

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 31°C 24°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 26°C 16°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 39°C 23°C	Mazar Clear 39°C 29°C	Herat Clear 37°C 20°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 23°C 12°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 29°C 19°C
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Local Officials

Military Operation Launched in Nangarhar to Clear Insurgents

JALALABAD - A large-scale military operation was launched in three districts of eastern Nangarhar province early Saturday, local officials said. The operation was launched in Hesarak, Sherzad and Khoghayni districts of the province which border with Pakistan. The operation was launched to clear insurgents and will continue for a month, a spokesman for the Delab 201 Military Corps in eastern Afghanistan, Noman



Atifi said. "The operation is for a month and was launched under the name of "Musalas-e-Ahaneen" to clear the insurgents," Atifi said. "The commandos and special police forces have also arrived in the province to support the military forces in the clearing operation." Mohammad Zaman Waziri, the head of the Delab 201 Military Corps is leading the operation and the air force will also ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

44 Militants Dead in Faryab Clashes



MAIMANA - At least 44 militants have been killed and 24 others wounded during clashes with security forces in the Qaisar, Garizwan, Pashton Kot and Sherin Tagab districts of northwestern Faryab province, officials said on Saturday. Different areas of the province witnessed bloody clashes in the past 24 hours which resulted in the killing of Taliban's dreaded commanders Mullah Mohib, Maulvi Abdul Rahman, Maulvi Khan Agha and Mullah Abdul Alim, Police Spokesman Sayed Masoud Yaqoobi, said. He told Pajhwok Afghan News military operation codenamed Shamsher-7 was being conducted in Qaisar, Almar and Grizwan districts led by Gen. Sherin Shah Kohbandi. But Taliban claimed killing ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Pakistani, Not Afghan, Families Evicted from Islamabad



KABUL - Evicted families living in slums around Islamabad are not Afghans, as reported earlier, an official said on Saturday. Several TV channels showed footage of Pakistani police beating and evicting residents from the slums situated on the outskirts of Islamabad. An official of Refugee and Repatriation Ministry informed the families, which had migrated from different cities of Pakistan to Islamabad, had been evicted. None of the families was of Afghan origin, explained the official, who wished to go unnamed. He strongly denied forced repatriation of Afghan nationals. The Afghan embassy in Islamabad also confirmed the families evicted were Pakistani and did not include the Afghan refugees. *(Pajhwok)*

Strike Shuts Down Logar Teacher Training Centre



PUL-I-ALAM - Hundreds of students, teachers and workers at the main Teacher Training Centre in central Logar province have gone on strike against the centre director. The strike involving 30 teachers, workers and about 200 students would continue until the training centre head, Mohammad Ayub Sherzad, was removed from his position, said Mohammad Akram Ahmadi, one of the protesting teachers. He accused Sherzad of his involvement in corruption and demanded his removal and introduction to the prosecutor's office. "Sherzad is involved in corruption. He has been mistreating teachers and students and has embezzled funds meant for buying food for students and constructing the centre's boundary wall," the teacher alleged. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Helmand's Historic Bost Fort Left to Deteriorate

LASHKARGAH - An 11th century arch located in southern Helmand province marks the principal approach to the ancient fortress citadel of Bost, now known as Lashkargah, the capital of Helmand province. Over the centuries, the city survived multiple invasions by the Ghorids, Ghenghis Khan and Tamerlane, but, today, its historic structures face ruin because of neglect. According to the local residents, over the past 800 years, no renovation or rehabilitation work has been conducted on the fort. Now, the only clear indicator of its historical significance is a sign naming it a heritage site, an ironic title given the lack of care it has been afforded. The Bost Fort is considered one of Afghanistan's greatest cultural heritage sites, and it was built in the pre-Islamic era. The Fort lies in the suburbs of modern day Lashkargah city, alongside the Hari-rod river atop a muddy hill. The fort once served as vacation destination for Sultan Masood Ghaznavi. "The fort is an ancient site, we regularly visit the site, but day-by-day the fort moves ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

15 More Rebels Killed in Fresh Takhar Offensive

TALOQAN - At least 15 militants, including two notorious commanders and three Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel, have been killed in military operation in different areas in northern Takhar province, an official said on Saturday. Maj. Abdul Khalil Asir, police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces killed nine militants including Qari Salahudin while nine other wounded in military cleanup offensive in Ashkmash district. He said security forces remained unhurt during the operation. Taliban claimed killing 14 security personnel and wounding four others in Ashkmash clash. Maj. Asir went on to say: "Security forces have killed a dreaded Taliban commander Qari Ibrahim along with five other militants and wounded ten other rebels in Qargh area." As many as three ALP personnel were killed and five others ALP personnel were wounded, he said. Taliban claimed that an ALP commander Taghi had been killed in the show-down. Security forces have not commented on the killing of ALP commander. Sunatullah Taimoori, the ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Akbar Agha Pushes Peace Building Efforts among Clerics, Tribal Elders

