

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	36°C 19°C		26°C 11°C		34°C 17°C		36°C 24°C		37°C 18°C		21°C 07°C		29°C 13°C



Study Finds Radicalization on the Rise in Afghan Schools

KABUL - There is widespread political activism, including an extensive presence of radical activists among high school students in Afghanistan, a new study by Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) said Wednesday.

This is despite a government ban on political activism in high schools, which in itself can be argued that is a relic of an authoritarian era, said AREU in a statement.

The study reiterates that the on-going radicalization of high-school students has not yet reached a critical point, where it could contribute decisively to the destabilization of the country. However, rather than waiting for that to happen, the competent authorities



should reconsider the effectiveness of their educational policies and, first and foremost, their ban on political activities in high schools.

The study was conducted over six months and covered 18 provinces. "Political activities in high schools are concerning and extremist and radical Islamic parties are active at schools," said Ali Mohammad Ali, an AREU researcher.

"Most groups like Tehrik-e-Islami, Hezb ut-Tahrir and Jamiat-e-Islah of which their centers are outside the country, recruit teachers here with high salaries and then attract the attention of students," he added. He said that such groups want to infiltrate all tribes and ethnic groups of Afghanistan.

"Hezb ut-Tahrir and Jamiat-e-Islah are mostly active in Kunduz and their goal ... (More on P4)...(8)

President Ghani Appoints Five Governors



KABUL - On the Proposal of Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and the decision of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani five new governors have been introduced.

1. Yasin Zia son of Mohammad Nasim as the governor of Takhar province.
2. Zahir Wahdat son of Haji Ghulam Ali as the governor of Sar-e-Pul province.
3. Sayed Anwar Sadaat son of Sayed Muqim as the governor of Faryab province.
4. Abdul Satar Bariz son of Abdul Rashid as the governor of Baghlan province and
5. Haji Shahzada Mazlumyar son of Mohammadaa jan as the governor of Laghman province.

Recently the presidential administrative office said in a statement that Hamdullah Danishi, from the Independent Directorate of Local Governance has been appointed as ... (More on P4)...(9)

Security Forces Retake Kunduz City Center



KUNDUZ CITY - Afghan National Security forces have retaken parts of Kunduz city, including the main traffic circle, FOLLOWING an overnight operation, local officials said Wednesday.

Sayed Sarwar Hussiani, a spokesman for the Provincial Police Chief, said security forces have been placed in key areas of the city and continue the clearing operation. He said security forces had by Tuesday morning retaken at least 80 percent of the city. "The Taliban insurgents sustained massive casualties in the past 24 hours," he said. However, local officials said that there were no casualties among security forces during the operation.

TOLOnews journalist Karim

Amini, who is reporting from Kunduz, said about 700 additional reinforcement troops arrived in Kunduz city on Tuesday and have driven insurgents out of Bala Hisar and other areas.

Fierce fighting broke out in the city center around the main traffic circle on Tuesday with insurgents once again lowering the Afghan flag on the roundabout.

Amini says that the Taliban had seized two military tanks and had taken the fight to the streets, making it difficult for the troops to contain them.

Security officials meanwhile said insurgents are still hiding in residents homes; therefore the forces are not taking the chance of targeting them due to ... (More on P4)...(13)

Afghanistan to Import Wheat from Turkmenistan



KABUL - Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) on Wednesday said it will import wheat from Turkmenistan after the neighboring country announced it was prepared to sell the commodity at a lower price.

Turkmenistan government has pledged to sell wheat for \$210 USD per ton to Afghanistan.

Afghan officials also said that they will try to encourage the private sector to buy food-stuff, especially wheat and flour, from Turkmenistan in a BID to bring down local food prices.

This comes as Pakistan struggles to provide the bulk of much needed wheat, flour and other grains to Afghanistan at \$300 USD per ton. MAIL officials said Turkmenistan has suggested exporting four types of wheat to Afghanistan in phases. The first phase will see the Afghan government buy 81,000 tons of wheat at a lower price than

Pakistan.

"We are trying to start buying grain from Turkmenistan because it is of high quality and cheaper," said Lutfullah Rashid, a spokesman for the ministry.

"This issue has already been discussed with Turkmenistan officials and they are ready to sell each ton of wheat at \$210 USD. We are trying to further decrease the price," he added.

Meanwhile, officials from the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) praised the efforts by MAIL, saying that they prefer Turkmenistan wheat compared to that of Pakistan.

"The private sector has always struggled to help investors import wheat at lower prices. Our choice will be the one that provides us wheat and other grains at the lowest price," said Hashim Rasuli, ACCI spokesman.

Afghanistan needs seven million tons of grain annually, including five million tons of wheat. (Tolonews)

Italy Grants MRRD/NSP with Euro 5 Million

KABUL - The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) on Wednesday announced that the Italian government announced to help National Solidarity Programme, Phase Three (NSP III) with Euro 5 million. The new grant is for a sum of Euro Five Million, for the NSP's work in the Western provinces of Herat, Ghor, Badghis, Farah and Bamyan. The funds will be utilized exclusively for block grants to be provided directly to Community Development Councils (CDCs) in the above-mentioned provinces for approved subprojects related to irrigation, transport, water and sanitation, power, education, community centers, etc.

