

Jalalabad Clear 38°C 29°C	Ghazni Clear 30°C 19°C	Kandahar Clear 40°C 24°C	Mazar Clear 37°C 29°C	Herat Clear 35°C 23°C	Bamayan Clear 28°C 13°C	Kabul Clear 32°C 21°C
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'Operations in Khanshin, Garamser Successfully Underway'

LASHKARGAH - Security officials on Wednesday said operations against militants were successfully underway in Khanshin and Garamser districts, but they called as precarious the situation in Nad Ali district of southern Helmand province. Afghan National Army's 215 Maiwand Military Corps first battalion commander Brig. Gen. Noor Alam Halim told Pajhwok Afghan News in the Khanshin district that the district centre had been completely cleared of militants. He said in order to further improve the security situation, the army and police had launched joint operations and so far a large number of attacking militants had been killed. The dead rebels included Pakistanis, he said.



The military official said the rebels had been prevented from advancing in the Garamser district. Deputy provincial police chief Col. Dil Jan Khakrezwal said the security situation in southern districts was under control and efforts were underway to reduce threats in Khanshin and Garamser. Khakrezwal said the joint police and army operation in Khanshin and Garamser districts would continue uninterrupted. Garamser district chief Idrees Alizai told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban launched a series of attacks on the district, but they were defeated each time. He said besides waging the war, the rebels had launched a ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Love and Unity will Always beat Hate and Division: Avaaz

KABUL - Following the terrible attack on peaceful rally in Kabul last month on July 23 that killed over 80 people, Avaaz gathered messages of love and support for Kabul residents from all over the world, calling for unity as the best defence against terrorism. On Wednesday, Messages of love and support gathered from all around the world delivered to citizens of Kabul on posters with flowers from members of the global citizens' movement Avaaz. Large printed posters of the messages put up in public spaces around the city, while flowers will be handed out to Kabul residents as a symbol of global unity. During the event, messages of solidarity will be collected from Kabul residents for those affected by attacks in Mogadishu, Somalia which will be delivered to citizens there following the series of Al-Shabab attacks there. Luis Morago, Avaaz campaign director said: "People from every corner of the world have ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Over 5,000 Tourists Visit Bamyan's Band-i-Amir Dam Daily

BAMYAN CITY - With the weather getting warm and schools closed for summer vacation, more and more visitors are streaming to the Band-i-Amir dam in central Bamyan province. Up to 5,000 people visit the site on a daily basis. Most of the visitors flock to the dam from Kabul, Balkh, Baghlan, Maidan Wardak, Daikundi, Parwan, Ghor, Ghazni, Samangan and other provinces. One tourist, Abuzar, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had come along with his family to see the historical sites of Bamyan. "We have been in Bamyan for the past three days. We have enjoyed every bit of our visit. But, unfortunately, the route from Kabul to Bamyan is insecure and visitors are caught in clashes in the Jalrez area district of Maidan Wardak," he said, believing the number of tourists would surge if security concerns were addressed. Sayed Hassan, another visitor from Parwan province, said he ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Hundreds of Pakistanis Are Allegedly Fighting in War Zones

PESHAWAR - Pakistan is jittery about the possible return of hundreds of radicalised citizens from conflict zones including Afghanistan and Central Asian states, a news report said on Wednesday. The National Crisis Management Cell (NCMC) - a federal entity - has alerted law-enforcement agencies to heighten security on borders, especially in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and coastal areas, as well as at airports. Possible defeat of jihadist fighters in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Central



Asian states has sparked fear of Pakistan sliding again into sectarian violence. The Interior Ministry has been directed to prevent the fighters from homecoming. Dawn quoted a senior security official as saying: "The

NCMC directed intelligence and law-enforcement agencies to keep surveillance on families of the individuals who have traveled to conflict zones and may create security risks for Pakistan on their return." About 650 Pakistanis are allegedly fighting in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan and Central Asia along with different foreign organisations. At least 132 of the militants, whose return could fuel sectarian strife in Pakistan, have been identified. "Fighters of other nationalities, especially those belonging to the Central ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Key Taliban Leaders Among 27 Killed in Badakhshan Clearing Ops

FAIZABAD - At least 27 Taliban insurgents including three key local leaders of the group were killed during clearing operations in northeastern Badakhshan province of Afghanistan. According to the local government officials, the militants were killed in Raghistan district during the "Kokcha 07" clearance operation. Provincial governor's spokesman Ahmad Navid Frotan said the three key Taliban leaders have been identified as Maw-lavi Nasir Ahmad Farooqi, Fasihullah Sultani, and Mullah Samiullah Shamil. He said at least 32 militants were also wounded during the operations and 12 villages were cleared from the militants presence. Frotan ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Baloch Tribesmen Demand Representation in Government

