

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 16°C 6°C	Ghazni Cloudy 3°C -3°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 18°C 6°C	Mazar Chance of Rain 12°C -3°C	Herat Chance of Rain 17°C 7°C	Bamayan Chance of Rain 3°C -6°C	Kabul Cloudy 3°C -7°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Trump Signs Order to Vet Refugees, Citing Terrorist Threats

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order Friday enacting a vetting process for refugees coming into the United States, in the name of guarding against terrorist threats.

"We want to ensure that we are not admitting into our country the very threats our soldiers are fighting overseas," Trump said, while pointing the finger at the "radical Islamic terrorists" as he signed the document in the Pentagon.

The White House released no details of the document, but media reports suggested that it may include an indefinite ban on Syrian refugees and a four-month ban on all refugees as the U.S. government assesses the level of



risks in each country. Reports have also suggested that the United States would refrain from giving visas to citizens of Iran, Sudan, Syria,

Libya, Somalia, Yemen and Iraq, whose governments were on the U.S. list of sponsors of terrorism or countries of concern.

The new measure, Trump said on Wednesday, is not equivalent to the Muslim ban he proposed during the presidential elections.

In the same ceremony, Trump also signed an executive order to beef up the U.S. military.

"I'm signing an executive action to begin a great rebuilding of the armed services of the United States, developing a plan for new planes, new ships, new resources, and new tools for our men and women in uniform," he said.

The move came as multiple figures in the new administration, including the newly appointed Defense Secretary James Mattis and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Mike Pompeo, believed the present capacity of the U.S. military is insufficient to counter emerging threats to U.S. security and interests worldwide. (Xinhua)

French FM Expresses Concerns over Trump's Order to Vet Refugees



PARIS - French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault on Saturday said U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to curb refugees flows are worrying.

At a joint press conference with his visiting German counterpart Sigmar Gabriel, Ayrault said Trump's decision to halt immigration and refugees from some Muslim-majority countries "can only worry us".

"We have international commitments that we have signed. Welcoming refugees fleeing the war, oppression is part of our duties," Ayrault added.

Ayrault and Sigmar Gabriel discussed in Paris "what (they) are going to do" to face Trump administration uncertainty in handling major in-

ternational issues such as Iran nuclear deal, Russia sanctions, Middle East conflict and peace accord in Syria.

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Reports have also suggested that the United States would refrain from giving visas to citizens of Iran, Sudan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Yemen and Iraq. (Xinhua)

Kabulis Uneasy with Increasing Old Banknotes

KABUL - Several residents of capital Kabul complain about problems they face



in using old banknotes for daily transactions.

The Afghan currency notes come in denominations including one, two, five, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 afghanis and coins of one, two and five afghanis.

Edris Ahmad, a resident of Qala-i-Wahid area of Kabul city, told Pajhwok Afghan News that old and rusty banknotes of one to 50 afghanis were in abundance in the market.

"I have several times clashed with shopkeepers and taxi drivers over old banknotes," he said.

Hashmatullah Bayan, a member of the Wolosi Jirga commission on legislation, also said most banknotes from one to 50 afghanis had become unusable.

He confirmed facing problem in buying things in the market by offering old notes to shopkeepers.

Ahmad Javid, a liquefied gas seller in Kolola Pushta area of Kabul, said that most of customers gave him worn banknotes after buying gas.

"This problem often leads to verbal exchanges between customers and sellers. Wholesalers do not take old banknotes from me, so I also do not accept such banknotes from customers," he said.

Javid said moneychangers also bought worn banknotes at lower prices compared to their normal rates. Nilab, a resident of Qala-i-Zaman Khan area, complained about the poor condition of banknotes and said some people did not care about keeping their money safe.

She asked people to keep their money safe from turning filthy and said the Afghan currency was national asset.

"I personally keep my money very safe, but I become angry ... (More on P4)...(11)

UN, Russian Officials Talk Afghanistan Situation

KABUL - Top UN envoy in Kabul Tadamichi Yamamoto and Russian deputy foreign minister Igor Morgulov have discussed the security situation in Afghanistan, a media report said on Saturday.

President Putin's special representative for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov was also present at the meeting that conferred on the Afghan peace process and regional situation.

Tadamichi sought Russian support in solution to regional issues and assisting the Afghan authorities in bringing peace and stability to the war-torn country.

Earlier, President Ashraf Ghani had suggested the United Nations should hold



a conference at the regional level on key issues.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Miroslav Jenča said the UN was ready for cooperation in dealing with regional matters. Jenča said the UN

was ready for any kind of cooperation to properly resolve regional matters.

He said he would share Ghani's suggestion about the regional conference with the UN secretary general. (Pajhwok)

'Khost Airport Project Work Not up to Standard'

KHOST CITY - Civil society activists, provincial council members and government officials in southern Khost province say construction work on the international airport in Khost City, the provincial capital, has not been up to standard.

