

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	38°C 24°C		30°C 13°C		36°C 17°C		33°C 23°C		32°C 16°C		22°C 06°C		31°C 16°C



Taliban Recapture 3 Areas of Qaisar District

MAIMANA - Taliban insurgents recaptured three localities, including Khwaja Kitni, and seized some military gear in the Qaisar district of northern Faryab province, an official said on Tuesday.

Gen. Sherin Shah Kohbandi, the 209th Shaheen Military Corps commander, said Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers stationed in the area had intentionally retreated for lacking enough equipment to fight the rebels.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News the security forces lacked resources to build a base in Khawaja Kitni and thus left the area. Earlier the troops



were stationed in homes of local residents.

But Fathullah Qaisari, a Wolesi Jirga member from Faryab, said he was shocked learning that security forces had withdrawn from the strategic area.

Qaisari, who heads an armed group of local volunteers in Shakh area, said the ANA officials did not take them into confidence before pulling out the troops.

He said Shakh locality could also be captured by Taliban if local officials did not take a stance for the defence of the area.

Rahmatullah ... (More on P4)...(9)

Military Airfields Being Handed over to Govt.



KABUL - Eight airfields dotted around Afghanistan are being handed over to the Afghan government in a civil aviation upgrade that many people hope will not only boost regional trade but even tourism.

The airfields, worth an estimated \$2 billion USD, are scattered around the landlocked and mountainous country, whose lack of rail transport or secure roads makes almost every inter-city journey a perilous adventure - even without factoring in attacks from Taliban militants.

As the NATO mission winds down towards the end of next year, U.S Major General Todd Semonite, who oversees \$5 billion USD in funding to Afghanistan's Security sector, said the decision to transfer rather than close the airfields was made in the belief they could ... (More on P4)...(10)

Taliban Capture 20 Soldiers in Dand-I-Ghori District: Baghlan PC

SAR-I-PUL - Severe clashes have taken place between security forces and Taliban in parts of Dand-e-Ghor in northern Baghlan province. Reports suggest that Taliban carried out a coordinated attack on a security post in this district late on Monday.

Bismillah Atash a member of the Provincial Council of Baghlan said that Taliban were able to seize the security post at the end of the attack.

He said 20 soldiers from this post have been taken hostages by Taliban.

Reports from the area suggest



that the clashes have been escalating and Taliban are moving towards the district center.

Security situation has been rampant in Dand-i-Ghor District since the past few

months.

In May, Taliban seized a police training camp in this district where 15 soldiers were being trapped but local elders mediated to evacuate them. (KP)

Fewest Women Hold Govt. Posts in Khost

KHOST CITY - Women are not given a priority when it comes to employment in government departments of southeastern Khost province, civil society activists said.

Official figures show currently 240 women are employed in government departments in Khost like health and education and only six women serve in the military. While the number of men working in government institutes reaches 7,976.

Khost Women's Affairs Director Dr. Malalai Wali told Pajhwok Afghan News the fewest number of women in government employment



was due to discrimination against the gender.

"Men do not like women to hold high positions in departments where they work. Men do not pave the way for women to be promoted in a department," she said.

She urged ministries to increase job opportunities for women in their provincial departments. "Many women are eligible to work, but need to be given jobs. The government should announce ... (More on P4)...(11)

Zabul Insecurity Blamed on Graft, Injustices

LASHKARGAH - Religious scholars and tribal elders from various districts of southern Zabul province on Tuesday blamed insecurity on administrative corruption and injustices being meted out to people by local officials.

They were talking at a gathering convened by Governor Mirza Khan Rahimi to discuss security related issues with them in Lashkargah, the provincial capital.

A resident of Musa Qala district and religious scholar, Mualvi Mukhtar Ahmad Haqqani, asked the governor to bring about reforms in government departments for the sake of improvement in the situation.

He said the government should adopt a clear stance against the insurgents, otherwise it would be impossible to maintain security.

Garamsir district social council chief Mehboob Khan said all departments, particularly justice and judicial organs, were rife with corruption.

"Police and other law enforcing agencies arrest anti-state elements, but justice organs set them free in return for bribes and this practice has a negative impact on the performance of security departments."

Haji Haqqin, a tribal elder from Marja district, said the provincial administration was responsible for the increasing insecurity in the province. He said the insurgents had strengthened as a result of injustices meted out to people by local officials.

"If there is a strong administration and people are provided with needed services, common people will themselves play their part in strengthening security," he believed.

Former chief of the Sangin district social council, Haji Daud, accused government officials of being defenders of insurgents. He said drug smugglers were always freed after being arrested in return for hefty bribes.

