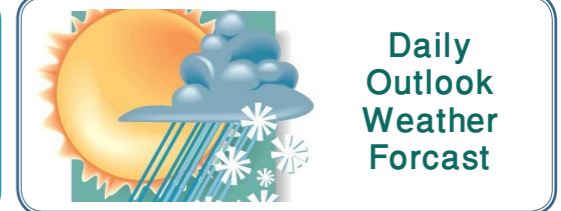


<b>Jalalabad</b> Partly Cloudy 20°C 8°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 14°C 1°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Partly Cloudy 22°C 4°C	<b>Mazar</b> Mostly Cloudy 11°C 4°C	<b>Herat</b> Mostly Cloudy 23°C 4°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy 10°C -1°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 17°C 1°C
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# Problems in Afghanistan, M.E, Syria are All Subjects of Concern: Putin

MOSCOW - "The problems in Afghanistan, the Middle East (M.E), Syria and other hot spots are all subjects of concern," said Russian President Vladimir Putin opening a meeting of the CSTO Collective Security Council in St Petersburg on Monday, Kremlin reports. "We know how complicated relations are in many parts of the world. The number of problem places and hot spots has not decreased, and we have not managed to resolve old conflicts as often as we would have liked. The problems in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Syria and other hot spots are all subjects of concern. I am very pleased therefore to have this chance to meet today and discuss all of these problems," Putin said.



Putin, President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek

Atambayev, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, and Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation

Nikolai Bordyuzha took part in the narrow format session on December 26. The meeting participants discussed routine mat-

ters concerning the CSTO's work and exchanged views on key issues on the global and regional agendas. (AKIPress)

# ACJC Court of Appeals Upholds Two Previous Convictions



KABUL - The Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Center's court of appeals on Tuesday held two open sessions - one of embezzlement and the other of accepting a bribe. In the first session, the court upheld the primary court's earlier conviction and sentence of Farid Ahmad, a former Azizi Bank staff member, who had been found guilty of stealing \$152,000 USD from the account of a customer who had died. Ahmad is serving 10 years and eight months in prison and was ordered by both courts to repay the money to the bank. "You, Ahmad Farid are sen-

tenced to serve 10 years and eight months in prison on charge of embezzlement and also you have to repay \$152,000 USD to Azizi Bank," said judge Anisa Rasuli. Ahmad's defense attorney, Abdu Hafiz Salangi, asked to play a video that he said would prove his client's innocence, but the judge rejected the request on the grounds that there was no equipment to screen the footage. "My case is not fully investigated and this decision is unfair," said Ahmad. In the second session, the appeal's court also upheld an earlier primary court ruling that ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

## Afghan Golf Team to Participate in Bangladesh Tournament

KABUL - The Afghan national golf team left for the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka on Tuesday where they will compete in the 32nd Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championships. The team will also participate in a training session under the supervision of the International Golf Federation. "We will continue our training under the supervision of the International Golf Federation as we do not have our own golf courses in the country," said Mahbob Shah Qazizada, deputy head of the national golf association. The Afghan team comprises four female and nine male golfers and they will represent Afghanistan in the championships, he said, adding that teams participating will include India, Pakistan, Iran, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Bangladesh among others. "I am confident that our team will once again perform well and win medals," he said. Meanwhile, the golfers have asked for steps to be taken to provide the players with facilities in the country so that they can practice regularly. "This is the second time I am participating in the championship; unfortunately we do not have our own golf courses and we face a lot of problems; we have worked hard to perform well in the championship," said Afghan female golfer Laila Sajjadi. "The level of competitors in this championship is quite high; teams participating are good," said another player Noor Ahmad Fazil. The tournament will start on January 4. Ten countries will participate. Afghan golfers have participated in five of these tournaments and won a silver medal in 2012. The silver medalist was Imran Ali and while Nasir also brought home a bronze medal. (Tolonews)

## Taliban Extracting Badakhshan's Gold, Lazuli Mines

FAIZABAD - Officials in northeastern Badakhshan province on Tuesday said the provincial revenue department's income increased by seven percent this year despite no revenue collection from gold and lapis lazuli mines' extraction. Finance manager at the provincial Revenue Department, Abdul Sattar Natiq, in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News said the Ministry of Finance (MoF) had estimated this year's revenue of the department at 298 million afghanis, while more than 329 million afghanis had already been collected. He said current year's revenue increased by seven percent compared to last year's 300.8 million af. Calling insecurity and presence of militants in a number of areas as major challenge in



revenue collection, he said they were unable to collect revenue from border districts and areas under high security threats. "Some big companies cancelled their plans to establish factories in Badakhshan due to insecurity negatively impacting the provincial revenue," he said. Natiq said non-collection of revenue from two great mines - lapis lazuli and gold mines - was another challenge facing the revenue department. "These mines are under Taliban control and they are illegally extracting the minerals while giving no share to the government." If controlled and extracted by government, revenue from the mines would make up budget for the entire northern region including Badakhshan province, he said. "We can collect 50 million afghanis each year from the lapis lazuli mine, but unfortunately extraction work at the mine has been stopped in ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## A Week after Removal, District Police Chief Still in Office

KABUL - A district police chief in northern Balkh province continues discharging his duty a week after the Ministry of Interior (MoI) ordered regarding his arrest, an official said on Tuesday. MoI ordered the arrest of the Zari district police chief and one of his bodyguards a week ago after an investigation into allegations of kidnapping and sexual assaults against them. MoI Spokesman Sedique Sediqui told Pajhwok Af-

ghan News they had dismissed Mohammad Akram Zari and the provincial authorities had been asked to remove him from the post. He called the reappointment of Zari as district police chief in compliance with the provincial government orders a matter of serious concern. The ministry is investigating the issue. Police spokesman Sherin Jan Durrani confirmed Col. Mohammad Akram Zari continued to work as acting police chief for the district.

