

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 34°C 25°C	Ghazni Clear 25°C 16°C	Kandahar Clear 39°C 27°C	Mazar Clear 38°C 28°C	Herat Clear 37°C 21°C	Bamayan Chance of Rain 18°C 13°C	Kabul Chance of Rain 27°C 19°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Taliban Militants Seize 80 Villages in Northern Afghanistan

According to reports, Taliban insurgents occupied over 80 villages in northern Afghanistan.

MOSCOW - Taliban insurgents occupied over 80 villages in northern Afghanistan, local officials said Tuesday. "The Taliban last night took control of as many as 80 villages and about 14 residents who are fighting the insurgents have been killed or injured so far," head of the provincial council of Kunduz Mohammad Yousuf Ayoubi said, quoted by the TOLO News television channel. According to the media outlet, hundreds of families fled their homes in the attack on the Kun-



duz province. Taliban militants attacked the Khan Abad district of the same province two days ago, clashing with local residents, according to the channel. Afghanistan has been plagued by an ongoing Taliban insurgency beginning in the early 1990s. The militants have become notorious for staging attacks against civilian and state targets in Afghanistan and Pakistan, seeking to establish a fundamentalist sharia law on the territory under its control. (Sputnik)

MoD Scores of Rebels Perish in Clearing Operations

KABUL - Ten security personnel and 67 militants have been killed and 36 others wounded in the past two days in different incidents of violence across the country, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Tuesday. The insurgents were killed and wounded in separate clearing operations in Paktia, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Herat, Farah, Nimroz, Faryab, Badakhshan, Helmand, Faryab, Kunduz and Maidan Wardak provinces. Dawlat Waziri, MoD deputy spokesman, told reporters the



Faryab operation, in which Taliban's shadow governor was killed, was a success. He said 10 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were also been killed in clashes. He said in the past 24 hours Afghan Air Force carried out 72... (More on P4)...(8)

Jirga Formed to Resolve Kandahar Education Problems

KANDAHAR CITY - An advisory mini-jirga involving university teachers, civil society activists and media representatives has been formed to voluntarily work with the education department to improve teaching standards in southern Kandahar province. The 11-member jirga on Tuesday called on Governor Dr. Humayun Aziz at the governor's house, where Education Director Abdul Qadir Piwaston was also present. The meeting decided that the jirga would oversee the education process and would work jointly with the education department in finding solution to problems plaguing the sector, said Samim Khpalwak, the governor's spokesman.

He said the jirga would meet after every 15 days and would try to address hurdles crippling the education process. More than 100 schools have been closed across Kandahar province due to insecurity amid complaints about the lack of professional teachers, corruption and several other problems. Education Director Abdul Qadir Piwaston acknowledged these problems and hoped the newly-formed jirga would help bring about reforms for the sake of improvement in the education process. Provincial council chief and a member of the mini-jirga, Haji Syed Jan Khakrezwal, said... (More on P4)...(11)

'Stop Creating Anti-Taliban Militias Amid Peace Talks'

KHOST CITY - Religious scholars and tribal elders in southeastern Khost province on Tuesday said "illegal distribution" of weapons to residents in Northern provinces would lead the country to another crisis. Speaking at a gathering to voice support for the ongoing peace process, they claimed some circles wanted to derail the peace parleys for their own interests. Besides religious scholars and tribal elders, the gathering was attended by civil society activists, provincial council members and others in Khost City, the provincial capital. They asked the government



to use all possible means for bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan. Speaking on the occasion, provincial council member Abdul Wali Wahidzai said some circles feared they would be held accountable for their misdeeds if the war came to a close. "For God's sake, these mi-

litias are not in the interest of Afghanistan, they are anti-peace and anti-stability and their creation must be stopped," Wahidzai added. Religious scholar Maulvi Rahimullah asked all the warring parties to stage a ceasefire without any condition. He appealed to the government... (More on P4)...(9)

MoI Launches Probe into Collapse of Badakhshan Police Base

KABUL - Ministry of Interior (MoI) spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said on Monday that a task team has been appointed to investigate reports that a deal was made between security force members and the Taliban that led to the fall of the Teergaran base in Badakhshan a few days ago. On Sunday, the Taliban freed 142 Afghan Local Police and border police who had reportedly surrendered to the insurgents on Saturday. They were freed following efforts on the part of tribal elders. On Monday however, Sediqqi said that the circumstances of the incident were being probed especially in light of the fact that the Taliban had seized a large quantity of weapons. "The Ministry of Interior has taken the matter under investigation and a delegation has

been appointed to investigate the surrendering of local police forces to the Taliban," said Sediqqi. "These forces do not have a lack of equipment and ammunition and were able to protect their military base. Until the last minute the Minister of Interior had direct contact with them. The incident needs to be investigated to find out who made a deal with the Taliban," Sediqqi added. These claims followed the release of security force members who told officials that their move to surrender had been arranged. Badakhshan police Chief Gen. Baba Jan has pointed a finger at Teergaran base's local police commander for having cut a deal with the Taliban and said that he has... (More on P4)...(10)

