

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 22°C 14°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 12°C 3°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 18°C 10°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 19°C 9°C	Herat Chance of Rain 16°C 7°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 7°C 0°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 17°C 8°C
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan



Student from a Poor Family Stands First in Varsity Entry Test



KABUL - Mohammad Qasim Mohammadi who topped Kankoor or national university entrance examination on Tuesday said economic hurdles did not avert his focus from studying. Mohammadi has scored 354.34 points out of 360 in last year's exam and stood tall among 226,000 students from across the country. Mohammadi Qasim, 24, is a son of Mohammad Reza and was born in Dahan-e-Ghori district of northern Baghlan province. He told Pajhwok Afghan News his family had left the country twice for Pakistan due to economic predicaments. Last year, he finished high school in Quetta city the capital of Balochistan province. Mohammadi said his school back in Quetta belonged to Afghans and teaching the same syllabus that Afghanistan has. Three months prior to the Kankoor examinations, he said, his family moved back to Kabul where they dwell in west of the city. His family had financial difficulties and to make ends meet, majority of his family members were weaving carpets. "It wasn't unexpected for me to top these exams, but still when I came to know that I topped I was so much happy that I can't express it," he added. He still faced financial problems and urged the higher education ministry to provide him with hostel and other facilities. He ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Sarwar Danish

Parliamentary Polls May be Postponed for a Year

KABUL - Second vice President Sarwar Danish on Wednesday said that parliamentary election may be postponed for one year. In his address to the Wolesi Jirga, Danish said that election would take place after reforms were brought to the electoral system. In line with ballot laws, constitutional and legal tenure of lower house ends on June 21 and election for the ...*(More on P4)...(9)*



Electoral Reform Commission Has only Advisory Role: Member

KABUL - The members of the special electoral reform commission appointed by President Ashraf Ghani complain that the commission has only advisory role, having no authority to bring reform to the election system. The deputy head of the commission Sediqullah Tawhidi stated on Wednesday that if necessary authorities are not given to the commission, reforming the election system will be "impossible." "This is an advisory commis-



sion. When the suggestions are unlike to president's wish, they are rejected," Tawhidi said. "We can say this is a weak and advisory commission." Electoral reform was one of the major points of agreement between ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Ghani Congratulates Australia over World Cup Win

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has congratulated Australia's cricket team over winning their fifth World Cup title after crushing New Zealand by seven wickets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday last. The president held telephonic conversations with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbot and Governor-General Peter Cosgrove on Wednesday and thanked Australia for according a warm reception to the Afghanistan national team. A statement from the Presidential Palace said President Ghani congratulated the government and the people of Australia over winning the World Cup on behalf of the people and the government of Afghanistan. He also thanked the people of Australia for the warm reception given to the Afghan national team. The statement said the Australian premier and the governor-general thanked Ghani for the telephone and praised Afghanistan's cricket team's efforts and performance at the World Cup. Afghanistan, the first-timers, returned from the mega event with a solitary victory over Scotland. *(Pajhwok)*

Highways Security Needed to be Enhanced: Residents

MAZR-I-SHARIF - The residents of Dara-i-Suf district in northern Balkh province on Wednesday warned to launch series of protests if the government did not improve security of highway leading to the district. A number of people gathered in front of governor's office in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital and demanded the official to step up security across the province. A couple of days back, unidentified gunmen kidnapped three persons in the Shulgar district of northern Balkh province. Civilians were on their way to the provincial capital when they were kidnapped, the town's administrative chief Sirajuddin Abid told Pajhwok Afghan News. The incident took place late Sunday, he added. Ahmed Ali Tamskai, a protester and ex-provincial council member, said the government should provide security on main Mazar-i-Sharif-Dara-i-Suf road. He said people had been killed, looted, kidnapped on the road. He said that people would close the road if their legitimate demand was not met. *(Pajhwok)*

