

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 22°C 9°C	Ghazni Clear 11°C 1°C	Kandahar Partly Cloudy 21°C 5°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 8°C 2°C	Herat Chance of Rain 7°C -2°C	Bamayan Clear 5°C -5°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 13°C 3°C
--	---------------------------------------	---	---	---	--	--

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

German Defense Minister

“We’re Staying” in Afghanistan

KABUL - German Defense Minister (DM), Ursula von der Leyen, has emphasized the country's commitment to its mission in Afghanistan while visiting troops here in Afghanistan on Sunday. Berlin recently announced it was expanding the scope of the mission. “The basic message must be: We’re staying,” she said on board the plane heading to Mazar-i-Sharif, where 1,500 NATO soldiers, most of them German, are stationed. Von der Leyen was travelling there for her traditional holiday visit with German soldiers stationed in the war-torn Central Asian country. The trip comes shortly after Germany announced it was expanding the number of troops it was deploying there, from 850 to 980, as well as extending the duration of



its mission through all of 2016.

The announcement parallels the US decision to extend its military presence in Afghanistan, includ-

ing maintaining its troop numbers at 9,800 for the rest of next year. NATO has made a similar commitment to maintain troop levels in

the country. Afghan security forces face increasing pressure from the Taliban, which has stepped up attacks in recent months. (DW)

ISIL Likely to Start Attacks in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan: Russian Politician

TEHRAN - A senior Russian politician warned that the ISIL Takfiri terrorist group is likely to declare launch of operation and start attacks in the countries of the Central Asia and Caucasus soon. “The presence of ISIL in Afghanistan can quickly spread to other Central Asian countries, including Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan,” President of the Russian-American University Alexey Podberezkin said on Monday. Podberezkin's statements came after a group of 1,600 ISIL Takfiri terrorists captured some regions in the Eastern parts of Afghanistan. The Russian politician said that the ISIL intends to establish a caliphate across the world al-

though their ideology is against the teachings of the divine religions. Podberezkin is a Russian politician who holds PhD in historical sciences and is a university professor and member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He reiterated that the people of the Central Asian countries have been brainwashed since a long time ago. The militancy by the extremists has been on the rise in the Central Asian countries in recent years. In September, the Tajik interior ministry announced that four militants were killed, 17 others were detained and 3 surrendered in a counter-terrorism operation in the Ramitskoye mountain gorge in Tajikistan. (FNA)

No Evidence to Prove Mullah Mansour is Dead: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said on Monday afternoon that there is no evidence to prove the Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour is dead. Speaking at a press conference, Ghani said: “There is no evidence that Mullah Mansour might have been killed. The incident that occurred must be carefully studied,” Ghani said referring to the reported clash between two Taliban factions in Quetta, Pakistan last week.



Rumors have been circulating since last Tuesday over the demise of the group's leader. However, the Taliban has denied the claims and instead... (More on P4)...(8)

Journalist Lost 4-Month-Old Child on Europe-Bound Boat

ANKARA - The tragic story of an Afghan journalist couple who lost their 4-month-old baby on the way to Europe has sent shockwaves across Afghanistan, reminding the painful tragedy of the Syrian child Aylan Al-Kurdi who washed up on a Turkish beach three months ago. The harrowing story of the journalist Afghan couple, Qais Rahmani and his family emerged from Turkey this week following the deadly incident while they were trying to illegally cross into Europe using the Turkish beach. In a video call with a private TV channel in Afghanistan, Rahmani shared his experience regarding his horrific journey to Europe. “The situation was miserable as there was no water and food and we remained in the jungle for one day and night in the cold weather,” he said. Rahmani further added that the smugglers did not start their journey during the day because the Turkish police were patrolling the area and they started their journey around 5:00 or 6:00 pm in the evening after they were put in a small rubber boat. He said the boat was filled by 19 people including five children and there was no way to return because the smugglers were armed with pistols and were threatening us to get on to the boat. In the initial 15 minutes of the journey the weather became stormy and the waves of the water pushed the boat forcing its more to shut down, Rahmani said, adding that the boat overturned as the storm and heavy rain continued and all on board the boat drowned in the river. “My son was resting and all of a sudden started shouting as if my wife sitting away from me. I took immediately but the water waves dispersed us apart,” Rahmani said while sobbing in sorrow. He said a 12 to 13-year-old girl had also drowned in the water but... (More on P4)...(12)

Japan Key Supporter of Afghanistan: Massoud

KABUL - Special Envoy of President on Reforms and Good Governance, Ahmad Zia Massoud, in a meeting with in-charge of eastern and African desk in the Japanese foreign ministry expressed his gratitude over Japan's contribution in the rebuilding process of Afghanistan and noted that Japan is a key supporter of Afghanistan. Accompanied by Japanese ambassador, the visiting Japanese diplomat also ex-



changed views on bilateral relations between Kabul and Tokyo and boosting cooperation in the fields of economy, strengthening... (More on P4)...(9)

