

Jalalabad Clear 14°C 3°C	Ghazni Clear 6°C -8°C	Kandahar Clear 14°C 2°C	Mazar Clear 12°C 5°C	Herat Clear 14°C 0°C	Bamiyan Chance of Rain 0°C -10°C	Kabul Clear 8°C -2°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Govt Announces High Advisory Board for Peace

Government has named all those who will be part of the negotiating teams on the peace process, along with tasks and guidelines for the way forward.



KABUL - The Afghan government on Tuesday announced the establishment of the high advisory board for peace and the peace negotiating team of government aimed at creating a national consensus for brokering purposeful peace talks with the Taliban, a statement by the National Security Council reads.

In a decree issued by President Ashraf Ghani, it was stated that the creation of the high advisory board for peace and the peace negotiating team is aimed to create consensus at a national level for promoting lasting peace through consultations and discussions with Afghanistan's former Jihadi lead-

ers as well as political and social elites, including representatives from various segments of society. According to the statement, main tasks of the board include:

- To provide constructive advice to the government-led peace process.
- To assess the recommendations of...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Officials Warn Over Taliban's Access to Modern Weapons



KABUL - Some local officials from a few provinces in the south of Afghanistan have warned that Taliban has gained access to more modern arms, which is a challenge for Afghan security and defense forces in fighting the group. Helmand governor Mohammad Yasin Khan said modern weapons, from Afghanistan's neighboring countries, are being provided to the Taliban via intelligence networks, adding that Afghan security forces have on occasion seized such arms. "From our two neighboring countries, weapons and arms are being distributed to them (Taliban) via intelligence networks. These arms have been seized and not only been shown in Afghanistan, but also to the world," Yasin Khan said. The Taliban's recent attacks on security forces' outposts in different parts of the country, especially in Farah province, have raised serious security concerns for the local officials of the provinces. Farah local officials said in

the last few days, they have witnessed fighting in parts of some districts of Farah and on the outskirts of Farah city - the provincial capital. "The militants are trying to use Farah province as their center and by making footprints in Farah, influence other provinces," Dadullah Qane, a member of Farah provincial council said. "Most Farah districts are insecure, because Farah is a big province, but the number of security forces stationed in the province is less," Mohammad Zahid, district governor for Gulistan district in Farah said. "There are old weapons as well, but most of the new arms are Russian and the Taliban mainly holds such weapons," Nematullah, district governor for Bati Kot district in Nangarhar said. Afghanistan Interior Ministry, in reaction to the Taliban's recent offensives, said the war season in the country is coming to its end, adding that the Taliban's recent attacks were the latest...*(More on P4)...(8)*

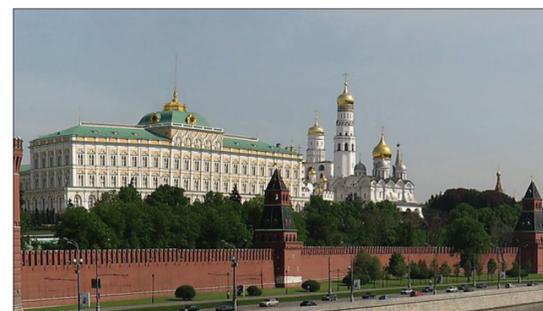
Afghan Forces Repulse ISIS Attacks in Two Districts

KABUL - The Afghan armed forces separate attacks launched by ISIS Khurasan militants in two districts of eastern Kunar province, the Afghan military said Tuesday. According to a statement released by 201st Silab Corps of the Afghan Military in the East, the ISIS militants launched attacks on army posts in Marwara and Watapur districts earlier today. The statement further added that the Afghan forces effectively responded to the attack and forced ISIS militants to retreat. According to 201st Silab Corps, the ISIS militants have also sustained casualties during the clashes but the exact number has not been ascertained so far. The anti-government armed militant and terrorist groups including ISIS loyalists have not commented regarding the clashes so far. Kunar is among the relatively volatile provinces in East of Afghanistan where ISIS, Taliban, and other groups are active in some of its districts and often carry out terrorist related activities. (KP)