"In the Sangin conflict alone last year, 7,000 civilians, local and national police were killed, but the government did not come to their aid and only a handful of individuals benefitted from the conflict." Resident of Musa Qala Abdul Basir said intelligence officials should intensify their activities because vehicles loaded with ammunition daily entered northern districts ... (More on P4)...(17)

53 Militants Give up Violence in Nangarhar



JALALABAD - Five commanders were among 53 Taliban insurgents who joined the Afghan government-initiated peace process in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Tuesday.

Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi told a ceremony welcoming the reconciling rebels that the former insurgents had been active in Achin, Nazian, Ghanikhel and Momand Dara districts.

Kunduzi urged the Taliban insurgents to return to their homeland and renounce violence and stop killing their

brothers and live in peace with their families if they were Afghans.

"In areas where insecurity and violence rule, there are no health clinics and other basic facilities of life. These problems deeply affect the coming generations," the governor said.

Nangarhar peace committee chief Haji Malak Nazir told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants who joined the peace process had been operating against the government in the Shinwari zone.

"They ... (More on P4)...(13)

Training Course for ABP, Customs Officials Completes

DUSHANBE - Afghan Border Police (ABP) and customs officials completed here on Tuesday a two-day anti-drug training course to improve their skills, Tajikistan's Drug Control Agency (DCA) said.

The training course was conducted within the framework of the project, Information Networks along the Heroin Route that is financed under Phase II of the program, Fight against Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking along the Heroin Routes, by the European Union. The course included topics such as the drug situation in Central Asia, drug control legislation, the consequences of



drug abuse, implementation of precursor control and other issues related to drug trafficking. The DCA specialists shared ... (More on P4)...(12)

drug abuse, implementation of precursor control and other issues related to drug trafficking. The DCA specialists shared ... (More on P4)...(12)

Karzai Visits Sri Lanka

COLOMBO - The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai arrived in Sri Lanka on Monday to attend the Sri Lanka Army's annual Defense Seminar that is to begin tomorrow.

Karzai was accorded a traditional welcome and was received by Secretary to the Ministry of Defense Mr. BMUD Basnayake upon his arrival at the Bandaranaika International Airport.

The former Afghan leader will be the chief guest at the Defense Seminar - 2015 scheduled to be held September 1-2 at the Galadari Hotel in Colombo.

Karzai will attend the opening session of the two-day international defense conclave organized by the Sri Lanka Army and deliver the keynote address.

Defense Secretary B.M.U.D Basnayake and Commander of the Army Lieutenant General Chrisnan the De Silva are scheduled to deliver the introductory remarks during the opening sessions on the first day. (Agencies)

Haqqani Member Jailed Under Fake Name For Two Years

KABUL - One of the suspected Haqqani members arrested in Kabul recently by the National Directorate of Security (NDS) is believed to have been imprisoned in Pul-e-Charkhi Prison under a false name for two years.

Documents uncovered by TOLONews reveal that Israr Ahmad, an insurgent leader, was sentenced to six years in prison in 2012 after being found to be in possession of explosives and suicide vests. He was however pardoned by former president Hamid Karzai last year and freed.

"I was recruited by the Taliban group four years ago through my cousin who was famous as Almas. Then I was arrested with explosives and suicide vests and I was sentenced to six years in prison," said Israr Ahmad.

"I spent two years and two months in Pul-e-Charkhi

Prison and then I was released."

TOLONews reporter, Tamim Hamid who visited Pul-e-Charkhi Prison, checked the list of names of prisoners over the past few years. He was not able to find Israr Ahmad's name but did find the fake name he was supposedly registered under.

According to the reporter, they found his name by searching for Ahmad's father's name and other details.

Prison officials also confirmed that Ahmad was released following a decree by Karzai, which he issued during his last days in office.

"Israr Ahmad aka Naeem or Qudratullah. Who is he and how could he beguile security forces by using two or three names? How was he included in the presidential decree in pardoning prisoners?" ... (More on P4)...(15)

Mobile Money Pilot Program Bringing Safe, Transparent Pay to Afghan Police



KABUL - Just a few weeks after its rollout, the mobile money pilot program registration in Kapisa for Afghan Local Police is complete; bringing a safer, transparent payment process to the province - and plans to expand throughout Afghanistan.

Mohammad Aqa Kohistani, Director General Treasury,

Ministry of Finance, attended the historic program kick-off earlier this month, which jumpstarted the push for 100 percent electronic funds transfer capability within Afghanistan's security institutions, as mandated by President Ashraf Ghani.

"We will introduce mobile banking ... (More on P4)...(14)