

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	37°C 23°C		27°C 10°C		35°C 16°C		31°C 20°C		33°C 15°C		23°C 8°C		29°C 14°C

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Govt. Has Miserably Failed on Election Pledges

KABUL - A coalition of political parties and civil society groups said the government's weak approach to deal with security challenges could not prevent the growing threats from Daesh and Taliban in the country. Mohammad Omar Ayar, founder of the Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations Network (PPCSON), told reporters here that their demand was giving a proper place to political parties in parliament and warned of boycotting the upcoming Wolesi Jirga (WJ) election if their demand could not be materialised. According to him, the government had miserably failed to implement its election pledges and the country



continued to suffer from widespread administrative and moral corruption and fast deteriorating security situations. He said capital flight and migration of skilled youth witnessed unprecedented increase and the economy lied in tatters after the unity government took office. PPCSON issued an eight-point resolution that supported the implementation of the Election Reform Commission (ERC)'s suggestions, particularly the introduction of parallel voting system in which political parties are given a chance to field their candidates. On August 30, the ERC for the ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Kabul Holds First Food Festival



KABUL - A food festival - the first of its kind - was launched in Kabul city on Tuesday in a bid to promote locally produced and home-grown products, officials of the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) said. The festival will run for seven days and will showcase a range of produce and goods, said officials. AISA officials said this will also provide a platform for producers to market their goods. "This festival is a good opportunity for people to see how much progress Afghanistan has made in the private food sector. How production levels have increased, how quality has improved and how competitive prices are," the head of AISA Qurban Hajjo said. Meanwhile the Minister of ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Queues Grow at Embassies as Afghans Seek Visas

KABUL - As the country's economy tumbles and unemployment rises in war-hit Afghanistan, embassies of some countries such as Iran and Turkey are being swamped with people applying for visas to transit through their countries in a bid to reach Europe. Many Afghans, who stood in line for hours on Wednesday, told TOLONews that they were disillusioned with government for not providing them with job opportunities. Many said that they had no choice but to take a risk and flee to Europe - despite knowing they were putting



their lives at risk. One Kabul resident, Aminullah said that four years ago there were hardly any people applying for visas when he last visited the embassy. "There were only about 20 people at this embassy when I visited here in 2011 but now the number has surged." Owners of transportation companies meanwhile said they can transport up to 1,200 people on a daily bases - half of which make it across the border...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Afghanistan Water Sources Use by Neighboring Countries

KABUL - The fears of a security breakdown in Afghanistan boil the larger possibility of an economic collapse. The country's revenues seem abysmal, and the mismanagement of billions of dollars in aid has turned it entirely dependent on foreign donations and the presence of foreign troops. With Afghanistan being largely an agricultural country, investment in the water sector should have been a natural priority for sustainable economic development. Yet, that is not the case. In the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, a framework for allocating international aid, wa-



ter does not figure as a core development sector. Only 5 percent of development has gone into the water sector during the past decade. The Ministry of Water and Energy says that Afghanistan water resources reaches to 57 billion cubic meters which the most parts of it use by neighboring countries. Along the Afghanistan's borders, villagers see their water ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Hajj Transfer Complete a Week before Deadline: Officials

KABUL - The Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs said that all Afghan Hajj pilgrims have arrived safely in Saudi Arabia ahead of next week's deadline set by the ministry. This year nearly \$10 million USD was saved on the total cost of the trip to Mecca and Medina - two holy cities in Saudi Arabia where Muslims perform annual religious rituals. Compared to previous years, Afghan pilgrims have better facilities than many other nations, said the officials at the Hajj Ministry. "We have heard this year the facilities are good and three meals a day are being provided. We are happy with this - it is well organized," a resident of southern Kandahar province said. The last of over 24,000 pilgrims left Kabul for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. Last year, the cost for Hajj was higher - almost \$2,700 USD for each pilgrim - but this year it cost only \$2,450 USD, officials added. "This is an achievement for us and three things were very important for us ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Thousands of Bamyan Teachers Going Without Salaries



BAMYAN CITY - At least six-month salaries of over 2,750 contract-based teachers in central Bamyan province have not been paid, forcing some of them into manual labour for making ends meet. More than 145,000 students including 70,000 girls study in 270 schools in Bamyan. They are being taught by 2,850 permanent and 2,750 contract-based teachers, officials say. According to the Education Department, more than 17,000 students were enrolled in schools this year, including 50 percent girls. But contract-based teachers complained they had not been paid over the last six months, forcing some to leave their jobs and other to do manual labour to feed their families. Mohammad Ali, one of the teachers in Wars district, told Pajhwok Afghan News he was forced to quit due to non-payment of salaries. "I have no choice but to do manual work to feed my five-member family." He vehemently criticised education department officials, asking if they could not pay their ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Journalists Urged to Avoid Illegal Migration