Moscow, Delhi Talk Militant Threat from Afghanistan

KABUL - Moscow and New Delhi are mulling over creating a joint mechanism to counter mounting threats from militant groups in Afghanistan, an Indian newspaper reported on Tuesday. The situation in Afghanistan came up for discussion during last week's talks between Secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval in New Delhi. The Statesman quoted sources as saying the security bosses discussed counter-terrorism measures and India-Russia military and technical cooperation. Issues like outer space, energy and cyber security were also discussed. India participated in last month's multilateral meeting



on Afghanistan hosted by Moscow at a non-official level. The Taliban also took part in the key meeting for the first time. (Pajhwok)

India Should Help End Afghan War: Pakistan FM

ISLAMABAD - Regional countries, including India, need to play their role facilitating a negotiated end to the 17-year-old war in Afghanistan, Pakistan's foreign minister says. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, speaking on a point of order in the National Assembly, said on Monday Pakistan remained committed to supporting efforts for peace in the neighbouring country. Bringing peace to Afghanistan was a shared responsibility of regional countries including India, Iran, Tajikistan and China, said the minister, who is due to visit Kabul on December 15.



"Since India is present in Afghanistan, its cooperation in this regard will also be required," Qureshi remarked, saying a flurry of meetings for peace in Afghanistan had already taken place in Doha (Qatar) and the United Arab

Emirates. There was a convergence of opinion after more than 15 years that Afghanistan needed a political settlement, he said. "All the stakeholders, including the United States, Afghanistan and the Taliban, are on board." (Pajhwok)

Blast Targets Security Forces Convoy in Kabul; 12 Killed



KABUL - Security officials confirmed that a suicide bomber targeted security forces convoy in Paghman district in Kabul. A convoy of Afghan forces was targeted by a suicide attack in Paghman district in the west of Kabul on Tuesday morning, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) confirmed. The MoI spokesman Najib Danish said that at least four security force members and eight civilians including two women were killed

and six security force members and three civilians were wounded in the incident. The explosion occurred at around 9:20am Kabul time in Bala Chinara area in Paghman district when security forces were passing through the area and were targeted by a car bomb explosion, Danish said. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Health spokesman Wahid Majroh told TOLONews that six people were killed and six other were wounded in the explosion. (Tolonews)

2 Thousand Kilograms of Dates Harvested from a Single Farm in Nangarhar



JALALABAD - The local officials in eastern Nangarhar province are saying around two thousand kilograms of dates have been harvested for the first time from a single farm in this province. The provincial government media office in a statement

said the palm dates were harvested from a Hada farm belonging to the Canal Directorate of Nangarhar province. The statement further added that date palm trees were replanted over 40 hectares of land in...*(More on P4)...(9)*

UNSC Concerned at Record Afghan Civilian Casualties

NEW YORK - The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has expressed serious concern at the record level of civilian casualties in Afghanistan. In a statement, members of the powerful council urged all actors to respect international humanitarian law and lauded the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. According to the statement, they also expressed concern that benchmarks on anti-corruption and elections, with respect to its technical conduct, had not been met fully. The Security Council members welcomed the adoption of the Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework (GMAF), outlining measurable reform objectives and commitments for the Afghan government and the international community for 2019-2020. They underlined that the government's delivery of the mutually agreed commitments would be key for sustained international support. Also, the members welcomed the Geneva Conference Communiqué, which reaffirmed the commitment of participants to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, with meaningful participation of women. The participants also underlined the need to deepen regional cooperation in all spheres, including the political, security, economic and social, to the benefit of the whole region. The members also voiced significant concern regarding the ongoing drought in Afghanistan and severely increased food insecurity. They called on the international community to increase its commitments to the humanitarian response plan. (Pajhwok)