


<b>Jalalabad</b>	Cloudy	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Cloudy	<b>Herat</b>	Cloudy	<b>Bamayan</b>	Cloudy	<b>Kabul</b>	Chance of Rain	 <p>Daily Outlook Weather Forecast</p>
19°C 11°C		9°C 2°C		20°C 10°C		15°C 9°C		18°C 7°C		5°C 3°C		12°C 5°C		

# Balkh Province Undertakes Socio Demographic and Economic Survey

MAZAR-I SHARIF - The Central Statistics Organization (CSO) of Afghanistan and the provincial government of Balkh on Monday announced to conduct the Socio Demographic and Economic Survey (SDES). The SDES objective is to gather information on socio economic and demographic status of the population from all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. SDES will provide village-level data for local development policy and planning. Balkh is the ninth province undertaking the SDES with the technical support of the United Nations Pop-



ulation Fund, UNFPA. The survey was already conducted in Bamian, Ghor, Daikundi, Parwan, Kapisa, Kabul, Samangan and Takhar. The survey involves different stages: mapping of the province, data collection, and data entry and analysis. More than 2,600 surveyors and 280 cartographers will be in charge of mapping the province and collecting the data which will be analyzed and released in a provincial report next year. "When we get good data and information on the population, the social indicators and the economy of Balkh, we ... (More on P4)...(5)

## MSF Assures Reactivating Hospital in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) or Doctors without Borders has assured residents of northeastern Kunduz province of reactivating its hospital in the provincial capital. On October 3, thirty people including a dozen MSF staff and patients were killed in a US airstrike, which left another 37 people wounded, according to the charity group. The building of the hospital was completely burnt in fire. Kunduz City fell to Taliban militants on September 25 after heavy gun-fights between the rebels and Afghan forces. But the city was recaptured during a two-week clearing operation. Local officials said the MSF hospital had been treating emergency patients of bombs, traffic accidents and other incidents and played an important role in the north-eastern zone. Kunduz acting governor Hamdullah Danishi told Pajhwok Afghan News MSF representatives had met him and assured him that they would reopen their hospital in Kunduz. He said the MSF would follow the contract it had previously signed with the government to reopen the hospital. Provincial public health director Dr. Saad Mukhtar had previously said that the MSF hospital was bombed as a result of misinformation given to ... (More on P4)...(6)

## NDS Thwart Deadly Car Bomb Attack in Kabul City



KABUL - National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Monday thwarted a deadly car bomb in Kabul city plotted by the notorious Haqqani terrorist network. A statement by NDS said "The Haqqani terrorist network was planning to use a hatchback taxi car having a fake registration number packed with explosives, anti-tank mines, artillery explosives and hand grenades for an attack on a government institution in Kabul city." The statement further added that the Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) was confiscated while it was enroute to Kabul from central Logar province.

NDS also added that a deadly attack was thwarted with the seizure of VBIED by the intelligence operatives. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far which comes as the capital Kabul has been relatively peaceful from the terrorist attacks during the recent weeks. The Pakistan-based is accused of staging numerous cross-border attacks from their base in North Waziristan, including the 19-hour siege at the US Embassy in Kabul in September 2011. The network was formed in the late 1970s by Jalaluddin Haqqani. The group is allied with ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Policy for Correspondents' Safety Should be in Place: Media Watch

KABUL - Head of media watch on Monday insisted that safety policy should be in place for journalists in Afghanistan, saying Afghan Government is responsible to ensure security for correspondents because most of them are facing serious threats.



President deputy spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashmi said, "Afghan Government is committed to ensure security for correspondents, as well as it doesn't have any censorship program for media in Afghanistan." Head of media watch Sediqullah Tauhidi said, "Considering the current condition of media in the country, we do need a safety policy for correspondents in place to guarantee the life media workers." Member of correspondents without borders Riza Moieni said, "Government has the responsibility to ensure security for correspondents, we will continue to our criticisms until the Government reacts on the aspect." Head of safety of correspondents committee Najib Sharifi said, "what we expect from the Government is to ensure security and safety for correspondents, we will continue to our demands." The demands of increasing safety and security for correspondents comes after Taliban during a press release has threatened several media stations as military targets in Afghanistan. (ATN)

