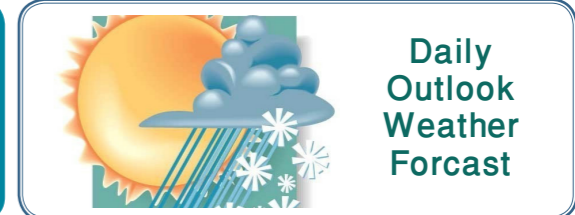


Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	38°C 23°C		29°C 12°C		37°C 18°C		35°C 22°C		32°C 16°C		23°C 7°C		31°C 16°C



Afghan Taliban Leader Sends Envoy Abroad to Win Support, Unite Group

PESHAWAR - The Afghan Taliban's new leader is wooing powerful figures from the militant movement based in the Middle East who have not yet publicly pledged their support, sources within the group say, as he attempts to stifle a brewing challenge to his position. A battle for the top job could worsen violence in Afghanistan by triggering Taliban-on-Taliban fighting and in turn doom fledgling peace talks between the Afghan government and the insurgency. It could also make it easier for Islamic



State to expand its influence in one of the world's most unstable regions. Mullah Mansour was hastily appointed leader of the Taliban, the Islamist insurgency fighting to overthrow the Afghan government, in July after the Afghan spy agency leaked the death of Mullah Omar, founder of the movement. Mansour was Omar's deputy. Many commanders were outraged that Mansour concealed news of Omar's death for more than two years and boycotted the meeting that appointed him. ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Afghan Migrants Arrive on Greek Island of Lesbos



KABUL - Afghan migrants, including entire families, arrived in overloaded dinghies on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos from nearby Turkey. Hussein, travelling with his entire family including his elderly mother, said he was fleeing violence in his homeland. "My country, Afghanistan, 13 years war! 13 years war!", he said upon arrival in Lesbos, before carrying his mother on his back as she was too weak from their long journey to walk. From the same boat, Shahrar, a young man travelling alone from Afghanistan, also said that the lack of security back ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Protests over Controversial E-ID Cards Continue

The protestors asked the government to mention besides words "Afghan and Islam," other tribes like Tajik, Uzbek, Aimaq, Sadat, Turkmen, Hazara, Nuristani, Pashai, Pashtun, and others.

MAZAR-I-SHARIF / ASADABAD - Like some other provinces, residents of northern Balkh and eastern Kunar provinces also staged rallies on Saturday to push for adding the word "Afghan" to the biometric national identity cards.

In Balkh, thousands of people coming from various parts of Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, gathered at the Firdousi Square on the Kabul-Balkh highway. The



protestors included Pashtun, Uzbek, Hazara, Sadat and other tribesmen. The protestors numbering

around 3,000 marched toward the Provincial Council Office, chanting different ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Pakistan Analysts Urge Govt. to Support Afghan Peace Process

ISLAMABAD - A number of Pakistan analysts and civil society activists have called on their government to support the Afghan peace process and stand by Afghanistan in a move to improve relations between the two countries. Activists said: "Pakistan has to make the effort." At a gathering in Peshawar, the Pakistani analysts and activists said that if Pakistan works honestly on the Afghan peace process, Afghanistan will recover from its current crisis.



The increase in insurgent activities in the bordering areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, the recent truck bombing in Shah Shaheed in Kabul and

other deadly attacks on the city led Afghanistan to point a finger at Pakistan which in turn soured relations between ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

One Afghan Killed, 29 Wounded in Mecca Crane Accident

KABUL - Afghan Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs on Saturday confirmed that at least one Afghan national was killed and 29 others were wounded as a result of the crane accident at the Grand Mosque in Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

The crane crashed into Mecca's Grand Mosque in stormy weather on Friday, killing as many as 107 people and injuring at least 238, Saudi authorities said, just days before the annual hajj pilgrimage. Ahmed bin Mohammad al-Mansoori, spokesman for the two holy mosques, was quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency as saying part of a crane collapsed at 5:10 pm (1410 GMT) "as a result of strong winds and heavy rains."

Abdel Aziz Naqoor, who said he works at the mosque, told AFP he saw the crane fall after being hit by the storm. "If it weren't for Al-Tawaf bridge the injuries and deaths would have been worse," he said, referring to a covered walkway that surrounds the holy Kaaba and broke the crane's fall. (Tolnews)

Record Honey Production in Six Months: MAIL



KABUL - More than 1.5 million kilograms of honey has been produced during the past six months in nine provinces, the highest production ever, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) said on Saturday.

