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February 19, 2017

<b>Jalalabad</b> Chance of Rain 16°C 9°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 6°C -7°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Chance of Rain 12°C 3°C	<b>Mazar</b> Chance of Rain 1°C -2°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 6°C -6°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Chance of Rain -1°C -16°C	<b>Kabul</b> Chance of Rain 9°C -4°C
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**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Pollution Reaches “Unbearable” Level to Humanity: UN Official

UNITED NATIONS - Pollution has reached a level which is unbearable to humanity, and one of the important solutions to current emergency is to invest in renewable energy, said UN Environment Program Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw. In a recent interview with Xinhua, Thiaw said pollution is a multi-dimensional issue which has impact on public health and also affects economy. Thiaw cited earlier World Health Organization statistics as saying that seven million premature death annually linked to air pollution, adding that trillions of dollars are also being lost every year due to pollution. Morever, he noted that



pollution may cause trans-boundary issues because pollutants generated in one country may affect another country or region far away through rivers and lakes, forest fires or air. The most effective solution to curb pollution, according to Thiaw, is to find out the sources and reduce them, which is a complex process and in need of joint efforts from all walks of life -- governments, the private sector and the civil society. Among the efforts, Thiaw said investing in renewable energy is a feasible approach to tackle, for instance, air pollution and this industry have proven to be profitable. “The price is going down and the technology is accessible.” (Xinhua)

## US Supports Pakistan Effort to Combat Violent Extremism



WASHINGTON - Amidst reports that Pak Army successfully attacked suspected militant hideouts close to the Af-Pak border, the Trump Administration on Friday said that it is in the long term interest of the United States to support the efforts of Pakistan to combat violent extremism and build a more stable, tolerant, democratic society. “We believe that US long-term interests are best served by supporting Pakistan’s efforts to combat violent extremism and build a more stable, tolerant, democratic society,” a State Department spokesperson told Pajhwok Afghan News. The spokesman was responding to reports on Pakistani military attacking suspected militant hideouts close to the Af-Pak border. “Pakistan has suffered greatly at the hands of terrorists and violent extremists,” the official said. “The United States has long stood in solidarity with the people of Pakistan and all who fight the menace of terrorism,” it added. “We are grateful for the sacrifices the Pakistani military and people have made in combating terrorism, shutting down terrorist safe havens, and restoring government control to parts of Pakistan that have been used as terrorist safe havens for years,” the spokesperson said. (Pajhwok)

### Projects Costing 52m Afs Executed in Samangan

AIBAK - Several projects costing 52m afghanis have recently been executed in northern Samangan province, an official said on Saturday. Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development director Eng. Mohammad Asif Dawlat Shahi said the World Bank-funded projects were completed in nine villages of Roi Doab district. The projects included reconstruction of two bridges, a culvert, a canal, a retaining wall and a 1.6km water irrigation canal. Shahi the facilities had been destroyed by rain and flood and were reconstructed by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRD), with local residents contributing 10 percent of the total cost. Khal Mohammad Haqju, administrative chief of Roi Doab district, said the canal’s reconstruction would help irrigate 4,000 acres of land and about 4,989 families would directly benefit. (Pajhwok)

### Taliban Trying to Infiltrate Security Organs: Weesa

GARDEZ - The governor for southeastern Paktia province on Saturday claimed Taliban militants were trying to get recruited their men in security organs. Zalmai Weesa told a press conference in Gardez, the provincial capital, that the militants were using various tactics to disrupt security. He went on to claim that the rebels were trying to recruit their spies in security organs through tribal and local influential individuals and some officials. However, the governor said they were aware of the issue and would not let such attempts succeed. Weesa also accused militants of trying to create differences among tribes and engage them in internal disputes in order to exploit the situation and reach their nefarious designs. The governor’s claims come after the deputy police chief of Paktia, Ibrahim Payen, was accused of having links with the Taliban. Haqyar allegedly abandoned a number of border security posts ... (More on P4)...(9)

## UN Chief Urges More Development in Conflicts Prevention

MUNICH - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized the importance of development in conflicts prevention during his speech at the 53rd Munich Security Conference (MSC) on Saturday. He said countries, institutions and civil societies should be made stronger and more resilient, so that the tendency of being involved in conflicts can be diminished. The UN chief pointed out that the increasingly inter-linked megatrends of the world, ranging from climate changes, excessive population growth to food security risks, have led to dramatic competition for resources, which increases likelihood of conflicts of mankind. As for globaliza-



tion, Guterres said he still regarded it as an incredible generator of world’s prosperity, but admitted increasing inequality as some parts of the world lag behind. He cited a recent argument by the Fortune magazine that just eight individuals own as much wealth as the poorest half of the world’s population, saying that too excessive inequality is the generator of instability and risks, and a blow to people’s confidence about political establishments and international organizations. Guterres took the unemployment among the young as a typical demonstration of such inequality, saying it posed a major threat to the global security as it is yet “perfect” for the recruitment of terrorist organizations. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan Resumes Shelling Into Nangarhar, Kunar

