

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 20°C 8°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 9°C -3°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 21°C 3°C	<b>Mazar</b> Cloudy 14°C 6°C	<b>Herat</b> Partly Cloudy 17°C 4°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Chance of Rain 3°C -8°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 8°C -3°C
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**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Ghani Wants Heritage Sites Professionally Preserved

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani stressed professional preservation of heritage sites in Afghanistan on Monday, when agreements on conservation, protection and restoration of historic monuments were signed in Kabul. The agreements were signed in Bagh-i-Babar Park between the Ministry of Information and Culture, the Ministry of Urban Development and people's council while marking 'the protection and preservation day of cultural heritage of the country.'

Acting Information and Culture Minister Mohammad Rasool Bawari said the agreements were aimed at reconstruction of historic sites, monuments, buildings



and mosques. He called people's role as vital in preservation of heritage sites, saying his ministry had devised strategies for protection of historic monuments and today's signing

of the agreements was part of the programme. The minister said about 5,000 historic monuments had been so far found across the country and of them 1460 had been registered

and introduction letters for 800 others written. Bawari said currently repair works on nine monuments were underway and reconstruction of 58 others had been completed with

budget from the Ministry of Information and Culture and national and international cultural-supporting organisations. Meanwhile, a message from President Ghani was read aloud at the agreements' signing ceremony. The president stressed protection of historic sites and asked the departments concerned to professionally preserve cultural heritage sites by setting up precise mechanisms. CEO Abdullah Abdullah also stressed the preservation of cultural heritage, saying unfortunately war, natural disasters and mafia circles had caused damages to the national assets. (Pajhwok)

## Torkham Crossing to Reopen Soon, Hopes Senator



PESHAWAR - The Afghanistan-Pakistan border at Torkham, which has been closed since February 17, will reopen next week, a lawmaker from the tribal region says. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi, speaking at a ceremony in the Mirdadkhel area of Khyber Agency, called the Torkham crossing point closure a huge loss to local traders and transporters. Afridi said traders and labourers had suffered billion of rupees in losses due to the blockade of the cross-

ing at Torkham and Chaman in southwestern Balochistan province. The government should compensate the losses, he believed, alleging the 'divide and rule' game was being played to economically weaken the Pashtuns straddling the Durand Line. The senator slammed the crossing points blockade an inappropriate measure that represented a blow to the national exchequer besides fuelling tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

## Af-Pak Trade Suspension Fuels Grave Concern



PESHAWAR - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa traders have voiced deep concern at the closure of the border with Afghanistan and the ensuing suspension of bilateral trade. Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Haji Muhammad Afzal the border blockade had inflicted huge losses on businessmen from the two countries over the last 20 days. While ensuring security, the government should also take measures for the resumption of trade for the of country's

economic stability and facilitation of people, he said in a statement on Friday. He proposed the security issue should be addressed in a manner did not harm trade between the neighbours. The business community of KP had suffered big losses due to the closure of border. Afzal lamented the decision had been hurting exporters, importers, custom-clearing agents, truckers and thousands of daily wagers. He said commodities worth billions of rupees were perishing. (Pajhwok)

## Hospital Attack: Inside Help for Terrorists, MoD Admits



KABUL - Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Sunday said assistance from inside Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital enabled the terrorists to carry out the attack, without such coordination it would have been impossible. The commission investigating the atrocity found that terrorists has already stationed some people inside that helped them to carry out the attack. "A terrorist cannot en-

ter into hospital easily. They must have been helped by some others," Dawlat Waziri, MoD spokesman said. Waziri also said some of the people who have helped terrorists, have been arrested by security forces. Earlier reports were that a doctor by the name of Nashir, who has a criminal background and was working in the hospital, had helped the terrorists to position themselves inside the military hospital. Jawid Faisal, deputy spokesman for the CEO however said all the people involved in the attack will be punished. "Anyone who had a hand directly or indirectly in this attack, regardless of their position, will be brought to justice," he said. Political activists meanwhile criticized... (More on P4)... (7)

## Govt Asks for Analysis Report in 10 Days for the Launch of Electronic ID Cards

KABUL - The Afghan government has asked for an analysis report to be prepared in ten days for the launch of the long-delay electronic national identity cards. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, said a meeting was organized in the Presidential Palace on Saturday to discuss the ways for the launch of the ID cards after President Ghani issued a legislative decree to modify the census law which prevented the distribution program. According to a statement by ARG Palace, the relevant institutions were instructed to



include their recommendations and the time table in an analysis report within the next ten days. The statement further added that the meeting was attended by the Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish, Chief Executive Ab-

dullah Abdullah, National Security Adviser Hanif Atmar, Minister of Interior Taj Mohammad Jahid, head of the presidential administrative affairs Abdul Salam Rahimi, and some members of the electronic ID card department. (KP)

