

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	34°c 18°c		26°c 9°c		34°c 16°c		29°c 13°c		33°c 12°c		22°c 7°c		27°c 12°c



Survey Shows Decrease in Afghanistan Opium Poppy Cultivation

KABUL - Afghanistan saw a drop in opium poppy cultivation in 2015 for the first time in six years, according to a U.N. and Afghan government joint survey released Wednesday. The report's authors said unfavorable weather conditions were a major reason for the decline. They also pointed out there was a change in the methodology used to estimate areas of poppy cultivation, and while there was certainly a decrease, the percentage may not be exact. The annual survey, published by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime and Afghanistan's Ministry of Coun-



ter Narcotics, showed a 19-percent decrease in cultivation to 183,000 hectares (452,200 acres), down from 224,000 hectares (553,500 acres) last year. Lower levels of cultivation meant there was also a 48-percent reduction in the potential production of opium this year, 3,300 tons compared to 6,400 tons last year. Average opium yield per hectare (acre) was also down 36 percent. Eradication was up 40 percent to 3,760 hectares (9290 acres), from 2,692 hectares (6650 acres) last year. "We did our best to make ... (More on P4)...(7)

MP Claims Mullah Mansour Recently Visited Ghazni and Led Attacks

KABUL - A member of parliament has claimed that Taliban Supreme Leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour recently visited Ghazni province and led militant attacks there. Arif Rahmani who represents Ghazni province in Wolesi Jirga or Lower House of the Parliament said during Wednesday's session that Mullah ... (More on P4)...(9)

City Bank of Iran Ready to Assist Afghanistan Establish Similar Bank

KABUL - Bank Shahar or the City Bank of Iran that delivers essential funding for development and infrastructure projects across Iran is ready to assist Afghanistan establish a similar bank. The ethos of the bank is innovation in service which applies to both the retail banking services and way to support urban development. "We have been able to draw trust of people in our seven years of service through our modern ... (More on P4)...(10)

Afghan Girl Nominated for Children's Peace Prize

KABUL - Aziza Rahimzada, a 14-year-old Afghan girl, has been nominated for International Children's Peace Prize, which will be held in November.

Aziza lives in a displaced people's camp in Kabul. She has been nominated for the prize for providing education opportunities to girls and for her efforts to provide them with clean drinking water in internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps in Kabul. She said she is committed to do more for them. "Now that I am a candidate for the prize, I will try to work more for Afghan children,"



she told TOLONews. Besides education, Aziza gives circus training to 50 children in the camps. "Besides educating them until second grade, I give them training in circus as well. There are 50 children," she said. A circus trainer in Kabul, Mirwais, said: "Aziza was also praised ... for preparing ... (More on P4)...(11)

Taliban's Threat to Media Sparks Global Reaction

KABUL - The U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has strongly condemned this week's threat by the Taliban against TOLO TV and 1TV and urged government to ensure all journalists and media organizations in Afghanistan are protected. Bob Dietz, CPJ's Asia program coordinator said: "We condemn these threats against Tolo TV and 1TV and call on Afghan authorities to do their utmost to ensure the safety of all journalists and news outlets." "Afghanistan is entering a difficult period, with a growing level of violent conflict. Now, more than ever, the country needs its media to play a mature role in ... (More on P4)...(8)

Dozens of Policemen under Siege of Taliban in Farah

FARAH CITY - Dozens of Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) have been surrounded by Taliban in Bala Buluk District of western Farah province. A policeman told Khaama Press on telephone that Taliban are about 100 meters away from them. Yelling for help, he said "if immediate support does not arrive to Shivan area, we will all die." (KP)

Govt. will Put Every Effort to Protect Journalists

KABUL - The Presidential Palace (ARG) has announced in a statement that government will put every effort to protect journalists, the announcement comes as Taliban threatened to attack the offices and staff members of Kabul-based 1TV and Tolo TV channels. The statement released on Tuesday states that government supports the free, impartial and balanced activities of the media. "The media and their free operations represent the expression and crystallization of the spirit of the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan, and the government fully supports the free, impartial and balanced activities of the media in giving information to the people," States the statement. "The government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan recognizes any threat against journalists and media (In latest instance against Tolo and TV1 televisions) to be in contradiction to our national and religious principles and values as well as against the ruling laws of the country, and condemns it in the strongest terms." The statement further states that media plays an important role in flourishing the democratic system and strengthening national and public interests and facilitating the continuation of it is ... (More on P4)...(12)

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