ZARANJ - Hundreds of Baloch tribesmen on Wednesday staged a protest rally in southwestern Nimroz province, demanding the tribe's share in the government structure. Nearly 1,600 Baloch tribesmen and elders participated in the rally in Zaranj, the provincial capital, saying the tribe had been given no right in the unity government. Mohammad Aslam Baloch, Baloch tribe national cohesion group leader in Nimroz, told Pajhwok Afghan News their tribe was one of the largest ethnic groups in Afghanistan, but unfortunately their role had not been considered in the current system neither on local nor on central level. He said every tribe

had been given representation in the unity government, but there was no minister in the Cabinet to represent Balochis. He said if the tribe's request was not addressed, they would stage more and larger protests. Malang Rasooli, a Baloch tribal elder, said: "The unity government's posts are sadly divided among parties and ethnic groups relating to the two government leaders, but we as one of the largest group in Afghanistan and having a significant role in the country's transformation is neglected." He said approximately three million population of Afghanistan was composed of Baloch tribesmen who lived in 26 provinces. If their demand went

unnoticed, they would stage protests and demonstrations according to the Constitution. Hassan, another protestor, said until national unity was ensured across the country and culture and identity of all ethnic groups were considered seriously, such issues would arise. He said it seemed unlikely that the current crises in the country would come to an end. He asked the government to provide equal opportunities to all tribes and help the youth promote culture of all tribes living in Afghanistan. He said Baloch people should be given jobs in various government organizations according to their skills.*(Pajhwok)*

Samangan Melon Yield Witnesses Unprecedented Boost



AIBAK - The yield of watermelon and melon in northern Samangan province is unprecedented in 2016 with the adoption of new agricultural techniques, officials said on Wednesday. The production level showing a 29 percentsurge hit an all-time high this year when a 19 percent increase in cultivation resulted in 29 percent-growth in yield. Noor Mohammad, an official of the Irrigation and Livestock Department, told Pajhwok Afghan news watermelon and melon were cultivated on 6,350 hectares of land in 2015, but this year the fruits had been grown on 7,550 hectares of land. Based on the department's studies approximately 52,000 tonnes of watermelon and melon were produced last year, but the production is estimated to soar to 67,000 tonnes in 2016. Harvest of the two fruits, which started in June month, will continue till September. According to the department's findings, the fruits earned 445 million afghanis in 2015, compared to 580 million afghanis this year. Gulbadin Ghayasi, plant protection manager at the department, linked the higher production to serious attention to cultivation, technical training of farmers, promotion of a new system and other basic improvements. He said the agricultural department had been making efforts to improve the cultivation of these fruits over the past few years. The campaign has finally come to fruition and crop yields had shot up ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Nangarhar to Build Township for Returning Refugees

JALALABAD - Officials in eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday said a township would be constructed for Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan. Nangarhar refugee and repatriation director Ghulam Haider Faqirzai told Pajhwok Afghan News that a large number of Afghan refugees had recently returned from Pakistan. He said 400 to 700 Afghan families or 3,000 individuals were daily returning from Pakistan through the Torkham border crossing. Faqirzai has no information about the exact number of refugees returned so far. He said Pakistani police were creating problems for Afghan refugees, forcing them to leave for Afghanistan. Pressure on Afghan refugees to leave Pakistan



increased after Afghan and Pakistani forces clashed at Torkham border about a month ago. To a question, Faqirzai said 80 percent of the returnees were those who lacked legal documents to stay in the neighbouring country. "Only 20 percent of Afghan families have voluntarily returned to Afghanistan," he said, adding that each refugee having legal stay documents received \$380 to \$420 for returning to Afghanistan. "Each family that possessed legal documents for residence in Pakistan is assisted with \$300 for going back home country," Faqirzai added. About housing facilities for the returnees, he ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

45 Militants Killed in Airstrikes, Clashes in Helmand, Paktia



LASHKARGAH/GARDEZ/MEHTARLAM - Forty-five militants have been killed in airstrikes and clashes with security forces in Helmand, Paktia and Laghman provinces, officials said on Tuesday. In Helmand, airstrikes conducted by the Afghan Air Force last night killed 15 Taliban militants in Nad Ali district and 25 in

Marja district, the governor's spokesman told Pajhwok Afghan News. Omar Zwak said the dead included a number of high profile Taliban officials. The governor's house in a statement said those killed in Nad Ali and Marja districts included Kamran and Haroon, two ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Bakhshi to Know Olympic Line-Up After Thursday's Draw

KABUL - Afghanistan's Tawfiq Bakhshi will know on Thursday who he will come up against after the official draw for the Judo event is held.

The event will officially kick off on Saturday. In total 388 athletes from 151 countries will compete in various weight categories. Of these, seven countries are Asian. Three world-class Afghan athletes have arrived in Rio where hard work is the order of the day. All three are in training ahead of their events. Two of the athletes are men and one is a woman. They are Tawfiq Bakhshi, a Judo champion and Wahab Zahir, a runner, who will take part in the men's 100m and 200m race. Kimya Yousufi will participate in the ladies 100m race. Bakhshi meanwhile has been part of the National Judo Team for the past 14 years and is also currently the team's coach. He will come up ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Afghan Cricket Team Home from Successful Europe Trip

KABUL - The national cricket team on Wednesday returned home from Europe after beating Scotland and the Netherlands, cruising to the top spot in the ICC Intercontinental Cup points table. Afghanistan defeated hosts Netherlands inside two days by an innings and 36 runs on Saturday in Voorburg to reach 61 points from four matches. The defending cham-

pions Ireland are on 60 points, having played one less match. The Intercontinental Cup, a four-day first-class competition, is an integral part of the cricket schedule for sides below the 10 Test playing countries and is a pathway to Test cricket. The winner will take on the 10th-ranked Test team in an ICC Test

Challenge in 2018. If the ICC Intercontinental Cup winners win the ICC Test Challenge, they will secure Test status until the next ICC Test Challenge, which will take place in 2022. On return from Europe, the Afghan team was warmly welcomed at the Hamid Karzi international airport by Afghanistan cricket board (ACB) officials, ...*(More on P4)...(15)*