JALALABAD - Pakistani forces on Saturday morning resumed firing mortar and artillery shells into Lalpura district of eastern Nangarhar province after a nightlong lull, an official said. The governor’s spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News two children were wounded and several families displaced as a result of yesterday’s shelling by the Pakistani forces. He said the Pakistani forces fired more than 200 light and heavy weapons into the border district. Khogyani said delegations of different provincial departments had been dispatched to the area in line with Governor Gulab Mangal’s directives to assess the situation and register the displaced families. Border police sources told Pajhwok Afghan News after last night break, Pakistani security forces resumed shelling. Naqibullah, a resident, said light and heavy weapons fire could be heard in the district centre. In neighbouring Kunar province, Pakistani forces fired as many as 96 rockets into ... (More on P4)...(8)

### Pakistanis Victim of Their Govt’s Wrong Policies: Karzai



KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai on Saturday condemned rocket shelling into eastern Nangarhar and Kunar provinces by Pakistani forces and said the people of Pakistan were victim of their country’s wrong policies. The Pakistani forces fired rockets and mortars into Kunar and Nangarhar province yesterday and resumed the firing on Saturday morning after a nightlong lull, local officials said. Two civilians were killed, several homes were destroyed and many families were displaced as a result of the rocket shelling. Hamid Karzai in a statement from his office condemned the shelling. “Today our brothers in Pakistan are victim of their country’s improper policies,” Karzai said, referring to recent terrorist attacks in major cities of Pakistan. In a separate statement, the Karzai office said the former leader met elders and youth from Paktia, Paktika and Khost provinces. The meeting discussed the ongoing situation in the country. The speakers believed foreign forces’ wrong strategies had turned Afghanistan into a centre of wars among regional powers. The speakers stressed national unity and demanded scholarships for students to study in foreign universities. (Pajhwok)

### 4 Villages Cleared, 3 Police Posts Recaptured in Faryab

MAIMANA - At least four villages have been cleared and three police check posts recaptured from militants as a result of ongoing operations in Khawaja Sabzposh district of northwestern Faryab province, officials said on Saturday. Deputy police chief Mir Amanullah Zafar told Pajhwok Afghan News the clearing operation codenamed “Zafar-24” involving personnel from the national army, police and uprising people was launched yesterday in the Khawaja Sabzposh district. He added three check posts, a strategic hill ‘Shah Sawar’ and Pakhli Toghi, Khawaja Qashri Payen, Pogani and Durahi villages were cleared of militants. The Shah Sawar hill fell to militants after police and uprising members abandoned it. The deputy police chief said two militants and a soldier had been killed and five militants and police wounded in the ongoing operation. Abdullah Masoomi, administrative chief of Khawaja Sabzposh district, confirmed that four villages had been cleared of militants. ... (More on P4)...(10)

### Afghan Forces Rescue 26 Civilians Kidnapped by ISIS Loyalists

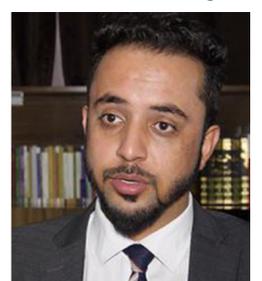


KABUL - The Afghan security forces rescued at least 26 civilians kidnapped by the loyalists of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in eastern Nangarhar province. The provincial commandment in a police statement said the civilians were being kept in Haska Mina and Kot districts. The statement further added that the civilians were kidnapped long ago by the militants and were rescued during the Shaheen-25 operations. At least four key members of the terror group were also arrested during a separate operation conducted in Kot district, the statement said, adding that five terrorists of the group were also killed during the air and ground operations. The police commandment said a heavy machine gun, Dshk, was also destroyed during the operations. According to the local security officials, the security forces and local residents did not suffer any casualties during the operations. Nangarhar is among the relatively calm provinces in eastern Afghanistan but the anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating in some of its remote districts. The Afghan security forces launched the Shaheen-25 clearance operation against ISIS loyalist nearly three weeks with the local officials saying the operations are being conducted with the support of the US forces who are providing air support to the ground forces. (KP)

## No Country will be Allowed to Intervene in Afghanistan Militarily

KABUL - Following remarks by Pakistan’s Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa about probable actions against terrorists on the Afghan soil, the Chief Executive office on Saturday said no country and no power will be allowed to intervene militarily in Afghanistan. “In defending Afghanistan, we will allow no-one to enter Afghan territory. No stranger or Pakistani will be allowed to intervene on Afghan soil,” the Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Army, Gen. Qadam Shah Shahim said. Referring to the recent cross-border rocket shelling [from Pakistan] he added: “We have the ability to respond to the attacks after diplomatic discussions are conducted.” “Afghanistan will not allow any country to conduct any

kind of military intervention on its soil. The Afghan forces have the ability to fight terrorists,” the Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah’s deputy spokesman Jawed Faisal said. The Pakistani army chief earlier told Gen. John Nicholson, commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan that “terrorist activities and inaction against them are testing our (Pakistan’s) current policy of cross-border restraint.” He has also said that “most of the [terrorist] incidents in Pakistan are claimed by terrorist organizations with leaders hiding in Afghanistan. In his response, Faramarz Tamanna, head of Strategic Studies Center of the Afghan Foreign Affairs Ministry, said Islamabad should act by destroying terrorists safe havens in Pakistan itself.



“The force that Pakistan wants to use for fighting terrorists on the Afghan soil, must be used on Pakistani soil because terrorist groups are managed from Pakistan’s soil,” Tamanna said. “Pakistan wants to change the mindset of the international community about the fact that Pakistan is the supporter of terrorism,” said Hamid Saboori, a political commentator. (Tolnews)