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February 07, 2017

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 16°C 1°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy -1°C -10°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Cloudy 12°C 1°C	<b>Mazar</b> Partly Cloudy 7°C -5°C	<b>Herat</b> Partly Cloudy 11°C -2°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy -3°C -12°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 4°C -8°C
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**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Govt. to Review Legal Issues Around E-NIC Rollout

KABUL - Officials at the Department of Electronic Identity Cards (e-NIC) on Monday said President Ashraf Ghani has assigned his second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish to review the legal issues surrounding the e-NIC rollout process.

On the recommendation of the National Security Council (NSC), Ghani ordered Danish to assess the legal aspects of e-NIC, said e-NIC chairman Humayoun Muhtat.

"The national security council resolution number 81 states that Mr. Danish, the second vice president, has been asked to assess the overall legal aspects of the population registration authority which also includes e-NIC; we were set to meet Mr. Danish, but our meeting was postponed," he said.

Concerned about the constant issues around rolling out the ID cards, the Minis-



try of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has said the delay is also holding back the IT ministry from implementing its programs on electronic governance.

"If the officials direct us to

start the rollout process, then we will need two or three months to manage our system, but we are not facing any technical issue," said Abdul Mujib Mohmand, head of electronic governance department at MCIT.

Muhtat meanwhile said that e-NIC has however launched a study into assessing the actual number of people living in Kabul province.

If the rollout was started three years ago, today, more than six million Afghans

would have had their e-NIC cards, said Muhtat.

"If the rollout process of these cards is not started soon, there will be extra financial burdens on government to extend the date of the cards," said Muhtat.

The IT ministry and e-NIC department has held back nearly seven million blank ID cards amid the impasse.

But, a source in the presidential palace has said there are technical issues causing the delay in rolling out the cards - a claim the IT ministry has rejected.

On the basis of the census law, which was approved by the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament), the rollout process of e-NIC should have been started by now.

But following the establishment of the National Unity Government (NUG), e-NIC roll out was delayed for as yet unknown reasons.

CEO ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Avalanches in Afghanistan Kill at Least 119



KABUL - Avalanches in Afghanistan triggered by heavy snowfall across the country have killed at least 119 people in recent days, officials said on Monday.

Wais Ahmad Barmak, the state minister for disaster management and humanitarian affairs, said that at least 89 people have been injured and 190 homes destroyed by avalanches in multiple provinces. Those figures were expected to rise as rescue teams made their way through snow-blocked roads to afflicted areas.

Many of the most recent fatalities come from Nuristan province, near the Pakistani border, where two villages were buried in snow. Barmak's spokesman Omer Mohammadi said rescue teams have so far recovered 48 bodies from those villages and that more than 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) of farmland have been destroyed.

Mohammadi said it would take some time to establish a clear picture of the full extent of the damage.

"This will take days for us to clean ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### To Chagrin of Women, Only Lady Doctor in Paktika Quits

SHARAN - Despite enjoying many facilities, the only lady doctor in southeastern Paktika province has resigned, citing household problems, an official said on Monday.

Public Health Director Dr. Wali Gul told Pajhwok Afghan News currently there was no lady doctor at any hospital in the province. He said Paktika was a large border province, where security was better.

But despite satisfactory security, no female doctor was willing to work in Paktika, the director regretted, saying his department offered good privileges, including accommodation.

"We don't know the real reason, but the resigning lady doctor cited family issues," Dr. Gul said. Referring to traditional restrictions in the province, he said people did not want male doctors to examine women.

Efforts were being made with the support of a number of organizations to hire lady doctors, he added.

Rubina, a woman at the provincial civil hospital, said: "We are very disappointed as the only female doctor has left. The reason for her resignation is that she did not have the facilities she wanted."

She warned: "If another female doctor is not hired, more women from Paktika may die of different curable diseases, because families here don't permit them to visit male doctors for check-ups."

Meanwhile, Sharan Civil Hospital Director Dr. Chinari Gul said dozens of health centres existed in the province, but there was not a single doctor -- a major challenge that should be dealt with on priority, he sighed.

Meanwhile, Dr. Homa Kakazai linked her resignation to personal problems. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## JIA Supports Talks Between Ghani, Noor

KABUL - The Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan (JIA) on Monday supported talks between President Ashraf Ghani and the acting governor of northern Balkh province, asking government leaders to hasten the implementation of the political agreement.

The leadership council of that party said in a statement it was an integral part of the current government. Leaders of the ruling coalition must step up enforcing the power-sharing deal, it added.

Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah signed the agreement be-



tween president amid crisis and differences over the result of the 2014 presidential elections to prevent instability in the country.

"Limited efforts have been made so far for the implementation of the political agreement on the national unity government, which is yet to unveil a schedule for upcoming Wolesi Jirga and district council elections," the JIA said.

