

<b>Jalalabad</b> Clear 43°C 27°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Clear 30°C 13°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 39°C 21°C	<b>Mazar</b> Clear 41°C 23°C	<b>Herat</b> Partly Cloudy 32°C 18°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Clear 22°C 09°C	<b>Kabul</b> Clear 33°C 16°C
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# Minister Vows to Organise Nationwide Peace Jirgas

KABUL - Border and Tribal Affairs Minister Mohammad Gulab Mangal said on Saturday 'peace jirgas' comprising members on both sides of the Durand Line would be organized. Submitting his ministry's 100-day plan, the minister told reporters here establishment of peace jirgas, elimination of corruption and problems in border regions had been prioritized in the plan. He said the 100-day plan also focused on capacity-building of schools and hostels that functioned under the minis-



try and implementation of a proper communication system between local councils. According to Mangal, the establishment of peace Jirgas would help the government strengthen relations with different sections of the society. First such gatherings would be organized over the next three months in Herat, Nangarhar and Kunduz provinces. The minister said the main objective of his ministry was to reconnect people living on both sides of the Durand Line and ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Taliban Order Several Ghazni Schools Closed



GHAZNI CITY - The Taliban shells at a wedding party in Naughi village on the outskirts of Ghazni City. Noorullah, a student at Shahr Mir High School, told Afghan Pajhwok News the Taliban had asked their school principal to close the school for three days to mourn the deaths. "The principal closed the school earlier than the official timing...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Kabul Condemns Massacre of Rohingya Muslims



KABUL - Afghanistan on Sunday strongly denounced the sectarian violence against the minority Muslim community in Myanmar and expressed deep sympathies with the victims. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the violence against Rohingya Muslims in Burma had resulted in the killing of a large number of innocent people and large scale displacement. The Muslims in Myanmar have been facing extreme human rights violations resulting in flocks taking to the Andaman Sea to escape.

The MoFA in a statement said Afghanistan considered the brutal torture and killing of defenseless and oppressed people, including women, children and elderly as inhuman and against human rights. "Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan expresses its deep sympathies to the victims' families and people who are tortured and displaced as a result of this violence in their home country," the statement said. The MoFA also urged the United ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

# India's Steel & Power Project in Afghanistan Face Hurdles

NEW DELHI - The Indian State-run SAIL-led consortium's ambitious multi-billion dollar steel and power project in Afghanistan is believed to have hit a roadblock due to security as well as operational and economic feasibility concerns.



While a top-ranking source in the Steel Ministry said that the project has been put in "cold storage", SAIL Chairman C S Verma maintained that the project was still "officially on". "The AFISCO project has been put in cold storage. There are several issues. First, it is about the security of the personnel in that country. Then there is a question of economic feasibility as it is difficult to operate there due to a continuous conflict hurting the basic infrastructure," the source said. For a project of this proportion, the investors need assurance from Afghan authorities on safety of the project, personnel and the infrastructure and all that is taking a lot of time, he added.

The Afghan Iron and Steel Consortium (AFISCO), which won bids for three iron ore mines at Hajigak in war-torn Afghanistan in November 2011, planned to set up a 6.2 MTPA steel plant along with a 800 MW power plant, besides creating the necessary ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Protestors Demand Shindand Province, Oppose Division

KABUL - Residents of the Shindand district of western Herat province staged a protest demonstration in front of the parliament building in Kabul against the proposed division of the town.

The protestors holding banners said the Shindand district should not be divided into more districts, but it should be upgraded as a province. Shindand is the largest district in Afghanistan with an area over 22,000 sq meters and a population of around 850,000 people, according to the protestors. President Ashraf Ghani, who recently visited Herat province, said the map for Shindand had been prepared and the town would be divided several districts soon. Some reports suggest the district might be divided to three or four districts. But the protestors chanted "we want Shindand as a province", "Shindand residents want to be united and not divided" and "Shindand is pride, not a cancer for Afghanistan". Mullah Said Mohammad, a ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Taliban Continue to Use Child Bombers: NDS



KABUL - The spy agency on Sunday said two little brothers being trained by insurgents for a suicide mission had been rescued and reunited with their family. A Taliban commander Rahmatullah had taken the two brothers from their family, in the Panjwai district of southern Kandahar province under the pretext of enrolling them in a religious school in Helmand province, the National Directorate of Security said in a statement. The brothers, Mohammad Amin, 12, and Fazl Amin, 9, were forced to become suicide bombers at the seminary and were kept in chains in order not to runaway, the statement said. The two were rescued during an operation, the statement said without giving further details. The NDS urged families to be alert about their children being taken to seminaries by Taliban insurgents. Earlier the agency had said the Taliban insurgents were using children for suicide attacks as they struggled with a shortage of manpower. (Pajhwok)