KABUL - Sayed Mohammad Akbar Agha, the former leader of the Taliban's Jaish-al-Muslimeen (Army of Muslims) and the current chairman of the Shura-e-Aali Rah-e-Nejat (High Council of Salvation), on Saturday announced that the council has initiated efforts around the country geared toward strengthening the prospects of national unity and bringing an end to the war in Afghanistan. Akbar Agha, who is currently on a trip to northern Balkh province, says that his council is working on a number of important strategies for bolstering reconciliation and grassroots efforts to promote peace. He said that the council is consulting with local religious scholars, tribal elders and other public figures in every province. "We intend to inaugurate a branch office in every province in the near future," Akbar Agha said on Saturday. "We hope to work in every district in order to establish a contact with the people and the offices will work with the people for peace." The former Taliban leader's remarks come at a time when security conditions in north-



ern regions of Afghanistan have rapidly deteriorated thanks to a Taliban offensive that Afghan forces have struggled to repel. Simultaneously, peace talks between Taliban leaders and the Afghan government, which got off to a good start in early July, have been postponed in the wake of the death of the Taliban's founder and supreme leader, Mullah Omar. Yet there seems promise in Akbar Agha and the Shura-e-Aali Rah-e-Nejat approach to peace building. A number of prominent clerics around the country have already issued calls ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Paktia Clerics, Elders Pledge Support to Security Forces

GARDEZ - Leading clerics, residents and elders in southeastern Paktia province announced support security forces in a gathering held in Gardez City, the provincial capital, on Saturday. Hundreds of young people, elders and dozens of clerics attended the gathering organized in support of security forces. Qari Khwaja-u-Din, head of Ulama, praised Afghan security forces and said: "We should extend all out support to our brave security forces to make the motherland secure from anti-state elements." He urged security forces and Taliban to avoid involvement in activities which would disturb security situation in the country. Janat Khan Mangal, a leading elder, assured complete support on behalf of Paktia people to security forces and extended his cooperation for building peace in the province. "We also support government initiatives in peace process," he said, adding that ...*(More on P4)...(13)*



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Foreign Taliban Fighting in Badakhshan's Warduj: Officials



FAIZABAD - Hundreds of foreign Taliban insurgents are present in the Warduj district of north-eastern Badakhshan province and are fighting security forces, officials said on Saturday. Tamim Hamid, TOLONews reporter, who visited the area this week, said that hundreds of insurgents, including their foreign counterparts, attacked Teergeran military base in Warduj over the past four days and have tried to take control of the strategic outpost. However, Afghan National Army troops, with heavy artillery, were sent in as reinforcements to help local security forces. In addition to assisting in Warduj, troops also launched a military operation against insurgents in Chakeran village which is believed to be a safe haven for the Taliban insurgents. According to a former insurgent in the district - 16-year-old Abdul Manan - foreign insurgents fight alongside local Taliban insurgents. He said: "The Taliban is very well equipped and they have ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Pakistan Military Fires off Another Volley of Rockets in Nangarhar

KABUL - Local officials from eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday said that the Pakistani military has repeatedly fired missiles into the province over the past three days. Zabihullah Zemarai, a member of the Provincial Council of Nangarhar, told TOLONews that "until yesterday [Friday] about 13 rockets were fired into Nazyan district of the province," he said. A number of homes were destroyed in the attack but no casualties were reported, said officials. "In the past three days rockets have been fired into Afghanistan and civilian property has been damaged from the attacks," Nasir Kamawal, deputy head of provincial council of Nangarhar said. "We want the government to take the matter seriously," Kamawal said. Officials from the Provincial Council and residents of Nangarhar have warned Pakistani forces that "if they not stop their attacks, they will face the same response." A tribal elder, Aminullah Amarkhel said that "about 13 homes have been destroyed and the people are moving to other parts of Nazyan province." This comes after officials from the Ministry of Defense said recently that a delegation had visited Pakistani officials and discussed the matter. However, the officials did not provide details about the meeting. Pakistan first launched cross-border attacks on Afghan soil - in the eastern provinces - in 2010. Pakistani officials have however long denied the attacks, or claimed they were in response to attacks by militants originating in Afghanistan. *(Tolonews)*

Mother-Child Mortality Rate Drops in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - The mother-child mortality rate has been decreased following surge in the number of female health workers in eastern Nangarhar, director health said on Saturday. But in insecure and remote areas, the health department was facing with problems due to shortage of female health staff there. At least 20 female amongst the graduates have completed three years education in the institute and most of the graduates have already been appointed in provincial health facilities. Health Director Najibullah Kamawal told a 60-group nurses' graduation ceremony that the government was using all resources to expend health services. He told Pajhwok Afghan News: "The increasing number of health workers has reduced mortality rate from 1,600 to 327 per year." He requested the families of the graduates female "to allow them to provide health services in remote areas" where the people were in dire need of health facilities. Replying to a question, Kamawal said: "We confront with several problems due to shortage of female doctors in Achin and Deh Bala districts and we are striving to tackle the issue." Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi said: "We hope that you will provide best health services at district level to further reduce the mortality rate. ...*(More on P4)...(17)*