

Jalalabad Clear 37°C 18°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 27°C 10°C	Kandahar Clear 36°C 17°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 31°C 14°C	Herat Clear 34°C 16°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 16°C 6°C	Kabul Clear 25°C 5°C
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Gen. Nicholson

'Right Time' to Use Huge Bomb in Afghanistan



KABUL - The top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan, General John Nicholson, said on Friday the decision to deploy one of the largest conventional bombs ever unleashed in combat was a purely tactical decision made as part of the campaign against Islamic State-linked fighters. As many as 36 suspected Islamic State militants were killed in the strike on Thursday evening, Afghan defence officials said, adding there were no civilian casualties. The strike came as U.S. President Donald Trump dispatches ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

MoD

US Largest Conventional Bomb Kills 36 IS Rebels

KABUL - Thirty six Daesh rebels have been killed and huge caches of weapons and explosives destroyed in the overnight world largest non-nuclear bombing of Achin district in eastern Nangarhar province, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Friday. The Mother of All Bombs (MoAB) GBU-43 was dropped on Daesh hideouts tunnels and underground facilities in the Asadkhelo village of Momandara locality at around 7:00pm on Thursday evening, a statement from the MoD said. There was no civilian casualties ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Military Operation Launched Immediately after Achin Bombing

KABUL - Achin district governor, Ismail Shinwari, said in an interview with TOLOnews on Friday that a ground operation, with air support, was launched on Thursday night after the U.S. Forces dropped a Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb on the district in their fight against Daesh. Shinwari confirmed there had been no civilian casualties during the strike. "Last night at around 7.30pm Daesh tunnels were bombed. The bomb was very strong in order to eliminate the enemy," he said. According to TOLOnews journalists in Nangarhar, U.S. attack helicopters bombed Daesh strongholds dozens of times ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Afghan Cleric Body Challenges JUI-F Chief to Debate



KABUL - The Afghanistan Ulema Council (AUC) on Thursday denounced Maulana Fazal Rahman's recent comments regarding the Afghanistan conflict, saying his stance has no academic and religious justification. Fazal Rahman, the chief of his own faction of the Jamiat-i-Ulema Islam (JUI-F), recently said peace would continue to elude Afghanistan until American and other foreign forces were present in the war-torn country. Fazal also said the Taliban's regime had public support. Maulvi Mohammad Qasem Halemi, AUC spokesman, told reporters in Kabul that it was not the first time Fazal Rehman issued such comments regarding Afghanistan. He said the Taliban government was ousted due to support Pakistan extended to the US. He claimed the Pakistan government provided eight bases on its soil ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Working Towards a Winning Strategy in Afghanistan: Mohib



WASHINGTON - The Trump Administration which is currently conducting a review of its Af-Pak policy is working with the Government of Afghanistan to develop a "winning strategy" in the country. Kabul's top diplomat in the US said Thursday. "It's both Afghanistan and the United States' top priority to eliminate ISIS from Afghanistan or what we call Daesh this year, and hence this intensified operation against all of their bases. The review is still ongoing," the Afghan Ambassador to the US, Hamdullah Mohib, told the CNN in an interview. "There hasn't been a decision made yet, but from our conversations so far it is moving along quite fast. When it is completed, we'll be able to talk about it more then. But we are coordinating quite closely on making sure that we have a winning strategy in Afghanistan," Mohib said in response to a question. The top Afghan Ambassador welcomed the use of mother of all bombs by the US against ISIS-K tunnels in the country. "Well, there had been an operation ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

MoCI Awaits Pakistan's Response over APTICA Meeting

KABUL - The Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) said it has sent an official request to Pakistan in order to hold the seventh Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Issue Contract Agreement (APTICA) meeting and is still awaiting their response. The MoCI sent through the draft of the amended agreement a year ago but is waiting to hear back from Islamabad over the hoped-for meeting. According to the MoCI, the meeting would be attended by representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and other countries, and discussions will be held on violations in trade and transit between Pakistan and Afghanistan.



The ministry said the meeting would also look at unilateral decisions taken by Pakistan to close the crossings between the two countries. "We have sent our suggestion through diplomatic channels to Pakistan in order to hold the seventh meeting of APTICA. We are waiting for Pakistan's response about attending the meeting," the MoCI spokesman Musafir Qoqandi said. Meanwhile, a number of economic affairs analysts and businessmen said government has not paid enough attention to the transit and trade problems between Afghanistan and Pakistan. "The APTICA meeting has not been held yet but we hope that the amendments ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Daesh Strength Reaches 500 in Kunar, Claims Kalimzai

ASADABAD - The governor on Thursday claimed the Islamic State militant group had launched a recruitment campaign in eastern Kunar province. Waheedullah Kalimzai told Pajhwok Afghan News in an interview that the recruitment process of the group known in Afghanistan as Daesh had been ongoing over the past one year and their number had reached 500 fighters. "Daesh rebels have not yet carried out any attack in Kunar but they have been seen with arms in some parts of the province," he said, ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

President Introduced Candidates for IECC Secy Post

KABUL - The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) on Wednesday introduced three nominees to the president to pick one among them as secretary of the commission. A statement from the IECC received by Pajhwok Afghan News said the three nominees were elected with a majority vote under Article 32 of the Election Law. It said the president was shared a list of the elected persons to choose one as the commission's secretary. The IECC studied documents of 99 candidates and shortlisted 36 people, with ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Pistachio Harvest in NE Afghanistan Expected to Surpass 1,000 Tons

KABUL - The pistachio fields in northeastern Badakhshan province of Afghanistan is expected to surpass 1,000 tons during the current year, according to the officials. According to the officials in the ministry of agriculture, irrigation, and livestock, around 151 hectares of pistachio fields are available in this province and the harvest is expected to surpass 1,000 tons this year. A spokesman for the ministry said the pistachio harvest is expected to boost the domestic income of the country as Afghanistan's pistachio is considered among the best in the world. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the life of the Afghan family households. Surveys show that more than 60% of the Afghan population are directly or indirectly associated with agriculture. However, merely 4% of the total volume of private investment in the country has been concentrated over this sector, ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Ministry of finance, (herein after referred as purchaser) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Procurement of Software for AFMIS, General Treasury Directorate** against IFB No. **NPA/MOF/96/ICB/G-1671 REBID**. Bidding will be conducted through the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedures specified in the Afghanistan Procurement Law.

A complete set of **Bidding Document in English** may be obtained by interested bidders by downloading the same from NPA website www.npa.gov.af. In case of problem in downloading from website, interested bidders may contact to Goods Department of National Procurement Authority, 2nd Floor, Administrative Office of President, Pashtonistan Watt, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before **10:00 Hrs. (local time) on 15th May 2017**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline of bid submission at the same place of bid submission, in the presence of the bidders representatives who choose to attend in person.

All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** of the amount shall be; **(12,000) USD (Twelve Thousand US dollar) or an equivalent amount in freely convertible currency**

Contact NO: +93 (0)20 2147453

Emails: nizamuddin.bakhshi@aop.gov.af copy to safia.rasooli@aop.gov.af