

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 20°C 11°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 11°C -2°C	Kandahar Clear 21°C 8°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 13°C 6°C	Herat Clear 17°C 4°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 3°C -8°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 14°C 3°C
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WJ Summons Atmar to Brief MPs on Peace Bid

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga (WJ) or lower house of parliament on Saturday decided to summon National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar to brief it on the latest peace initiative. One of the points on the agenda for yesterday's assembly session was the government's fresh contact with militants for the establishment of durable peace and stability in the country. Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim asked the government not to derail achievements of the last 13 years in the process of making peace with the Taliban. He said negotiations should ensure an end to decades of war ...*(More on P4)...*(9)



Uprising Group Members among 12 Dead

GHAZNI CITY - Three members of an uprising group, two policemen, as many civilians and five militants have been killed during a clash in southern Ghazni province, an official said on Saturday. Shafiq Nang, the governor's spokesman, said Taliban stormed a security check-post manned by members of the uprising group in the Gander area of Andar district. Militants then mounted an attack on a local elder, leaving his 7-year-old son dead, he added. Four rebels injured in the ensuing gun battle, he added. Lal Muhammad, a resident of the locality, confirmed the clash and said that the area was under security forces' control. But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said seven uprising members including their commander Wali Muhammad were killed. Two militants, he said, were wounded in the fire-fight. *(Pajhwok)*

Spurring Trade Optimism, ACCI Branch Opens in Wardak



MAIDAN SHAHAR - The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) inaugurated a branch in central Maidan Wardak province on Saturday, an official said. Acting Governor Abdul Majid Khogyani, deputy head of ...*(More on P4)...*(10)

80pc of Khost Departments Have own Buildings: Governor

KHOST CITY - Acting governor of south-eastern Khost province on Saturday said 80% government institutions got proper buildings, which would intensify progress and development of the area. Abdul Jabbar Naemi expressed the views while inaugurating an uplift project in Khost City, the provincial capital. Five years back, he recalled, 60 percent of government offices operated in private houses. But the new buildings had all required facilities including ...*(More on P4)...*(11)

21 Insurgents Killed in ANSF Operations



KABUL - Twenty-one Taliban insurgents were killed and eight others injured during a series of coordinated operations over the past 24 hours by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the Ministry of Interior said in a statement on Saturday. The operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Baghlan, Takhar, Kunduz, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul, Jowzjan, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Herat, Farah, Helmand and Nimroz provinces, the statement added. "During the same 24 hour period, the Afghan ...*(More on P4)...*(13)

Pakistan to Register Illegal Refugees in a Month

KABUL - Pakistan has promised not to coerce Afghan refugees into repatriation, a cabinet member said on Saturday, a day after returning from Islamabad. Minister of Refugees and Repatriation Syed Hussein Alami Balkhi told journalists in Kabul the decision was taken at the 25th trilateral meeting in the neighbouring country. Officials from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the UN High Commissioner for



Refugees (UNHCR) met last week to discuss the problems of refugees ...*(More on P4)...*(12)

Camps Set Before Parliament to Protest Hazaras Abduction

KABUL - Civil society activists have staged a sit-in protest by setting up their camps before the Parliament building to protest the government's failure to rescue the 31 passengers abducted last ...*(More on P4)...*(14)



Ghor Farmers

No Option but to Grow Poppies

FEROZKOH - The counter narcotics department of western Ghor province on Saturday confirmed it had not provided incentives to farmers to discourage poppy cultivation. A number of growers argued they had to cultivate illicit poppies because the government



did not assure them of economic assistance in return for a halt to growing the crop. They complained NGO representatives ...*(More on P4)...*(15)

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