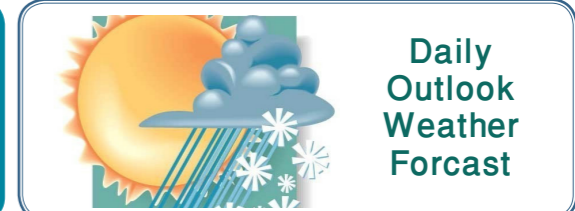


<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Clear	<b>Bamayan</b>	Clear	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	39°C 26°C		31°C 15°C		44°C 27°C		42°C 28°C		38°C 21°C		25°C 09°C		34°C 19°C



# Electricity an Ailing Sector of Afghanistan: Minister

KABUL - Calling electricity an ailing sector of Afghanistan, the Energy and Water Minister on Sunday lamented due to lack of proper management even a single dam could not be built in the past 14 years.

Eng. Ali Ahmad Osmani presented his plans for the next 100-days at the ministry. He said the current management system at the ministry was old and there were qualitative challenges ahead of many departments.

Majority of the infrastructural projects, he said, faced manage-



rial and technical difficulties and lack of a strong responsible team had caused delay in affairs of major projects.

Osmani added proper oversight of projects have not taken place and majority of the ministry's staff could not upgrade their knowledge, creating a lot of challenges in dealing with donors, managements, procurement and evaluating projects.

Lack of these qualities, he added, caused delay in completion of many projects and dams ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Badghis PC Performance A Mixed Bag



QALA-I-NAW - Some residents of northwestern Badghis province are dissatisfied with the performance of the local government and the Provincial Council (PC), while others praise the council's role in resolution of public problems.

Mohammad Usman, a resident of the Badghis capital Qala-i-Naw, says the provincial council is the only forum where people could take their complaints and share their problems with public representatives.

The panel has been able to resolve tribal disputes that sparked bloody clashes between rival groups in Abkamari and Lalazar districts of the province. "The provincial council is a body to which we can refer ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Samangan Coalmines Revenue Down by 14%

AIBAK - The revenue of two coalmines in the Dara-i-Suf Bala district of northern Samangan province touched the figure of 864 million afghani in the past six month, showing 142 million decrease as compared to last year revenue in the same period, an official said on Sunday.

Mohammad Sadique Aziz, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News growing insecurity and dilapidated conditions of roads were main reasons behind decline in revenue of Shabashak and Dahna Tour coalmines.

The western and eastern Garmak Coalmines were excluded from the 864 million afghanis revenue, he said, adding these sites were leased out to a private company.

Aziz did not have information about the total revenue collection of coalmines but said the coal excavating company directly submitted its report to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and its official had complete information.

Eng. Abdul Rahman Afghan, head of coal entrepreneur in the north, agreed with the views expressed by the governor's spokesman and said the blockage of unprofessionally dug coal tunnels would further add to the decline of revenue generated from the coal. He said they had already stopped work on some tunnels in the coalmine which were feared to collapse.

Fazluddin Jasur Khurmi, the town's administrative chief, said the excavated coal was usually transferred to Aibak, the provincial capital, through Dara-i-Suf Pain district. He said majority of the areas of the district had become insecure which made the transfer of coal difficult.

The official said as many as 10,000 workers were involved in exaction of coal in more than 200 tunnels in the district. He said last year the revenue generated from coalmines was more than 2 billion afghanis. Earlier, lawmaker Masuma Khawari, alleged the local council of Dara-i-Suf Bala for 15 million afghanis embezzlement in the revenue of coalmines. She also claimed locals were involved in smuggling of coal and did not pay tax to government for transferring coals to other places. *(Pajhwok)*

## ANSF Re-Take Yamgan after 3-Week Battle

FAIZABAD - Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) regained control of Yamgan district in north-eastern Badakhshan province early Sunday after a three-week long battle with Taliban insurgents. In that time, at least 40 Taliban insurgents and eight policemen were killed, local officials said.

In addition, more than 50 insurgents and five policemen were injured.

The military operation was accelerated on Saturday when reinforcement troops were deployed to re-take control of the district, acting governor of Badakhshan, Shah Waliullah Adib said.

"Forty insurgents were killed and more than 50 others injured in the past few days in



clashes. Foreign insurgents were also among the dead," he said.

But head of the Provincial Council Abdullah Naji Nazari has said that insurgents stole most of the security forces' equipment.

"Yes! Yamgan district has been cleared of insurgents but there are concerns that the insurgents have stolen

## Nimroz PC in Need of Strategy to Combat Graft



ZARANJ - The Provincial Council (PC) of southwestern Nimroz province says it has made many achievements in implementing infrastructural projects, but residents complain the council lacks vision to combat administrative graft.

Nimroz provincial council has nine members including two women. On January 28, the lower house of parliament barred provincial councils from overseeing the performance of local depart-

ments. The move prompted the councils to go on strike for more than 45 days, regaining the oversight right.