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## Unknown Gunmen Abduct Demining Personnel in Logar

PUL-E-ALAM - An unknown number of demining personnel have been abducted by unidentified gunmen early Sunday in eastern Logar province, about 70 kilometers from Kabul, local officials said. The incident took place about 7 a.m. in Daoudkhil village, near the provincial capital when the employees of HALO Trust demining organization were in the way to their office, Provincial Police Chief, Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai confirmed. "The demining personnel were from HALO Trust group and have been taken to an unknown palace," he said. A search operation has begun to rescue the hostages, he continued. However, no group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the abduction. (Tolnews)

way to their office, Provincial Police Chief, Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai confirmed. "The demining personnel were from HALO Trust group and have been taken to an unknown palace," he said. A search operation has begun to rescue the hostages, he continued. However, no group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the abduction. (Tolnews)

## Return of Bamiyan Buddhas with Help of 3D Image Display

KABUL - The historic Bamiyan Buddhas made a return for the first time with the help of 3D image display which was projected in the empty place of the original Buddha that was destroyed by Taliban militants. The device through which the 3D image could be displayed, has been invented by a Chinese couple and was gifted to Afghan people as a gift from the people of China, according to a report by Voice of America (VOA) TV Ashna. The couple - Janson Yu and Liyan Hu said the projector was built with a cost of over \$120,000.

According to reports, a similar plan was recommended to the Ministry of Information and Culture of Afghanistan around ten years ago but the plan was not implemented. The Bamiyan Buddhas were destroyed after the Taliban militants group blew up the world's two largest standing Buddhas - one of them 165ft high, earlier in 2001. Among the Afghanistan's historical remains, Taliban's biggest targets, literally and figuratively, were the two monumental Buddha statues carved out of the sandstone cliffs in central Afghanistan. The destruction work concluded in almost three weeks period which sparked global objection. Taliban group tried to destroy the Buddhas by firing artillery rounds towards the Buddhas but later used explosives after they did not achieve any results by firing artillery. One stood nearly 180 feet tall and the other about 120 feet ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Ariana Plane Ferried Masked Passengers from Iran to Iraq

KABUL - An Ariana Afghan Airlines plane rented by an Iranian company ferried masked passengers from Iran to Iraq for the last one month, a lawmaker claimed on Sunday. Qais Hassan, who heads the Wolesi Jirga transportation and communication commission, told a press conference in Kabul the Ariana Airlines director, Nasir Ahmad Hakimi, had moved to the United States with his family few days back. He said the commission had



obtained the agreement signed between Hakimi and the Mahan Air, a private airline based in Tehran, giving an Ariana plane to the company against \$10,000 per flight. He said renting aircrafts was not illegal, but the Iranian ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## IS Take Areas in Nangarhar, Recruiting in Kunar: Waziri



JALALABAD - The Islamic State (IS) group has captured some areas from Taliban militants in eastern Nangarhar province and has started fresh recruitments in neighbouring Kunar, a military commander said on Sunday. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Waziri, the Selab Military Corps commander in the eastern zone, told Pajhwok Afghan News in an interview that there had been several fights between the two rival groups in Shinwari zone during the past few weeks. He said the Taliban and IS fighters had clashed repeatedly in Nazian, Achin, Dur Baba and Spinghar districts, with the sides suffering casualties. "Our information shows Taliban militants, who were active in these areas, had been forced to flee by the IS members," Waziri said, adding that the IS had started recruiting people in Marawara, Ghaziabad and Chapa Dara districts of neighbouring Kunar province. He said Afghan security forces were prepared to launch operations against the group, but he did not go into details. "Taliban militants were trying to find a foothold in the border area, but our operation blocked all routes on them," Waziri said. He ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Military Operation Launch in Yamgan to Retake District



KABUL - The Afghan security forces launched a military operation in Yamgan district of north-eastern Badakhshan province on Sunday to retake control of the district after dozens of Taliban insurgents attack the area on Saturday, local officials said. "The ground forces and air forces have launched a military operation in Yamgan to retake control of the district," a spokesman for Badakhshan police headquarters, Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai said. More troops have also arrived from the capital of the province to support the local troops, he said. The attack took place when Taliban insurgents, including foreigners, stormed the district and started clashing with security forces early Saturday. Later in the day,

military officials said security forces had tactically retreated from the district so as to prevent civilian casualties. This comes after clashes lasted several hours between security forces and insurgents. Before this the provincial acting governor, Shah Wali Adeb said: "The Taliban insurgents have surrounded the security forces in the district and clashes are ongoing." He said he had called on central government to send in reinforcement troops to help the local security forces. (Tolnews)