

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 14°C 5°C	Ghazni Chance of Rain 8°C -6°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 15°C 2°C	Mazar Chance of Rain 9°C 4°C	Herat Chance of Rain 11°C 1°C	Bamayan snow 2°C -13°C	Kabul snow 4°C -4°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Air and Ground Forces Intensify Operations Against ISIS: Gen. Murad

NANGARHAR - The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have intensified air and ground operations against the fanatics loyal to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in eastern Nangarhar province as the loyalists of the terror group are attempting to expand foothold in the country. The Afghan National Army (ANA) Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Murad Ali Murad said the Afghan forces have inflicted major casualties to the fanatics of ISIS terror group in Nangarhar, particularly in Achin district. Gen. Murad told Radio Free Europe (RFE) during an exclusive interview that the public uprising forces are also supporting ANSF to suppress the activities of ISIS loyalists in Nangarhar. In re-



gards to the deployment of terrorists by unidentified choppers in parts of Nangarhar province, Gen. Murad said they have not received concrete reports or evidences to prove the allegations. The Afghan Air Force carried out its latest airstrike on ISIS fanatics in eastern Nangarhar province on Friday, leaving at least 14 loyalists of the terror group dead. There have been growing concerns regarding the threats posed by emergent ISIS loyalists in Afghanistan with the US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter saying late last year that the threat posed by the terror group is being tracked very closely as they have started creating 'little nests' in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the ... (More on P4)...(7)

NSP/MRRD Complete 62 Infrastructure Projects



PANJSHER - A press release from National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Sunday said that 62 infrastructural projects worth AFN 131,700,000 completed in Bazarak, Dara, Khenj, Pariyan, Shatal, Onaba, Rukha and Abshar districts of Panjsher province. According to NSP Provincial Manager of Panjsher province, these development projects include the construction of an irrigation canal 298 meters in length, four community centers, 275 meters of retaining walls, 548 meters of protection walls, micro hydro power station capable of generating ... (More on P4)...(8)

Protestors Set Fire Saudi Embassy in Tehran

TEHRAN - Tehran's Prosecutor General, Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi, said on Sunday that the police have arrested 40 protestors who raided the Saudi embassy in Tehran on Saturday night, Iran's Labor News Agency reported. The judiciary has issued order to identify and arrest others who raided the embassy, Jafari Dolatabadi was quoted as saying. Iranian protesters against the execution of a Shiite leader by Saudi Arabia raided and set fire to the Saudi Embassy in Tehran late Saturday. The move came hours after the Saudi Interior Ministry announced that prominent Shiite leader Nimr al-Nimr and 46 oth-



er men were executed on terror charges. In an announcement on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Ministry urged the police to protect the diplomatic compounds of Saudi Arabia in the country. Earlier in the day, Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires to Tehran and strongly condemned the execution of Nimr al-Nimr. (Xinhua)

Saudi Arabia Expels Iran's Ambassador



RIYADH - Saudi Arabia in response to protests in front of Saudi Embassy in Tehran decided to terminate the diplomatic relations with Iran, Haber 7 reported. Saudi Arabia gave Iranian ambassador 24 hours to leave the country. Iranian protesters against the execution of a Shiite leader by Saudi Arabia raided and set fire to the Saudi Embassy in Tehran late Saturday. The move came hours after the Saudi Interior Ministry announced that prominent Shiite leader Nimr al-Nimr and 46 other men were executed on terror charges. (Agencies)

Security Forces Rebuff Attack on Security Posts



KUNAR - Security forces have rebuffed a militant attack on security posts in Shigal District of Kunar province. A statement released by the Ministry of Defense on Sunday states that a group of armed opponents attacked security posts of Afghan National Army (ANA) in Shultan area yesterday. The statement adds that ANA gave a befitting response to the militants where they also used heavy weapons. According to the statement, an

artillery shell landed among the insurgents leaving three of them killed and three others wounded. The press release further states that two wounded militants who were being transported for medical treatment were arrested in a military check post. They have been taken under medical care but after gaining health they would be referred to judiciary organs for investigation, the statement states. (KP)

No Soccer Diplomacy with Afghan Delegation: Chandy

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, India - There will no "soccer diplomacy" with the 200-strong Afghan delegation watching the final of the 10th South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup final between India and Afghanistan on Sunday evening, Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said. "I was not supposed to witness the final match, as I was to travel from Kottayam tonight to north Kerala. It was yesterday (Saturday) evening that the news of the visit of the Afghan delegation became clear," Chandy told IANS. The Afghan delegation includes eight ministers. While he will be in the stadium, Chandy said: "There isn't going to be any sort of talks at all with the delegation. We might just shake hands and say hello."