KABUL - The Afghanistan National Journalists' Union (ANJU) on Wednesday pleaded with journalists and media activists not to embark on illegal migration to foreign countries and instead continue working inside their home country with even more commitment. The ANJU in a statement said a number of journalists and media workers embarked on an illegal journey to Europe two days back. The exact number of these journalists was not clear, but reportedly around 20 people had left the country, including some with their families, added the statement. It said the security and economic situations in the country was deteriorating over the past one year, forcing Afghans to leave the country in search of better lives in the west. "Around 12,000 journalists in Afghanistan face threats directly or indirectly. But this group did not face any specific threat," added the statement. According to the ANJU statement, earlier when media personnel faced any problems, media support organisations had supported them. The journalists who embarked on the dangerous journey to Europe had not contacted the ANJU over any complaints or problems. The ANJU also urged media activists and journalists to continue with their job with a renewed resolve as part of their ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Lawmakers Seek Removal of Ghazni Police Officials

KABUL - Some lawmakers on Wednesday demanded police chief and deputy police chief of southern Ghazni province be sacked due to negligence in preventing a major jailbreak. In a brazen attack on the Ghazni prison three days back, more than 355 inmates escaped. Four policemen and four of the assailants were killed in the incident. As many as 148 inmates were accused of crimes against national security.



Mohammad Arif Rahmani, a Wolesi Jirga member from Ghazni, said: "The incident was an intelligence conspiracy. Four times, police had been tipped about the incident but due to negligence no preventive measures were taken." Shah Gul Rezaee, another MP from Ghazni, insisted on the removal ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

145 Taliban Militants Killed, Wounded in Last 24 Hours

KABUL - The Afghan defense ministry, in a statement on Wednesday, said that the Afghan forces' anti-terrorism operations resulted in the killing or wounding of at least 145 Taliban militants across the country in the last 24 hours. The statement said that the operations were carried out in Sarobi district of Kabul, Samkani, Dandi Patan and Zurmat districts of Paktia, Naish and Maiwand districts of Kandahar, Dehrawoud, Surab, Charchino, Chora, Chinari Tu, Chaka Joy, Gizab and Khas Urozgan districts of Urozgan, Kajran district of Daikundi, Bakwa and Gulistan districts of Farah, Aab Kamari and Bala Murghab districts of Badghis and Kurkh District of Herat provinces in past 24 hours. According to the statement 70 militants were killed, 75 wounded and two others detained during these operations. Six Afghan National Army soldiers also were killed due to landmine explosions and insurgent fire, the statement added. Afghan security forces have been busy in several large-scale military operations against Taliban and other militant groups in parts of the country. During these independent operations, Afghan forces have retaken areas that were under Taliban control for many years. Afghan forces launched independent military operations against insurgents after taking full charge of security from NATO-led security forces at the beginning of this year. (FNA)

Small, Medium Investments Can Overcome Unemployment

KABUL - Participants of a day-long conference in Kabul on Wednesday insisted on encouraging more than four million Afghans are on jobs and 400,000 more join them annually. Turshtwal said in order to reduce unemployment in the country, it was necessary to encourage small and medium businesses. "If the small and medium investments are not encouraged and no specific programmes undertaken to create jobs then over the next four years we should await a big crisis." He said currently there was a huge gap between investors, traders and government. "Unfortunately now the government views private investors as rivals." He added in today's conference status, challenges and opportunities for small and medium enterprises in Afghanistan and creation of job opportunities would be discussed and a set of constructive suggestions would be submitted to the government. Hamidullah Farooqi, an economics professor, insisted the government should support these investments and should have practical programmes in hand. Mohammad ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Daesh Has Imprisoned 127 People in Nangarhar's Achin: Official



ALALABAD - The self-styled Islamic State or Daesh group held 127 people, including 19 Afghan soldiers, captive in its three jails in Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Thursday. During an interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, the Achin district chief, Hajji Ghalib Mujahid, said: "Daesh has three prisons in Chapari, Takhtu and Bandar areas, where they have imprisoned 127 religious scholars, local influential figures and 19 Afghan security personnel." (Pajhwok)