

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Clear	<b>Bamiyan</b>	Clear	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	38°C 26°C		28°C 12°C		35°C 21°C		33°C 21°C		33°C 18°C		20°C 4°C		28°C 16°C



## Gov't to Respond to the Recommendations, Needs of the Armed Forces: Ghani

*President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has vowed that the government would respond to the recommendations and needs of the armed forces*



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has vowed that the government would respond to the recommendations and needs of the armed forces. The Office of the President, ARG Palace, in a statement said President Ghani made the remarks during a video teleconference meeting with the civilian and military officials of Balkh, Faryab, Frah, and Kunduz. The statement further added that President Ghani heard the reports and recommendations of the

civilian and military officials of the named provinces. He said necessary steps would be taken regarding the recommendations of the civilian and military officials after a decision has been taken during the upcoming meetings of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. President Ghani also talked over the phone with the commanders of the various army corps, the 20th division, and the ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

## Truck Packed with Explosives Seized by Afghan Forces in Paktika Province

KABUL - The Afghan forces have seized a truck packed with a large quantity of explosives in southeastern Paktika province of Afghanistan. The Afghan Intelligence, National Directorate of Security (NDS), said the truck was seized by NDS Special Forces in Orgu district. According to a statement released by NDS, the Afghan forces have discovered 65 sacks of Ammonium Nitrate which is used in manufacturing improvised explosive devices. The statement further added that the vehicle was on its way from Wana to Ghazni province when it was spotted and seized



by the NDS Special Forces. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far. Taliban and other militants often use IED as the weapon of

their choice to target the security forces and government but in majority of such attacks ordinary civilians are targeted, besides such attacks often claims the lives of the militants as well. The UN ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

## 18 Afghan Hajj Pilgrims Die in Saudi Arabia



KABUL - Seven women were among 18 Afghan pilgrims who died during this year's hajj in Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHR) said on Tuesday. MoHR's spokesman Naseruddin Darez told Pajhwok Afghan News the Afghan pilgrims died of natural causes and as a result of traffic accidents.

He said some people introduced by government institutions could not use the opportunity and they should be re-introduced next year by the relevant administration in order to honor the Hajj rules. Nearly three people from 160 countries participated in this year's hajj pilgrimage with 10 percent of them Saudi pilgrims. ...*(More on P4)...*(7)

## IEC Hiring 'Inexperienced Persons': Ex-Employees

KHOST CITY - Some Former Independent Election Commission (IEC) officials in southeastern Khost province on Wednesday claimed the commission's employees were 'deliberately paving the ground for electoral rigging. Addressing a press conference in Khost City, they said local IEC authorities planned to hire district officials and public awareness officials under a deal. Mir Abdullah, former employee of Khost IEC office, said individuals short listed for these posts by the IEC were not qualified and lacked experience in the field of elections.

"We are 37 former officials and we have a great experience, all the newcomers are less qualified and inexperienced," they said.

The former IEC officials did not name anyone, but vowed to continue objecting the IEC decision until the election body responded with a proper answer on the issue.

But Sahib Zadran, head of the public awareness section at the Khost IEC office, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the new individuals had been shortlisted by the central IEC office. "This issue does not belong to us, the shortlisted individuals are qualified and have experience," he said, adding the commission would not allow anyone to interfere in its affairs. Election watchdogs have also complained about possible rigging in the upcoming Wolesi Jirga elections. (Pajhwok)

## Concord State Rep: Afghan Woman Beats Seasoned Rival



KABUL - An Afghan refugee woman has defeated her seasoned rival in the Democratic primary for a seat in the New Hampshire legislature, a media report said on Wednesday. Safiya Wazir, according to the Concord Monitor, beat District 17 State Rep. Dick Patten -- a four-term incumbent in the legislature.

The 27-year-old would become the first refugee in the state to hold public office if she defeats Republican Dennis Soucy in November. Her family fled Afghanistan in 2007 and arrived in Concord. "It gives me so much energy to be backed from the people themselves. It's driven me to be positive," she said. ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

## IECC Asked to Share Evidence Against Disqualified Candidates

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga on Wednesday asked the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) to share documents and evidence that led to the disqualification of 35 individuals from contesting the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The IECC on August 11th removed the names of 35 candidates from the final list of candidates, saying they could not meet eligibility conditions.

The decision sparked protests by supporters of the removed candidates in front of the IECC office for at least 12 days, blocking a number of provincial IECC offices. Speaking at today's session of the lower house of parliament, deputy speaker Humayon Humayon said: "Being a legislative body, we ask the IEC to share the documents and evidence on the basis of which these



candidates were shown the door." "I think the decision of the IECC is incorrect and false," he said. Pajhwok tried to get the IECC viewpoint in this regard, but failed. (Pajhwok)

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