

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 37°C 27°C	Ghazni Clear 31°C 18°C	Kandahar Clear 41°C 24°C	Mazar Clear 39°C 30°C	Herat Clear 37°C 22°C	Bamayan Clear 27°C 13°C	Kabul Clear 33°C 19°C
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Taliban may Overrun Lashkargah within Days: PC Chief

KABUL - Amid fierce fighting, reinforcements are due to arrive in the capital of southern Helmand province, a public representative said on Wednesday. The Taliban might overrun Lashkargah a strategically important city --within days, Kareem Atal, head of the provincial council, told the Associated Press. He said police units had been moved from checkpoints to keep the fighters at bay the city, as reinforcements prepared to reach the city later in the day. Atal added all roads leading into Lashkargah had been closed due to ongoing gunbattles. As a result, prices of food and other essential items have shot up in the city. (Pajhwok)



Reinforcements Yet to Reach Besieged Nawa District

LASHKARGAH - Local officials on Wednesday claimed the Afghan forces had recaptured a number of areas from Taliban insurgents in Nawa district of southern Helmand province, but the district chief disputed the claim. The governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, told Pajhwok Afghan News the forces recaptured several areas of Nawa district from Taliban on Tuesday night. He said 17 insurgents were killed and a number of others were wounded during the fight. Eight police were also injured. A day earlier, the defence and interior ministers visited Helmand for assessing the security situation of the province. ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Paktia's Janikhel District on Verge of Collapse: Officials

PAKTIA - Local officials said on Wednesday that hundreds of insurgents have stormed Janikhel district of eastern Paktia province and are clashing with security forces. District Governor Abdul Rahman Solamal said: "The clashes are still ongoing two kilometers from the center of Janikhel. If supporting troops are not sent into Janikhel as soon as possible, the district will fall into the hands of the Taliban." Janikhel borders Pakistan and some parts of the district have for a while been insecure. Currently, the security forces are in clashes with the insurgents in 14 out of 34 provinces of the country. *(Tolonews)*

Taliban Insurgents Attack Baghlan's Dahna-E-Ghori

DAHNA-E-GHORI - Dozens of Taliban insurgents attacked Dahna-e-Ghori district of northern Baghlan province early Wednesday and stared clashing with security forces, local officials said. Officials said that the insurgents have taken control of a number of villages in Dahna-e-Ghori and the clashes are still ongoing. In the meantime, local police have asked for reinforcements and warned that "if supporting troops are not sent into the district, Dahna-... *(More on P4)...(11)*

Afghan Refugees in Iran 'Sent to Fight' Syrian War



KABUL - A number of refugees who recently returned from Iran claim that Iranian officials are sending Afghan refugees to Syria to fight for Bashar Assad's regime. The return refugees also said Iran's intelligence ministry promise Afghans money and permanent residency in exchange for them going to Syria to fight. According to some return refugees, there are hundreds of unclaimed bodies of Afghans lying in Tehran's mortuary. They said these are the bodies of men who died fighting in Syria. Around three million Afghans fled to Iran over the past few years as refugees. Some of the return refugees however tell harrowing tales of Afghans on the battlefields in Syria. One young man who has returned to Afghanistan did so after Iranian intelligence officials allegedly tried to recruit him to fight in Syria for Assad. "I worked in a shop in Tehran. An Iranian official came every day to the store and was telling me that they want to send me to the Syrian war. They said if I was killed in that war, I will be martyred and if I returned alive I will be given lots of money," said Ahmad Qurbani, an Afghan refugee who recently ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Over Hundred Taliban Dead, Scores Hurt in Khost Offensive

KHOST CITY - One hundred and sixty six Taliban have been killed and 24 others wounded during clearing operations and a clash in different parts of the country, Afghan National Army (ANA) said on Wednesday. One hundred and Fifty Taliban have been killed and eight others wounded in a clearing operation code-name Khalid-4 in the Musakhelo district of southeastern Khost province from the past few days. The offensive was kicked off after reports about the presence of hundreds of Taliban were received, said a statement from 203rd Tandar Military Corps in Gardez, the capital of southeastern Paktia province. One ANA soldier was killed and two others wounded during the operation, the statement said. Taliban, however, rejected security force claim. The group Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said some security personnel had been killed in the gun fire during the siege of the district. Separately, seven Taliban have been killed and three others wounded in security forces operation codename Fatah in the Samkaneo district of Paktia province, according to the statement. In Maidan Wardak, nine rebels have been killed and 13 others wounded during a clash in Chak district. *(Pajhwok)*

NUG has No Legitimacy after Sept 8: Ahadi

KABUL - New National Front (NNF) political opposition party on Wednesday stressed solution to problems faced by Afghan refugees and asked the government to call a grand meeting of politicians and influential individuals to discuss the unity government's legitimacy. Unity government deal The unity government deal reached between then presidential candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah in September 2014 after the disputed presidential election. The agreement binds the unity government to call into session a Loya Jirga to bring about necessary amendments to the country's Constitution and create the new post of a prime minister for the Chief Executive in two years.