Paktia Governor Tenders Resignation



KABUL - Juma Khan Hamdard, acting governor of southeastern Paktia province, on Wednesday tendered his resignation but the president yet to accept Hamdard's move, an official said. A senior official wishing to go unnamed told Pajhwok Afghan News the governor's resignation letter landed in the Presidential Palace on Tuesday. The president tasked a delegation to persuade the governor to return to his work and take his resignation back, the official added. But Hamdard had said that he wanted to serve his followers in the north and work for the development of his party. Meanwhile, Deputy Governor Abdul Wali Sahi said he did not have any information that Hamdard had resigned from his position. *(Pajhwok)*

First Digital Terrestrial Television Network Starts Broadcasting



KABUL - Afghanistan Broadcast System (ABS), an Afghan-owned media company based in Kabul, on Wednesday celebrated the launch of Afghanistan's first digital television service. The introduction of Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) is placing Afghanistan's television sector on the same footing as some of the world's most developed nations, including the US, European Union (EU) and Australia. "This will be a monumental achievement, not only for the Afghan media sector, but for the whole region," explained Andreas Wilmers, the COO of ABS tasked with managing the Oqaab product launch. "The arrival of Digital TV in Afghanistan means that Afghans will now be able to watch a wide range of national and international channels in a quality that has never before been available in Afghanistan," he added. Wilmers added that the Oqaab service would be breaking new ground in several other areas, to include the inclusion of a weekly digital programming guide (previously unheard of in Afghanistan) as well as the option to subscribe to a pre-paid TV service with international news, documentary, and entertainment channels. The service is branded "Oqaab" (meaning "eagle" in Dari), and allows viewers to watch television with clear, crisp picture and sound quality, free from the static disruptions and poor quality of the existing analogue television transmissions. Oqaab will be transmitting ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

US Embassy Announces Exchange Programmes

KABUL - The US embassy in Kabul on Wednesday announced the open application season for three government-sponsored academic exchange opportunities for qualified Afghans during the 2016-17 academic year. A statement from the US Embassy said that the April 1, 2015, applications would be accepted for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program, and the Afghan Junior Faculty Development Program.



The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program brings accomplished mid-career professionals with demonstrated leadership potential to the US for ten months of graduate-level non-degree academic coursework and professional development activities. The rigorous ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Hajj Ministry Closes Shah-E-Do Shamshera Shrine

KABUL - In connection to the killing and burning of 27-year-old woman, Farkhunda, the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs has closed the crowded Shah-e-Do Shamshera shrine of Kabul. The move came as the custodian and the servant of the shrine have also been arrested by the interior ministry. Farkhunda was beaten to death and burnt outside the shrine by a mob on the accusation of burning the Holy Quran, an allegation strongly rejected by the investigations teams of interior ministry as baseless. In connection to her murder, the Kabul Police have so far arrested 47 people including



19 police. The interior ministry has sent their cases to the Attorney General's Office for further investigations. "Still nearly 10 to 12 of them [perpetrators] have not been arrested so far," said Gen. Zahir Zahir, chief of Kabul Criminal Investigation Department (CID). "We have shared their pictures in our Facebook page. They will also be arrested, and we want people's cooperation with police." He urged that Farkhunda's killers must be sentenced to death. According to the police, 28 arrested suspects were the ordinary labors and workers of tailoring and bakery shops. The names of some of the arrested suspects received by ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Afghan Mining Students Returned from Germany

KABUL - A group of 14 Afghans from Kabul University's Faculty of Geosciences and from Kabul Polytechnic University's Faculty of Geology and Mining after attending a two months practical program in mining have returned to country. The group of 14 Afghans were given practical training in subjects like mining economics, mining law and administration, safety, international marketing, CAD mining planning, large scale open pit coal mining, small scale mining, remote sensing and geological mapping at the Bergakademie technical university at Freiberg in Germany. The students were also taken on field trips to active mining sites for coal, uranium or lignite deposits and to processing plants to help improve their skills. On their return they were issued certificates for participating in the course at the embassy of Germany in Kabul where representatives from the ministries of mines and petroleum (MoMP) and higher education (MoHE) were also available on Monday. Christian Hannemann, Counsellor for Economic Affairs at the German Embassy ...*(More on P4)...(16)*