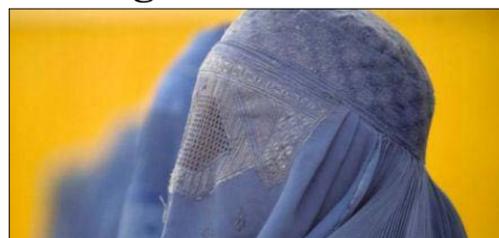
Construction work on the Khost City Airport was launched in April 2016 after being delayed for two years and currently 97 percent work on the project has been completed.

In the first phase, a 2.7-kilometre long and 300 meters wide runway and other facilities were constructed at a cost of \$8.5 million provided by the Transport and Aviation Ministry.

Provincial council-members' viewpoint Mujib Rahman Salemszoi, head of the provincial council, said engineers had pointed out 12 flaws in the construction work. "We sent a formal letter to Kabul about the low quality work and asked them to send a professional and technical team to assess the work but the ministry did not respond."

He added Governor Hukam Khan Habibi had been informed about the low quality of work at the airport and he assured assessing the ... (More on P4)...(12)

Concerns Raised Over Rise in Violence Against Women



KABUL - Helmand Women's Affairs Directorate on Saturday said they are concerned about a sharp increase in violence against women in the province due to rising insecurity, unwanted traditions and a lack of public awareness on women's rights.

According to the directorate, at least 20 cases of violence against women were registered last month, most of which included bad dadan - where girls and women are given to settle a dispute between families, often a blood dispute.

"The situation of women is a matter of concern in insecure districts [in Helmand] and women in these districts have no contact with local government offices.

However, the problems of women who have migrated to Lashkargah city have been addressed to a large extent," said Jamila Niazi, chairperson of Women's

Affairs Directorate in Helmand.

Meanwhile, a number of rights activists in Helmand called on relevant organizations to address the issue and reduce violence against women in the province.

"The level of violence against women has not been reduced in Helmand; rather, it has increased due to insecurity. And a large number of women have little access to women's affairs services in government," said Shogufa Anwari, a women's rights activist in Helmand.

The provincial office of Afghanistan Human Rights Commission meanwhile said many violations against women happen in the name of bad dadan.

"Women's condition in Helmand is concerning, because cases of violence against women have not been stopped," said Fatima Abidi, a member of the commission. (Tolonews)

Nimroz Customs Revenue up by 120m Afs

ZARANJ - The southwestern Nimroz province's customs department has collected more than two billion afghanis in revenue, registering 120 million afghanis increase over last year, officials said on Saturday.

Nimroz governor Mohammad Sami told Pajhwok Afghan News the department's revenue in 1395 fiscal year reached 10 billion and 697 million afghanis compared to eight billion and 574 million afghanis last year.

He said the target the Ministry of Finance had set to the customs department was 10 billion and 580 million afghanis, however 10 billion and 697 million afghanis were gathered in revenue this year, exceeding the target by 117 million afs.

He said installation of new systems at customs department and officials' efforts in ... (More on P4)...(8)

Displacement-Tracking System Being Put in Place



KABUL - Contracts for electricity distribution networks benefiting 45,000 families in three provinces were signed on Saturday between the power utility and two private Indian firms in Kabul. The contracts for designing, preparation, equipment supply, installation and testing electricity distribution networks in Logar, Pakhtia and Khost provinces

were signed between Da Afghanistan Breshna Shekat (DABS) head Qudratullah Delawari and two Indian private companies at the Presidential Palace today.

Qudratullah Delawari said the projects' implementation would cost 55 million afghanis to be paid by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Afghan government. ... (More on P4)...(9)

Balkh Police Chief Accuses Councilors of 'Harboring' Criminals

KABUL - Balkh Police Chief Gen. Sayed Kamal Sadat has claimed that a number of provincial council members are protecting criminals by keeping them at their homes.

He raised the issue at a Balkh police leadership session on Saturday where he said illegal armed men are being protected by a number of Balkh provincial council members - a move that has created fear among the people.

"Those who violate the law

claim that they are legislators. They claim that they have been elected by the people. They should protect the people," Sadat stated.

He added: "Unfortunately I want to say they [some Balkh provincial council members] keep a number of criminals at their homes."

He said they will make many excuses if asked to send the criminals to be prosecuted. However, Balkh provincial council rejected the claims and ... (More on P4)...(10)

Addicts Under Pul-i-Sukhta Bridge a Nuisance: Residents

KABUL - The presence of hundreds of drug addicts -- horrifying children, girls, youth and passers-by -- has

made the Pul-i-Sukhta area of Kabul a filthy and malodorous place.

Gul Jan, crossing the Pul-i-



Sukhta bridge, told Pajhwok Afghan News she had sent her 12-year-old girl about an hour ago to Mirwais Maidan Chowk to bring food but she had so far not returned.

The 45-year-old feared that addicts might have his harassed her child near Pul-i-Sukhta. Out of concern, she came out of home to search for her daughter.

"My children always complain of being harassed and cursed by addicts and they hate ... (More on P4)...(13)