

<b>Jalalabad</b> Clear 22°C 8°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 8°C -3°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Partly Cloudy 17°C 3°C	<b>Mazar</b> Clear 17°C 4°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 17°C 3°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy -1°C -8°C	<b>Kabul</b> Clear 14°C -1°C
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**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Mosque Ambush Kills 10 Police

**Taliban claims responsibility for deadly attack in Jawzjan province as officials blame ISIL.**

SHEBERGHAN - Ten police officers and the wife of a commander have been killed in an ambush outside a mosque by Taliban fighters in northern Afghanistan. Mohammad Reza Ghafori, spokesman for the Jawzjan provincial governor, said on Saturday the police officers were attacked on Friday as they were coming out of the mosque. The wife of the police commander heard about her husband being shot and rushed to the scene, where she was also killed in Sardar village of Darzab district, Ghafori said. Officials blamed the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) for the deadly attack. However, Zabihullah



Mujahid, a spokesman for Taliban, said on Twitter his group killed the policemen and captured the village. It wasn't possible to inde-

pendently confirm either claim. ISIL-linked fighters have been active in Afghanistan's eastern regions, but have recently begun operating in the north

of the country as well. In Jawzjan province earlier this month, ISIL was blamed for killing at least six Afghan employees of the International Commit-

tee of the Red Cross who were carrying supplies to areas hit by deadly snowstorms. Another two staff remain unaccounted for. (Aljazeera)

# Dozens Rally Against Pakistan's Cross-Durand Line Incursions

KABUL - Dozens of Afghans on Saturday rallied against Pakistan's rocket shelling in eastern parts of Afghanistan. The rally started in Kabul and its final stop will be in front of the Torkham crossing in Nangarhar province. Torkham crossing was recently closed by Pakistani government following an attack in Sindh. "We cannot tolerate Pakistan's shelling anymore," said Mohammad Din, a resident of Kabul said. "We want to pass our mes-

sage to the international community, the United Nations and human rights organizations. Our message is that we will not let any country to invade Afghanistan," said Mirza Mohammad, another protester. The protesters said they will continue their rallies to Torkham and Jalalabad city of Nangarhar. "Pakistani police are arresting Afghans from mosques and their homes and are imprisoning them," said Shamsullah ... (More on P4)...(8)

# Balkh Painters Paint Peace on Walls



KABUL - A number of Balkh province painters on Saturday painted peace images on the reconstructed German consulate wall that was destroyed in a suicide attack four months earlier. The painters said they are tired of war and want to have a peaceful life. They urged warring parties to put an end to their fights and to return to peace. "We want peace and empathy," said Farkhunda Sadat, painter and organizer of the move. Mohammad Sabir

Naqshbandi, an experienced painter of Balkh province, said: "Most of our country fellows are illiterate, so they cannot read and painting is a good way to transfer the meaning of peace to them." "Almost 90 % of the people are illiterate and cannot read, but they can understand, looking at paintings, what beauty is in peace," he said. The painters said war has nothing constructive, it destroys our country and makes our people homeless. "We ... (More on P4)...(9)

# 'Pakistan Wants Good Relation with Afghanistan': Sharif

KABUL - Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said his country wanted good relation with Afghanistan and was a well-wisher for the war-torn country, a media report said on Saturday. Sharif expressed the view while talking to journalist in Ankara, the capital of Turkey where he has been on a three-day official visit, according to express tribune. He urged the government in Kabul that realize that "Pakistan has always desire peace and stability in Afghanistan and wants to con-



tribute to its development." When asked about the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Sharif said some regional countries were opposed to the multibillion

project in the region without naming any country. He ruled out if the US and western countries were conspiring against the vital project. (Pajhwok)

# Zakhilwal Hopes Pakistan to Partially Open Border for Sick, Women, Elder

ISLAMABAD - Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Omar Zakhilwal expressed Saturday his hope that Pakistan could partially open the two countries' border for Afghan sick, women, elders as well as Afghans who are stranded in Pakistan with valid visas later the day. Zakhilwal posted a statement on his official Facebook page Saturday and advised Afghan nationals to "avoid travel to Pakistan even if the border is opened."



Pakistan closed Pak-Afghan border on Feb. 16 for "security reasons" as it insists militants who have carried out recent attacks in Pakistan operate from the Afghan side of the border. Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria has said that a decision regarding reopening of Pak-Afghan border will be taken in due course of time. "Pakistan has continued to maintain and emphasize that effective border management is vital for preventing cross border movement of terrorists. Pakistan is ready to work with Afghanistan on those issues in a spirit of mutual respect, trust and cooperation," the spokesman said at his weekly ... (More on P4)...(10)

# Sikh Community's Children Want Building for School

JALALABAD - The only primary school students of Sikh community in eastern Nangarhar had to continue their education in few small rooms of their worship place called Daramsal and complained no proper infrastructure for the school was provided to them. They said most of the time their school remained closed because it was a worship place and their teachers were not allowed during special

religious ceremonies. The Baba Kabir primary school founded in 2012 but could not be constructed until now although the plot had been bought and provided by the Sikh community. Around 60 students were being imparted education in the school by four teachers who faced multiple problems and strict security search while entering to the Daramsal. In addition teaching in the

