

Jalalabad Clear 39°C 27°C	Ghazni Clear 32°C 19°C	Kandahar Clear 41°C 24°C	Mazar Clear 38°C 30°C	Herat Clear 36°C 22°C	Bamayan Clear 28°C 13°C	Kabul Clear 35°C 19°C
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NUG Finalizes New Draft for Electoral Reforms

KABUL - The National Unity Government (NUG) has drawn up a new electoral reforms roadmap, Chief Executive of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah said Monday. Abdullah said the new roadmap is a combination of two electoral laws and other necessary entries that will pave the way for reforms to be brought in the electoral system. He said that reforms will be carried out in parts of the electoral system once the draft is implemented. "Both the election law and the law on the formation and authorities of electoral commissions have been included in



the new law and it is in its final phase, which involves electoral reforms. There have been improvements in this regard," he added. Meanwhile, watchdog organizations welcomed the move by government, saying that the barriers before the reforms process will be removed if the draft is implemented. "This move will help government clarify Article 109 of the Constitution which says the election law cannot be added to parliament's agenda in its last year of term. This gives government the safety to some extent to implement the draft," said Yusuf Rasheed, CEO of Free and Fair Election... (More on P4)...(7)

700 Insurgents Killed, Wounded in A Week: MoD



KABUL - The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Monday said some 700 insurgents were either killed or wounded over the past one week during operations underway in 13 provinces. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Habib Hesari, MoD operations head, told a press conference here that 19 government force-planned operations were underway in Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Paktika, Paktia, Khost, Kandahar, Zabol, Helmand, Ghor, Farah, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. As a result of these operations, he said at least 518 rebels were killed and another 188 wounded during the past one week in various areas of the country. He said most of the casualties inflicted on insurgents were in Nangarhar, Helmand and Kunduz provinces and 43 insurgents were also detained during the period. Without providing specific figures, Hesari said a minimal number of security personnel also suffered casualties during the past one week. The security situation of the country wasn't as much worse as some people considered it, he added. He said only Helmand's security situation was a bit worrying, but fresh reinforcements had been sent to the province. The Greshk-Lashkargah road in Helmand, which was earlier blocked to traffic, had been reopened and the Chah Injir area of Lashkargah, Helmand's capital, had recently come... (More on P4)...(10)

UN Asked to Probe Kabul Rally Blast

KABUL - Families of victims who died in the Demazang rally blast on Monday said they do not want the government-assigned probe team to investigate the attack - and instead called on the United Nations (UN) in Kabul to step in. Speaking at a gathering, the families of the victims asked the UN to investigate the incident. At least 80 people were killed in the explosion last month and over 300 people were wounded. Daesh claimed responsibility for the incident. The son of one man who died, Maisam, said: "Government has assigned a commission to probe the terrorist attack. We believe that the commission is not equipped with the requirements that are needed for a probe team." "We call on all international rights organizations to investigate the incident thoroughly and impartially," said Mohammad Reza, a relative of another victims. The wife of a third victim, Jamila, said she lost her husband in the deadly attack and that he had been the... (More on P4)...(8)

Security Situation in Kunduz Worries Public Reps

KUNDUZ CITY - Provincial Council (PC) members on Monday called the security situation in some districts of northern Kunduz province precarious, blasting the government's failure action to retake Qala-i-Zal district. Ghulam Rabbani, one member of the council, told Pajhwok Afghan News Qala-i-Zal had been under Taliban's control for the past three weeks. He accused the authorities of having a lethargic approach to the plight of residents. "For the past three weeks, the insurgents have been in



control of the entire district. They (fighters) don't allow the evacuation of bodies of slain security officials from the battlefield," the public representative claimed. He expressed grave concern over the loss of areas to the

militants, demanding a large-scale military offensive to reclaim the territory and reinforce the government's writ before things spun out of control. Amruddin Wali, another PC member, held a similarly dismal view on the security environment, reminding the rulers of their promises to stabilize Kunduz and secure its residents on a priority basis. "Unity government officials have assured us they will launch a major offensive against insurgents in the province, but the pledges have not been... (More on P4)...(9)

Foreign University Professors Kidnapped in Kabul

KABUL - Two foreign university professors from the American University in Afghanistan were kidnapped on Sunday night in Kabul. One is a U.S. national and the other an Australian, according to officials. The incident took place in Darulaman area of Kabul close to the university after a number of unknown gunmen abducted the two men, security officials said, adding that efforts are underway to free the hostages. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, but kidnapping-for-ransom has increased in Afghanistan in the past couple of months. The two foreigners were reportedly on their way home on Sunday night when they were stopped by unknown gunmen. Sources told



