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November 30, 2016

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 21°C 11°C	Ghazni Clear 13°C -2°C	Kandahar Clear 18°C 7°C	Mazar Clear 12°C 1°C	Herat Clear 17°C 1°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 3°C -8°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 12°C 2°C
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Enriched Food Awareness Campaign Kicks off

KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health and the World Food Programme (WFP) have jointly launched a nationwide awareness-creating campaign about enriched food, an official said on Tuesday.

Dr. Bashir Noormal, Afghan Public Health Institute (APHI) director general, told a meeting here that the campaign was aimed at warning people about negative consequences of malnutrition.

Afghanistan ranked top globally in malnutrition of children, a major challenge to the health of children and women in Afghanistan, he said.

Short stature, underweight, anemia and physical weak-



ness were symptoms and outcome of malnutrition, he added.

To alleviate malnourishment, the MoPH-WFP joint programme was launched to add micronutrients to edible salt, ghee and flour produced in Afghanistan, Dr. Noor-

mal explained.

He said iodine would be added to salt, vitamins A and D to ghee and wheat flour would be enriched by adding Vitamin B12, Zinc and Folic acid.

He said the campaign was aimed at increasing public awareness about importance of enriched food. The campaign would last seven months after its advertisement in the media.

The MoPH in a statement said more than one-third of child deaths under the age of five in the world resulted from malnutrition and in Afghanistan, one in four women and one in four children suffered from iron deficiency due to malnutrition. (Pajhwok)

People on Both Sides of Durand Line 'Affected by Terrorism



KABUL - Afghanistan's ex-national security advisor Rangeen Dadfar Spanta has said that the people on both sides of the Durand Line have suffered from the "menace of terrorism", and called for wider counter-terrorism efforts to curb the trend.

Spanta made the remarks on Tuesday at a ceremony marking the 20th death anniversary of prominent Pashto poet Khan Abdul Wali Khan.

"Without regional consensus and coordination we cannot reach peace and overcome historical ignorance and darkness which also caused pain to late Ghani Khan, but he came out of it triumphant," said Spanta.

Meanwhile, Amrullah Saleh, ex-chief of Afghan intelligence service—the National Directorate of Security (NDS) - has said that certain elements who exploit ethnicity to create division among Afghans are being hypocritical.

"In a situation where the enemy struggles to divide us in the name of tribe, ethnicity and region, it is very good that one of our prominent Persian ... (More on P4)...(8)

Afghan Taliban Offer Security for Copper, Gas Projects

KABUL - The Afghan Taliban on Tuesday offered to protect major government projects, such as the mining of a big copper deposit and an international natural gas pipeline project, to allow them to get off the ground after years of delay.

The Taliban have been behind much of the violence over the last 15 years that has frightened off investors, leaving Afghanistan unable to tap natural resources and build the infrastructure necessary to wean itself off foreign aid.

The militants, who call themselves the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, maintain their fight is against foreign forces and the foreign-backed government, not ordinary Afghans.

"The Islamic Emirate not only backs all national pro-



jects which are in the interest of the people and result in the development and prosperity of the nation but are also committed to safeguarding them," the Taliban said in a statement.

The Islamic Emirate directs all its mujahideen to help in the security of all national projects that are in the higher interest of Islam and the country," they said, refer-

ring to their fighters.

The militants identified the \$3 billion Mes Aynak copper deposit in Logar province, near Kabul, as one project they would protect.

A Chinese company was awarded the mining contract nine years ago but has yet to start production because of poor security and a lack of transport infrastructure.

The ... (More on P4)...(9)

AAF Maintainers Complete Major Inspection

KABUL - Afghan Air Force maintainers completed the first 600-hour aircraft inspection in country, including the post-inspection engine run, on an A-29 Super Tucano, at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan.

This 600-hour inspection is a significant achievement for the AAF maintainers as they were able to use their recent qualifications to complete the maintenance with minimal contractor assistance.

"Having the Afghans complete major inspections in country will be key to their sustainability, and I was impressed with their efforts and enthusiasm to learn and complete such a complex task," said Scott Stover, A-29 contractor site lead.

A milestone has been reached in the buildup of the latest fixed-wing combat squadron for the AAF. Maintenance graduates from initial A-29 training at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., have worked together with their contractor trainers and U.S. Air Force advisors to gain critical skills to maintain and employ this aircraft—which has been here less than a year.

A major inspection on the A-29 involves many separate inspections. Over the past three weeks, the maintainers took an in-depth look at the airframe and aircraft systems, including the flight controls, landing gear and avionics packages. The inspection is required preventative maintenance to ensure the aircraft is reliable until the next scheduled major inspection.

A single A-29 typically flies multiple combat sorties in a day, and major inspections minimize malfunctions between flights.

"Many aspects of the Afghan Air Force technicians' backgrounds are parallel to our own," said Tech. Sgt. Ralph Wellington Jr., A-29 advisor.

"They come from various parts of their country and a variety of professions, all with one goal in mind—serving their country and working toward peace for their families."

Wellington said many of the Afghan maintainers were prior maintainers on C-130s, ... (More on P4)...(12)

In Logar, 30pc of Govt. Departments are Without Buildings

PUL-I-ALAM - Construction work on a 1.5 acre building for the Land Authority of central Logar province has been launched, an official said on Tuesday.

At the launching ceremony, Governor Mohammad Halim Fidayee said the three-storey building would be completed in eight months at a cost of 16 million afghanis.

