

<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 23°C 10°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 13°C 1°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Partly Cloudy 17°C 3°C	<b>Mazar</b> Chance of Rain 9°C -1°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 14°C 3°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy 7°C -4°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 14°C 1°C
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# WJ Panel Elects New Head as Former Resigns

KABUL - Lawmaker Qais Hassan was on Monday appointed as head of the Wolesi Jirga's commission on transportation, communication and municipalities after the former head resigned over corruption allegations. The commission elected Hassan as its chairman after his predecessor Mohammad Ibrahim Ghakhtalai stepped down after being accused of misusing his authority and committing corruption. Qazi Rahila Saleem, a lawmaker from central Panjsher province who is deputy head of the commission, told today's session that the former head of the commission from southeastern Paktia province, had resigned



due to some issues in the panel. She said over the past eight months the commission had no achievements and many of its members were absent from meetings because of Ghashtali's behavior. She didn't go into details and introduced Qais Hassan as new head of the 13-member commission. Hassan said his predecessor had been misusing his authority and was involved in corruption. "The commission's members decided to refer him to judicial organs but he resigned before that." He said allegations against Ghakhtali would be investigated in future sessions and the outcome would be shared with the media. (Pajhwok)

## Taliban Search Vehicles on Roads: Paktika Residents



SHARANA - A number of residents of southeastern Paktika province say Taliban militants have started searching vehicles and passengers on highways. They said the armed rebels looked for government officials in vehicles on the Paktika-Ghazni and Paktika-Paktia highways. A resident of Sharana, the provincial capital, Syed Khan, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the highways in Paktika had become highly insecure. He said Taliban militants daily searched vehicles on roads and pulled government officials from vehicles and killed them. But he did not provide any

figure for those killed by the insurgents. "Taliban can be seen standing on road just 100 metres away from security posts. They disembark government officials from vehicle and kill them," Syed Khan said. According to his information, the Taliban could be seen on the Paktika-Paktia highway at 10 locations where they searched passengers. Similar views were expressed by another resident of the provincial capital, Syed Noor. "A few days ago, my cousin who was travelling from Ghazni to Paktika was dragged out of vehicle and shot dead by Taliban." Noor confirmed the Taliban had ... (More on P4)... (6)

## DABS Begins Disconnecting Power to Defaulters

JALALABAD - Da Afghanistan Brishna Shirkat (DABS) officials on Monday started disconnecting power supply connections of defaulters in eastern Nangarhar province. DABS director for Nangarhar Waheedullah Popalzai, who oversaw the disconnection process, told reporters in front of the municipality that the arrears stood at 2.3 million afghanis. He said the defaulters included the governor's house, municipality, the provincial council, the canalization department, the education department and some other government organizations. Some Wolesi Jirga members, provincial council members and strongmen also defaulted on their power bills. The Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, hailed the power utili-



ty's campaign as reasonable. He said Governor Gulab Mangal had ordered the officials concerned to clear their outstanding dues. A resident of Jalalabad, the provincial capital, praised DABS for coming hard on defaulters and said similar drives had been conducted multiple times earlier, but had little impact. Shaukatullah, another resi-

dent, held similar views and said some debtors were powerful individuals who were out of DABS' control. However, DABS provincial director assured of serious action, saying this time DABS central office in Kabul was monitoring the disconnection drive which would be enforced on everyone without any discrimination. (Pajhwok)

## Loya Paktia Traders Seek Market for Pine Nuts

KHOST CITY - Despite having a unique reputation in the world, Afghanistan dried fruits are sold at a very cheap price due to the absence of proper market, trader representatives in southeastern Khost province say. However, pine nut traders say the price of Afghanistan pine nuts has significantly increased this year. Khost province alone exported pine nuts worth \$77 million to Pakistan this year. Official statistics show Loya Paktia encompassing Khost, Paktia and Paktika provinces exported around 10,000 tons of pine nuts to Pakistan last year, but the export amount decreased by a half this year due to limited rainfalls. A resident of Khost province, Rahmat Gul, said: "Pine nut trees need water like humans. The trees produce more when there is enough snow and rain."

More than 3,500 tons of pine nuts were exported from Khost to Pakistan this year. Averagely, the price of one ton of the fruit cost \$22 and the overall revenue from the exports reached \$77 million in Khost. The nuts after exported to Pakistan where the fruits are packaged and processed before being exported to the world market with Pakistani trademarks, a trader, Jan Mohammad said. "Our revenue would further increase if we have facilities for pine nuts here in Khost," he added.

