
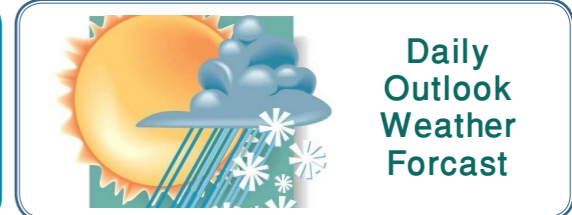


Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	38°C 24°C		30°C 13°C		36°C 17°C		33°C 23°C		33°C 17°C		21°C 07°C		31°C 16°C



More Than 100 School Girls Poisoned in Herat

KABUL - Local officials said more than 100 school girls were poisoned in western Herat province early Monday. The incident took place in Herat city when the girls were at school, said officials. The girls have been taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, officials said. "So far it's not clear how the incident happened but we have started investigations," officials said. Officials did not provide further details about the incident. Poisoning of school pupils, especially at girls schools, has increased in recent months - sparked concern



among many families in Afghanistan. No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the incident. (Tolonews)

150 Insurgents Killed in Nangarhar Military Operation

JALALABAD - At least 150 Taliban insurgents were killed in a large-scale military operation in eastern Nangarhar province in the past month, local officials said on Monday. In addition, more than 100 other insurgents were injured. The operation was launched in Hesarak, Sherzad and Khoghiani districts of the province which borders Pakistan. The operation was launched to clear insurgents a month ago and ended on Monday, Mohammad Zaman Waziri, the commander of Se-lab 201 Military Corps in eastern Afghanistan said. The operation was named "Musalas-e-Ahaneen" in which 13 SECURITY soldiers were also killed and three others injured, Mohammad Zaman Waziri said. The military officials said that the insurgents gathered across the border and come into Afghanistan with the intention of destabilizing the country. "We have destroyed all Taliban bases in Hesarak and Sherzad districts of the province and the Taliban insurgents had massive casualties in the month's operation," said Waziri. The military soldiers, who have ... (More on P4)...(9)

Disgruntled Reform Panel Members Submit own Proposals

KABUL - Two protesting members of the Electoral Reform Commission have submitted their own set of suggestions to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an official said on Monday. The two, Kawoon Kakar and Shah Mahmood Miakhail, announced boycotting the panel's meetings on Saturday over what they said their other colleagues wanted to allocate 100 of the Wolesi Jirga's 249 seats to political groups. Javed Faisal, deputy CEO spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the commission



members presented their suggestions to the CEO on Sunday, when the two protesting members were also present and they submitted their own separate proposals. Faisal said all the sugges-

tions would be evaluated by the CEO and the government would act in accordance with the law. He said electoral reforms remained the government's top priority ... (More on P4)...(10)

U.S Criticizes Pakistan for Not Dealing with Haqqani

KABUL - Washington once again criticized Islamabad for not taking firm action against the Haqqani Network which is accused of conducted ongoing attacks on Afghanistan. Susan Elizabeth Rice, the U.S National security Advisor, called on Pakistan to stop terrorist networks from carrying out attacks on Afghanistan from within their borders. This came during her visit to Islamabad. Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi said that: "Such expressions stamp Afghanistan's legitimacy status - that Afghanistan is a victim of terrorism."



But Pakistani analysts reject such claims and maintain that their country's military policies toward Afghanistan are in support of bringing peace and security. "Pakistan is ensuring the

security in Afghanistan and practically proves that they sincerely try," said Latif Afridi a Pakistani political analyst. This comes after Washington recently cut its \$1 billion USD aid ... (More on P4)...(11)

Fewest Women Hold Govt. Posts in Khost

KHOST CITY - Women are not given a priority when it comes to employment in government departments of southeastern Khost province, civil society activists say. Official figures show currently 240 women are employed in government departments in Khost like health and education and only six women serve in the military. While the number of men working in government institutes reaches 7,976. Khost Women's Affairs Director Dr. Malalai Wali told Pajhwok Afghan News the fewest number of women in government employment was due to discrimination against the gender. "Men do not like women to hold high positions in departments where they work. Men do not pave the way for women to be promoted in a department," she said. She urged ministries to increase job opportunities for women in their provincial departments. "Many women are eligible to work, but need to be given jobs. The government should announce vacancies for females and women should be given a priority in government employment."