He said police had completed paper work on the allegations against Zari. Mohammad Zia, a resident of the district, told Pajhwok Afghan News he along with two other people had complained to the Balkh police headquarters against Akram, his bodyguard and some others. But their complaint went unaddressed. Mohammad Zia, a resident of Zari district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that he along with two other people had ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

## Drinking Water, Road Projects Completed in Kherkot District

SHARAN - Several development projects have been completed in the Kherkot district of southeastern Paktika province, benefitting thousands of residents, an official said on Tuesday. Clean drinking water schemes, deep wells, and graveling of a road were among the projects completed, said Rural Rehabilitation and Development Director Najibullah Jahid. Governor Mohammad Elyas Wahdat, addressing the inaugural ceremony, said hundreds of families would benefit from the projects. According to the governor, residents of Segani locality previously faced problems due to non-availability of clean drinking water and gravelled roads, an issue which has now been resolved. Nasebullah, a resident of the locality, told Pajhwok Afghan News the rural rehabilitation department had launched multiple development projects in the area. "Earlier, we had no access to drinking water, but now 15 well have been dug up." (Pajhwok)

## Residents Protest Against Daesh over Killing Youth



SHIBERGHAN - Residents of Darzab district of northern Jawzjan province on Tuesday protested against the killing of three youth by Daesh affiliates. Two days back, Daesh militants killed the three youth in Garam Jar village of Darzab district after a clash with police. The protesters, carrying corpses of the victims, arrived in Shiberghan, the provincial capital. They said Daesh fighters on Sunday night attacked Garam Jar village and destroyed many houses and kidnapped five civilians and killed three of them later. Two other civilians were still in Daesh captivity, they said. Haji Khudai Rahm, the father of the three slain brothers, said, "My sons were shepherd and they had no connection with any group

or the government. Daesh in the past too had killed my two nephews." With tearful eyes, he said his sons left behind 15 children and he did not know what to do. Sher Ali, a local influential elder, said Daesh commanders, including Qari Hekmat, Mullah Nader and Ghazanfar, after being defeated by police during a clash entered their village and took five people hostage in revenge. He said the militants shot dead the young men and two children were still in their captivity. "Daesh gunmen took away everything from people, they took horses, hens, dogs and everything," Ali added. A woman from Garam Jar village, who wished to go unnamed, said Daesh militants when entered the village did ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## 'Afghans Failing in Spywar, Someway Help Enemy'

KABUL - The spymaster on Tuesday stressed change in the fighting method and said extremist thoughts among young generation should be prevented. Addressing the Meshrano Jirga or upper house of parliament, the National Directorate of Security chief said a major part of the psychological war was being done by Afghans themselves, helping the enemy. Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai along with Interior Minister Lt. Gen. Taj Mohammad Jahid and Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Abdullah Habibi were summoned by the Senate to brief the house about the security situation of the country. "Unfortunately we have failed in the psychological war, a major part of the psywar is done by ourselves in the enemy's interest."



Stanikzai told the upper house that differences between the country leaders had weakened the political system. He said the role of religious scholars and influential individuals was important in dealing with the psywar. "We would continue suffering losses until the motive of the war has changed because the ongoing war in Afghanistan is based on conflicting interests of some foreign countries."

He also stressed changing the method of war and said work on such a plan was underway. However, he did not elaborate. He dismissed some reports as propaganda that the government had transferred masked gunmen to the northern region. "Some regional countries have been preparing to support and finance Taliban for protection of their own interests." His remarks come as ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Risking Life and Limb, Miners Need Safe Work Environment

JALALABAD - A rock-mine worker in the Kama district of eastern Nangarhar province grumbles he has to work hard in a highly perilous environment for a small amount of wages. No safety measures have been put in place, with the government paying no attention to workers' security. Faced with deadly incidents, he is paid 200 to 400 rupees in daily wages. All Afghanistan Federation of Trade Unions (AAFTU) says around 2,500 people are engaged in in rock excavation. A number of works have lost their lives to quarry accidents. In Afghanistan, rocks are widely used in the construction of homes, but the type of work these people do involves deadly risks. Kashar Khan, a resident of ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Balkh: 50 Students Graduate from Pashto Literature

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - About 50 students on Tuesday celebrated their graduation from Pashto literature at the university in northern Balkh province. This year, the graduation party on the campus in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, was different from the past years as students presented cultural clothes exhibition, held roundtable discussions on development of Pashto language and attended a music session. Ustad Zamir, Pashto literature lecturer, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Pashto faculty was launched in the Balkh University ten years back. He said Pashto language was not part of school and university ...*(More on P4)...(12)*