

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	cloudy	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	cloudy	Kabul	Clear
	41°C 26°C		32°C 15°C		40°C 23°C		37°C 26°C		34°C 20°C		22°C 8°C		34°C 18°C



IEC Says it will Announce Election Date Amid Reform Controversy

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC) said Thursday that the election management body is preparing to announce the schedule for the parliamentary and district council's elections. This comes a week after the Afghan parliament rejected a presidential legislative decree on electoral reforms, a decision that has sparked strong reactions among the election monitors. The IEC said the it has been trying to start talks with the government and international donors to secure the budget for the elections. Amid



the controversy, the Afghan presidential palace has said that the election date will be announced by the new members of the election commission, and not by the

present commissioners. "If there was cooperation from parliament and if parliament had not taken a backward step, the selection committee would have already started its job. The selection committee will decide the new commissioners. It is the new commission which will be authorized to announce election calendar," a deputy presidential spokesman, Shahhussain Murtazawi, said. Election monitoring groups have asked the government not to damage the democratic process. The disputed 2014 presidential elections harmed democracy in Afghanistan. Electoral reforms ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

MPs Mediate between Doctor and Habiba Danish



KABUL - Habiba Danish, a Takhar province representative in House of Representatives, denies her relatives and guards were involved in the beating of a doctor in Kabul.

The doctor, Najibullah Usmani, has however released video footage on his Facebook page claiming to show that Danish and a number of other MPs, including the Minister of state for Parliamentary Affairs, went to Usmani's house to apologize.

Doctor Usmani blames Sayed Yousof, a brother of Danish, for beating him and his father. He claimed that Danish allowed her guards to beat them.

In an interview with TOLONews Doctor Usmani said he had forgiven Danish, but insisted that the judicial institutions bring to justice her brother and her guards for beating him and his father.

"A doctor must have prestige and the values of society should be respected. What applies to the country and its citizens, should equally apply to members of parliament. The judicial institutions have the responsibility to take action against Danish's brother and her guards," said Usmani.

President Ashraf Ghani, second Vice President, asked the attorney-general to address the case. The attorney general has, however, refused to talk about the matter. Citizens of ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Afghan Doctor Invents Device to Prevent Amputation of Limbs



KABUL - An Afghan doctor, Safiullah Sadat, has developed and built a device that could prevent the amputation of the feet and hands of hundreds of wounded security force members.

The doctor said he built the device two years ago. He expected it to be registered as the "Sadat Fixation Device" in Afghanistan and internationally. Other countries will also be able to utilize the instrument for their wounded.

According to Sadat the registration of the device as a product of Afghanistan, has already started. "The device reduces the treatment procedure from one and half year to four and half months. No other international device can achieve this," Sadat said. One soldier, wounded in a landmine blast, said he had been operated on six times, but his situation had not improved. "The doctor who performed my previous operations has now used the device and I am improving as a result," the soldier said. "I was told that my leg will be cut off, but Doctor Sadat operated my leg and now I am doing well," another wounded soldier said.*(Tolonews)*

Security Officials Among 9 Rescued from Taliban Prison



KABUL - Nine prisoners have been released from the Taliban jail during security forces raid in the Grishk district of southern Helmand province, an official said on Friday.

The operation was conducted Thursday night in the Shorki locality, Defence Ministry Spokesman Gen. Dawlat Waziri wrote on his social media account.

Two soldiers, two policemen, and six civilians had been released from the insurgents' hidden prison in the area, he said.

No casualties had been reported in the night raid, the spokesman said, adding that security officials recovered some weapons and eliminated the network of the Taliban.*(Pajhwok)*

Taliban Giving Tough Competition to Daesh: CIA

WASHINGTON - The Taliban are giving a tough fight to the Islamic State in Afghanistan and Pakistan, a top American spymaster told lawmakers on Thursday.

"Afghanistan-Pakistan branch (of ISIL) has struggled to maintain its cohesion in part because of competition with the Taliban," CIA Director John Brennan told members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence during a hearing. Testifying before the Senate committee, Brennan said the



ISIL was increasingly aiming to have a global reach and carry out terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, in particular the West. "As we have seen in Orlando,

San Bernardino and elsewhere, ISIL is attempting to inspire attacks by sympathizers who have no direct links to the group."

Last month, for example, he said, a senior ISIL figure publicly urged the group's followers to conduct attacks in their home countries if they were unable to travel to Syria and Iraq.

"At the same time, ISIL is gradually cultivating its global network of branches into a more interconnected global organization. The branch in Libya is probably the most developed and ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Torkham Border Closure: Afghan Traders Incur \$10m Losses Daily

KABUL - Afghan traders daily incur losses running into millions as a result of the tension at Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) said on Thursday.

