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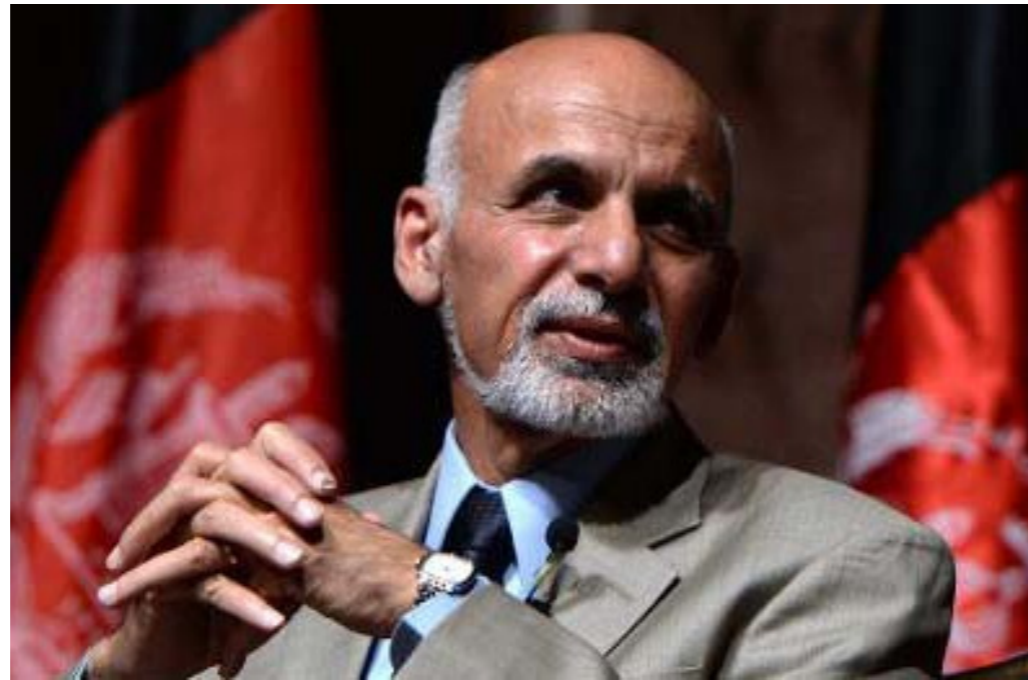
January 11, 2015

Jalalabad Clear 22°C 6°C	Ghazni Clear 11°C -2°C	Kandahar Clear 22°C 4°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 12°C 4°C	Herat Chance of Rain 16°C 6°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 7°C -6°C	Kabul Clear 17°C -1°C
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

President Ghani to Sign Security Agreement with Iran Soon

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani is expected to visit Iran in the near future to conclude a bilateral security agreement between Kabul and Tehran. According to the Iran media agencies, the bilateral security agreement between Tehran and Kabul would focus on further expansion of mutual cooperation between the two nations in fight against terrorism and drug trafficking. President Ghani's spokesman Nazifullah Salarzai quoted by FARS News said the visit is scheduled in the near future. No further details were given regarding the exact time of the scheduled visit by President Ghani to Tehran.



The bilateral security agreement between Kabul and Tehran was proposed by senior Iranian officials during former Afghan President Hamid Karzai's tenure. This comes as Mohammad Hanif Atmar, national security adviser to President Ghani, visited Iran last week to hold talks with the Iranian officials regarding the bilateral ties between the two nations. During a meeting with Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Atmar said senior Afghan government officials are due to visit Iran in the near future to conclude a comprehensive accord for cooperation between Kabul and Tehran. (KP)