## Afghan Prisoners to be Repatriated from Iran: Official

TEHRAN - Chief of a jail in northern Iranian province announced that the Afghan prisoners will be transferred from that jail to their country to continue prison terms in their homeland. Ali-Reza Gerami, caretaker of Qezel Hesar Prison in Alborz, said that the transfer of the Afghan inmates from this Iranian jail will take place during the new Iranian calendar year to start on March 21. Iran will do so after consultations with the officials of the Afghan Embassy



in Tehran about the fate of 125 Afghan prisoners convicted of drug-related offenses. Afghanistan, the main producer of opium, is Iran's eastern neighbor. About seven million of Afghan peo-

ple have moved to different world countries living there as refugees. Near three million of them are in Pakistan, and about 2.5 million in Iran. The rest are living in European countries. (IRNA)

## Iran Created Citizenship for Afghans Fighting in Syria

TEHRAN - Iran created citizenship for Afghans it enrolling for fight in Syria, says the country's head of Veterans Organization Mohammad Ali Shahidi Mahallati. "The [Leader] told us to create citizenship for the Fatemiyoun Brigade [members]," Mahallati said, Tasnim news agency reported March 12. The Fatemiyoun Brigade is an Iranian-made force that helps the Syrian government against armed opposition

groups. Iran also calls the forces "defendants of shrine", saying they defend a holy Shia sanctity in Damascus, Syria. "Within the past year two thousand defendants of shrine were killed and were given [insurance] coverage by the Veterans Organization. Adding to them their family members, they make some 10 thousand people that were put under our coverage in the meantime," Mahallati stated. (Trend)

## Security Cluster Plans Ready for New War Season

KABUL - The cluster of Security ministries and directorates have in the past three months identified all vulnerable areas in which security forces will conduct special and systematic operations during the expected new war season. Plans have been developed to thwart attacks in the designated areas, the ministries of Defense (MoD), Interior (MoI), the Directorate of National Security (NDS) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance said in Kabul on Sunday. By

implementing the new plans, no part of Afghanistan will fall to insurgents in the new solar year, the MoD said. "The plans include equipment, training, defeating attacks and carrying out operations," Dawlat Waziri, MoD spokesman said. Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman of MoI also said by implementing the plans, security challenges and obstacles in the new war season will be resolved. "The security forces who are in battlefields have been familiar... (More on P4)... (8)

## "Mazar Sharif" Wins Best Film Award at Australia Festival



TEHRAN - Acclaimed political drama "Mazar Sharif" was selected as the best film at the Phoenix Film Festival Melbourne, it was announced on Sunday. "Mazar Sharif" wins best film award at Australia festival. Iranian filmmaker Hassan Barzideh's film depicts the story of the killing of several

Iranian diplomats and a journalist by Taliban terrorists in the Afghan city of Mazar Sharif in 1998. The film features Hossein Yari, Mahtab Keramati and Masoud Rayegan as its main characters. The Phoenix Film Festival was held in Melbourne from Feb 26 to March 2, 2017. (IRNA)

## Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries to Be Established Soon



KABUL - The Leading Entrepreneurs of Afghanistan for Development (LEAD) is soon going to establish the Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industries - its first in the history of Afghanistan. The High Economic Council approved the proposal for establishment of this vital institution on Saturday. "Approval of Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce by the Economic Council of Afghanistan is a historic step towards

women's independence and empowerment," says LEAD on its Facebook Page. LEAD is a union of leading women entrepreneurs in the country and functions as an advocacy platform for women's economic rights and roles. The association works to ensure women perspective are incorporated in the economic policies of Afghanistan. They provide capacity building for Afghan businesswomen and lobby for better conditions of women in economic sector to the policy makers. (Wadsam)

## Saleh Urged to Propose Qualified Cadres as Security Deteriorates

KABUL - Former security officials on Monday asked state minister Amrullah Saleh for comprehensive reforms in security sector. They asked Saleh to propose that highly-qualified and skilled cadres to be appointed in the nation's security institutions such as the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and Ministry of Interior (MoI). They also urged him to work hard to establish nonpolitical security institutions. President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday announced the appointment of Saleh, former head of National Directorate of Security (NDS) as state minister for reforms in security sector. The ministries of defense and of the interior have welcomed Saleh's appointment a positive step toward implementing reforms in security spheres. Referring to



the appointments in exchange of money in the security sector, the former officials urged Saleh to undertake systematic reforms in the country's security sector. "As a first step, the leadership needs to eliminate those who are misusing the ministries of defense and interior and national directorate of security. It would be appropriate to let Amrullah Khan probe the appointment of officers

and to bring reforms," said former deputy head of Afghan intelligence service Gharzhai Khawkhuzhai. MoI says some departments in the ministry of interior is currently run by acting chiefs. This includes the departments for martyrs and disabled persons, the deputy commandant of special units of police, the 6th border regiment, deputy commander of 202 Shamshad Army Corps, Regional... (More on P4)... (9)