Economists Call for Broad-Based Economic Strategies Ahead of RECCA Summit



KABUL - With the ongoing economic and financial recession currently facing the country, some Afghan economic commentators on Monday urged the government to put forward a credible and comprehensive economic plan to seek regional support to implement major regional economic and infrastructural projects. According to economists, regional summits provide a platform for the government to introduce a solid

economic plan to bolster the country's economic development and such summits also enable them to consult with monetary institutions and international partners for more funding and assistance. The remarks come just days ahead of the sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) which is scheduled to take place on September 3 and 4 in Kabul. The aim is to discuss multilateral trade and ... (More on P4)...(13)

Mullah Omar Died in April 2013, Taliban Confirm

KABUL - On June 29, Afghan government officials had told media Omar had died in a hospital in Pakistan's port city of Karachi. But they gave no further details of the one-eyed leader's demise. Omar's death was also verified by Pakistani officials, who shared the information with the Afghan government. The Afghan cabinet discussed the issue following confirmation by Pakistan. "Mullah Omar died two years and four months ago



of tuberculosis. He has been buried on the Afghan side of the border," a former Taliban minister then told a Pakistani newspaper. A senior mem-

ber of Taliban's diplomatic delegation in Qatar, Mullah Tayeb Agha resigned last month to protest why Omar's ... (More on P4)...(12)

Farah PC Members Worried about Growing Target Killings

FARA CITY - Members of the Provincial Council (PC) on Monday complained against the increasing number of mysterious killings in the capital of western Farah province, asking the government to prevent the loss of precious lives. Deputy head of the council, Khair Mohammad Moorzai, told a gathering that more than 20 persons, including security officials and common people, had been mysteriously killed during the past three months. He said targeted killings had terrified people and had deprived them of a free movement. Another PC member Dadullah Qani expressed his deep concern over the hit-and-run attacks in Farah City and asked intelligence officials to prevent such incidents. He said common people had seen the killers, but intelligence operatives had failed to arrest them and introduce them to the ... (More on P4)...(15)

Thousands of Students out of School due to Fighting



PUL-I-KHUMRI - Thousands of students have been left out of school and hundreds of families displaced in the Dand-i-Ghori locality of northern Baghlan province due to fighting. Dand-i-Ghori -- located in the vicinity of the provincial capital Pul-i-Khumri-- fell to Taliban insurgents last month. Residents complain the clashes have not only taken away everything from them, but have kept their children out of school for the past two months. More than six schools in the locality have been shut. Zar Mohammad, resident of Qala-i-Khwaja village, said part of a major school in the area had been destroyed in

a rocket attack. "We don't know whether it was from Taliban side or government, but ask why should our children remain out of schools?" He told Pajhwok Afghan News his family along with 18 other households had moved away from the school surrounding and to Dahan-i-Ghori district in extremely bad condition. Ghulam Qader Rasuli, acting head of Baghlan education department, said in the last two months fighting between security forces and Taliban had been ongoing. As a result, 10 schools have been closed, according to the official, who said students at these schools numbered ... (More on P4)...(16)

Iran to Inaugurate 4 Expos in Afghanistan

TEHRAN - An official in Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said on Monday that the Islamic Republic plans to hold four commercial exhibitions in different Afghan cities. "The exhibitions are scheduled to be held in Kabul, Mazar Sharif, and Herat in the near future in a bid to bolster mutual trade relations," the Head of Afghanistan Trade Office in TPO Mohammad Mehdi Javanmard said. Javanmard, who is Iran's ex-commercial attaché in Kabul, added that Afghanistan will witness an expansion in its trade ties with Iran in the near future since the Western-led international embargos placed on Tehran are incrementally loosened after the Vienna agreement with the world six powers in July. "Iranian firms and companies are boosting their activities across the globe, specifically in the field of engineering and technical services," he said. Iran is one of the most important donors to Afghanistan, which has kept its promises to help with the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country. Iran has built several roads, power transmission lines, border stations and many other infrastructure projects to better link the two nations. Iran has also contributed more than \$50mln annually to Afghan anti-narcotics efforts during the last five years. On August 11, Iranian Deputy Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Mehdi Karbasian underlined existence of common grounds for Tehran and Kabul to cooperate in the mining industry, ... (More on P4)...(17)

Fear of War in Kunduz Displaces 2,000 More Families



KUNDUZ - Some 2,000 more families in northern Kunduz province have been displaced due to fear of conflict, living in dire conditions. The families have been displaced over the past week from Qara-i-Qachi, Kobayee, Kunum, Hazrat Sultan, Khwaja Ghaltn and other localities. Mohammad Yusuf Ayubi,

provincial council head, said the displaced families lived in relatives' houses, rented places or in the open, waiting for stability to return to their areas. He told Pajhwok Afghan News the affected households had to deal with many challenges, including lack of edibles. He urged the government ... (More on P4)...(14)

A female civil society activist, Zainab, said the number of educated women was on the increase in Khost but their presence in government departments was on the decline. She said this situation of the women was due to government's negligence which had grown pessimism among educated women and had reduced their interest in education. "Some women have such nice ideas which men don't have. If women are allowed presence in every department and programme, they will not be heartbroken." The lack of security and cultural restrictions turn out to be the big hurdles preventing women from jobs and education in much of Afghanistan. But Administrative Reforms Commission head for Khost Haroon Mujahid denied discrimination against women in getting government jobs. Khost Governor Hakam Khan Habibi reiterated his resolve to problems in the appointment of women to government positions. "Men and ... (More on P4)...(18)