HALO Trust Demining Personnel Abducted in Logar



PUL-E-ALAM - At least eight personnel of a foreign demining organization were abducted Friday in central Logar province, local authorities said. These people were abducted from Pul-e-Alam district after the armed abductors set ablaze their three vehicles, confirmed Din Mohammad Darwish, acting governor's spokesman. "The insurgents abducted them on Friday along with taking their six vehicles with them," Darwish noted. According to local officials, the abducted demining personnel were working with HALO Trust, a non-profit demining organization. Reports suggest the abductees have been possibly taken to the Mohammad Agha district. The Taliban, who often take responsibility for such activities, have not commented yet in this regard. The Halo Trust is a British landmine charity and American non-profit organization clearing landmines around the world for more than 25 years. (Tolonews)

Lavish Weddings Depress Afghan Youth

KABUL - Despite earning less money, Afghan men need to pay thousands of dollars for lavish wedding parties in order to marry, something many believe the beginning of anxiety for a joyless groom unless he pays off his debts. From high bride prices (\$4,000 to \$16,000) to costly wedding parties (\$10,000 to \$50,000), the groom needs to bear all to go through the Afghan culture which places highest value on marriage. A number of youth in Mazar-e-Sharif, provincial capital of northern Balkh, have complained that the high bride prices and pre-wedding parties have prevented them from getting married. "High bride price taken by groom's family is an ugly tradition which prevents youth from getting married," a resident of Mazar-e-Sharif said. According to the residents, the biggest challenge to a young Afghan is to meet his wedding costs. "Because of high costs, our young men are forced to go to Iran to work there and earn money," another resident named Wahid Jan said. According to a recent survey conducted by Balkh civil society activists, a bride's family demands an average of money between 200,000 and 800,000 AFN from groom's family under the names of Walwar (bride price) and other pre-wedding costs. "In case if a family demands less bride price, then in return they increase the costs for the celebrations and other extra parties," an activist Mohammad Rafiq Boromand said. Based on reports, the Afghan youth travel abroad through illegal ways, mostly to Europe and Australia to earn and collect money to meet the sky-touching wedding prices. "My fiancé has gone to Iran for work in order to bring money for our wedding expenses," Munira, not her real name, said. ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Senate Elects Administrative Panel

KABUL - The Senate or Mesharano Jirga of parliament on Saturday elected first, second deputy chairman and secretary and his deputy for one year, it is learnt. Mohammad Alam Azidyar took charge as first and Mohammad Asim Siddiqui as second deputy chairman of the upper house. Abdullah Qarlaq was elected as secretary and Najiba Hussaini as deputy secretary of the



senate. Hussaini told Pajhwok Afghan News that election was held soon after the oath-taking ceremony by the

new members. At least 68 members took part in voting process to form the administrative panel of Mesharano Jirga, she said. In line with article 84 of the constitution, as many as 34 members of the upper house were selected from the district level councils, 34 from provincial councils and 34 others nominated by the president. (Pajhwok)

Pakistani Donated Mobile Medical Clinic in Shambles

ASADABAD - A well-equipped medical mobile clinic donated by Pakistan has not been used for years in Noor Gul district of eastern Kunar province, residents said Saturday. The clinic is situated in Mia Kala area of the district, residents said, adding that the facility was in shambles, which should be shifted to other area where it was needed. Zardasht Shams, a resident of the area, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clinic was equipped with X-Ray machine, medicines and other needed medical equipments. He said the clinic was about to be closed because of inattention by health officials. "A large number of people in Kunar need health services. It is extremely regrettable that officials don't pay attention to utilize the facility," he said. Sher Rahman, a resident of Mia Kala area, said the clinic was established in a vehicle and was remained without proper use. Dr. Asadullah Fazli, Kunar public health director, said that the clinic was given by the ministry of public health five years ago. The facility was donated by Pakistan when large number of Afghan refugees returned from Pakistan for their treatment. But Fazli added that currently all the districts of Kunar province were facilitated with local health clinics ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Dyncorp International Selected for Training Support in Afghanistan

MCLEAN, VA - Another U.S. Company has been contracted to provide support services for the training of security forces in Afghanistan. DynCorp International reports the first of two separate contracts from the U.S. Army Contracting Command is for advisory, training and mentoring services for the Afghanistan Ministry of the Interior, which is in charge of the country's National Police. The second is for the same services to be provided to the Ministry of Defense for soldier training. The police training award is a firm-fixed-price, cost-reimbursable contract. It has a nine-month base period of performance, with two three-month options, and has a potential value of \$52.1 million