People bring pine nut cones from southeastern provinces to Khost because sunny weather in Khost helps the cones dry well faster. Pine nut harvest collection enables poor people to have firewood to keep their homes warm in winter. People work with owners of pine nut jungles and collect firewood of trees and take that home in exchange for their daily wage. A pine nut trader, Rafiullah, said, "We transport nuts from here to Wana (in Pakistan) and then to Lahore city of Pakistan. Chinese and Pakistani traders then transport ... (More on P4)... (8)

## 37 Daesh Insurgents Killed in Nangarhar Operation

KABUL - At least 37 Daesh insurgents were killed in joint Afghan and foreign troops operations in eastern Nangarhar province in the past 24 hours, local officials said. In addition, three other insurgents were injured. Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor said that the security forces have launched a military operation in Pacheragam district of the province in which 30 insurgents were killed in the past 24 hours. "During the operation one of the judges of Daesh, who was named Muf-



tahuddin, was also killed by the security forces," he said. There were no civilian nor security forces casualties in the operation, he added. In the meantime, local security officials of Nangarhar said that sev-

en Daesh insurgents were killed and three others were injured in a US drone strike in Hakamina district of the province. However, the security officials did not provide more details about the strike. (Tolnews)

## 12 Police Killed in Taliban Attacks in Farah



FARAH CITY - A dozen police were killed after Taliban militants attacked security checkpoints in western Farah province, an official said on Monday, however, another official said three police and 10 militants had been killed. Mohammad Nasar Mohammad, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that insurgents stormed some security posts in Kansak and Shamalgah areas of Farah City, the provincial capital, and in Bala Buluk district's Kalkala locality on Sunday night. According to him, three police and 10 attacking insurgents, including a notorious commander Mullah Lawang

were killed and two police and six insurgents injuring during the clashes. The rest of the rebels escaped. However, a police official at the provincial police headquarters, said 12 police had been killed in the attacks by insurgents. Mohammad Ewaz, a resident of Kansak, said the number of slain police was more than 12. Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, claimed the fighters had captured a security check post in the Shamalgah area, killing 13 police at the post along with the post commander. He said the fighters had also recovered eight weapons from the police post. (Pajhwok)

## 4 Police Killed in Taliban Ambush

QALAT - An Afghan official says Taliban fighters have killed four border police in an ambush in the southern province of Zabul. Bismullah Afghanistan, the provincial governor of Zabul, said the police were ambushed while on a foot patrol in a mountainous area. He says several Taliban were also killed in Sunday's clash, but had no additional details. Elsewhere in Afghani-

stan, a police official says 30 Islamic State militants have been killed in the eastern province of Nangarhar in the past 24 hours. Police spokesman Hazrat Husain Mashraqiwal says the IS fighters, including a senior judge for the extremist group, were killed in Afghan airstrikes and ground attacks. He says there were no casualties among the Afghan forces. (AP)

## 400 Nangarhar Varsity Students Donate 75,000cc Blood

JALALABAD - Hundreds of Nangarhar University students including girls on Monday donated thousands of cubic centimetres of blood for war victims. The students numbering around 400 gathered at the engineering department faculty of the varsity to donate blood.

Nangarhar University chancellor Prof. Babrak Mikhel said the blood donation campaign was aimed at familiarizing the youth especially students with the peace process. Meanwhile, the students said they donated blood to share their grief with families of the war victims. Wasel Khan, an agriculture student, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the conflict had escalated across the country and there was a dire need for blood donation campaigns. An official at the Nangarhar Public Health Department's blood bank, Dr. Faridullah, said on the first day of the campaign 75,000cc blood was donated by the students. He predicted the same amount of blood next day. He said 400 students, 30 of them girls, participated in the campaign. Similar campaigns had been carried out by a number of charity organizations in Nangarhar, but today's campaign attracting a huge number of students was the first of its kind. (Pajhwok)

## Kunduz War-Affected Woman Suffers from Mental Illness



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - A war-affected woman has developed mental illness owing to social and economic problems in northern Kunduz province. Mahria Khal, 45, whose husband was killed in recent clashes in Kunduz, is now displaced to Maza-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province. She has no safe place for living and she lives with her 12 years old son in the open or on roads in Mazar-i-Sharif. Khal was shifted from a road on Saturday to the mental health section of Mazar-i-Sharif Civil Hospital and she is currently under treatment. This reporter visited the hospital and tried to talk to the woman, but she could not speak due to her illness. Khal whose hairs have turned white could not ex-

press her bitter life of current and the past. She was silent about some questions, but responded irrelevantly to others. When asked why she lived on roads, Khal said: "If I receive enough bread, I would have no more problems." However, her 12 years old son, Firoz, narrated many stories about her mother. Sitting beside his mother's bed, Firoz said his father was a guard at an office in Kunduz. His father was killed during recent Taliban attacks on Kunduz city and they fled to Mazar-i-Sharif to reside here. "We have no relatives or friends in Mazar-i-Sharif, we had no idea where to go and what to do," he said. "My mother found a bed sheet and placed it on the side ... (More on P4)... (7)

## 3 Education Officers Sentenced to Jail on Graft Charges

JALALABAD - Three officers of the education department were sentenced to six months in jail by an anti-corruption court in eastern Nangarhar province on Monday, an official said. The governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News the officials were handed out the sentences at the end of an open trial by Judge Najibullah Frotan. He said Education Director Allah Dad Ismailzai and other officials of the department also presented their views and information. The anti-corruption court sentenced each of the three education officers to six months in jail in a corruption case involving 40,000 afghanis under Article 270 of the criminal law. The verdict is not final and the accused have the right to appeal it in the appellate court, which had previously said four education officers, including the director, were under investigations in corruption cases. (Pajhwok)