

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 16°C 51°C	Ghazni Clear -2°C -12°C	Kandahar Clear 11°C -2°C	Mazar Clear 11°C 2°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 11°C 1°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy -6°C -15°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 4°C -10°C
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At Least 20 Dead in Bomb Blast Outside Supreme Court

KABUL - At least 20 people were killed on Tuesday in a bomb blast outside the Supreme Court in the center of capital Kabul, government officials said, in what appeared to be the latest in a series of attacks on the judiciary.

The Ministry of Public Health said at least 20 people were killed and 38 injured people were taken to city hospitals.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, in which police said an apparent suicide bomber targeted Supreme Court employees leaving their offices at the end of the working day.

"When I heard a bang I rushed toward the Supreme Court's parking lot to find my brother who works there," said a witness, Dad Khuda, adding he had found



his brother alive. "Unfortunately, several people were killed and wounded." Reuters witnesses at the

scene reported blood stains on the street and numerous ambulances leaving the area. Last month, Taliban bombers killed more than 30 peo-

ple and wounded about 70 in twin blasts in a crowded area of the city during the afternoon rush hour. The Islamist militant Tali-

ban, fighting to oust foreign forces and bring down the U.S.-backed government, claimed responsibility for the Jan. ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Nangarhar Lacks Equipment to Diagnose, Treat Cancer



JALALABAD - There are no equipment to diagnose and treat cancer patients in eastern Nangarhar province, public health officials said on Monday.

If someone is suspicious of having caught cancer, he/she is sent to a foreign country for

diagnosis and examination, they added. Deputy public health director, Dr. Muqaddisa Miraj on Monday addressed a gathering marking the World Cancer Day at the zonal hospital here. She said currently the equipment at the hospital's maternity ward were incomplete, there were also no facilities to diagnose cancer. However, she said the maternity ward only had a blood-taking instrument and then the blood was sent to the US for testing. Due to the absence of equipment used to diagnose cancer, it remained unknown how many people were infected ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Iraq Needs 'Afghanistan-Style' Demining Operation after IS: UN



WASHINGTON - Removing mines, explosives and booby traps left by Islamic State forces in Iraq's Mosul could cost \$50 million, United Nations officials said on Tuesday.

Costs for Iraq as a whole were previously estimated at \$50 million this year, but this could double because of Mosul, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) said.

"Looking at the contamination in Mosul we will need \$50 million and \$50 million for the rest of the country,"

Paul Heslop, chief of UNMAS programme planning and management section, told Reuters. "Clearing IEDs and building clearances is a lot more dangerous than minefields. You need a higher level of technical skill and complex equipment and it's slower. As areas are liberated, you get a better idea of the level of contamination," he said. More than three months into an offensive by Iraqi government troops and US-led allied ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Afghanistan Requests US Air Support for Combat Operation



BRUSSELS - Afghanistan's national security adviser is appealing to the US to provide aircraft to back-ground operations in the country until Afghan security forces can do the job alone. Mohammed Hanif Atmar told reporters in Brussels on Tuesday that "we will need a kind of filling-the-gap measure from the United States." Atmar said "it will take us time" to develop close air support capabilities but didn't indicate how long.

He said Afghanistan doesn't need more troops. He also welcomed U.S. reassurances that the new administration remains committed to the Afghan cause, saying that Kabul and Washington should work together "to neutralize common threats" like terrorism. Afghan forces have struggled to defeat a Taliban-led insurgency since the U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission in late 2014. (AP)

Pakistan's Cement Exports to Afghanistan Decline

PESHAWAR - Pakistan's cement exports to landlocked Afghanistan declined by 10.88 percent over the past seven months, July 2016 to January 2017, manufacturers say. The All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association linked the fall in exports to a hike in fuel prices, other input cost and barriers like the anti-dumping duty imposed by importers. Exports to Afghanistan slumped from 0.174 mil-

lion tonnes in January 2016 to 0.166 million tonnes last month, a decline of 4.5 percent. But dispatches to India rose from 0.049 million tonnes to 0.861 million tonnes, a 77 percent spike. A spokesman for the association said exports of cement to India, however, grew by 79.34 percent during the period. India has imposed a tariff of around 19 percent on cement imports. The association asked the ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

70pc Uruzgan Police Entered Biometric System

TIRINKOT - More than 70 percent of the police in central Uruzgan province have been entered into biometric system, the police chief said on Tuesday. Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Sediqi told a press conference here that so far more than 70 percent of the police had been covered in the biometric process and the system would be extended to districts as well. He said reforms in the police force were being implemented and corruption being rooted out. The acting police chief said people's ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Mattis Hails US-Canada Partnership in Afghanistan