The troop training services contract has similar terms and carries a potential value of \$48.6 million. "We have supported the U.S. Army and coalition forces in providing this specialized training since 2010," said Randy Bockenstedt, DynLogistics senior vice president of DynCorp International. "We are honored to be able to continue this partnership and contribute to strengthening

the Afghan national security forces." Earlier this week, Virginia-headquartered A-T Solutions announced receipt of a contract from NATO to provide advisory and assistance services for the International Security Assistance Force's Resolute Support operation for training Afghan soldiers. The United States and NATO have officially ended their ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

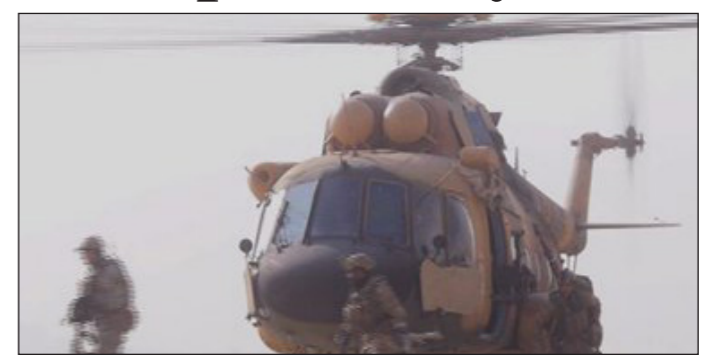
Dreaded Mafia Leader Still in Custody: NDS

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Saturday rejected reports that Raees Khudaidad, a dreaded mafia leader, escaped from prison. NDS spokesman Abdul Hasib Sediqi said the widely circulated rumors over social media were aimed at confusing public. "At a time when the country is passing through political challenges, some anti-state elements are out to confuse public. At a time when Gen. Rahmatullah Nabil is going for a vote of confidence from the parliament as the spy network chief, rumors are being spread to defame



him," Sediqi said on his Facebook page. He confirmed that "Raees Khudaidad and others have been detained by our security forces and they are kept in undisclosed location." Raees ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

AAF Conducts Night Raids Independently



preparations in this regard," Wardak noted. Night raids are among the hardest missions of these forces, a mission previously carried out by foreign troops but now upon the shoulders of AAF. "We are strictly re-

sponsible for night raids because we are now fully equipped," said Gen. Fahim, a special AAF unit commander. "We have learned how to conduct night raids from our foreign counterparts." ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Unregistered Afghans Directed to Leave SWA



PESHAWAR - The political administration of South Waziristan Agency (SWA) directed the Afghan refugees staying illegally in the tribal region to leave the area within three days or face action. The decision was taken during a grand tribal jirga. Assistant Political Agent Wana, Mehboob Ahmad, presided over. Elders of nine tribes of South Waziristan attended the jirga. The jirga asked the unregistered Afghans to leave South Waziristan or else a massive crackdown would be launched against them. The elders said that spies of other countries had come to South Waziristan in the guise of Afghan refugees. The jirga members also asked the Afghan government not to allow the use of the Afghan soil against Pakistan. Nine Afghans held in Lakki: The police arrested nine Afghan na-

tionals during search operation in Afghan refugee camp near Gandhi Chowk on Friday. An official said that the law-enforcers also recovered a Kalashnikov and bullets from an Afghan national identified as Duran. A case was registered against him. The action was launched on information about the presence of suspects in the camp," said the official. He said the arrested Afghan nationals were shifted to Shaheed Asmatullah Khan Khattak Police Station in Naurang town. Unregistered Afghans being identified in Lower Dir: Following the government's security plan, the Lower Dir administration on Friday asked the police to identify unregistered Afghan refugees and restricted the registered ones to their camps. An ...*(More on P4)...(10)*