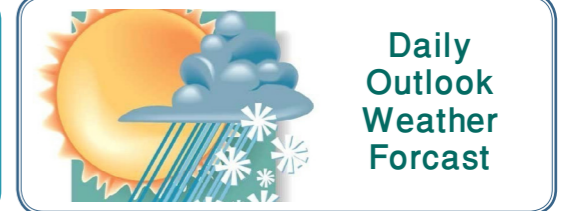


Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	40°C 26°C		29°C 14°C		38°C 20°C		33°C 26°C		33°C 18°C		21°C 7°C		31°C 15°C



Islam Karimov Dies at 78 after Suffering Stroke

TASHKENT - Uzbek President Islam Karimov died on Friday at the age of 78 after being hospitalized following a stroke on Aug. 27, the Uzbek government confirmed. His funeral will be held on Saturday in the historic town of Samarkand, where he was born, a government statement said, adding that a three-day period of mourning would start on the



same day. Karimov, who had served as president of the newly independent republic since 1991, suffered a brain hemorrhage on Saturday. On Sunday, the Uzbek government informed on its website that the late leader was taken to hospital for the need of a full medical examination. On Monday, Karimov's daughter Lola Karimova-Tillyayeva, confirmed on her Facebook page that her father has been hospitalized and ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Ghani Heads to Samarkand for Karimov's Funeral

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday left for Uzbekistan to attend the funeral ceremony for Uzbek President Islam Karimov. The Presidential Palace said Ghani left Kabul for Samarkand to take part in the last rites of the Uzbek leader, who died on Friday of a stroke. Karimov, who breathed his last aged 78 in Tashkent, ruled the Central Asian country for 25 years -- since its independence. Ghani extended his deep condolence to the Uzbek government, people and the family of Karimov, a statement from the Palace said. (Pajhwok)

Majority of Helmand Roads, Bridges Ruined By Conflict

LASHKARGAH - As result of frequent clashes, at least 72 culverts have been destroyed and many roads damaged in southern Helmand province, causing residents multiple problems. Ubiquitous firefights between security forces and Taliban recently escalated in Helmand, closing several schools and hospitals and forcing thousands of families to leave their homes. Public Works Director Ahlullah Obaidi, in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, said most of roads and bridges had been damaged as a result of recent firefights in Helmand.

He said 23 culverts had been destroyed on the Helmand-Kandahar highway and 28 others on the Babaji-Greshk road. He added 28 culverts had been blown up on the Helmand-Herat highway. "In total, 72 culverts have been destroyed by bombs and fights in Helmand," he said, adding bridges and roads in Lashkargah, Nad Ail, Nawa, Sangin and Kajaki districts had been ruined, but he did not have exact statistics.

Reconstruction of water channels and roads needed millions of afghanis and a pretty long time, he said. Construction work on the ChahAnjir-Greshk road has been stopped. A tribal elder from Lashkargah, Obaidullah Ziarmal, agreed Helmand had suffered a lot due to the conflicts. "Highways and other facilities are not the government's personal assets; they belong to the whole nation."

Juma Khan, another resident of Helmand, remarked: "These roads are built with aid from foreign countries, which should not become victim of war or suffer due to it." The roads were built with hardships over the past 14 years and the government would have no ability to reconstruct them, he said.

Firoz, a driver on the Helmand-Kandahar highway, said people evinced little interest in going from one area to another due to bad condition of roads. "Cars have to move slowly due to the destruction of culverts and roads, causing delays and a decline in people's movement of people."

During an exclusive chat with Pajhwok Afghan News Abdul Police chief, Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kintoz, said militants planted bombs on some highways. Afghan forces defused more than 400 bombs in the past three weeks. Security forces were trying to neutralise all such bombs to let people travel safely, the police chief added. However, the situation remains far from satisfactory. (Pajhwok)

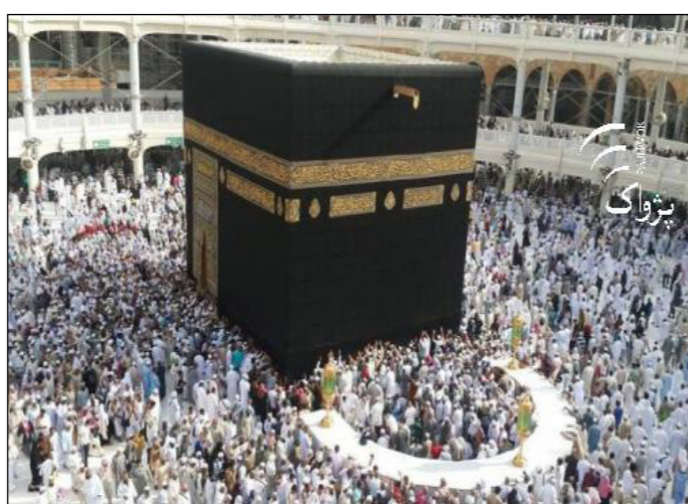
NUG Slammed for not Implementing Commitments

KABUL - The Chief Executive's Office believes that over the past two-years, the national unity government (NUG) has taken important steps toward bringing about electoral reforms, fighting corruption and dealing with other important issues. This comes just weeks before the second anniversary of the NUG. However, political analysts insist that the NUG has not implemented the accord which they signed when they formed the government. They also accuse the NUG

leaders of having created many commissions and councils over the past two-years to hide their negligence. This comes at a time where reports on the workings of the Anti-Corruption High Council are still sketchy and where the country is still waiting for the roll out of the electoral reforms process. As the NUG approaches its second anniversary, criticism by the public has gathered fresh momentum. People are particularly concerned that ...*(More on P4)...(8)*



Eid-Al-Adha to be Celebrated on Sept 12



KABUL - Afghanistan and most of the Islamic countries in the world will celebrate Eid-al-Adha on Monday, September 12th, as religious authorities in Saudi Arabia failed to sight the moon on September 1st. According to Saudi News Agency, Supreme Court in the kingdom confirmed the date of Muslim annual feast of Eid-al-Adha. The Eid al-Adha is Islam's holiest festival celebrated annually around the world and an official holiday in Muslim-majority countries.

