

<b>Jalalabad</b> Chance of Rain 15°C 4°C	<b>Ghazni</b> 3°C -7°C	<b>Snow</b> 3°C -7°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Chance of Rain 16°C 3°C	<b>Mazar</b> 8°C 3°C	<b>Rain</b> 8°C 3°C	<b>Herat</b> Chance of Rain 13°C -1°C	<b>Bamiyan</b> 1°C -14°C	<b>Snow</b> 1°C -14°C	<b>Kabul</b> 4°C -3°C	<b>Rain</b> 4°C -3°C
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## New Year Message by Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan



My dear Afghan friends,  
A year ago, I arrived in your country. The beautiful and richly endowed land and the enthusiastic, sincere people impress me. It has been a touching and heartening experience to feel with my heart and mind your people's profound friendly sentiments towards China, deep appreciation of our reform and opening-up achievements and ardent expectation for China's role as a major country in the world. These are exactly what

always drive China-Afghanistan relations forwards. The year 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of independence of Afghanistan and also the 70th anniversary of the founding of PRC. While we jointly celebrate the national independence and liberation of the two countries, I sincerely wish you all the best: may Afghanistan enjoy peace and stability at an early date; may the reconciliation process yield positive results; may major political agendas of the peo-

ple register smooth progress. The Chinese and the Afghans cherish good feelings towards and stand ready to help each other. China firmly supports the Afghan-led, Afghan-owned inclusive political reconciliation process and will continue play a constructive role for peace and development in Afghanistan. I wish all of you a Happy New Year and family happiness. Long live China-Afghan friendship!

## School Reopens in Helmand's Baghran after 30 Years



LASHKARGAH - A school in the Baghran district of southern Helmand province has been reactivated after 30 years, at a time when the Taliban are in control of the district. Deshu and Baghran are two districts which have been under the Taliban control for the past 15 years and the government has never captured them. Helmand education director Daud Shah Safari said 15 schools had been approved for Baghran district but only one school reopened in Pai Sang locality. He said the primary school has around 200 students currently being taught by only four teachers who had studied region while proper administrative mechanism for the school would be set up later. "The school was made functional with support of religious scholars and tribal elders and efforts are underway to revive all the 15 schools in the district," he said.

According to Safari, the school was currently being run in an old government building with no chairs, desks and concrete floor, but he promised to equip the school with everything it needs in the coming days. Provincial Council member Abdul Hameed Akhundzada said schools in Baghran could not be activated because the Taliban's opposition and people's lack of interest. Mohammad Akbar, a resident of Baghran, said he was really happy after the school was made functional in the district. "One generation of our children was deprived of schooling, it is a positive move that a school has been made operational," he said. Governor Mohammad Yasin Khan said the school in Baghran district was reopened with support of local elders and ulema. He added besides Baghran district, schools in Deshu, Khanshin and other districts would be opened as well. (Pajhwok)

## Construction Work Resumes on Shiberghan Ring Road

SHIBERGHAN - Construction work resumed on the ring road project in this capital city of northern Jawzjan province on Sunday, two years after it was brought to a halt due to some technical and financial issues, officials said. Eng. Attaullah Kargar, Jawzjan public works director, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the 15-kilometer long and 56-meter wide Shiberghan ring road would cost 1.3 billion afghanis. He said construction of the road was first launched in 2016 but had to be stopped for some time due to technical problems in the map where the project had been designed. Kargar said these problems had been resolved now and construction of the road had formally resumed. Construction of this road would help reduce traffic in Shiberghan and pave the ground for implementation of development programs in the city, he said. He added the road would be a connection point for transportation of commercial ...*(More on P4)...(11)*



## Kandahar Gathering Demands Women's Consultative Board

KANDAHAR CITY - Participants of a gathering in southern Kandahar province on Monday called for creation of 'a women consultative board' which could convey their concerns to the international community. The gathering in Kandahar City, aimed at seeking women's consensus on the peace process, was attended by advisors to the First Lady, the deputy governor of Kandahar and other officials. Dr. Ayesha Noorzai, head of a delegation from Kabul, said similar events had been organized in 29 other provinces of the country and this time it



was hosted by Kandahar. Deputy Governor Abdul Hanan Munib said organizing such events were important to push for greater participation of the Afghan women in the peace process of their country. He said the Afghan women were the worst sufferers of the decades old conflict. Munib demanded the creation of a Women Consultative ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## Adela Raz Appointed as Afghanistan's Permanent Representative to UN

KABUL - Deputy Foreign Minister Adela Raz has been appointed as Afghanistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, it has been reported. Ms. Raz has been appointed by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to replace the country's current permanent representative Mahmoud Saikal. She assumed charge as the deputy foreign minister for economic affairs in mid-May of 2016. Ms. Raz holds an MA degree in Law and Diplomacy with a focus on Economic Development from the Fletcher School/Tufts University and a BA with hon-



ors with triple majors in International Relations, Political Science, and Economics from Simmons College in Boston, USA. She also holds a certificate in International Develop-

## 34 Powerful Land-Grabbers Arrested in Nangarhar: Governor



JALALABAD - Thirty-four powerful individuals have been detained over allegedly encroaching on government's land in eastern Nangarhar province, the governor said on Monday. Governor Hayatullah Hayat, who met with members of the People's Movement civil society group at his office, said the anti-land grabbing campaign had recently been geared up in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and districts.

Provincial government's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani quoted the governor as saying that 34 land-grabbers had been arrested by police and other security forces and introduced to the attorney's office for investigation. Khogyani named the detained land-grabbers as Haji Farooq, commander Karim, Lais, Eng. Obaidullah, Wali Mohammad Sadat, Haji Dad Gul, Khaista Khan, Samiullah, Muzzamil, Hekmatullah, ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Taliban Commander, 2 Accomplices Killed During a Clash with Armed



MAIMANA - A local commander of Taliban and his two fighters were killed during a clash with the Afghan armed forces in northern Far-yab province of Afghanistan. The 209th Shaheen Corps of the Afghan Military in the North in a statement said the

clash took place 3:30pm on Sunday in the vicinity of Al-mar district. The statement further added that the commander of Taliban, Qari Sefat, was killed with his two accomplices during the clash. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Kabul Air Pollution a 'Serious Problem': MPs

KABUL - The health and environment protection commission of the Wolesi Jirga (the Lower House of Parliament) on Sunday summoned officials from the Ministry of Public Health and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) over Kabul air pollution. MPs have asked officials to take measures to manage the air pollution in Kabul as it has become a serious problem. "How can we justify this ongoing situation to the people?" parliament speaker, Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, asked. Responding to the MPs question, Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz said the air pollution in Kabul doesn't call for an emergency. However, it is of concern and should be managed in terms of environmental protection, he added. "With the equipment and facilities that we have and when we look at the statistics in different parts of Kabul city, in reality, the situation is not so bad to announce an emergency and tell people not to leave their houses," Feroz said. However, Ezatullah Sediqi, deputy head of NEPA said when they shut down a company or factory because of burning non-standard fuels, a number of government departments interfere in their work and do not let them do their jobs. "They interfere in our works. Some of them say you should close (those departments and factories that burn non-standard fuels) and others say not to close and allow them to stay open," said Sediqi. President Ashraf Ghani's health advisor Rezwan Ahamdzaid, meanwhile, said Kabul residents are concerned about the air pollution. "The situation is very bad. Vehicles and people cannot be seen ...*(More on P4)...(13)*