

Jalalabad 20°C 4°C	Ghazni Clear 8°C 6°C	Kandahar Clear 14°C 2°C	Mazar Clear 13°C 3°C	Herat Clear 14°C 0°C	Bamayan Clear -2°C -11°C	Kabul Clear 13°C -2°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

China

Security Council Resolution Should not Stir Confrontation

BEIJING - China said on Friday that it supports the UN Security Council to make a "necessary response" to the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), but the resolution should not stir confrontation. The nuclear test went against UN resolutions as well as the denuclearization goal for the Korean Peninsula. The authority of the United Nations and the nuclear non-proliferation system should be maintained, said Foreign Minister Wang Yi. China, as a permanent member



of the Security Council, will conduct close communication and coordination with all parties within the Security Council, said Wang while answering questions in a press briefing after talks with visiting Head of Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Didier Burkhalter. He said China knows parties have differences on the proposed new Security Council resolution, but the international community should make joint efforts towards a unified and ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Tajikistan Suspends Operations of its Consulates in Badakhshan and Kunduz

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan has reportedly suspended operations of its consulates in Badakhshan and Kunduz (Kunduz province provinces. According to reports, Tajikistan has decided to suspend operations of its missions in Badakhshan and Kunduz following the attacks on the Indian Consulate in Balkh province and Pakistani Consulate in Nangarhar province. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reportedly said that Tajikistan's Embassy in Kabul - through an official letter to the ministry - termed mounting insecurity as the main reason behind the closure of the consulates. "The letter has stressed the move will not have any impact on friendly relations between Kabul and Dushanbe," the MoFA added. "Tajikistan's Embassy in Kabul has sent an official letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which reads that the country has temporarily closed down its consulates in Badakhshan and Kunduz provinces for some minor security reasons," Khairullah Azad, a deputy spokesman for the Afghan MoFA, was quoted as saying. Badakhshan Governor, Faisal Bekzad, said Tajikistan has closed their mission due to ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Casualties Figures up in Helmand Province: AIHRC



KABUL - Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission on Thursday said that more than 700 civilians have been killed or injured in the last nine months in the southern province of Helmand. Since the end of March last year, at least 232 people have died and at least 502 have been injured,

AIHRC said. However, the governor of Helmand has disputed the casualty figures from the commission. Omar Zwak, a spokesman for the Helmand governor, was quoted by Afghan media as saying the numbers were "exaggerated." But experts say that many civilian

deaths and injuries aren't accounted for. Due to the bad security situation, NGO workers are rarely on site. The Taliban has stepped up attacks to gain territory in Helmand. At least five of the province's 14 districts are being fought over, while three more are occupied by the militant group. *(RFERL)*

Ahadi Launches New Party, Says NUG Has Failed

KABUL - The New National Front of Afghanistan (NNF), officially launched as an opposition party on Thursday, claims the National Unity Government (NUG) has failed in all areas. It stressed that elections should be held as soon as possible so as to replace the current government. Speaking at the launch, Anwar ul-Haq Ahadi, the chairman of the new party, said that all activities of the NUG are against national interests. He said he regrets having



supported the NUG leaders during the 2014 presidential elections and said people should not have to be victims of political games

of the NUG leaders - President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah. The ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Key IS Leader, 10 Militants Killed

KABUL - A key Islamic State (IS) local leader along with 10 more fighters of the extremist group have been



killed during drone strike in eastern Afghanistan, a local TV reported on Friday. Citing local officials, the Tolo TV channel reported that IS leader Hafiz Saeed was killed with 10 other fighters in the air strike which was carried out in Zhwara area of the mountainous Achin district in Nangarhar province. However, it didn't mention the exact date of the air strike. It has mentioned that Saeed had served as a commander of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) before pledging allegiance to IS last year. *(Xinhua)*

Tough Times in Tajikistan for Afghan Refugees



DUSHANBE - More than 2,000 refugees from Afghanistan are stranded in Tajikistan. Resettlement to another country by the United Nations is becoming harder by the day due to the surge of refugee crises around the world.

As reported by EurasiaNet, the latest tally for refugees worldwide is 20 million and countries admitting newcomers have begun to apply highly selective criteria. "Resettlement isn't a solution that is prioritised for Afghan refugees in Tajikistan. So we do whatever we can to improve local integration where people can live with dignity," Kevin Allen, a representative for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tajikistan, was quoted as saying. Cultural and linguistic similarities help Afghans assimilate to some extent, but some barriers are harder to surmount. EurasiaNet interviewed Vassidin Gardi, who worked as an interpreter for the US Army before leaving Afghanistan. "Some people were following me, I got questioned and beaten up, so I fled with my family," he said, explaining his decision to flee his native country. In Tajikistan, Gardi went to Vakhdat - a town of 45,000 people about 10km east of the capital, Dushanbe.

