

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 17°C 7°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 8°C -2°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Chance of Rain 16°C 5°C	<b>Mazar</b> Partly Cloudy 6°C -4°C	<b>Herat</b> Partly Cloudy 11°C -1°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Chance of Snow 2°C -11°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 9°C -3°C
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**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Rollout of Electronic Identity Cards Expected Soon: CEO

KABUL - The CEO's office said on Sunday that the National Unity Government (NUG) leaders have agreed on the roll out of electronic identity cards and that the process will start soon. Jawed Faisal, deputy spokesman for the CEO, said the issuance of electronic identity cards is a priority for the NUG and its leaders are ready to start the process. "Leaders have the motivation to issue the electronic cards and currently it is a priority for government," Faisal said. However, a number of MPs said the roll out of electronic identity cards has been postponed due to political disagreements between NUG leaders. "The population registration law has been approved and there are no obstacles in the



way of issuance of electronic identity cards," said Fatima Aziz, an MP. "The issue of electronic identity cards is a serious matter as it can reveal most information regarding Afghanistan's citizens," said Aziz Rafiee, CEO of Afghan Civil Society

Forum. Political analysts also say the process has been delayed as it has become a political issue. "It is a political issue rather than a technical issue and its political aspect is more complicated," said Haroon Mir, a political analyst.

The issuance of electronic identity cards was a commitment by the NUG leaders that has not yet been fulfilled. It is believed that if the cards are issued, Afghanistan would be able to hold a more transparent election. (Tolonews)

## Air and Ground Raids Underway in Uruzgan, 18 Taliban Militants Killed

KABUL - A major operation involving the air and ground forces of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) is underway in southern Uruzgan province with the local officials saying at least 18 militants were killed in the latest raids. The officials further added that the operations were launched two days ago and are still being conducted in the restive parts of the province to clear from the militants presence. Provincial police chief Wali Jan Sarhadi said the militants were killed during the operations conducted in the vicinity of Tarinkot city, the provincial capital of Uruzgan. He said at least 25 militants were also wounded during the same operations. There are no reports available regarding the casualties of the Afghan security forces and possible casualties of the civilians. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. Uruzgan is among the relatively volatile provinces in southern Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in a number of its districts. The militants are often conducting insurgency activities by carrying roadside bombings, target killings, and coordinated attacks on the government compounds. The Afghan forces have stepped up counter-terrorism operations against the group in this province after they launched a major attack to take control of the strategic Tarinkot city earlier in September. Scores of additional forces including special forces of the Afghan national army were deployed to the area as the group managed to take the war in the outskirts of the city. (KP)

## Iran, Afghanistan Sign \$2-Million Contract

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - During the 2nd Iran-Afghanistan joint economic exhibition, Iranian and Afghan businessmen and firms inked contracts worth \$2m, Iranian Commercial attaché in Afghanistan said. Mohammad Reza Karim Zade said that over 10,000 people visited the exhibition in 4 days which was unpredictable. He noted that Afghan merchants agreed with Iranian side to import some part of their production line which would be beneficial for both sides. The current volume of trade between Iran and Afghanistan is \$2,600,000,000, he added. On the sidelines of the event, a joint meeting was also held between Iran and Afghanistan in which Afghan merchants called for importing Iranian famous firms' production lines, Karim Zade said. The 2nd Iran-Afghanistan joint economic exhibition was held with attendance of some 32 Iranian and 8 Afghan firms on December 6-9 in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. (IRNA)

## Baghlan Police Chief Apologizes for not Addressing ALP Problems



KABUL - Baghlan Police Chief Noor Habib Gulbahari has apologized to the Afghan Local Police (ALP) in the province for not having addressed their problems. At the launch of a program to assess the situation of local police in Baghlan, Gulbahari said that due to ongoing insurgent attacks in summer in the province, police failed to address problems faced by local police. "War and successive terrorist attacks resulted in us failing to identify problems ... and I apologize for that," said Gulbahari. Meanwhile, local police commanders have said that the Taliban is better equipped than the local police in Baghlan. The commanders said that

often, local police funerals are not handled with adequate respect, nor are the burials. However, the Taliban openly hold their funerals and bury their fighters in the towns, they said. "Our funerals (sometimes) don't take place and we bury (officers) without holding funeral ceremonies. But the Taliban funerals are done well. Where is our intelligence agencies? And what is our heads of security and governor doing?" asked Sayed Kamal Wardak, a local police member. "You saw days back when we were under siege the enemy had heavy weapons but we don't even have this. We are government soldiers and we should be better ... (More on P4)...(9)

## 'Shafaq 2' Kicks off in South-Eastern Zone

KABUL - The Afghan security forces' operation "Shafaq 2" has been launched in the country's south-eastern zone to eliminate insurgents. Thunder 203 Corps spokesman Fazal Khuda said that two days ago the winter operation, Shafaq 2, was launched in Paktiya, Paktika, Logar and Ghazni provinces. Paktiya governor Zalmi Wisa warned that insurgents who fail to join the peace process will be eliminated. Paktiya local officials said that so far security forces have been successful. But Paktiya provincial council members argued that security forces need to step up efforts to maintain security of villages recently cleared of insurgents. Officials called on residents to cooperate with security forces over maintaining security and eliminating insurgents. (Tolonews)

## Paktika Residents Want their Kids Given Polio Drops

SHARANA - Residents of some districts in southeastern Paktika province have urged public health officials to administer polio drops to their children. The demand for polio vaccination comes after six positive cases surfaced in the province. Public health director Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim on Sunday launched a polio vaccination campaign that would target children in Warmami and Barmal districts. Dr. Ibrahim said the residents of the two districts had contacted them to call for giving polio drops to their children. He said six positive polio cases had been registered in the province and local residents were being approached to allow polio drops to their children as part of an awareness campaign. He said the newly-launched vaccination programme would target 200,000 children below the age of five years. The children included 9160 children of refugees from Pakistan's Waziristan region and 500 children of Kuchi tribesmen. ... (More on P4)...(11)

## HPC Urges Taliban to Join Peace Process

KABUL - On the eve of Eid Miladun Nabi, the High Peace Council (HPC) on Saturday asked Taliban militants to shun insurgency and join the peace process. Sunday (December 11) is national holiday in Afghanistan on the account of Eid Miladun Nabi or the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). In a statement, the HPC congratulated the Afghan people and the Islamic world on celebrating the festival. It said the HPC was proud of its untiring efforts at promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan and strengthening brotherhood among Afghans.



