

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Partly Cloudy	<b>Bamayan</b>	Clear	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	22°C 8°C		14°C 1°C		23°C 5°C		19°C 8°C			23°C 3°C			12°C -2°C



# 1,500 U.S Soldiers to Deploy to Afghanistan: U.S. Army

KABUL - The United States will deploy 1,500 soldiers from Alaska to Afghanistan later this year, the U.S Army announced.

"These soldiers train rigorously in a wide range of climates and environments. I am fully confident in their ability to excel and overcome any challenges they will face during this deployment," said Maj. Gen. Bryan Owens, the commanding general of U.S Army Alaska, in an Army press release.

The deployment of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, is part of a regular rotation of forces in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

U.S troops in Afghanistan are split between two missions -- NATO's Resolute Support mission to advise Afghan security forces and the separate Freedom's Sentinel, the U.S



counter-terrorism operation against the remnants of al-Qaeda; an emerging offshoot of Daesh; and other terrorists groups. The U.S still has some 8,400

troops in Afghanistan. NATO officially ended its combat mission in December 2014, but U.S forces were granted greater powers in June to strike at Taliban fighters

as U.S President Barack Obama vowed a more aggressive campaign. The announcement came days after the Pentagon said it would deploy some 300

U.S Marines to the southern province of Helmand, where American forces engaged in heated combat until their mission ended in 2014. (Tolnews)

## Early Warning System to be Activated Soon: Barmak

KABUL - Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) would be soon equipped with early warning alert system of natural disasters, an official



said Saturday. State Minister for Disaster Management (SMDM), Wais Ahmad Barmak, who was summoned to brief the lawmakers about recent natural disasters, said disasters affected families were helped with cash, food items and other essential aid programs of government and non-government resources last year.

He said more than 100,000 families were displaced in the country due to insecurity last solar year. The affected families were provided with food and other essential items' aid programs besides transferring them to safe areas, he said.

He said aid programs were still ongoing to affected families in Kunduz, Baghlan, Nangarhar, Kandahar and ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Protestors Want Work on Gardez-Zurmat Road Resumed

GARDIZ - Hundreds of residents of southeastern Paktia province on Saturday staged a protest for the prompt construction of the Gardez-Zurmat highway. The demonstrators claimed officials had promised them several times construction of the highway but no action had been taken so far despite the lapse of so many years. They also warned of digging up the highway and

converting it into fields if the construction work was not restarted in the next 10 days. Jan Mohammad Jalali, a tribal elder from the Khatabi Shiekhan village of Gardez, accused government officials of repeatedly breaking their promises and thereby perpetuating people's plight. "We want this road constructed; we blocked this road today but we would dig it up ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Efforts Ongoing to Finalize Election Budget

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance said Saturday government's meetings with the international community were ongoing and they hoped donor countries would be ready to fund the upcoming parliamentary and district councils' elections.

Primary assessments by the Independent Election Commission (IEC) reveals that the next parliamentary and district council elections will cost about \$120 million USD.

"The share of election has been specified in the national budget. We are working with the international community to finance the remaining part. They [international commu-



nity] are committed to funding Afghanistan's elections," finance ministry spokesman Ajmal Abdul Rahimzai said. Meanwhile, a number of MPs said the electoral process is faced with other challenges

besides its financial problem. "It is important that the international community should see how much motivation and will the Afghan government has to hold a ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Helmand Officials Accused of Managing Districts from Lashkargah

KABUL - Members of the Helmand provincial council on Saturday raised concerns over the number of district governors and other civil servants who have left their posts due to insecurity. The council members claim these government officials are instead managing their districts from the provincial capital Lashkargah.

They said if this situation continues it will have a negative impact on security as more and more people will turn to the Taliban to resolve their problems.

"Civil servants of those districts that are under Taliban control, are in Lashkargah city and they sign their attendance sheet daily and receive salaries. There is no work and government does not have control over these districts," Karim Atal, head of the council said.

"Six districts are under Taliban control, but the district governors are on duty and receive salaries. This has created many challenges for the people, they have to go to Taliban to resolve their problems," said Attaullah Afghan, member of the council. Helmand local officials meanwhile confirmed these claims by the provincial council and said after some parts of the province fell to the Taliban, a number of district governors and other government officials refused to resume ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Portuguese President Calls for Common Position in EU to Fight Terrorism

LISBON - Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa called on Friday for a common position in the European Union (EU) to fight terrorism. Rebelo de Sousa's remarks came shortly after news that four people were killed in Sweden after a truck drove through a crowd in Stockholm, in what authorities were calling a terrorist attack. "Sadly, acts of terrorism have increased. Without going into big details, it is a challenge for Europe to respond to terrorism and prevent it," he told journalists on the sideline of a visit to a health exhibition in Lisbon.