The president is responsible to open a debate on the prime ministerial post in the Loya Jirga and announce creation of the position, according to the agreement. Electoral reforms, elections to the Wolesi Jirga and district councils are other major parts of the deal which are yet to be materialized. The two-year deadline for holding a Loya Jirga ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

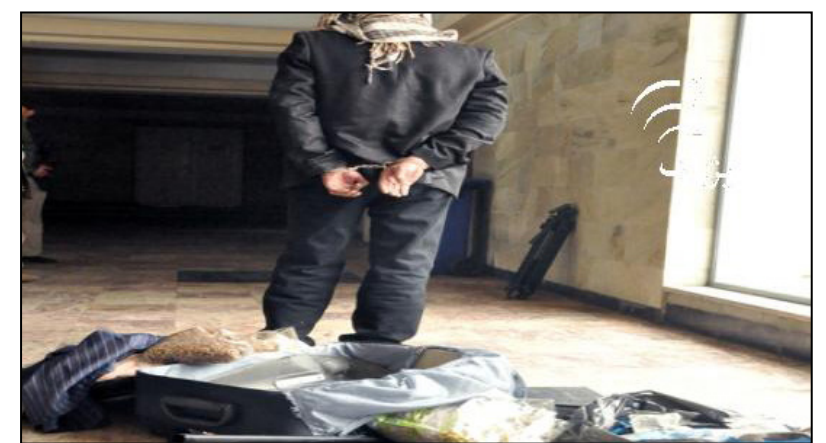
300 ISIS Fighters Killed in U.S.-Afghan Operation in Nangarhar: NATO



NEW DELHI - An estimated 300 ISIS fighters were killed in a joint Afghan-U.S. operation launched about two weeks ago, NATO's top commander in Afghanistan said Wednesday. Gen. John Nicholson said the offensive in the eastern province of Nangarhar was part of U.S. operations to degrade the capabilities of ISIS wherever it raised its head, whether in Iraq and Syria or in Afghanistan. The group, believed to be confined to three or four of the more than 400 districts in Afghanistan, last month claimed responsibility for bombing a demonstration by the Shiite Hazara minority in the capital, Kabul, in which at least 80 people were killed. *(Agencies)*

917 Smugglers, 129 Tonnes of Drugs Captured Since March

KABUL - As many as 917 notorious drug smugglers, including one globally known, have been arrested and 129 tonnes of drugs captured since March this year, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Wednesday. Lt. Col. Baz Mohammad Ahmadi, MoI's counternarcotics department head, told reporters here that narcotics were a major source behind growing insecurity and corruption and the MoI was trying to prevent cultivation and smuggling of opium and other drugs with available resources. He said since March this year, personnel from his department conducted 80 grand, 33 medium and 646 small operations countrywide, confiscating 129 tonnes of narcotics and arresting 917 smugglers.



He said notorious smugglers such as Haji Jumma Khan, Haji Ghulam Sakhi and Mir Wali were among the detainees. They also included four foreigners -- two Pakistanis, one Iranian and one Turk, said the official. Ahmadi said 16.5kg of drugs were recovered from 23 alleged smugglers at the Hamid Karzai International ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

56 People Fall Ill after Drinking Well Water



MEHTARLAM - More than 50 people, including women and children, fell sick after drinking 'contaminated' water from a well in Qarghayi district of eastern Laghman province on Wednesday, an official said. Laghman governor's spokesman, Sarhadi Zwak, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Farmankhel village. He said 56 people fell ill after drinking water from a well in which someone had dropped toxic substance. He said the victims belonged to the same family. They included 28 women, 22 men and six children. Four of the poisoned individuals who were in critical condition had been transferred to the Laghman Civil Hospital for treatment, he said. Zwak said Governor Abdul Jabbar Naimi had sent the public health director to the area along with a team of doctors and ambulances for treatment of the poisoned people. Qarghayi district security officials were ordered to investigate the incident, he added. *(Pajhwok)*

Afghanistan Veteran Battling for A 'War on Terror' Memorial in DC

WASHINGTON - Andrew Brennan's life shifted as he watched the motorcycles roaring around him. Brennan, a former Army captain who flew Blackhawk helicopters in Afghanistan, stood rapt as hundreds of veterans from Rolling Thunder passed by on their annual trek to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Mixed in with the gray beards of the Vietnam soldiers were youthful faces, dozens of post-9/11 vets like him. The younger vets were welcomed with open arms, yet to Brennan it was never so apparent that they lacked their own ride -- their own spot to grieve. Brennan, who lost several friends in one of the deadliest helicopter crashes of the Afghanistan war, felt a sudden sense of purpose: build a memorial on the Mall for post-9/11 vets. "I wanted my generation to have that same healing that the Wall gave to Vietnam Vets," Brennan said, recalling that day in 2014. Brennan, 31, quickly formed a nonprofit group, the Global War On Terror Memorial Foundation, and started assembling a team that includes former military commander and CIA director Gen. David Petraeus, and Jan Scruggs, the man who conceived the idea to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. He is ...*(More on P4)...(14)*