

<b>Jalalabad</b> Clear 12°C 0°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Clear 2°C -11°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Partly Cloudy 10°C -4°C	<b>Mazar</b> Partly Cloudy 7°C -1°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 8°C -4°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Clear -7°C -21°C	<b>Kabul</b> Clear -3°C -17°C
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**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

**Pentagon**

# Afghanistan Still Dangerous and Challenges Remain there

KABUL - The Department of Defense said Thursday that Afghanistan still dangerous and challenges remain there, reaffirming the US support to the Afghan government and security forces.

Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook told reporters that U.S. military presence in Afghanistan continues to provide support to the Afghan government and its armed forces "so that they can secure the country for themselves."

He said Army Gen. John W. Nicholson, commander of the Resolute Support mission and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, and his team "work very closely with the government, with the armed forces of Afghanistan." The separate counterterrorism mission in



Afghanistan is also ongoing, Cook said, and is "critically important to the United States in keeping the homeland safe." "We feel good about the situation right now in Afghanistan with regard to the support we're provid-

ing along with other members of the NATO coalition," he said. "In terms of bolstering the Afghan security forces, improving their fighting capabilities on their own, so that ultimately they can secure the country on their own. We see

progress there." Afghanistan is still dangerous and challenges there remain, Cook said. "We will continue to provide the kind of support we can to bolster the Afghan security forces," he said. "That is an important mission." (KP)

## More than 70 Kg of Afghan Drugs Withdrawn in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The intelligence services of Tajikistan have withdrawn more than 70 kg of Afghan drugs during a special operation, reports Tajikistan Telegraph Agency (TajikTA). "More than 70 kg of drugs have been withdrawn by the intelligence services of Tajikistan during a special operation in the south of the state. The members of transnational criminal group have been detained," said the state committee of national security of Tajikistan.

The intelligence services in Khatlonsk region received information about the members of transnational criminal group headed by a citizen of Afghanistan preparing to transit a big party of drugs through the territory of Tajikistan. When they attempted to enter the territory of Tajikistan they faced the block by the representative of power structures of Tajikistan, shooting started. The smugglers managed to hide in the neighboring territory.

Later police stopped Niva vehicle traveling towards Panjjobb settlement. The inhabitants of Khamadoni district and Kulyab city were traveling in the car. "Other five members of the criminal group were detained in one unfinished private house where they were hiding a big party of drugs. Police withdrew 71.7 kg of drugs, including 67.5 kg of hashish, 2.7 kg of cannabis and 1.5 kg of opium," the message reports. (Agencies)

## 13 Coalmine Workers Shot Dead in Baghlan

PULKHUMRI - Amiri said the workers were on the way to their homes when they were attacked by the fighters in Anarak village in the district. Thumbnail At least 13 coalmine workers in Tala wa Barfak district in Baghlan were shot dead by a group of fighters affiliated to Daesh insurgents on Friday afternoon, local officials said. Tala wa Barfak district governor Faiz Mohammad Amiri told TOLONews that the workers were on the way to

their homes when they were attacked by the fighters in Anarak village in the district. He said the fighters had masks on their faces. Amiri stated that three other workers were wounded in the attack. Meanwhile, a number of Baghlan residents said the coalmine workers who were attacked by Daesh are from Shia community. However, officials have not commented on this so far. (Tolnews)

## Military Operation Ongoing Against Taliban in Kapisa District



KABUL - Kapisa Police Chief Mohammad Raziq Yaqubi said the operation was kicked off three days ago and still continues in parts of the district. A local security official in Kapisa on Friday said Ghubar

Military Operation is ongoing in Tagab district in the central province in order to clear the area of Taliban. Kapisa Police Chief Mohammad Raziq Yaqubi told TOLONews that the operation was ...*(More on P4)*...*(10)*

## UK Borders Breached by Afghan Murderer and Syrian Refugee Using Fake Passport

LONDON - Britain's border security has come under scrutiny after a Syrian refugee revealed how he entered the UK on a fake passport, and a convicted Afghan murderer who beheaded a woman got into the country, only to assault two police officers days later. Jamshid Piruz, who served seven years in jail for murdering his female tenant in Almere, near Amsterdam, attacked two police constables days after arriving in the UK

last January. Meanwhile, Syrian refugee Mohammad Aabouss told the Sun newspaper he was amazed how easy it was to enter Britain with a fake passport, adding: "I could have been a terrorist." It comes as former Scotland Yard counter-terrorism detective David Videcette criticized the EU's open borders policy and accused the bloc of not being serious about the safety of its citizens. (RT)

## Wife of US Author Missing in Afghanistan Makes Appeal

KABUL - The wife of an American author who disappeared on a research trip in Afghanistan more than two years ago appealed for his freedom on Thursday in a Pakistani newspaper. Paul Overby, 74, went missing in Khost province shortly after May 17, 2014, the last contact he had with his family.

