

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Herat</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Bamayan</b>	Clear	<b>Kabul</b>	Partly Cloudy
47°C 31°C		35°C 17°C		44°C 29°C		44°C 30°C		39°C 24°C		27°C 10°C		37°C 21°C	



# MPs Push for Rollout of Digital ID Program after Months of Delay

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has asked the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to consider a pilot phase rollout of the digital ID program in Kabul after months of delay for full implementation, according to ministry officials.

Afghan lawmakers, meanwhile, have kept up the pressure on the central government to move ahead with the full ID rollout. The new program is considered crucial for enhancing transparency in national elections, but before it can be taken nationwide, President Ghani has decided to imple-



ment it within the capital over the course of 90 days.

"We have considered three options in the plan: first, to distribute the electronic ID cards in the suburbs of Kabul, secondly, to launch it in the major cities of Afghanistan where the security environment is a little bit better, and thirdly, to see which plan is accepted by the president so that we can launch our plan according to that," head of electronic ID department of the MoI Homayoun Muhtad said. Lawmakers have criticized ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

# Slow-Paced Work on Kamal Khan Dam Annoys Minister



ZARANJ - Water and Energy Minister Ali Ahmad Osmani has expressed his dissatisfaction over the slow-paced work on the Kamal Khan Dam in southwestern Nimroz province.

Osmani, who visited the dam on Friday, called for the mega project's second phase to be

completed soon.

"The ministry is working on the project's third phase and we want the second phase to be completed soon. We understand water problems the people of Nimroz face," he said, addressing local residents.

The second phase was to be ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

# NRC Assists Displaced Women Build Homes

KABUL - The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has begun allocation of cash funds through mobile money technology for the newest 150 recipients of its Female Shelter project in Dashti Barchi in capital Kabul.

A statement released by the NRC on Saturday said that the emergency project gives eligible displacement-affected women cash assistance to build a house of their own. The funds, which total 55,575 afghanis and are given in three installments, are disbursed through Roshan's M-Paisa network and can be cashed at a local agent, bank, or ATM, it said.

In addition to monetary support, NRC also provides training and technical assistance to the female heads of households, the statement said, adding that last month, the women and their hired masons received toolkits and blueprints for a two room house during a training on construction.

This week, the 150 women received their first installment of 35,625 afghanis after demonstrating their new skills by building a latrine for their home. After this installment, "the women will receive two additional payments for the next phases of construction," the statement added.

During ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

# Stalled Work on NSP Projects Resumed in Paktia

SHARAN - Work on National Solidarity Programme (NSP) projects have been launched after eight years break in southeastern Paktia province, director of Rural Rehabilitation Development (RRD) said on Saturday.

Najibullah Najib told Pajhwok Afghan News that NSP projects resumed with efforts of provincial council members. The projects were ceased due to insecurity in the area and indifference among locals in 2007, he said. Projects worth 100 million Afghani were under progress in Jani Khail and Burmal districts, Najib said, adding that retaining walls, small and large dams, culverts, canals and several other agricultural related projects would be completed by the end of this year.

Najib said several other projects would commence in other ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

# Jalrez Situation Virtually Under Control as Forces Retake Posts

KABUL - The situation in the unsafe Jalrez district virtually came under control after the security forces secured control of all nine police posts that had fallen to the Taliban.

The insurgents were pushed back from the district after the reinforcement forces launched the operation. However fighting is still underway in parts of the district, officials said.

The fighting in Jalrez district in central Maidan Wardak broke out late Thursday after a number of armed insurgents stormed the district, capturing all nine police posts. According to the



provincial media office, 24 police and 40 militants were killed during the last three days.

Another two policemen and 18 insurgents were wounded in the clashes, the office added.

"Where there are trees, there

are enemies," a police soldier said who took part in the operation. "They [insurgents] are using light and heavy weapons including rockets and RPGs."

Meanwhile, the provincial public relations director Abdul ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

# MoI Confirms the Detention of Essa Khan over Deadly Traffic Accident

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior confirms that SGT. Essa Khan who was recently named hero for saving parliament from a Taliban attack has been arrested in a deadly traffic accident in capital Kabul. Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior said that one person has lost life in the incident. According to Sediqi an investigation is still ongoing while Essa Khan is behind the bars. Essa Khan made the headlines inside and out side Afghanistan for fend-



ing off a dangerous Taliban attack on Afghan Parliament on June 22.

Khan was at the gate of the Afghan parliament when Taliban attacked it.

A Taliban fighter detonated his explosives-laden vehicle at the front gate and other militants armed with light and heavy weapons tried to enter the parliament and possibly carry out a massacre inside. But Essa Khan shot dead all six one by one as they were showing up at the gate.

Essa Khan was given a new apartment by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and a Hilux vehicle from First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostam for his bravery. (KP)

# Afghan Stands 2nd Among 300,000 Students



KABUL - An Afghan student, Rustom Khan Safi, has secured second position in international language competition in Australia.

