

<b>Jalalabad</b> Clear 37°C 22°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Clear 27°C 11°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 35°C 17°C	<b>Mazar</b> Clear 27°C 19°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 26°C 12°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Clear 20°C 4°C	<b>Kabul</b> Clear 29°C 13°C
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# NUG Prodded to Review Peace Talks

KABUL - The Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC) and Afghan Women's Network on Thursday asked the National Unity Government (NUG) to seriously review the peace process and the formation of the High Peace Council (HPC). They said that this time an active representative of women should be involved in the talks. "The civil society organizations are urging the government to increase the number of women in the HPC up to 30 percent," said Qamar Niazi, member of HRRAC. Fawzia Kofi, an MP, meanwhile said



government should review the peace process. "The NUG should review the peace process and should start the peace talks and do its assignment at the first step," she added. A number of women activists meanwhile term the HPC as a symbolic organization. "The women which are serving as members of the HPC have done a number of activities so far but what they have done have been symbolic and they have relied only on foreign trips and they have not had a role in the peace talks," said Senator Rana Tarin. The Afghan Women's Network... (More on P4)...(10)

## Saba, Turkmen President Discuss Construction of TAPI Gas Pipeline



BISHKEK - President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received the delegation from Afghanistan led by Minister of Mines and Petroleum Daud Saba, reports the press service of the President. The sides discussed cooperation in energy sector, construction of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. Creation of the transport corridors and construction of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railway were touched upon among other issues. The sides vowed to create favorable conditions in the economic, financial and other areas of cooperation. (AKIpress)

## Outrage Grows over Dand-E-Ghori Deal

KABUL - Afghan political commentators warned on Thursday that the handing over of Dand-e-Ghori area in Pul-e-Khumri city of northern Baghlan province by the government in a sense is an endorsement of the Taliban. They say that such a deal will only benefit the militant group to appear with more violence against Afghan troops. A member of Baghlan provincial council on Wednesday claimed that local authorities in Dand-e-Ghori area of Pul-e-Khumri city, led by Gulab Mangal, the minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs signed



an agreement with Taliban giving them control of Dand-e-Ghori. Reacting to the allegations, local officials dismissed the reports and said that the agreement was inked with the tribal elders of Dand-e-Ghori,

an accord that prevents the Taliban from operating in the area. Based on the agreement, the Afghan Security forces will not carry out further operations in Dand-e-Ghori or arrest militants. Dand-e-Ghori... (More on P4)...(11)

## Major Taliban Base Destroyed in Logar

PUL-E-ALAM - The Afghan security forces have destroyed a major insurgent base in southeastern Logar province during a military operation, officials said Thursday adding that the base had been active for nine years. The camp, located in Zarghon Shahr village in Mohammad Agha district in Logar, was used to train militants - who were then sent from there to carry out subversive activities in Logar, Kabul and other parts of the country. Officials said the base even had bunkers, which insurgents used as safe zones. In response to a question on



why the base had not been destroyed in nine years, Logar governor Halim Fedae said former officials in his post did not take action in this regard and that they should answer to this. "According to our information, 28 attacks have been

plotted from the hub on Kabul," Halim said. TOLONews reporter, Karim Amini, who is in Logar, said this is thought to have been the biggest insurgent camp in the southeastern part of the country. According to him, the... (More on P4)...(12)

## Critics Cry Foul over Taliban Base in Logar

KABUL - Critics blasted government on Friday over what they claim to be their failure to destroy a major Taliban base in Logar province, which was reportedly active for nine years. Afghan forces on Thursday managed to take control of the base and destroy it - a base believed to also have had underground bunkers. It is said that the camp which was located in Zarghon Shahr village in Mohammad Agha district in Logar, was used to train militants - who were then sent from there to carry out subversive activities in Logar, Kabul and other parts of the country. The base is said to have been one of the major Taliban bases in the province. But on Friday critics blasted government. Former Logar governor Niaz Mohammad Amiri said: "The base may have been in an area which was difficult to track or intelligence reports didn't reach us to discover it, however we destroyed many bases." "I am confident that former officials of Logar province are responsible for this. Those responsible and who were negligent must be dealt with according to the law by the national unity... (More on P4)...(14)

## Polyclinic Opens at Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital



KABUL - A polyclinic at the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul, constructed with financial support from India, was inaugurated on Thursday, officials said. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Public Health Minister Dr. Firozuddin Firoz, Indian Ambassador Amir Sinha and other officials participated in the inauguration ceremony. Constructed and equipped at a cost of \$5million, the polyclinic has facilities like CT scan machine, MRI, Echocardiography, Electrocardiography and X-ray, Firoz told the ceremony.