The new funds are in addition to earlier bilateral grants from the Italian Government to the Program: the total of funds, in the form of four separate grants in 2008, 2012, 2013 and now 2015, amounts to Euro 36 Million of which Euro 31 Million already disbursed, plus 1 million Euro given to NSP through the support to the ARIF of the World Bank.

The Italian assistance to the NSP have financed block grants for an estimated population of 1,316,317 in 1,491 communities in 62 districts in 8 provinces. They have helped construct/ rehabilitate 1,175 kilometres of rural roads; build 1,794 shallow and 188 deep-wells, 28 schools, 204 community centres; and generate 1,002 KW of power among other outputs.

The Agreement for new grant was signed on by Deputy Minister of Finance for Policy and Planning Shafiq Ahmad Qarizada, and Naser Ahmad Durrani, the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, on behalf of their respective Ministries and representing the Afghan Government. It was counter signed by Luciano Pezzotti, the Italian Ambassador to Afghanistan on behalf of the Italian Government.

The NSP team, together with the MRRD and Ministry of Finance focal points, will work closely with the Development Cooperation Office of the Italian Embassy in Kabul in order to ensure the greatest possible visibility for this last generous funding to the Program as well as to ensure the most effective utilization of the new grant for the benefit of the Afghan people living in the rural areas of the Western Region and Bamyan Province. (PR)

Russia Backs Syrian Forces in Major Assault on Insurgents

BEIRUT - Russia and Syria carried out what appeared to be the first major coordinated assaults on Syrian insurgents on Wednesday and Moscow said its warships fired 26 missiles at them from the Caspian Sea, a sign of its new military reach.

The combined assault hit towns close to the main north-south highway that runs through major cities in the mainly government-held west of Syria, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based group which tracks the conflict via a network of sources within the country. Ground attacks



by Syrian government forces and their militia allies using heavy surface-to-surface missile bombardments hit at least four insurgent positions and there were heavy clashes, the head of the Observatory, Rami Abdulrahman, said. Islamic State militants have

seized much of Syria since civil war grew out of anti-government protests in 2011, but the areas targeted in Wednesday's combined assault are held by other rebels, some U.S.-backed, fuelling allegations by Russia's critics that its ... (More on P4)...(10)

'Perversion of Islam' Behind Middle East Problems: Blair

LONDON - The "perversion of Islam is the source of a lot of the problems in the Middle East," and more than force is needed to tackle extremism, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday.

The Centre on Religion and Geopolitics -- an initiative of Blair's Tony Blair Faith Foundation -- analyzed propaganda from ISIS, al Qaeda and al-Nusra Front over two years for the report.

It found the Salafi-jihadist groups shared nearly identical



ideologies and said challenging their interpretation of Islam was critical to defeating them.

"There's no point in just tackling the violence unless

you tackle the ideology of extremism behind the violence," Blair said. "You've got these broad ideological strands that lie behind ... (More on P4)...(11)

Czech Defence Minister Warns of Quick Withdrawal from Afghanistan



PRAGUE - A hasty and impetuous withdrawal of allied units from Afghanistan after 2016 might stir up another refugee crisis, Czech Defence Minister Martin Stropnický (ANO) told reporters during a meeting of the National Security Council (BRS) tonight. The departure from Afghanistan was one of the issues debated today.

The Czech military is operating at a number of places directly connected with migration. A decision on the Afghan mission Resolute Support will have to be made within a few months or weeks, Stropnický added.

The Resolute Support mission is aimed at Afghan security forces.

Stropnický pointed out that Afghans made up the second strongest group of migrants.

At the beginning of September, 281 Czech soldiers served in Afghanistan most of whom were in charge of protecting the Bagram allied air base. There is also medical, training and logistics teams in Afghanistan.

The current Czech military mission in Afghanistan has been approved by the end of 2016. (Agencies)

Omer Daudzai Suggests Early Election



KABUL - Former Interior Minister Mohammad Omer Daudzai called the National Unity Government (NUG) a two-headed government and pointed out mistakes made by government over the past year.

"The big mistake of the National Unity Government was the politicization of security forces, the division of ministries and the reporting of officials to two sides - similarly the heads and deputies. This dichotomy government is commonly called a 'two-headed government'," Daudzai told TOLONews in a special interview.

In addition, he warned that the government could reach a deadlock in the future, and to over-

come that, he suggested an early election could be an option.

Based on the political agreement that brought NUG into existence, the government must convene a Loya Jirga after two years of power so as to change the position of CEO to that of Prime Minister.

However Daudzai believes that the government may not be able to hold a Loya Jirga and that a deadlock could ensue.

"My suggestion to President (Ashraf) Ghani has always been that 'come forward and take a daring decision and hold an election as soon as possible so that a president will come with clear authority and with clear legitimacy,'" said the ex-ambassador to Pakistan. Touching ... (More on P4)...(14)