In the Islamic calendar, Eid al-Adha occurs on the 10th day of the Dhu-al-Hijjah and is also the third day of the pilgrimage (Hajj) in Mecca. On September 11th, Muslim pilgrims would reach the hill of Arafat, the most important ritual of Hajj. Millions of Muslims from around the world gather in Makkah City of Saudi Arabia on Arafat Hill on ninth day of Zul Hijjah. As many as 24,000 pilgrims from Afghanistan this year perform Hajj. (Pajhwok)

US Forces Move to Shurab Base from Lashkargah's Bost Airport

LASHKARGAH - A group of US forces who have been stationed in Bost Airport in southern Helmand province have returned back to Shurab Base situated 60 kilometres from Lashkargah, the provincial capital, a reliable source said on Saturday.

A security official who wished to go unnamed told Pajhwok Afghan News the US forces vacated the Bost Air port and returned to their base last night. According to the source the US forces have pledged to continue support to Afghan Security forces and perform its tasks based on a schedule.

Bashir Ahmad Shakir, a provincial council member, said the presence and absence of foreign forces would not have any impact on security situation. Foreigners should help equip the Afghan forces and enable them to ensure law and order in the best possible way, he added. He doubted foreign forces intensions saying some district felt to Taliban despite the foreign forces were present in Helmand. He said residents of Lashkargah were ready to serve in the ranks of security forces, but he regretted officials concerned paid no attention for recruitment of professional individuals. Attaullah Afghan, provincial council secretary, said US forces could operate in Lashkargah from Shurab base any time there was a need for an operation. Resout Support (RS) Spokesman Charlie Cleve-



land said the US troops had a none-combat mission in Lashkar Gah. US troops provide Training, Advise, and Assistance help to the Police Zone Headquarters based in Lashkar Gah. "As we said when they moved into Lashkar Gah, this was a temporary mission. They've concluded their current work and returned to their base. But, they will be prepared to return to Lashkar Gah whenever they are needed," he said. (Pajhwok)

Several Parties Want Islamabad to Extend Afghans' Stay

PESHAWAR - Several Pakistani political parties have asked the federal government to take its cue from Iran and allow Afghans refugees to stay in the country for another five years. The call came at a meeting called by Jamiat Ulema-i-Islami (JUI) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in Islamabad on Thursday. Mehmood Khan Achakzai of the Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Afrasiyab Khattak of the Awami National Party (ANP), Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq, Adviser to Prime Minister Amir Muqam and representatives of the Qaumi Watan Party attended the meeting. The participants promised playing their role in checking the alleged persecution and harassment of Afghans in the country. "We want the government to extend the Afghans' stay till 2021, as Iran has done," Fazlur Rehman said.

Achakzai said the Afghans had been living in Pakistan for a long time and they had been welcomed into the country by the authorities. Their forced repatriation was a violation of international norms, he added. All Afghans arrested for staying illegally in the country should be released and given legal status by granting them work permits, the participants demanded. (Pajhwok)

Fall of Hesarak May Hamper Security Situation in Kabul, Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Administrative chief of Hesarak district in eastern Nangarhar province warned the town could not be secured until the main road leading to the district was made safe and secured. During an exclusive chat with Pajhwok Afghan News Abdul Khaliq said the law and order situation in Hesarak were still unstable and there were security threats posed by the insurgents. He lamented the district centre was under Taliban siege from three sides and there were no government official operating in the area. He said he himself was not present in the district. "The security situation was not



good in the district, police and soldiers have retreated from the area and just commando forces were there. Rebels have surrounded the district from three sides and the commandos may launch operation to free the district,

he said" According to Khaliq, the district could not be made secure until the 16 kilometres road from Sarobi district of Kabul leading to Hesarak was made secure. The district chief suggested ways ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

More Policemen Needed in Ghazni to Control Security Situation

GHAZNI CITY - Local officials on Saturday said security situation in southern Ghazni province was deteriorating with each passing day after the Ministry of Interior (MoI) downsized police force in the province. Hamidullah Nawroz, head of the Provincial Council (PC) told Pajhwok Afghan News Ghazni was promoted to the first rank from the second rank provinces but the government provided no facilities deserved by the first rank category. He said MoI had recently declined the number of police personnel in the province

due to which the law and order situation deteriorated. "Clashes between Afghan forces and the Taliban are underway in parts of Ghazni. The main reason behind continued clashes was shortage of policemen in the districts," he said. Nawroz added that the MoI also removed a joint demining and police unit from the province. Khliallah, head of the peace committee, said that the MoI was treating Ghazni province with double standards. "Looking at the ...*(More on P4)...(10)*