## Taliban Splinter Group Ready for Peace Talks



KABUL - An Afghan Taliban splinter group, which refuses Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor as successor of late Mullah Omar, says they are ready to talk peace with the Afghan government. The dissident group's deputy chief Mullah Abdul Manan told BBC on Saturday that if the foreign forces completely desert Afghanistan, the group will be ready to talk peace with the Afghan government. The group, which recently elected Mullah Mohammad Rassoul as their new leader in the western Ghor province, says they have no problem with the Afghan government. Mansoor - who some Taliban's Quetta Council members claimed was ap-

pointed by Pakistan's ISI - was elected as the new leader in August after the group confirmed that Mullah Omar had died two years ago. However many commanders within the movement accused Mansoor of hiding the news since April 2013 - causing a deep division in the insurgency. However Mullah Manan claimed that Mullah Mansoor besides killing the group's supreme leader has also imprisoned and tortured several other high-ranking members of the movement. He accused Mansoor of hijacking the so-called Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. In addition, Manan criticized the movement's

political office in Qatar, which he said, have had several secret deals with America. However this is believed to be the first public and official division of the group. The dissident's new leader Mullah Rasool served under Taliban rule as governor for Nimroz and Farah provinces before the regime was ousted in 2001. Mullah Rasool has appointed four commanders of the group as his deputies. Abdul Manan Niazi, Mansoor Dadullah and Shir Mohammad Akhundzada appointed as deputies on military affairs and Mullah Baz Mohammad Haris for political affairs. (Tolnews)

## Provincial Governors Brief Working Programs

KABUL - Governors of Logar, Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman and Badakhshan provinces in a conference briefed their provinces' working programs, asserting that cabinet has promised for cooperation in improvement of condition in the respective provinces. Based on programs prepared by Independent Directorate of Local Governance s, governors of 34 provinces by participating in cabinet and national Security Council share their provinces' problems and challenges and ways are sought for solution of problems. After participating in cabinet and NSC sessions, governors of Logar, Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman and Badakhshan enumerated issues and problems of their provinces and cabinet and NSC sessions promised them to address them. According to governors of the respective provinces, appointments, ending to acting personnel in local institutions, appointment and completion of posts, addressing local problems, assessment of key directorates' works in the provinces, allocation of budget for governors and consolidation of stability, construction for districts and providing vehicles, classification of contracts in the provinces, construction of roads, counter illegal extraction of mines, reviewing condition of hospitals, prevention of ill-propaganda in un-registered mosques, balanced development in areas, analysis of security condition by governors, relation of local government with the people and others were including the 17 commitments promised. In the conference, governors of the respective provinces by describing the next 100-day action plans and enumerating problems and challenges in their provinces promised to make efforts towards addressing problems and maintaining security in their provinces. (BNA)

## Gen. Raheel to Visit US, Hold Talks on Afghanistan



ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif is set to visit the United States next week to hold talks with top officials on security issues including the stalled Afghan peace process, the military said Sunday. The November 15-20 visit comes weeks after a trip by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. "COAS will visit USA from 15-20 November. Will hold meetings with military and political leadership on wide ranging security issues," military spokesman Lieutenant General Asim Bajwa announced on Twitter. A senior Pakistani security official told AFP that the two sides would also discuss reconciliation in Afghanistan and Pakistan's ongoing military operations against Taliban mili-

tants in its northwestern tribal areas. General Sharif visited the US last year, where he met with Secretary of State John Kerry and was awarded the US Legion of Merit. The government of Nawaz Sharif, who is not related to the general, is widely seen as having ceded more power to the military since Sharif was re-elected in 2013. America's relationship with Islamabad is a prickly one, born of an inter-dependency peppered with mutual mistrust. Ties were plunged into crisis when 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden was discovered to be living in a major Pakistani garrison city. But since Sharif returned to the prime minister's office for his third term two years ago, both sides have made an effort to find areas of cooperation. (Agencies)

## Electricity Rate to Go up in Afghanistan Due to High Dollar Value: DABS



KABUL - Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), Afghanistan's national utility company, has announced that electricity tariff would increase with effect from next month due to appreciation of the US dollar against Afghani. DABS purchases electricity from neighboring countries in US dollars but charges customers in Afghani. The company has suffered losses during

the past six months as the Afghani is depreciating against the US dollar. As a result, the price of one kilowatt is increased to five Afghani. According to DABS, Afghanistan each year pays more than USD 200 million to buy electricity from neighboring countries. Meanwhile, residents have complained about the hike in electricity rate and have demanded the

government to pay salaries in dollars if utility costs are calculated in dollars. A few months ago, the Department of Water and Energy increased the price of a kilowatt of electricity from 3.2 AFN to 5.2 AFN for residential areas, but residents protested against the increase, forcing the department to fix the rate at 4 AFN per kilowatt. (Wadsam)