Most Afghan migrants have settled in Vakhdat. Gardi quickly got a job at a garment shop owned by some friends. But the shop is a frequent target for corrupt officials, as are many other Afghan businesses. "They know where Afghans work and that we can't do anything but pay," Gardi said. "Although we have all the documents, they always ask for a bribe." For all these difficulties, Tajikistan is something of an outlier in the region. It remains one of the few countries in Central Asia that allows refugees to work, and which gives them access to social security benefits, according to EurasiaNet. Given that the option of relocation remains closed, the emphasis for the UNHCR and nongovernmental organisations like the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Refugee, Children, Vulnerable Citizens (RCVC) is on offering vocational training. But housing remains a sore point for Afghans in Tajikistan. The practice of marking up rates for Afghans is causing rents to rise across the board for everybody in Vakhdat. "Local communities consider the Afghans responsible for this inflation, even though we are the first victims of it," Nalofar Ahmadi, a 26-year old Afghan working for ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

EU Ready to Lift Iran Sanctions on IAEA Green Light

BRUSSELS - The European Union is ready to lift damaging economic sanctions against Iran as soon as the UN confirms Tehran has met the terms of a historic nuclear deal, diplomatic sources said Friday. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to announce shortly, possibly later Friday or over the weekend, that Iran cannot now acquire nuclear weapons, as it agreed with world powers in July in return for ending sanctions. The diplomatic sources told AFP that everything was being put in place so that the 28-nation EU, alongside the United States and the United Nations, can end its sanctions

regime on what is known as "Implementation Day" for the July agreement. "When the report from the IAEA is published, the European Union will be ready," one of the sources said. The source said member states were agreeing the precise instruction which would then be finalised by the Netherlands as holder of the six-month rotating EU presidency. In a key step, Iran said on Thursday it had removed the core of its Arak heavy water reactor and filled in part of it with cement, meaning it could not be used to produce a nuclear weapon. Iran has always insisted its nuclear ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Aid must be Allowed into Areas in Syria Blockaded by Militants: Russia



MOSCOW - The Russian Foreign Ministry called on Friday for all sides in the Syria conflict to use their influence to ensure that humanitarian aid was delivered to areas blockaded by militants. It said the situation in three places - Madaya, Fua and Kafraya - was a source of particular concern, saying

they were besieged or blockaded by various militant groups. The ministry said it had been working with the Syrian government to try to help resolve the situation and had been encouraging them to cooperate with the United Nations, efforts it said had produced results. *(Reuters)*

36 Afghan Militants Surrender in North



TALUQAN - Some 36 Taliban militants have surrendered in Darqad district of Takhar province as security forces continue their cleanup operations in the town seized by militants earlier, provincial government spokesman said on Thursday. "The cleanup operations have been continuing in surrounding areas of Darqad district since the security forces recaptured the district from Taliban recently. Due to the recent persuasion by Abdul Karim Akhondzada, a Taliban local leader who has already given up fighting in Darqad, some 36 of his men have renounced violence and surrendered over the past two days," spokesman Abdul Khalil Asir told Xinhua. On Sunday, the Afghan National Se-

curity Forces (ANSF) reclaimed the district, which is located some 60 km north of Taluqan, the capital city of Takhar province, from Taliban. The Taliban ran over the town bordering Tajikistan in October last year. The former militants had also handed over their weapons to security authorities, the official added. About 20 militants, including a Taliban judge named Najibullah, were also captured by the ANSF during the ongoing cleanup operations there, the spokesman went on to say. One Afghan soldier and more than 40 militants had been killed and six security force members and several militants wounded during the recapturing operation of the district, according to Asir. *(Xinhua)*

Dushanbe, Kabul Discuss Disaster Relief Issues



DUSHANBE - Senior representatives of Tajikistan's Committee for Emergency Situations (CES), Major-General Rustam Shohiyon and Colonel Jamshed Mahmadzoda, met with a visiting working group of the Afghan Ministry of Natural Disaster Management. An official source at CES said Thursday that the two sides discussed issues related to exchange of information and experience and cooperation in disaster relief. Shohiyon reportedly referred to humanitarian aid provided by Tajikistan to victims of a massive landslide that buried AbiBarik village in Afghan province

Badakhshan in 2014 as an example of cooperation in disaster relief. For his part, Governor of Afghan Province of Badakhshan Dr. Gul Mohammad Bedar, who also attended the meeting expressed gratitude to Tajikistan for humanitarian aid provided to the landslide-affected people, the source said. We will recall that a massive landslide buried Abu Barik village on May 5, 2014, killing hundreds of its residents. The assistance provided by Tajikistan included 200 tons of necessary products. *(Asia-Plus)*