In a statement, the ministry said there were 6,100 honey bee-keepers in the nine provinces. Of them 599 were members of unions, 2077 associ-

ated with cooperatives and the remaining 3432 run the business individually. Beekeeping is common in Badakshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Logar, Paktia and Herat provinces. The agriculture ministry said it had assisted beekeepers in area of capacity building and the provision of processing equipment and honey wax. (Pajhwok)

569 Criminals Detained in One Month in Kabul



KABUL - Police officials claim arresting 569 suspected criminals during the past one month in the capital Kabul. Police chief Lt. Gen. Abdur Rahman Rahimi told a news conference on Saturday the criminals were held in connection with 295 cases. He said 40 men were arrested in connection with murder cases, 145 on dacoity charges and 16 others involved in car-jacking. Two dozen of the detainees were involved in road robbery incidents, nine in smuggling of weapons, and as many in illegal firing

on Ahmad Shah Massoud's death anniversary. Some of stolen cars were recovered and a number of vehicles shifted to other provinces would be brought to Kabul and handed over to their owners, he added. Kabul police handed over five cars recovered from hijackers to their owners in front of journalists. Police also seized heroin, hashish and alcoholic beverages. Rahimi said weapons including rockets, magnetic bombs and other kind of explosives had also been seized in the last one month. (Pajhwok)

Kabul-Gardez Highway Reopens after 2 Days of Protests

GARDEZ - Protestors in southeastern Paktia province have reopened the Kabul-Gardez highway for traffic after two days of closure, an official said on Saturday.

Hundreds of businessmen, civil society activists and provincial council members had blocked the highway, accusing Kabul of discriminating against the people of the province.

The province received little support in terms of reconstruction and security from the central capital, the protestors alleged, asking the government to reactivate the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) zonal branch.

AISA Director Nasir Alamyar told Pajhwok Afghan News the demonstrators had reopened the highway after a high-level delegation arrived from Kabul in Paktia to explore a solution to the issue.

"A high-level delegation of public representatives, influential individuals and government officials on Friday arrived here and met traders. They promised to resolve all problem of traders," he added.

It would become clear in a week whether or not the delegation could be of any help, Alamyar added. "If the team failed to resolve the issue, traders would return to protests," he warned. Provincial Council Chairman Sardar Mohammad Malang said: "We ask the government to reactivate the AISA's zonal branch in Paktia ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

MoHE Violates Rules in Awarding Scholarships: MP Ayoubi

KABUL - MP Humaira Ayoubi has blamed the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) for violating rules in awarding the scholarships. This Member of Parliament said during Saturday's session that the ministry has recently awarded 25 scholarships to students who had not met the standards.

According to Humaira, the ministry's argument is that in case of shortage of time, the commission that is awarding scholarships has the author-



ity to select honored students from the first semester of the Universities. But she says that these specific students have been unanimously awarded the scholar-

ships and it is yet unknown whether they had the highest marks or met the standards. She further said that some of these awardees have marks even ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Kabul Rally Sees Joblessness Behind Migration

KABUL - Dozens of youth on Saturday staged a protest demonstration against what they said growing unemployment which they termed the main reason behind insecurity, capital flight and migration.

Criticising government's policies in this regard, the protestors who had gathered in front of the parliament house in Darul Aman area of capital Kabul demanded the government address the issue.

Unemployment has pushed many youth into drug addiction and crimes and others into migration to foreign countries. The protesters held placards with messages "unemployment is equal to violence," "jobs available for candidates with references, no job without a reference."

Kambiz Qurbani, one of the protesters, told Pajhwok Afghan News through their protest they wanted to draw the government's attention toward the scourge of unemployment in the country.

Meanwhile, Ali Iftikhari, the spokesman for the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD), said the issue of unemployment had turned into a great challenge for the unity government. He said the decline in foreign aid and the surge in incidents of violence had served a major blow to government efforts at creating jobs. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Taliban Retake Strategic Base, Kill 4 ANA Soldiers in Baghlan

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Four Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed and a military

base captured by Taliban militants in northern Baghlan province, officials said on Saturday.



Provincial police chief, Col. Abdur Rashid Bashir, told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces had tactically withdrawn from the base in the Nawrozak village of the Baghlan-i-Markazi district.

He said security forces had withdrawn to a village ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Family of Fallen Soldier Call for Govt. Assistance

KABUL - Rahimullah, a 24-year-old Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) from Badakhshan served his country for four years

before sacrificing his life for his country in a Taliban attack in Kunar province a week ago.



The young security force member had spent most of his four years fighting on the frontline and was known to be honest and patriotic. Rahimullah, who was married with two children, was the family's sole breadwinner. Today, his family has taken on the responsibility of raising ...*(More on P4)...(17)*