He was hoping to interview Sirajuddin Haqqani, head of the Taliban-allied Haqqani militant network, and was trying to cross from Afghanistan into Pakistan's volatile North Waziristan region, according to the Pakistani daily the News. ...*(More on P4)*...*(12)*

## Garmsir Police Chief Arrested for Sending Vehicles to Pakistan

LASHKARGAH - The police chief for the Garmsir district of southern Helmand province has been arrested on allegation of sending four vehicles that allegedly entered Pakistan, officials said on Thursday.

An official, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a delegation arrived from the capital Kabul to Helmand arrested the Garmsir police chief, Ghulam Wali on Wednesday evening. "Few days ago, four luxury vehicles were moving in Garmsir deserts, American forces' balloons followed them until they disappeared, US forces contacted Ghulam Wali about the vehicles and he told them the vehicles belonged ...*(More on P4)*...*(13)*

## Govt. Leaders are Blamed Even if there is no Rainfall

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on Thursday said the people blamed government leaders for all ills, little realising the sitting government had been established to prevent a looming tragedy.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the constitution's adoption, Abdullah called approval of the basic law 13 years ago a historic move. He reaffirmed the unity government's commitment to the implementation of the historic document. He said some parts of the constitution needed elaboration as they did not answer some basic questions. For example, the constitution does



not mention a specific date and time for elections, an issue that has created problems in drawing up electoral timelines. Abdullah acknowledged with the adoption of the constitution, all vacuums had

been filled. Afghanistan's constitution was on the best at the regional level, but Article 149 was ambiguous, he noted. Article 149 says: "The principle of adherence to the tenets ...*(More on P4)*...*(11)*

## Jawzjan Residents Concerned Over Kidnappings

SHEBERGHAN - "Kidnapping cases have increased. Law is not implemented; it is only implemented on the middle class," said Hamidullah, a resident of Sheberghan city. A number of Jawzjan residents on Friday said they are concerned about an increase in kidnappings in the provincial capital Sheberghan City over the past six months. "Kidnapping cases have increased. Law is not implemented; it is only implemented on the middle class," said Hamidullah, a resident of Sheberghan city. Another resident of the city, Mohammad Nasim, said: "Son ...*(More on P4)*...*(14)*

## Homeless Addicts Dying Daily as Cold Grips Kabul



KABUL - The Pul-e-Sukhta Bridge is a well-known location for homeless addicts, who also live there with their families. Drug addicts living under the Pul-e-Sukhta Bridge in Kabul city said on average two to four fellow addicts are dying each day due to the severe cold currently gripping the capital. The Pul-e-Sukhta Bridge is a well-known location for homeless addicts, who also live there with their families. According to one addict,

Rahman, between two and four people die each day. "The weather is very cold and those addicts who do not have blankets to cover themselves die." "Addicted persons have come here from every province. We are living in very bad conditions," said Omid, another drug addict. Gul Ahmad, who also lives there, said he has used heroin for the past eight years. He also said eight people have died in the past few days. "Lots ...*(More on P4)*...*(15)*

## Kunduz Women Break Social Taboos, Open Bakery

KABUL - "I hope that the bakery attracts more customers in order to help Kunduz women," said Anisa Omid, the head of the bakery.

A group of progressive women have started up a bakery in the volatile northern city of Kunduz - in what is believed to be the first bakery to be solely female owned and run. Breaking social taboos in the conservative city, the five women officially opened Women's Bakery Center on January 1, which is located near the city center. Kunduz city has twice been attacked by the Taliban since September 2015 - which has had a negative impact on businesses ever since. However, the aim of the bakery, which was initiated by



GIZ, is to help the women become financially self-sufficient. Already, these hard-working ladies are churning out over 300 naan (flat bread) an hour but also bake cakes, samosas and bolani, said Sayed Karim Musawi, who helped set up the project. Meanwhile GIZ hopes to open a second branch, in the Imam Sahib district of Kun-

duz, in the near future. "I hope that the bakery attracts more customers in order to help Kunduz women. All the equipment for the bakery was brought in from Iran. We are happy that brave women are working here," said Anisa Omid, the head of the bakery. "We are very happy that women are active here. The ...*(More on P4)*...*(16)*