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| Jalalabad Chance of Rain 37°C 26°C | Ghazni Clear 32°C 17°C | Kandahar Clear 40°C 22°C | Mazar Clear 38°C 27°C | Herat Clear 37°C 21°C | Bamayan Clear 27°C 9°C | Kabul Clear 33°C 19°C |
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130 Nangarhar Residents in Daesh Custody

JALALABAD - Criticizing recent footage released by Daesh that shows the inhumane killing of 10 Afghan civilians, a number of residents of eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday said that 130 of their community members are themselves in Daesh custody. Tribal elders in Nangarhar warn that the hostages face the same fate if government does not take steps to save them. The footage, released two days ago, paints a horrific picture of the Afghan hostages being blown up by Daesh. The video went viral and caused an outcry among Afghans worldwide. The Taliban group has condemned



the Daesh act in a statement, saying that such an act is totally unacceptable.

Meanwhile, Malik Kamin, one of the tribal elders of Achin district, said the 10 people were from Achin and

Behsud districts of Nangarhar. A number of residents from the two areas, who have been displaced due to Daesh cruelty, claim that many of their family members are in Daesh custody. "No human has witnessed such a brutal act so far as Daesh did against civilians in Nangarhar which was seen in footage," said Asadullah, a resident of Nangarhar. Another resident of Nangarhar, Haji Gul Ahmad, said: "Daesh has created horror in Nangarhar and has taken more than 100 people hostage." He added: "We want the government to release the hostages." Meanwhile, ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

2015 Sees Increase in Drug Smuggling Arrests



KABUL - The Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) reported this week that 130 individuals have been arrested on charges of drug smuggling in first four months of 2015, which is up by five percent from the same period last year. According to the CJTF report, at least 15 big-time drug dealers have been arrested in 2015, and have been sentenced to

10-20 years in prison. But, based on comments from officials, it is also clear that many of the arrests involve small-time dealers as well. "A number of drug dealers who distribute drugs among drug addicts in Pul-e-Sokhta area of Kabul have been arrested," said Yar Mohammad Hussainkhel, the head of the Special ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Ex-President Chides Pakistan Army, Intelligence Service



KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai on Wednesday supported the unity government's stance against Pakistan, saying Islamabad would never achieve its goals through oppression, intimidation and destruction of Afghanistan. Speaking at an event marking International Youth Day in Kabul, Karzai said the Afghan people considered the

Pakistani people their brothers, sisters and friends. There were no differences among the two peoples, he added. "The Pakistani nation has been brotherly and friendly (toward us). When we were faced with problems during the Soviet invasion, the people of Pakistan shared their homes with us and welcomed us with open arms. We lived an ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

'Afghan SMW Maintenance Training Aims at Sustaining Fleet'



KABUL - The experts who maintain the fleet of military helicopters for the Afghan Special Mission Wing (SMW) are specialized professionals who act simultaneously as mechanics, electricians, and logisticians, a statement from the HQ Resolute Support (RS) Public Affairs said on Wednesday. The SMW is a unique aviation unit of the Afghan National

Defense and Security Forces that partners with the Special Forces capabilities of the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior. The MI-17s provide the ANDSF with the air-assault capability they need for night missions, the statement said. It said that maintaining complex aircraft, such as the Russian-made MI-17, requires highly trained experts and an ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Iran Health Insurance to Back Documented Afghan Immigrants

TEHRAN - A group of Iranian ministers in a meeting on Wednesday gave their consent to a plan that will provide legal Afghan immigrants and refugees with health insurance coverage. Health Minister Seyed Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi, Labor Minister Ali Rabiee and Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli conferred on how to improve services to documented foreign migrants and refugees, especially the Afghans, and accorded to arrange insurance coverage for them. There are around 850,000 legal

Afghan immigrants and refugees in Iran, 300,000 of whom are economically vulnerable and according to the ministers' approval, the latter will receive social services at lower prices, while the remaining 550,000 will be charged more for these services. Accordingly, all legal Afghan refugees will be insured by Iran Health Insurance Organization. In May, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei authorized illegal Afghan children to go to school in Iran. "No Afghan child, not even an Afghan immigrants who have come ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Afghans Queue for Passports to Flee Country

KABUL - Hundreds of citizens are lining up to get passports, most of whom hope to flee the country due to unemployment, insecurity and poverty. The passport applicants, most of them between the ages of 18 and 30, told TOLONews on Tuesday that they had no other choice but to leave the country despite knowing the problems and even the possibility of losing their lives en route to Europe. Nearly 5,000 citizens from different provinces apply for passports on a daily basis. A huge number of applicants reportedly spend the whole night in the line to wait their turn in the morning. "There are no jobs in the country," an applicant named Elyas told TOLONews. "We see the security situation deteriorating each day and people's problems are getting worse." ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Kunduzi Vows to Generate Employment Opportunities