ACCI spokesman Seyamuddin Pasarlai told Pajhwok Afghan News shops and storage facilities on both sides of the Torkham border remained shut since the border was closed five days ago. He said the border closure had brought to a halt activities of trade companies.

Afghan and Pakistani forces started fire exchanges on Sunday and intermittent clashes continued for at least three days, causing casualties on both sides. The clashes erupted after Afghan forces prevented



the Pakistanis from constructing a gate at the border crossing. Pasarlai said thousands of trucks loaded with food and non-food items belonging to Afghan traders remained stranded across the border in ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Gen. Nicholson Submits his Assessment of the Situation in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - Gen. John W. Nicholson, the new U.S. commander in Afghanistan has submitted his first three-month assessment of the situation in the war-torn country and what it will take to defeat the Taliban, a U.S. military official has told The Associated Press.

Details of the review were not disclosed, but it is said that the US general does not want the reduction of the current level of US forces in Afghanistan.

Nicholson's report comes amid a surge in Taliban insurgency in various regions of Afghanistan.

It appears the US general wants the current American force levels in Afghanistan to remain where they are. He is also seeking more



authority for US forces in their campaign against the militants.

"The overall goal that we are trying to accomplish here, is to help the Afghans create the sustainable capability not just to win a fight to-night, not just to win a battle next month, but to have an enduring security capability

that will allow the Afghans to defend themselves and deal with these transitional threats," said Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, deputy chief of staff for communications for Operation Resolute Support, the NATO mission in Afghanistan. Afghan Army Gen. Shir Mohammad Karimi, the ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Pakistan Struggling with Increasing India-Afghan Ties: Karzai

KABUL - Former Afghan president Hamid Karzai said Pakistan does not want good relations between India and Afghanistan and wants "no bilateral trade and no access to Central Asia for India" which is unacceptable for Afghanistan. In an interview with BBC Urdu on Thursday, Karzai claimed that India is helping Afghanistan build its infrastructure and health facilities and has "filled Afghanistan with money despite being a poor country".

"India wants to truly befriend Afghanistan and we want Pakistan to do the same," said Karzai.

He said Pakistan should also become a part of the regional coalition between Afghanistan, India and Iran, but "Pakistan's condition is that Afghanistan should not have contacts with India," reported BBC Persian.



"If this issue is resolved, our relations with Pakistan will improve rapidly," Karzai told BBC.

Terming the formation of Durand Line a "result of British imperialism" in the region, Karzai said that Afghanistan has never accepted this border since 1893, nor will they ever accept it in future.

"When Pakistan came into being in 1947, they received it this way, so we are not blaming them but Durand Line is a blow which no Afghan can ever forget. We do not accept this border but will not fight ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Slain Journalists: Helmand Governor Promises Reinvestigation

LASHKARGAH - The governor on Thursday promised reinvestigation into the cases of journalists so far killed in southern Helmand province.

About eight years ago, Pajhwok reporter Abdul Samad Rohani and New York Times reporter Noor Ahmad Noori were found dead under mysterious circumstances. A Radio and Television Afghanistan (RTA) reporter Abdul Hadi Hamdard was killed in a roadside bombing ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Would-Be Suicide Bomber Gunned Down

JALALABAD - A would be suicide bomber was shot dead by security forces before reaching to the target in Kot district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Friday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the bomber wanted to blow up Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces post in Janjal Ghondi area early this morning. He said the suicide bomber was shot dead by security official before detonating explosives around his body. Saeedullah, the resident of area, said they got information about the incident but did not have complete information. *(Pajhwok)*

13 Troops, 52 Rebels Dead in Offensive Countrywide

KABUL - Thirteen Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and 52 militants, including an Al-Qaeda facilitator, have killed in security forces operations and raids in different parts of the country in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Friday. The operations had been conducted in Nan-

garhar, Paktia, Paktika, Logar, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Farah Heart, Ghor, Baghlan, Jawzjan, Faryab, Kunduz and Helmand provinces, a statement from the MoD said. The operation aimed at to suppress the Taliban and protect the lives and property of civilians, the statement said. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Tarinkot-Dihruad Road Reopened, 17 Taliban Perished

TARINKOT - Seventeen Taliban have been killed and 25 others wounded in clearing operation launched for the reopening Tarinkot-Dihruad road in central Uruzgan province, an official said on Friday. The road was reopened for traffic as a

result of successful operation in the Murchai locality, Police Chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Wais Samimi told reporters. He said security forces had defused hundreds of landmine planted by the Taliban on the roadsides. ...*(More on P4)...(20)*