TOLonews that the American citizen, named Kiven King, has worked at the university for the past two years. However, there is no information about the identity of the Australian citizen who is believed to have arrived in Kabul two weeks ago. An eyewitness said, on condition of anonymity, that he had been close to the two men when the incident happened. "The kidnapers took the foreigners in a vehicle. A police Ranger was just behind them but it did not interfere in the issue," the eyewitness said. Amir Fahim, a student at the American University in Afghanistan said all foreign staff at the university had been relocated to a safe house immediately after the incident. (Tolonews)

Herat PC Member Detained over Kidnapping Charges

HERAT CITY - National Directorate of Security (NDS) officials on Monday arrested a Provincial Council (PC) member over his alleged involvement in kidnapping incidents in western Herat province, an official said. Wishing anonymity, the NDS official said PC member Mohammad Askar Anwari was arrested over kidnapping charges. The official did not provide further details. PC head Kamran Alizai said Anwari should be punished according to the law if the allegations against him were proved. "We are against terrorists and kidnapers," he said. He said the NDS should have written a formal letter to the PC before arresting Anwari. Anwari was detained after the urban court sentenced 13 kidnapers to death in Herat. (Pajhwok)

NATO Convoy Comes under Attack in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - A NATO forces' vehicular convoy came under a suicide attack in Behsud district of eastern Nangarhar province on Monday, an official said. The Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News the car bomb attack targeted the coalition forces in Akhondzada Saheb area on the outskirts of Behsud district centre at around 5:00pm. He said the attacker was in a Corolla car rigged with explosives that partially damaged one of the NATO vehicles. Only the suicide bomber was killed in the blast. A resident of the area, Faridullah Sahel, told Pajhwok: "The suicide bombing took place on the Ring Road." He was unaware about any casualties. There has been no word from NATO forces and Taliban insurgents on the suicide bombing. (Pajhwok)

Ghor's Pasaband District on the Verge of Collapse

FEROZKOH - Local officials in western Ghor province on Monday said if security forces in Pasaband district weren't immediately supported, the district would soon fall into the hands of insurgents. Farid Afghanyar, the Pasaband district chief, during a telephonic communication with Pajhwok Afghan News, said insurgents again staged an overnight attack on Pasaband district at around 02:00am on Sunday night. "Currently a fierce clash is underway near the district centre building. Security forces and the insurgents both have suffered casualties in the firefight and a security forces' base also fell to the insurgents." The district chief said security forces were in dire and immediate need of



air support and if reinforcements didn't arrive the district would collapse. "There has been fighting in the district over the past three months, weakening people's economically, and every day security personnel suffer casualties, but the government is not paying attention. Over the past one year, we

have been demanding the launch of an operation, but to no avail." He said the fighting in the district involved 1,000 insurgents spearheaded by Mullah Timor Shah, a notorious Taliban commander, who received advice from outside the country. A security official in the district was concerned about... (More on P4)...(11)

Efforts Launched to Rescue Kidnapped Professors

KABUL - Security forces have launched efforts for the recovery of two professors of the American University in Kabul who were kidnapped Sunday evening, an official said on Monday. The academics -- one American and one Australian -- were kidnapped at gunpoint near the university in the Darul Aman neighbourhood of the central capital, a senior security official said. No one has claimed responsibility for the latest kidnapping incident yet, but law-enforcement personnel are making



efforts to find a clue to the professors. More than 1700 male and female students are enrolled at the American university -- a non-profit institution that is popular for the capital elite. (Pajhwok)

Shpagheza to be Held on International Standards: Stanikzai

KABUL - Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive Shafiqullah Stanikzai on Monday said efforts had been made to execute the Sphageza Twenty-20 tournament in line with international standards. Regional teams from five zones of the country, including Kabul, would play in the much-liked tournament starting tomorrow (August 9). Stanikzai said the cricket

board had installed a big screen at the Kabul Alokzai International Cricket Stadium to enable spectators to watch the game in a fine way. He said cricket had become commercial and the board earned great revenue last year and more revenue was expected this year. He said the board had secured financial support from some sources and rejected financial help offer from 12 companies. He said Afghanistan cricket had made progress and now businessmen and traders understood cricket was good for their business. Stanikzai said for the first time foreign players would feature in the Sphageza tournament and they would be part of different teams. ACB officials believe the presence of foreign... (More on P4)...(12)