JALALABAD - The governor of eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday said lack of job opportunities in government and private sectors was one of the reasons of growing unemployment and pledged he would leave no stone unturned to create jobs. Speaking at a gathering marking International Youth Day, Salim Khan Kunduzi said some circles considered the government posts hereditary and appointed their family members on certain positions. He lamented there was no merit system in the country and majority of talented youth left without jobs. The governor pledged to generate employment opportunities for youngsters and provide vocational training for thousands of youth. Meanwhile, Matiwallah Ahmadzai, Nangarhar Youth Affairs director, said it was government responsibility to generate jobs. He said Nangarhar youth had fully participated in nation building and the provincial government should provide them with jobs. ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Taliban Seize 60 Villages in Khan Abad District

KUNDUZ CITY - Taliban insurgents have launched coordinated attacks in Khan Abad district of northern Kunduz province and seized about 60 villages, local officials said on Wednesday. Hayatullah Amiri, District Governor of Khan Abad said that "we need reinforcements to re-take control of the villages. Right now the security forces are in a defensive position." Meanwhile, the residents of Khan Abad have accused government of neglecting the situation and said that "everyday there are clashes in different



parts of the district but government is not paying attention to the security situation." "In the past several months there have been clashes in districts and Kunduz city. Every day the Taliban move closer to the city but the govern-

ment is not paying attention. If it continues like this, Kunduz city will soon fall into the hands of the Taliban," said a tribal elder of Khan Abad, Ali "Qomandan Ali" said. Enayatullah Amiri, another ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Effective Police Reform on its Way: Interior Minister

KABUL - The Interior Minister, Noorolhaq Ulomi announced Wednesday that an effective reform was on its way and the adjustments in the police law were part of the reformations at the ministry. While speaking at a press conference in Kabul, Ulomi noted a legal and professional commission would be established soon to begin reforming the national police and the traffic police. "We will consider knowl-



edge, experience and trust in hiring of police," Ulomi said. "Foreign military can also participate in the reforms of the police."

Referring to the traffic issues in the country, he said that "traffic situation in the cities is a concern and its costly." He ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Kandahar's Past Rulers Served only the Powerful, Claims Azizi



KANDAHAR CITY - Kandahar Governor Dr. Humayun Azizi on Tuesday said the previous administrations had been in the service of powerful individuals instead of the masses during the past 13 years, but efforts were underway to improve governance. Azizi told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview that he had started evaluating government departments soon after his appointment as governor of southern Kandahar province because the departments had been in extremely bad condition. His evaluation revealed the provincial administration lacked capacity, serving only powerful individuals. He said there had been no proper coordination among provincial departments which performed most of their activities against the established rules. "After assuming office, I told officials of different departments in clear words that I value work which is ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

USAID Inked \$38 Million MoU with IARCSC to Empower Afghan Women



KABUL - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing \$38 million for a five-year Afghan women's empowerment program through the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission. On Wednesday, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the USAID and the Administrative Reforms Commission to train management and leadership for 3,000 Afghan women over the course of the five year program. An Afghan official in the Administrative Reform Commission said those who have a bachelor's degree can participate in this training program after passing an exam in a transparent process. "The program aims to cover at least 3,000 women who have a bachelor's degree or in the exceptional situations graduates of high schools, we will train them to become managers and leaders," Head of the IARCSC Ahmad Mushahid said. ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Gen. Raziq Helmand Fighting Being Directed from Pakistan

LASHKARGAH - Gen. Abdul Raziq, police chief, of southern Kandahar province said that the ongoing fight in southern Helmand province was being steered and directed from Pakistan. Some days back, militants had too control of Nawzad district of Helmand province for briefly but Afghan forces led by Kandahar Police Chief Gen. Raziq retook control of the district center. During a press conference in Lashkargah, the capital of Helmand, Gen. Raziq said that the battle in the province was directed by Pakistan. All the equipments and weapons have brought from Pakistan to militants and they had directions from Pakistan to fight in Helmand province, he alleged. Helmand people are not ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Fruit Exports to Pakistan from Kandahar Cut in Half

KANDAHAR CITY - Pakistan has further increased import duty on Afghanistan fruits, forcing traders to reduce the exports by a half from southern Kandahar province. Exporters claim incurring huge losses as a result of the increase in import duty that comes at a time when the harvest season of grapes, melons, watermelons and other fruits has peaked. In Afghanistan's current circumstances, Pakistan is considered the only market for these fruits. The Fresh Fruit Traders Union head in Kandahar, Haji Nani Agha, told Pajhwok Afghan News Pakistan had increased tax on fruits from Kandahar and as a result, traders suffered huge losses and they had extensively reduced exports to the neighbouring country. He said previously Pakistan would charge 25000 afghanis per 10 tonnes of fruits, but the tax had been increased to 75,000 afghanis, which the Afghan traders could not afford to pay. He said the tax had been increased at a time when grapes, melons, watermelons ...*(More on P4)...(21)*