militants have allowed health officials in Uruzgan province to vaccinate children against polio disease in areas under their control, reversing an eight-month old ban. The Taliban lift ban on anti-polio campaign in Uruzgan after eight polio positive cases surfaced in the province this ongoing year. Uruzgan public health director Dr. Khan Agha Miakhel today inaugurated an anti-polio campaign in the province targeting nearly 200,000 children. He said the house to house campaign would be implemented in areas under government control and by clinics in areas under Taliban's control. The Taliban allowed the campaign after banning it for the last eight

months, he added, adding the positive cases surfaced during the past few months. Uruzgan Deputy governor Sayed Sadat Naseri also expressed concern over the eight polio cases recorded in the province in recent months. He asked the Taliban not to create problems for anti-polio drive and let health workers give polio drops to every child. (Pajhwok)



Helmand Shopkeepers Resent Increased Taxes



LASHKARGAH - Shopkeepers in southern Helmand province say the government's move of a two-fold increase in taxes has affected their businesses. They say the government shifted the burden of its failure to collect taxes in insecure districts to traders in stable areas -- a clear violation of their rights. Currently the government collects taxes from Lashkargah City, Nad Ali and Greshk districts. There are a total of 12 districts in Helmand. Zameer, a shopkeeper in Lashkargah City, said insecurity had negatively impacted their businesses and they daily suffered losses. "Businesses are not doing well here and the government has increased taxes and is collecting the taxes of insecure district from us." Waheedullah, another shopkeeper from Greshk district, said earlier they would pay 5,000 afghanis in taxes but the amount had been increased by two fold.

"Revenue department officials cannot visit insecure areas to collect taxes, therefore the burden is thrown to us," he said. Some other businessmen expressed similar views and asked the government to pay attention to the issue. Provincial Council head Attaullah Afghan said that the Tax Department collected unfair taxes from shopkeepers. "The situation is not good here. The Finance Ministry also sets a huge revenue collection target to its officials who then unjustly collect taxes of the entire Helmand from Lashkargah and two districts." Governor's spokesman Omar Zwak said huge tax collection targets had been set to provinces this year. He said Helmand province had been given 970 million afghanis target and thus leaving the tax collection department with no option but to collect unfair taxes. He, however, said it never meant ... (More on P4)... (7)

Pakistan Fears New Influx of Afghan Refugees

PESHAWAR - Pakistan has voiced its deep concern over a new wave of deadly incidents in Afghanistan, warning of a new influx of refugees. Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and Narcotics Control Shehryar Khan Afridi expressed his concern during a meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi in Geneva. Irrespective of the fast developments taking place in the neighbouring country, the minister said, Pakistan would stand by its com-

mitment to protecting Afghan refugees. The Associated Press of Pakistan quoted Afridi as urging Grandi to work on the challenges being faced by Pakistan in hosting the Afghan refugees. He believed UNHCR teams should reach out to the Afghan refugees staying in camps and provide them basic health, education and other facilities. He asked the UNHCR to accelerate efforts to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees. The minister said all stakeholders needed to address



the impact of refugees on host communities. Pakistan plans to convene a conference showcasing the 40 years of hosting Afghan refugees in February next year. Afridi urged the UNHCR to mobilise support for the event. (Pajhwok)