KABUL - America and Canada have been strong allies since the Second World War, a bond that is in evidence in Afghanistan as well, US Defence Secretary James Mattis says. After assuming office, the secretary said during a meeting at the Pentagon, his first phone call was to Canada's Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan. The Canadian Press quoted Mattis as saying that he wanted to embrace and kiss every Canadian soldier ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Khak-i-Safaid District Chief Killed in Farah Explosion

FARAH CITY - The administrative chief for the Khak-i-Safaid district of western Farah province was killed in a roadside bombing on Tuesday, an official said. Police spokesman Iqbal Baheer confirmed the killing of Abdul Khaliq Noorzai in what he called a remote-controlled blast. Ghulam Farooq, a resident of the locality, told Pajhwok Afghan News Noorzai, who lived in the Charbagh of Farah City, was killed in a blast on his way home from a mosque. Taliban claimed responsibility for the killing of Noorzai. (Pajhwok)

12 Children Die in Kabul's Cold Weather in a Week

KABUL - At least twelve children have died in the past week due to the cold weather that has gripped Kabul in the past week. The children, who had all been living in displaced persons camps in the capital, were among thousands who have sought sanctuary in Kabul in recent months due to the ongoing violence around the country.

The majority of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in tents and poorly built mud huts have no money to buy fuel. One IDP, Khan Bahadur, lost his nephew this past week due to the cold weather. "We had no fuel during that night, the room was very cold, the child was very sick and later he died," said Bahadur.



"I had no money to hire a taxi and send him to hospital, he died in front of my eyes and I couldn't do anything for him," said the boy's father, Abdul Rashid. "32 members of our family were killed, we had no option except to leave our home," said an IDP from Helmand,

Allah Dad. More than 10,000 IDPs are currently being housed in Kabul after fleeing violence in their home provinces. They are settled in at least 40 different locations in Kabul. "We were not expecting that the number of IDPs would ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Afghans without Visas Barred from Entry into Pakistan

PESHAWAR - The Pakistan government on Tuesday approved a draft repatriation and management policy for Afghan refugees living in the country. The policy was endorsed at a federal cabinet meeting, chaired Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, according to the state-controlled Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

Unnamed officials were quoted as saying that the meeting accorded approval to the policy after detailed discussions. However, the news agency gave no further details. Meanwhile, a participant



confided to Pajhwok Afghan News the cabinet had barred the refugees without valid visas from entry into the country. Strict implementation of immigration laws would be enforced on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, the

lawmaker revealed, speaking on condition of anonymity. Registered refugees were allowed to reside in the country till December 31, 2017. The interior ministry will step up the documentation of refugees. (Pajhwok)

Afghanistan Expects Russian Oil Supplies will Grow

MOSCOW - Afghanistan expects oil import from Russia will grow, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani said on Tuesday after talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

"We discussed economic cooperation and trade relations. We focused on opportunities for Russian investments in Afghanistan," the minister said. "In particular, we are inter-



ested in increasing oil import from Russia," Rabbani said. Russia is viewing an opportunity to supply 1-1.5 mln

tonnes of oil products annually to Afghanistan, Deputy Energy Minister Yuri Sentyurin said last year. (TASS)

Ambassador Mohib Saddened by Mounting Civilian Deaths

WASHINGTON - The record spike in conflict-related civilian deaths in 2016 is cause for great sorrow for the Afghan people, Ambassador Dr. Hamdullah Mohib says. "The record high civilian deaths that occurred in 2016 are cause for great sorrow among the Afghan people, for it is our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers who have been lost," Mohib said. A new report from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) cited the highest ever number of civilian casualties in a single year, including record figures for children killed and injured in 2016.

"Terrorists and armed insurgent groups like the Taliban and Daesh have turned our land into their battlefield, against our will and at our expense," he said. Last year, these groups launched multiple, brutal attacks ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Pakistan Condoles Afghan Deaths in Snowstorm

PESHAWAR - Pakistan on Tuesday extended condolences to the government and people of Afghanistan over the loss of more than hundred precious lives in avalanches and heavy snowfalls in recent days. At least 119 people were killed in avalanches triggered by heavy snowfall and collapsed roofs in several provinces.

"We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the victims of these incidents and pray for the early recovery of the injured," a Foreign Office (FO) statement said, according to the state-run news agency, APP. Pakistan also extended condolences to the Afghan government over the killing of an embassy official by its own guard in Karachi on Monday, and assured full assistance in the investigations. A separate FO statement said Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad ...*(More on P4)...(15)*