He said the Indian government had also promise providing \$1million more for the maintenance of the polyclinic over the next four years. Dr. Abdullah thanked India for the establishment of the polyclinic, a huge step toward improving the health sector of the country. The number of maternal and child deaths would decline and will reduce the numbers of people going to foreign countries for treatment. Improvement of the health sector was among the government's priorities, he said, thanking public health employees... (More on P4)...(15)

## Govt. Deal to Keep Taliban out Draws Flak in Baghlan

PUL-I-KHUMRI - The Afghan government has signed a deal with tribal elders in northern Baghlan province seeking to keep the insurgents from attacking security forces and emplacing landmines in two districts, but local residents, members of the provincial council and civil society activists say the accord amounts to glorifying militants. The agreement was signed about 13 days ago between a government delegation appointed by the Presidential Palace and tribal elders who spoke on Taliban's behalf amid ongoing clashes between security forces and Taliban militants in Dehna Ghorri and Dand Ghori area near Pul-i-Khumri. Headed by Border and Tribal Affairs Minister Mohammad Gulab Mangal, the delegation comprised representatives from the National Directorate of Security or NDS, the spy service, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG). The delegation has said 25 civilians, including women and children, were killed during the clashes that continued for two months, raising concerns about the deteriorated security situation in Dand Ghori and Dehna Ghorri areas. The conflict enabled the Taliban to expand their control in Dand Ghori and capture some villages in Dehna Ghorri. The delegation stayed for ten... (More on P4)...(17)

## Zahir Tanin Peace Process Needs Real Commitment from all Sides

WASHINGTON - In an apparent reference to the flip-flop from elements across the border, Afghanistan on Thursday told the powerful UN Security Council the peace process needed a responsible attitude from all sides, mutual determination and real commitment. "The government of Afghanistan believes that despite some of the apparent setbacks in the process of peace

talks, following the death of Taliban leader Mullah Omar, and the benighted leadership changes in its ranks, we are hopeful the prospect of a political settlement will not be withered," a top diplomat said. However, concrete progress toward reconciliation

... (More on P4)...(13)

## Pakistan Denounces all Forms of Violence in Afghanistan



WASHINGTON - Pakistan on Thursday told the UN Security Council it was shocked to see some Afghan leaders blaming it for recent terrorist attacks in Kabul. "We were shocked when some in Afghanistan chose to lay the blame for escalating violence on Pakistan," Pakistani

Ambassador to UN Dr. Maleeha Lodhi said during a briefing on Afghanistan. Their efforts to encourage the Taliban leaders to revive dialogue should not be misconstrued as any form of endorsement for their revived violence following the scuttling of the... (More on P4)...(16)

## E-ID Cards Vital to Transparent Elections: Badakhshan PC



KABUL - The Provincial Council (PC) of northeastern Badakhshan province on Thursday called a delay in distribution of computerised Identity (ID) cards harmful to the upcoming election. The 15-member council, including three women, said the law allowing distribution of e-ID cards had already been approved and, therefore, the process should begin. Naji Nazari, the PC head, told Pajhwok Afghan News, all members agreed writing the word Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the e-ID cards justified the word Afghan and there was no need for its separated mention. He said with the distribution of computerised ID cards, the election process would become transparent and it would have a positive impact on issues such as security and crime control. The population census law was endorsed by the president last year, but some legislators, civil society and political parties have been demanding the inclusion of the words Afghan and Islam in the cards... (More on P4)...(18)

## Saudi to Gift 200 Tonnes of Dates to Afghans

KABUL - Saudi Arabia would donate 200 tonnes of dates to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) for people vulnerable to natural calamities in provinces. In this regard, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the nearly \$1 million aid was signed between ANDMA acting director and the deputy Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Afghanistan here on Thursday. While thanking the Saudi government, the acting ANDMA director, Mohammad Aslam Syas, said the dates would be distributed to

vulnerable people in central provinces of the country. Like other donor countries, he said, Saudi had always helped the people of Afghanistan during natural disasters, urging the kingdom to continue supporting Afghanistan. Mishary AL Harbi, the deputy Saudi envoy, said the 200 tonnes of dates valued more than \$1 million would be given to the Afghan government as a gift from the Saudi government and would be distributed to vulnerable people. Regarding his country's assistance, he said they were committed to continuously assisting the Afghans. (Pajhwok)

## Women, Children Among 44 Wedding Guests Poisoned

MAIMANA - More than 40 wedding guests have been poisoned in the Pashunkot district of northern Faryab province, officials said on Friday. The guests were poisoned on Thursday evening when they were served dinner; the administrative head of the town, Abdul Qadeer Qadiri, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said the affected people

were rushed to Afghan-Turkey Hospital in Maimana. Unidentified individuals had put some poisonous substance in food due to a rivalry with groom's family. Forty-four people including a dozen children and as many women were brought to the Afghan-Turkey Hospital. They were discharged after a while, Dr. Ihsanullah Wahidisaid. (Pajhwok)