

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 24°C 18°C	Ghazni Chance of Rain 22°C 8°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 34°C 20°C	Mazar Rain 25°C 18°C	Herat Chance of Rain 26°C 14°C	Bamiyan Chance of Rain 17°C 4°C	Kabul Chance of Rain 19°C 12°C
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U.S. Embassy Funds Wastewater Treatment Facility in Kabul

U.S. Ambassador John R. Bass and Minister of Interior Wais Ahmad Barmak launched construction of a landmark 10\$ million U.S. government-funded wastewater treatment facility at Pol-i Charki prison in Kabul today. When completed, the facility will be one of the largest, in Afghanistan.



KABUL - "This pioneering project represents another milestone in the 12-year partnership between the United States and Afghanistan to improve correctional facilities," Ambassador Bass remarked during a ceremony to break ground on the new facility. "We remain committed to assisting the Af-

ghan government in progress toward maintaining safe, secure, and modern correctional programs." When the year-long project is complete, the plant will provide essential sewage treatment for more than 14,000 inmates at Pol-i Charki, the country's largest prison complex. (PR)

Taliban Ask Baghlan Traders to Pay Them Taxes

KABUL - Wolesi Jirga Deputy Secretary Faisal Sami claimed on Monday the Taliban had asked traders in northern Baghlan province to pay them income tax and set petrol dealers a 20-day deadline.

He told the lower house the militants earlier collected Zakat and Ushr from residents of areas under their control. "Now in Baghlan-i-Markazi district, the Taliban have sent letters to businessmen to pay them taxes."

A few days back, he alleged, the Taliban set a 20-day deadline for petrol traders and owners of fuel tankers to pay taxes on their businesses; otherwise their vehicles would be torched.

Sami showed legislators tax collection documents the Taliban have sent to traders, saying the situation had sparked concerns in Baghlan. He alleged the government had paid no attention to resolving the problem.

Sami, who represents the people of Baghlan in the lower house, said: "The traders have referred the issue to the governor, asking him to control the situation."

According to the lawmaker, this behavior would disappoint investors, who might leave the country.

Governor Abdul Hayee Niamati said he had asked the traders not to pay taxes to the Taliban. ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

OIC Supports Trilateral Ulema Conference on Afghan Peace



KABUL - The Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) Secretary General Yousef Al-Othaimeen, has appreciated the initiative of the Afghan and Indonesian governments and praised the participation of the prominent scholars from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Indonesia, a statement said on Monday. Al-Othaimeen reiterated OIC's policy of support to Afghan owned and Afghan led peace initiatives and underscored that OIC and its Member States are un-

conditionally committed to peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan. The OIC supports the peace initiatives for Afghanistan, especially the Ulema led efforts, and hope that the declaration of the Trilateral Ulema Conference in Indonesia on the five key subjects: peace and friendship under Islam, violent extremism, tolerance, the ulema's peace-building role, and the role of the state in the peace effort will serve as a catalyst for peace and reconciliation. (Pajhwok)

Afghan Woman Activist Subject of Stinging Criticism on FB

NEW DELHI - Dewa Nizai, an Afghan woman who has returned from India after five years and plans to run for a Wolesi Jirga seat, has been the subject of public denunciation. In the name of a Facebook campaign to denounce violence against women, Niazai has allegedly shared posts against Islam and Afghan traditions in India. Determined to marry a man of her choice, Niazai had gone to India due to violence from her family. In New Delhi, the Indian capital, she tied the knot with Asad Mukhlis at the Nizamuddin Aulia shrine. She conducted a long campaign on Facebook to protect the



rights of Afghan women. Most of her posts denounced child marriage, domestic violence against women and patriarchy. Some days back, she returned to her native eastern province of Nangarhar. The woman is said

to be preparing for Wolesi Jirga elections, due in October this year. Before returning to her homeland, she wrote on her Facebook page: "My land is a land of flowers." ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

50 Acres Land Granted For \$75m Power Plant in Balkh



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - The government on Sunday granted 50 acres of land to the Ghazanzar Group in northern Balkh province for investing \$75 million on a 53 megawatts natural gas power plant.