The Afghan delegation arrived on a special aircraft and Chandy said they will return soon after the match. On account of their visit, security has been tightened at the stadium. (IANS)

Taliban Confirms Death of Sayyed Muhammad Haqqani

KABUL - The Taliban militants group in Afghanistan confirmed death of the group's top leader Sayyed Muhammad Haqqani. Mawlawi Haqqani has been described as Taliban group leadership's top figure for being involved in different affairs of the Taliban insurgency since the formation of the group in mid 90s. According to Taliban, Mawlawi Haqqani was the former deputy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Executive of Administration Bureau. He was the current deputy head of Commission for Cultural Affairs of the militant group and played key role in spreading propaganda during the Taliban-led insurgency since the fall of the Taliban regime following the US-led invasion in 2001. Taliban did not disclose further information regarding the exact location where Mawlawi Haqqani was based and died, however the group's top leaders are mainly based in Pakistan and are operating from the Quetta Council. The persistent activities by the ... (More on P4)...(10)

Chardara District Governor Resigns

KUNDUZ - Mohammad Zahir Niazi, governor of Chardara district of northern Kunduz province announced his resignation on Sunday. "From now on I won't serve as governor of Chardara district and I have decided to render my resignation today," Niazi told reporters at a press conference here. However, Niazi didn't

identify the reasons of his resignation. Chardara, which has been the scene of violent incidents over the past couple of years, has been regarded as Taliban hotbed in the militancy-plagued Kunduz province. Taliban briefly captured Kunduz city, the capital of Kunduz province 250 km north of Kabul, in late September 2015 and

government forces since recapturing Kunduz city in mid October have been chasing armed militants in Chardara, Dasht-e-Archi districts and other parts of the province. Meantime, provincial police chief Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh said Sunday that the security situation in Kunduz is being improved day by day. (Xinhua)

Child Refugees 'Making Trip to Europe Alone for Better Life'



LESBOS, Greece - When Habibullah, a softly spoken 16-year-old from Afghanistan, was offered \$5,000 in order to get out of the country, he didn't ask any questions. The teenager from Baghlan in the north-east wanted to advance his education, but his hometown was too unsafe for him to so. His native province is rated by Unicef as the worst in the whole country for children, and Habibullah dreamed of something better. "I always attended school in Afghanistan," Habibullah says, "but my father told me that it's not safe to stay at home. He said, 'You can go to another country to continue your lessons. Security is always going to be bad in Afghanistan - but if you want, you can go and I will help you.'" Scotland on Sunday initially met Habibullah in a refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos in early December. His journey is fairly common - it's been estimated by Save the Children that one in four refugee children who arrive in Serbia come alone, for example. The International Rescue Committee has seen up to 50 unaccompanied children arrive on their own on the island of Lesbos - and those are only the ones who have been identified as travelling solo. The boys are often escaping extreme violence. In Habibullah's case, his family of ten - six brothers, one sister and his mother and father - is from the persecuted Hazara ethnic minority. His grandfather was killed ... (More on P4)...(9)

NDS Confiscates Bomb-Making Factory



HELMAND - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) has seized a bomb-making factory in Helmand province. A statement released by the agency on Sunday stated that the factory was discovered and destroyed in a joint operation with Afghan National Army in Wazir Abad village of Garmsir District. 33 landmines, rounds of heavy weapons, explosive materials and other materials used to make bombs were at the factory by the time it was raided. "Terrorists were making bombs, suicide vests and anti-tank landmines in this factory to martyr or hurt our people including kids, women, elders and Afghan soldiers," the statement states. "Fortunately, by confiscating these explosives, several attacks of the enemy and bloodshed of our people are prevented." This comes as numerous Taliban militants have launched an attack on parts of Helmand province and trying to take the control of those areas. Security forces have been engaged in clashes with them to rebuff their attack. Ministry of Defense says Taliban have suffered heavy casualties. (KP)



Afghan fans celebrate a goal by the Afghan soccer team during the final game of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup against India on Sunday January 03, 2016. India defeated Afghanistan by 2-1 in SAFF Final. (AP Photos/Rahmat Gul)