It also supported talks between ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

### State Dept. Terminates Contract with Jawad's Firm

KABUL - The United States has terminated a contract with the firm of Sayed Tayyeb Jawad, Afghanistan's new ambassador to the UK, citing concern and misuse of government funds.

In its audit report, the US State Department said Jawad's firm had been released grants for construction of Media Operations Centers (MOCs) at Balkh and Nangarhar universities.

However, there are no indications that Jawad, who is president of Capitalize LLC, has divested or completely severed his links from his company.

One US State Department grant was for the construction of one MOC at Balkh University for \$3,782,980.

A second grant was for construction of another MOC at Nangarhar University for \$3,482,348, according to the audit report.

The ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

### 40 Damaged Schools Rehabilitated in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Forty schools that were destroyed during recent clashes in northern Kunduz province have been rehabilitated and put into service, officials said on Monday.

Mohammad Rostam Ahmadi, acting education director, told a news conference here that tables, chairs and walls of 40 schools which were earlier damaged had been repaired and the schools prepared for operating.

He said the rehabilitation works cost 40.3 million afghanis provided by the Ministry of Education and the Aga Khan Foundation.

"The schools repaired are both for girls and boys. The structures were destroyed in clashes during the past one and a half years. They are now fully rehabilitated and ready for usage." He asked security forces not to allow insurgents ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Peace to Pave Way for Foreign Troop Pull-Out: Zakhilwal

KABUL - Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Omar Zakhilwal believes peace alone can pave the ground for foreign troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Zakhilwal made the remarks on Sunday in reaction to the removal of Gulbadin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezbi-Islami Afghanistan (HIA), from the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) blacklist.

"On February 3, the Security Council Committee, pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), removed his name from the ISIL (Daesh) and Al-Qaida sanctions list,"



a statement from the UN body said.

Zakhilwal, also a special presidential envoy to the neighbouring country, welcomed the dropping of sanctions against the former

prime minister in response to the Afghan government's request. He said the deal with HIA highlighted some key points, including the Afghanistan government's political ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## No Check on Import and Publication of Books: APA

KABUL - The Afghanistan Publishers' Association (APA) on Monday said that around 7,500 books were imported annually and 1,500 printed in the country, without any check from the government.

APA deputy head, Ajmal Azim, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 80 publishers in Afghanistan had work permits. But only 25 of them are operating as a large number of books are

imported from different countries.

"Approximately, 5-10 thousand books are imported, particularly from Iran and Pakistan, every year without any check from the government. Each imported book should be cleared by the government -- a process that has been ignored," he alleged.

Most of publishers did not register the books they printed due to negligence

and poor management of the Ministry of Information and Culture, Azim claimed.

"Nearly 1,500 books are printed inside the country but only 200 to 250 are registered while the rest are only written with 'Copy Right of Author', an issue the ministry isn't bothered about," he remarked.

"Unfortunately, people import books or print them ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## UN Envoy Condoles Human Losses Resulted by Snowfall, Avalanche



KABUL - The UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan, Mark Bowden, was saddened to learn of the loss of life and widespread damage to property in Barge-Matal district of eastern Nuristan province due to an avalanche.

"On behalf of the UN humanitarian agencies, I wish to extend our condolences to all those families who have lost loved ones as a result of this avalanche," Mr. Bowden said.

"I commend the efforts of the Afghan government that has quickly mobilised to respond to the disaster," a statement from the UN agency quoted Bowden as saying.

At least 50 people were reported as killed, with a further 13 injured from an

avalanche in Nuristan which occurred in the early hours of 5 February. Further casualties from other avalanches and heavy snowfall were also reported in other areas around Afghanistan, including a reported 10 killed and 12 injured in Darwaz Bala, Badakhshan province.

The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) is leading the coordination of the operational response to the Nuristan avalanche and other natural disasters that have occurred. With some areas difficult to access, it may take some time until a clear picture of the full extent of the damage is known.

"The UN system stands ready to fully support the Afghan government in responding to the disaster," said Mr. Bowden. (Pajhwok)

## Iran Would Help Afghanistan with Snow Disaster



TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokesperson has proposed Iran would provide help with rescue operations for victims of Afghanistan avalanche and frost.

Mr. Bahram Ghasemi also offered condolences to the families of victims and the government of Afghanistan for the disaster.

Dozens of people in Afghanistan and Pakistan were killed after heavy snow and avalanches hit over the weekend. In east-

ern Afghanistan, at least 50 people died and dozens more were missing on Sunday after an avalanche buried a village in Nuristan, provincial governor Hafiz Abdul Quayum said.

"Based on information from district officials, 50 dead bodies have been recovered and the number may increase," he said. At least five other deaths from collapsed roofs were reported elsewhere in Nuristan, Times of India report of the event said. (MNA)