Unfortunately, Europe has regularly faced these kinds of events, which is why it is important to have a common



position regarding terrorism, and at the same time, not lose the principal values of a democratic Europe that respects human rights, he said. A truck drove into the Ahlens

department store in central Stockholm on Friday, killing four people and leaving several others injured. A suspect has been arrested. (Xinhua)

## British FM Johnson Cancels Moscow Visit over 'Developments in Syria'

LONDON - Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has cancelled a scheduled visit to Moscow next week, his office announced Saturday, saying "developments in Syria have changed the situation fundamentally".

"My priority is now to continue contact with the US and others in the run up to the G7 meeting on 10-11 April," said Johnson, who

was due to travel to Moscow on Monday. "We deplore Russia's continued defence of the Assad regime even after the chemical weapons attack on innocent civilians," added Johnson. He then called on Russia to do "everything possible to bring about a political settlement in Syria and work with the rest of the international community to ensure

that the shocking events of the last week are never repeated".

"I discussed these plans in detail with Secretary Tillerson," Johnson said, adding that the US foreign minister would still visit Moscow as planned following the G7 meeting to "deliver that clear and co-ordinated message to the Russians." (AFP)

## Anti-Locust Campaign Kicks off in Samangan

AIBAK - In response to grower concerns, a campaign for the eradication of locusts attacking crops has kicked off in northern Samangan province, an official said on Saturday.

Gulabuddin Ghayasi, plant protection manager at the agriculture and livestock department, told Pajhwok Afghan News the campaign had been launched in all parts of the province that were under threat from locusts.

He said around 15,000 hectares of farmland possibly infected by locusts would be sprayed with insecticide. Ghayasi said 5,000 litres of insecticide procured by the agriculture and livestock department would be sprayed by five teams each having 10 members and a professional expert.

The drive would be implemented in Taikhonak, Rubatak, Manqutan, Achqadoq, Dasht Khairabad, Tangi Ajrim, Dasht Larzaghan, Laili Sai, Omy and Gawa areas of Hazrat Sultan district and parts of Khuram Sarbagh and Daraisauf Payeen districts over 75 days.

He said the locusts appeared after the weather got warm and that was the reason why the agriculture and livestock department has initiated the ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Kabul Residents Accused Traffic Police for Bribery

KABUL - Kabul residents on Saturday claim against corrupted traffic and the huge jam in the city.

The residents say; due to the situation, they have to wait for long hours to make their ways back home.

"I was a driver in Cinema Pami and I was driving a Mercedes to stay away from headaches being caused by police officers and traffics, I had to pay 700 AFS in bribe," said Wahid, a local driver.

A Kabul resident while speaking with Ariana reporter blames traffic for the current disorders and said, "We are getting out of our home early around 5:30 am, but we can't make to our regular duties even up to 8:00 am. These all problems are being created by Kabul traffic." The 'Shamali' square is one of the main crossroads in Kabul connects 9 provinces to Kabul. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Much Remains Undisclosed after First Month of Kabul Hospital Attack

KABUL - While public and Medias hardly try to find more details about the horrific attack on one of the Kabul's finest military hospitals, no one responds to the questions.

The ministry of defense says, the investigation is yet to be finished and it can't disclose any further details about the attack. What's need to be revealed is who were behind the attack, who helped the strikers from inside.

"The fact-finding committee is doing its job. We all have to wait. If we ought to share everything with the public, that won't make any difference with investigation process." is the short answer ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Afghanistan to Make History in Maiden Fixture at Lords



KABUL - Afghanistan is set for another milestone when the team takes part in their maiden fixture at Lord's - "the home of cricket" - this summer, against Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in a 50-over contest.

The match is scheduled for July 11, on the same wicket that is being prepared for the first Test between England and South Africa, which is due to end on the previous day.

Now one of the world's leading associate countries, Afghanistan is closing in on becoming a Test match nation. Currently the team is top of the International Cricket Council's Intercontinental Cup standings - which could spur the winner on to gaining Test status.

According to ESPNcricinfo.com, MCC's connection with Afghanistan goes back several years, with two of their star players, Mohammad Nabi and Hamid Hassan, both having been invited to take part in the MCC Young Cricketers program.

In May 2009, MCC's current president, Matthew Fleming, travelled to Jalalabad to oversee the first coaching camps under the MCC Spirit of Cricket banner.

"I am thrilled that we will be welcoming Afghanistan to ...*(More on P4)...(18)*