Rustam hails from eastern Kunar province.

According to information shared on social media, Safi is the son of Dr. Shah Iqbal Safi and Mrs. Yasmin Safi and

grandson of former education minister Rasool Amin. Rustam 14 is grade 9th student in Lyndale secondary college in Australia. He appeared in ten-day online 2015 Italian language exam. Around 300,000 students from 24 countries appeared in the exam in which Rustam got Gold Medal for securing second position. (Pajhwok)

# Bamyan Protesters Criticize Govt. on Jalrez Fight



BAMYAN CITY - Hundreds of residents in central Bamyan province on Saturday took to the street against the killing of 24 Afghan Local Police (ALP) members by rebels and criticized the government for what they alleged demonstrating negligence.

At least 30 militants and 25 ALP have been killed and 18 other rebels wounded in Kabul-Bamyan Highway and clashes in central Maidan Wardak province on Friday. The ALP forces also lost control of 12 security posts.

However, security officials said Afghan forces regained control of all 12 posts in Jalrez district.

Hundreds of Bamyan residents including civil society activists and members of provincial council held a protest in Bamyan City, accusing security officials, particularly ministers of defense and interior on negligence.

Bamyan provincial council head Taiba Khawari said that Bamyan people warned the illegally-formed government and its leaders to defend other ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

# Ghani Strongly Condemns Decapitating ALP Corpses

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday strongly condemned decapitating the corpses of Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel after their martyrdom during clashes with Taliban militants in the Jalrez district of central Maidan Wardak province.

Three days ago, hundreds of Taliban gunmen attacked security posts in the district, about 30 miles west of Kabul, and the ensuing clashes left 40 attackers and 30 ALP men dead, according to officials.

Some of the ALP bodies were decapitated and burned, officials said. President Ghani in a statement from the Presidential Palace strongly condemned the decapitation as against Islam and humanity and the rules of war.

The statement said the ALP forces had strongly resisted the insurgents' attacks and a number of ALP men after their killing were barbarically insulted and chopped off.

The president said though war was a bitter reality, yet such actions were not acceptable because the war had its own principles which both the sides must adhere to.

He called the act by the enemy of Afghanistan people as war crime and added: "No law in the world allows insult to dead bodies and Islam clearly prohibits insulting corpses."

Deeply shocked by the incident, the president extended his heartfelt condolences to families of the victims.

The Taliban had reportedly overrun about 11 security ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

# Afghanistan Customs Revenue up by 7pc



KABUL - Afghanistan's half year customs revenue increased by at least seven percent over last year's earnings, Ministry of Finance officials said on Saturday.

During the first six months last year, 51.98 billion afghanis had been collected against 54.68 billion afghanis during the corresponding period this year, showing about a seven percent increase, Ajmal Hamid Abdul Rahimzai, spokesperson of the Finance Ministry, told reporters in Kabul. He said last year's overall revenue target was around 133.789 billion afghanis against this year's 123 billion afghanis. As much as

12.7 billion afghanis target was set for the customs department of western Herat province and the department had so far collected 1.96 billion afghanis, indicating a 22.6 percent increase, the official said. He added similarly, 3.5 billion afghanis target had been set for western Farah province, where so far 1.75 billion afghanis had

# Scores of Rebels Dead in Faryab Airstrike



MAIMANA - At least 23 insurgents, including six foreigners, have been killed in Afghan force airstrike in the Pashunkot district of northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Saturday.

Maj. Raza Raza, spokesman for the 209th Shahin Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News insurgents were targeted by shelling through helicopters in the Dilbi locality. Seventeen Afghan Taliban and six Pakistani and Uzbek nationals were perished in the strike while

forces seized 30 motorcycles, he added. According to Reza, the group of Taliban wanted to storm the district headquarters of Khoistanat. But Taliban rejected the killing of their men and termed the claims of security officials as baseless and untrue. Earlier, the Khoistanat administrative chief had said that Taliban were preparing for a group attack on the district headquarters. Governor Mohammadullah Batash said Pakistani spearheaded insurgency in Faryab. (Pajhwok)

# MSF Condemns Violent Armed Intrusion in Hospital

KABUL - Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) on Saturday condemned the violent intrusion by armed members of Afghan Special Forces in the organization's trauma centre in northern Kunduz province, a statement released by the MSF said.

"The incident is an unacceptable breach of International Humanitarian Law, which protects medical services from attacks," the statement added.

On Wednesday, it said that heavily armed men from Afghan Special Forces entered the MSF hospital compound, cordoned-off the facility and

began shooting in the air. The armed men physically assaulted three MSF staff members and entered the hospital with weapons and then arrested three patients, the statement added. After approximately one hour, the armed men released the three patients and left the hospital compound, it added.

"We are shocked by this incident," says Dr. Bart Janssens, MSF's director of operations. "Since it opened in 2011, Kunduz Trauma Centre has been a place where all patients can receive free medical and surgical care safely. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*