Governor Takes Stern Action Against Torkham Officials

JALALABAD - The governor of eastern Nangarhar has terminated two security personnel and cases against three other Torkham scale officials have been referred to Attorney General Office (AGO), an official said on Tuesday. Ahmda Zia Abdulzai, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the extreme step was taken on the basis of complaints that police commanders of Achin and Huski districts and three officials of Torkham scale were overstepping their authority. Three Torkham scale staffers were not only terminated but also referred to AGO for further investigations, he added. The governor received complaints against the police commanders and after consultation with the police chief and other security officials he terminated their services. Governor Salim Kunduzi received corruption information by some officials of millions of afghanis on a daily basis in Torkham scale, the spokesperson said. Zabihullah Zamaray, provincial council member, appreciated... (More on P4)...(13)

Mohammadi Kochi-Hazara Dispute in Wardak Politicised

MAIDAN SHAHR - President's Legal Advisor Dr. Abdul Ali Mohammadi on Tuesday said the dispute between Kochi and Hazara tribes in central Maidan Wardak province had been politicised and elements fuelling the tensions would be exposed. Mohammadi expressed these views at a gathering in Maidan Shahr, the provincial capital, which was attended by provincial council members, judicial and security officials. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Mohammadi accused



individual fueling tension between the tribes. The disputes, he said had turned into a lucrative business for some people who would be exposed soon. He said the president had taken the issue seriously. He tasked some committees to identify land owners across

the country and account the losses occurred as result of disputes and clashes between Hazara and the Kochi. Mohammadi said his trip to the province helped gather more information about the judicial department of Maidan Wardak and he would share... (More on P4)...(12)

Militants Frisking Passengers on Maidan-Bamyan Highway



MAIDAN SHAHR - Drivers of Maidan-Bamyan highway complained that Taliban militants were stopping their cars and subjecting passengers for body search. They said Taliban started searching passengers after an operation by Afghan National Army (ANA) in Jalrez district in central Maidan Wardak province. Mohammad Numan, a resident of Jalrez district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that

militants stopped passengers' vehicles anywhere and searching them. Taliban were searching for only government officers in the vehicles and taking them with themselves, he said. Ali Reza, another resident of Markazi Behsood district, also confirmed that militants search passengers' cars. However, a resident of Behsud district Hamidullah who on Monday came to Kabul... (More on P4)...(15)

Traders Seek Opening of ACCI Branch in Paktika

SHARAN - Businessmen on Tuesday asked the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) to open a branch in southeastern Paktika province. They issued the demand at a gathering in Sharan, the provincial capital, where ACCI's industry committee head was also present. One trader Gul Zada Hamidi told Pajhwok Afghan News most of Paktika residents were associated with businesses, but an improper environment prevented them from making necessary investments. He said commercial goods reached across Afghanistan from Pakistan through Paktika, but still there was no

branch of the ACCI. Abdul Khaliq, shopkeepers' union head, said the level of investment had declined in Paktika following the withdrawal of foreign troops. Businessmen are not willing to invest in Paktika due to security concerns and lack of a proper environment. Abdul Khaliq believed if the ACCI opened a branch in Paktika, it would encourage traders in other provinces to come and invest there. Similar views were expressed by other speakers at the gathering. ACCI official Kashif Alikhel said he would talk to the officials concerned about opening of an ACCI branch in... (More on P4)...(16)

Jawzjan Gun Battle Leaves 7 Rebels Dead

SHIBERGHAN - At least seven militants have been killed and two Afghan Local Policemen (ALP) wounded when insurgents stormed a police check post late Monday in Qoshtapa district in

the gun battle. Mohammad Ismail, a resident of Shair Baig area, said: "Though the residential area is far away from the battle scene even then residents were afraid and could not



northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Tuesday. Col. Abdul Hafiz Khashi, police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that seven militants including two ALP personnel who joined Taliban insurgent last month had been killed and two ALP personnel wounded in

sleep the entire night as both parties used heavy weapons in the fight." Taliban fighters targeted the check post and then fled away from the scene, he added. Abdul Razzaq Kakar, Grewan district chief, said unidentified people called 23-year... (More on P4)...(14)

2 Women Stabbed to Death, 3 Injured in Zabul Attack

QALAT - Two women of a family have been killed and three others wounded as a result of a family feud in southern Zabul province, an official said Tuesday. Provincial police chief Col. Ghulam Jilani Farahi told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Resali village on the outskirts of Qalat, the provincial capital, in the morning. He said a person broke into

his relative's house and attacked several women with a knife. Two women were killed on the spot and three others wounded in the incident, he said. Police shifted the injured woman to hospital. One of the wounded women said that her relative came to her house and killed her mother and sister and left her and another woman injured. (Pajhwok)

2 Daesh Fighters Killed, 6 Held in Jalalabad

JALALABAD - Two Daesh commanders have been killed and six others are apprehended during search operation in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, official says on Tuesday. Maj. Gen. Fazal Ahmad Sherzad, police chief, told a press conference two Daesh commanders were killed and six fighters had been arrested during search operation in Chaparhar district. He identified Ghulam Farooq and Mir Wais slain commanders of Daesh. Separately, the police chief claimed seizing three SIM boxes in Sur Rod district. "We have arrested the culprits and recovered SIM boxes of Roshan, MTN and other telecommunication networks," he added. Meanwhile, police had arrested two smugglers along with 180 kilograms of hashish in Sur Rod district and recovered two Kalashnikovs in Ghani Khail district. (Pajhwok)