"We are trying to provide buildings for all government departments that are currently housed in rented structures. A department can better serve the people

when its resources and staff are positioned in a proper place," he said.

Fidayee added currently 30 percent of government departments in districts and the capital of Logar lacked buildings.

Land Authority acting head, Azim Khan, said the department had no building previously and they were faced with many problems. But he was happy with the start of process on a new building for his department.

A provincial council member, Habibullah Stanikzai, stressed all government organs must



construct buildings for their departments to address staff problems and enhance their efficiency. (Pajhwok)

Balkhab Road Blockades by Snow & ALP Irk Residents



SAR-I-PUL - Residents of the Balkhab district of northern Sar-i-Pul province complain about the blockade of roads by snowfall and a subsequent hike in essential items' prices.

The residents can use only two roads, Masjid Sabz and Qum Kotal, to reach the provincial capital, but one of them has been closed by snow and another by government forces.

A driver told Pajhwok Afghan News one of Balkhab roads in Masjid Sabz area had been blocked by the Afghan Local Police (ALP) for the past two months.

He said another road had been closed by heavy snowfalls in Qum Kotal area for the past one week. The blockade of roads to the district has caused essential items' prices to increase.

For example, he said, a kilo-

gram of liquefied gas cost 80 afghanis and a 50 kilograms bag of flour 1,650 afghanis before the roads were closed. But now the price of a kilogram of gas has jumped to 110 afghanis and 50 kilograms of flour to 2,000 afghanis.

Mohammad Hassan Haideri, an inhabitant of Tarkhaj area, accused Governor Mohammad Zahir Wahdat, Balkhab district chief Abdullah Ansari and a provincial council member Asadullah Khuramof blocking the Masjid Sabz road.

"We don't know which road we should use for transportation. Snowfall and the government have forced people to stay indoors," he remarked, calling for clearing the routes.

A provincial council member, Mohammad Ali Hakim, confirmed the blockade of ... (More on P4)...(11)

Mesbah Delivers Copies of His Credentials to Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Ministry



BISHKEK - Afghanistan Ambassador Mohammad Issa Mesbah has delivered the copies of his credentials to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan.

The envoy was received by Deputy Foreign Minister Azamat Usenov on November 28, 2016.

Usenov congratulated the Afghan Ambassador on his appointment and expressed confidence that he would make every effort for the further development of Kyrgyz-Afghan relations.

Mohammad Issa Mesbah, in turn, expressed willingness to contribute to the strengthening of the diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The previous Afghanistan Ambassador, Noor Mohammad Qarqin, left Kyrgyzstan in late-September. (AKIpress)

Badakhshan Mine Revenue Down by 90pc

FAIZABAD - The mines department in northeastern Badakhshan province says its revenue declined by 90 percent in the past two years due to delayed process of contracts.

The department head, Mohammad Akbar Anwari, told Pajhwok Afghan News their revenue declined after the Mines Ministry took away the authority of granting contracts from the provincial mines department.

"Individuals and companies who would come to us for contracts are now referred to the ministry where months pass but the contracts are not processed. Such individuals and companies have lost interest and the situation allows illegal extraction of mines", he added.

Surveys in-charge at the mines department, Eng. Atiqullah, said the revenue collected from Badakhshan's mines in solar year 1393 was 48 million afghanis but it decreased to just 7.5 million afghanis in 1394 and this year's income was estimated at 540,000 afghanis.

"We had contracts for 12 mines in the past year. These contracts expired two months ago. We have no contracts with individuals or companies, and the corporations must go to the ministry for contracts", he added.

Talking about mines in several districts of Badakhshan, Atiqullah said lapis lazuli, ruby, emerald, gold, coal, kohl and other mineral deposits existed in the province



The provincial council chief, Abdullah Naji, said powerful individuals had illegally occupied mines and the government had no power to put hand on them. A 30 percent of revenue from mines lined pockets of miners and powerful people like commanders and smugglers pocketed 70 percent of the illegal revenue.

The provincial council secretary, Ahmad Javed Javed, said the sand-washing of gold was being carried out in Royenj Aab area of Raghestan district.

He said daily 18 kilograms of gold was produced and a small amount of income was given to workers and the rest received by Taliban, local commanders and district officials.

"We are hired by local commanders against 500 afghanis a day. We have nothing to do with the extracted emerald stone", said Habib, a resident who worked in an emerald mine in Jurm district.

Badakhshan, a mountainous province that borders China, Pakistan and Tajikistan, is home to 16 mines in which thousands of people work. (Pajhwok)

Army General Killed in Chopper Crash

KABUL - An Afghan official says that an army general has been killed alongside at least ten injured after a military helicopter malfunctioned over the western Badghis province.

Mohammad Radmanish, the deputy spokesman for the defense ministry, said Tuesday that the army corps commander for the western region, Gen. Mohiuddin Ghori, was killed in the incident.

Local officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, said at least 10 officials ... (More on P4)...(10)

Afghan Forces Kill 8 IS Fighters

JALALABAD - Afghan security forces in crackdown against militants have killed eight fighters affiliated with the hardliner Islamic State (IS) group in the eastern Nangarhar province over the past two days, spokesman for provincial government Attaullah Khogiani said Tuesday.

The operation, according to the official, has covered parts of Pachirgam district during which a number of arms and ammunitions of the insurgent group have also been destroyed. However, the statement didn't comment on possible casualties on the government forces.

Militants loyal to IS which is active in parts of Nangarhar province with Jalalabad as its capital 120 km east of Kabul, are yet to make comment. (Xinhua)