Sikh community school was not an easy task too because of communication barrier as all of the students were not Pushto speakers. Amdaf Singh, the student of fourth class, said their school remained shut most of the time because of religious events or guest who attend the religious events. He demanded the construction of a separate school where ... (More on P4)...(11)

# Lack of Markets Affects Local Products

KABUL - A number of local businessmen said on Saturday that the lack of markets for agricultural products, particularly onions, affect a big part of their production every year. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, says 142,000 tons of onions were harvested this year, but according to businessmen a big part of the harvest was spoiled due to a lack of standard storage facilities and markets. The businessmen said the reason behind a lack of onions exports was the fall of the onions price in world markets. "We cannot do our ... (More on P4)...(13)

# 10 Students Suffer Casualties as Rocket Hits School



MEHTARLAM - Two students were killed and eight others injured when a rocket struck a school in eastern Laghman province on Saturday, an official said. Governor's spokesman, Sarhadi Zwak, told Pajhwok Afghan News a rocket fired by militants targeted a school in Basram area on the outskirts of the provincial capital around 10:30am today. He said two students were killed and six others along with a teacher were wounded in the incident. The injured were evacuated to hospital for treatment, he said, assuring of stable health condition of the wounded. However, Laghman education director, Mohammad Hazrat Mujadadi, said two students were killed and eight others suffered injuries in the incident. "It is still unclear who fired the rocket but an investigation is underway into the incident," he said. No militant group has so far commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

# Standing up Against a Slavery form of Trafficking

KABUL - Human trafficking has many facets in the context of Afghanistan, involving men, women and children who often suffer at the hands of those who take advantage of their vulnerability. Those who experience trafficking are often not in a position of strength to be able to stand up against it, whether in public or domestic situations. This report looks at the case of a rare young Afghan woman who took a stand against her husband's indulgence of Bachabazi. Challenging deep-rooted unfair yet prevalent tradition, braving various societal pressures, an Afghan woman raised her voice against injustice that brought shame to the oppressor and comfort to oppressed. It is the story of Bushra, 32, who initially opted silence over continued social injustice and unfair treatment, but raised her voice against overt indulgence of her husband in Bachabazi (involving sexual relations between older men and younger adolescent men, or boys). Now, Bushra is providing legal assistance to Afghan victims and survivors of trafficking in persons. It was Bushra's resolve that kept her fight against injustice. ... (More on P4)...(14)

# Smugglers Arrested with 4 Kg of Heroin in Capital Kabul

KABUL - A group of three smugglers were arrested by the security forces in the outskirts of Kabul city as they were attempting to smuggle 4 kg of heroin. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the smugglers had placed the heroin in their shoes in a very professional way but were identified and arrested by the security forces in the control doors of Kabul city. This comes as there has been a sharp rise in opium cultivation, production and smuggling across the country during the recent months. According to the last survey report, there has been a 43 per cent rise in opium cultivation in Afghanistan. The survey jointly conducted by the Afghan authorities and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, around 201,000 acres of land were cultivated with opium in 2016. The report further added that estimates show a total of 4,800 metric tons of opium will be produced in 2016. According to the officials, instability, lack of funds to fight opium cultivation and production, and hot season played key roles in growing opium cultivation in Afghanistan during the year 2016. (KP)

# Taliban Leader Involved in Killing of New Zealand Soldiers Killed in Bamyan

KABUL - A key Taliban leader who was involved in a number of deadly attacks including the killing of New Zealand soldiers has been killed during clashes with the Afghan security forces. According to the local government officials in Bamyan, Haji Abdullah Gardande was killed during a clash with the police forces in the vicinity of Sherbar district. The officials further added that two policemen, a police officer, and one of their drivers also lost their lives in the clash. The provincial government media office in a statement said Haji Abdullah was previously appointed as shadow district of Saighan and was in charge of the group's military



commission in this province. Haji Abdullah was killed after ambushing the Afghan security forces in Shibar district, the officials said, adding that he was previously involved in the killing of four intelligence operatives. The provincial officials also added that Haji Abdullah was involved in an attack on a check post in Bamyan that led ... (More on P4)...(12)

# Afghan Airstrikes Kill 18 Militants



KUNDUZ - Up to 18 militants have been killed in government forces' operations in the northern Kunduz province over the past 24 hours, an army spokesman said Saturday. The government forces' aircraft targeted Taliban hideouts in Dasht-e-Archi district of the province over the past 24 hours, the army spokesman in the province, Ghulam Hazrat Karimi, said. According to the official, the

air attacks which began Friday has been continuing; five more militants sustained injuries. He also noted that the military operations from the ground and air would continue to target anti-government militants in Kunduz and the neighboring Takhar and Baghlan provinces until lasting peace returns to the area. Taliban militants haven't commented on the situation yet. (Xinhua)