Despite many problems, the HPC has been able to contact different groups of militants and invite them to peace, the statement added. Though several militants have joined the peace process in different parts of the country, the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA)'s joining of the peace process was a big achievement, the HCP statement said. The HPC once again urged militant groups to accept peace request from the Afghans and rescue prevent the Afghan Muslim nation from more troubles. Keeping in view the current situation of Afghanistan, all ... (More on P4)...(8)

## 'Protests Against TUTAP Route Change to Continue'



KABUL - The Enlightenment Movement members on Saturday reiterated their previous stance and warned of staging large protests if TUTAP project route was not changed. Jafar Mahdawi, a member of the movement, told a conference 'Enlightenment Movement conference and outlook of civic activities in Afghanistan' said if the government continued deceiving them, the movement would stage violent protests. Accusing the government of tribal discrimination, he said the movement was making a civic appeal, but the government was paying no attention to their demands. He said the movement had full control over supporters who could commit violent acts. "If TUTAP 500kv electricity line is not passed through Bamyan, it would not be allowed to pass through anywhere else," he warned. Former national security advisor Rangin Dadfar Spanta, who participated in the conference, supported the Enlightenment Movement stance and said protests were the right of every citizen. "When a large number of people protest about technical issues, the government needs to correct mistakes no matter if they cost millions. Democratic countries always take care of

for their people," he said. He said Afghanistan was currently in crises and any action should be taken keeping in mind the current situation and future consequences. Ahmad Behzad, another member of the Enlightenment Movement, said their demand was legal and their next phase of movement had been started to achieve their rights. He said their protests would continue until their demands were met. However, Afghanistan's New National Front (ANNF) party head, Anwarul Haq Ahadi said the Enlightenment Movement was a tribal movement. He said the government would have possibly responded positively had it a tribal-free movement. "There is no place for any type of discrimination in the country's Constitution and civic movements are the right of everyone," he said. On July 23, more than 80 people were killed and 230 wounded in two suicide attacks targeting a protest demonstration of the Enlightenment Movement in Deh Mazang area of Kabul. TUTAP power line will import 500kv of power from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan. The line would pass through Salang Pass crossing Baghlan province. (Pajhwok)

## Barakzai Calls for No Mass Deportations of Refugees

OSLO - Afghanistan's ambassador to Norway Shukria Barakzai has asked the Nordic country to stop mass deportations of Afghan refugees, newspaper Aftenposten reported Saturday. Barakzai's remarks came after Norwegian Minister of Migration and Integration Sylvi Listhaug talked of deportations of Afghan asylum seekers from Norway on social media, the newspaper said. Barakzai warned about the disaster in her home country. "This is the worst possible time to send asylum seekers back," she told Aftenposten. "We are flooded with refugees from Pakistan and Iran currently. All the countries that have Afghan refugees need to understand and realize the challenges we have now,"



Barakzai said. From January until October this year, there have been 2,323 rejected asylum seekers from Afghanistan. In the ... (More on P4)...(10)

## Mawlawi's Anti-Women Comments are His Own: Ulema

KABUL - A number of Ulema Council members have said the recent anti-women remarks by Mawlawi Abdul Samad, head of Takhar's Ulema Council, were his personal views and not that of the council. They also said Samad insulted women by saying they are "deficient and the most shameful people" in the world. "This is disrespectful to human beings. Not only me, but scholars, intellectuals and women are upset about such words from a religious scholar," said Abdul Hadi Hedayat, a religious scholar. Head of Takhar's Women's Affairs Department, Razm Ara Hawash,



meanwhile said Samad must apologize to women and he should be dealt with in accordance with the law. "It has been about one week since we shared the issue with security forces, ... (More on P4)...(12)

## Eshchi's Family Calls for Justice

KABUL - Ahmad Eshchi's family has welcomed his release but called on government to make sure those who arrested him are brought to justice. Eshchi's family said that sixteen days ago, Eshchi was first assaulted and then arrested by First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum's men while at a Buzkashi match in Sheberghan, Jawzjan province. Eshchi was handed over to his family on Saturday afternoon. After Eshchi's release, leading members of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan gathered at Eshchi's house and raised concerns over differences between Dostum and Eshchi. The party members called for unity. "We are happy to end the disagreements between Eshchi and Dostum," said Ismayal a resident. "Everyone was worried as he was jailed but now he is free and everyone is happy," said Abdul Rasul another resident. Eshchi was not ready to comment on his detention but his family said that he had not committed any crime but was assaulted and arrested by Dostum's men. After five days in Dostum's custody, Eshchi was apparently handed over to the NDS. Only 16 days later was he finally released and allowed to return home. "We suffered a lot during these 16 days and the people involved in the case should respond to us," said Ologh Bik, one of Eshchi's sons. "Why should a person be jailed without committing any crime," said ... (More on P4)...(13)