Afghan-German 100 Year Relations Marked at Special Event in Berlin

BERLIN - Afghanistan and Germany's 100 year relations anniversary was marked at a special event in Berlin last week with high-ranking officials from both countries present. The highlight of the evening was a music concert with performers from both countries entertaining guests. Speaking at the event, President Ashraf Ghani said that art and cul-

ture do not recognize borders and that they bring together the human race. Officials from both countries said that art and culture personifies the understanding and closeness between the two nations. Afghanistan and Germany this year celebrate 100 years of friendship. Germany is also one of the country's key NATO allies. (Tolnews)

Pakistani General Discusses Afghan Issue with US Envoy

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif, on Monday received the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard G. Olson and discussed the security situation in Afghanistan. According to a brief statement of the Army Inter-Services Public Relations, the meeting took place in Rawalpindi city. The Pentagon keeps about 10,000 soldiers in Afghanistan. Given the

violence that shakes the Central Asian nation, US President, Barack Obama, was forced in October to announce that the military troops will stay beyond the end of his term in January 2017. The meeting between Sharif and Olson is to be held just before a regional conference on Afghanistan and focused on the revival of the stalled peace process between the Kabul government and the Taliban. (Agencies)

Mahmoud Vaezi Iran, Afghanistan to Sign Agreement on ICT

TEHRAN - Iranian Minister of Communications and Information Technology (CIT) Mahmoud Vaezi said on Monday that Iran and Afghanistan are set to sign a cooperation document on Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Vaezi made the remarks after a meeting with the visiting Afghan Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdul Razaq Wahidi. Vaezi said that there are abundant common grounds between Iran and Afghanistan to pave the way for cooperation in all areas, particularly information and communications technology. Describing his meeting with his Afghan



counterpart as positive, Vaezi said that during his stay in Tehran, the Afghan minister will hold meetings with officials from Iranian private sector companies to review how to cooperate on hardware and software facilities. (IRNA)

tionals living in Iran. He said that during his stay in Tehran, the Afghan minister will hold meetings with officials from Iranian private sector companies to review how to cooperate on hardware and software facilities. (IRNA)

965,000 Migrants Registered through November: Germany

BERLIN - The number of people registered as asylum-seekers in Germany this year hit 965,000 by the end of November, well above a forecast for the whole year that was made less than four months ago, the country's interior minister said Monday. Some 206,000 new arrivals were registered in November. That pushed the total for 2015 well above the 800,000 that Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere forecast for the full year in mid-August, a few weeks before the flow of people arriving via Turkey,



Greece and the Balkans accelerated. With few other European countries prepared to share the burden, the influx has stretched Germany's capacity

to find housing for migrants and process asylum applications. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, which the government is... (More on P4)...(10)

Biden Makes Trip to Ukraine in Sign of US Support

KUNDUZ - The government forces have dismantled Taliban bastion and hideouts in Dasht-e-Archi district of the northern Kunduz province during mounting pressure and crackdown over the past one month, Kunduz-based Division commander Mohiuding Ghori said Monday. “The Taliban bastion, command and control system as well as their hideouts have been destroyed during constant military crackdown over the past one month,” Ghori told reporters here. Taliban militants captured Kunduz provincial capital the Kunduz city in early October. However, the security forces after launching counter-offensive recaptured the city in mid October and continued

crackdown against militants elsewhere in the province bordering Tajikistan. Dasht-e-Archi had served as Taliban bastion in Kunduz from where the militants organized attacks against government interests in Kunduz and the neighboring Baghlan and Takhar provinces. Following recapturing Kunduz city in mid October the security forces began attacking militants elsewhere in Kunduz province including Dasht-e-Archi, Chardara and Imam Sahib districts forcing militants to retreat to the neighboring Takhar province. General Ghori, however, admitted that the Taliban militants have been conducting isolated attacks in Dasht-e-Archi district and other parts of... (More on P4)...(13)

UAE Sets New Conditions for Afghans Applying for Visa

KABUL - The Afghan authorities have reached to a new agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) officials regarding the visit of Afghan citizens holding newly issued electronic passports, it has been reported. The reported agreement between the Afghan and UAE officials comes months after restrictions were imposed on Afghan citizens visiting UAE. Under the imposed restrictions, the Afghan citizens were obliged to verify their passports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before they could become eligible to obtain a UAE visa. According to reports, UAE officials have agreed to grant visas for the Afghan citizens once the Central Passport Department inserts the ‘Father Name’ of the passport holder in the electronic passports,

even accepting the handwriting on the passports. Ahmad Shekib Mostaghni, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), told BBC Farsi that the verification process of the passports through MoFA was relatively lengthy as it was sent to the UAE embassy through the Consulate of the ministry. He said the ministry was forced to intervene and hold talks with the UAE officials to resolve the issue and it was revealed by UAE officials that the specifications of the Afghan citizens were recorded by their First Name and Father Name in their bank of information but the newly issued electronic passports does not mention the Father Name of the passport holder and has been replaced by Family name. Mostaghni further... (More on P4)...(14)