Mohammad Sediq Chakhansori, the provincial council chairman, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had thrice met Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on start of construction work on the Nimroz airport.

Chakhansori said the work on the vital project had resumed and with its completion ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Parwan Students Stage Protest to Demand Vacations

CHARIKAR - Hundreds of university students on Sunday rallied in central Parwan province, demanding vacations during the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

They staged the protest in front of their university in Charikar, the provincial capital, blocking the Parwan-Kabul highway for two hours.

They said they could not continue studies due to hot weather and lack of sufficient food in the hostel.

Second year social sciences student, Mohammad Iqbal, told Pajhwok Afghan News fasting, hot weather and insufficient food interfered with their studies.

He said they should be allowed to go on vacations until the end of Ramadan, a demand, he said, had been rejected by the university authorities, forcing them to stage the demonstration.

A literature student and participant of the rally held similar views. He said the hostel cafeteria served them with beans, okra and beef each for three nights and rice and beans in sehari (pre-dawn meal). There was no fruit on the menu, he added.

But University Chancellor Mohammad Daud Baha said some individuals had incited the protest to create problems on the campus.

He said the students' demand had been shared with the Ministry of Higher Education, which had said the vacations should not take place until July 10. He said the students were offered food as per the hostel menu. *(Pajhwok)*

## Nangarhar PC to Investigate Electricity Issue



JALALABAD - The Nangarhar Provincial Council (PC) on Sunday said it would investigate electricity related problems in eastern Nangarhar province.

The council secretary, Ajmal Omar, told a consultative meeting with civil society activists in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, a permanent solution should be found to the electricity issue in the province.

His remarks come after the provincial electricity department announced launching repair work to fix broken

power supply lines in Ozbin area of the Sarobi district.

The lines were sabotaged 10 days ago by local residents to press the authorities to provide them electricity, plunging Jalalabad into darkness.

The electricity department director, Mohib Rahman Momand, said they had reached an agreement with local residents on the issue.

Ajmal Omar told the gathering: "We will investigate why a permanent solution is not sought to the electricity issue, what is the next plan to avoid sabotage ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## UNHCR Chief to Praise Pakistan for Hosting Largest Refugees

KABUL - António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to begin a three-day Ramadan Solidarity mission to Pakistan on Monday where he would express his appreciation and solidarity with the people and government of Pakistan for having generously hosted the world's largest protracted refugee population for over 35-years in line with the Islamic values and the long-standing tradition of hospitality.

In a statement released on Sunday, the UNHCR said that this is the seventh visit of the High Commissioner to Pakistan in the past 10 years



of his tenure/in office, which will enable him to get a firsthand look at the largest ongoing repatriation operation in UNHCR's history, meet with Afghan refugees and visit one of the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) projects.

Since 2002, more than 3.8 million Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan with the assistance of the international community. During his stay, the High Commissioner is also expected to meet with the top ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Nabil Apologises to Ghazni University Teachers



KABUL - Spymaster Rahmatullah Nabil has tendered an apology to two university teachers from southern Ghazni province over their mistreatment during a brief detention on corruption charges.

The two Ghazni University teachers, Nasir Ahmad Aryen and Habibullah Kashfi, were detained by the provincial appellate attorney's officials and National Directorate of Security personnel

from the campus two days ago, when they were in classrooms.

The appellate attorney's office head, Abdul Rashid, said the two teachers had been sent to jail on corruption charges and they had to wear prison uniform and their heads shaved according to the rules. The teachers were held in detention for two hours and their cases are yet to be cleared. NDS...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## UNAMA Condemns Killing of 16 Civilians in IED Blast

KABUL - The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemns the killing of 16 civilians, mostly women and children, and the injuring of several others, when their minibus hit an improvised explosive device (IED) on Saturday in the southern province of Helmand.

The victims were members of three families returning to their village, having fled violent clashes between Anti-Government Elements and Afghan National Security Forces earlier the same day.

"It's an outrage that explo-

sive devices continue to be planted in areas where the likelihood of civilian death and injury is high," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan.

"Yesterday's incident shows how those who flee violence, especially women and children, are particularly vulnerable. Parties to the conflict must ensure the safe passage of civilians fleeing the fighting and immediately cease the use of indiscriminate weapons." The explosion in the Marja district...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Badakhshan Social Affairs Dept. Office Burnt to Ashes



FAIZABAD - A huge fire apparently caused by short circuit burnt six rooms, its entire furniture and vital documents of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (LSAMD) department to ashes in northeastern Badakhshan province on Sunday, an official said.

The inferno took place at around 1:30pm in the 5th municipality district of Faizabad, the provincial

capital, Mohammad Hassan, a financial officer of the department said.

An employee who tried to protect the documents wounded when broken glass of a window fell on him. He added important documents and furniture of the office was burnt to ashes.

According to Hassan, the fire was apparently sparked by short circuit. *(Pajhwok)*