An agreement in this regard was signed between Balkh Governor Mohammad Ishaq Rahguzar and Yousuf Ghazanzar, head of the Ghazanzar Group, in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital. Rahguzar said 50 acres of land

had been awarded to the group for establishment of the electricity generation plant in Hadadi district. He asked the Ghazanzar Group to complete the project on time. Rahguzar asked other traders to come forward and make investments benefited the masses. Yousuf Ghazanzar said the group would invest \$75 million and would produce 53 megawatts of electricity from the plant. ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Effective Steps Sought to Deal with Kabul Air Pollution



KABUL - The High Commission on Prevention of Environmental Pollution has expressed its concern about increasing air pollution in Kabul City and demanded practical steps in this regard.

The commission members briefed a meeting presided over by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah at Sapaidar Palace on Sunday, a statement from the CEO office said. National Environmental Protection Authority (NEPA) officials briefed the meeting about their activities and called air pollution level in Kabul as a matter of concern and sought

effective steps in this regard. They identified brick kilns and other industries within and outside the vicinity of Kabul city as dangerous for the city's air. Officials of the Ministry of Energy and Water talked about water shortage issue in Kabul and provided a strategy which would help resolve some issues related to the shortage of water in Kabul if implemented. After hearing the briefing, the CEO ordered the authorities concerned to launch a public awareness program in coordination with the Ministry of Information and ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Khas Uruzgan under Threat as Militants Intensify Attacks

TIRINKOT - Security officials in central Uruzgan province have warned of Khas Uruzgan district could fall to the Taliban if reinforcements do not arrive soon. A security official confided to Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents had launched multi-pronged attacks on Khas Uruzgan and were closing in on the district centre.

Some check-posts had already collapsed, several security personnel had been killed and others captured by the Taliban, the source said. The fighters have besieged security forces and capture strategic areas.

According to the source, 27 Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel have been missing. They are presumed dead in overnight attacks.

Another official, wishing anonymity, said no reinforcements had arrived yet in Khas Uruzgan. He warned the Taliban could capture the district and may kill tens of security personnel.

Meanwhile, Gen. Mohammad Radmish, spokesman for the Ministry of Defence (MoD), said a large number of security forces had been in Khas Uruzgan and there was no threat to the district.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the group had attacked a military base and check-posts in the district. Several security personnel had been killed and some seized, he claimed.

Attacks in Uruzgan happen at a time when National Directorate of Security (NDS) head Masoom Stanikzai and NATO commander in Afghanistan Gen. Johan Nicholson are visiting the province. (Pajhwok)

Samangan Flood Damages Homes, Canals, Roads

AIBAK - Heavy flood in the Khuram Sarbagh and Hazrat Sultan districts of northern Samangan province have damaged 20 homes, roads, canals and corps on tens of acres of land, an official said on Monday.

District Chief Ebadullah Mujahid told Pajhwok Afghan News the flood has partially damaged homes in the Ghazi Murad village. The flood erupted on Sunday.

Mujahid added the flood has filled tens ...*(More on P4)...(15)*



Efforts On to Free Afghan, Indian Engineers in Baghlan

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Efforts for the release of Afghan and Indian engineers have been underway in northern Baghlan province, an official said on Monday.

The Taliban have kidnapped one Afghan and six Indian engineers working with the Da Afghanistan Breshana Shirkat (DABS) from the Mulayan village of Pul-i-Khumri, the provincial capital a week earlier.

Provincial Council (PC) Head Safdar Muhseni told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban should release the captive engineers unconditionally because



they had been working in civil services.

He said the reason behind the abduction of engineers could not be ascertained as yet but efforts were on to rescue them. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*