

Back Page

January 16, 2017

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 12°C 10°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy -4°C -2°C	Kandahar Cloudy 9°C 9°C	Mazar Clear 7°C 5°C	Herat Cloudy 8°C 8°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy -2°C -1°C	Kabul Partly Cloudy 5°C -4°C
---	--	---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---	--

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Pakistan Proposes Intelligence Cooperation with Afghanistan to Fight Terrorism

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday spoke to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and offered intelligence cooperation to curb terrorism together, the Pakistani Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The offer came after a series of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan that killed dozens of people including five UAE diplomats in the southern city of Kandahar. Bajwa also mourned the losses of lives in the attacks in Afghanistan and expressed sympathy with bereaved families, saying the tragic series of events have befallen people of both the brotherly countries over the last many years, the military media wing ISPR said in a statement.

"The COAS (Chief of the



Army Staff) suggested a robust border management mechanism and intelligence cooperation to put a stop to and from movement of terrorists across the border," the statement said. Bajwa seemed upset at the

allegations by some Afghan officials against Pakistan and said the "elements inimical to peace in the region are strengthened by the blame game."

He reiterated Pakistan's cooperation with the Afghan government and people to eliminate the scourge of terrorism, which is affecting peace and stability of the whole region.

He also emphasized that Pakistan has come a long way in its fight against terrorism and has eliminated all safe havens in the process.

He stressed that both nations should rather focus on capitalizing on the gains of successful and major military operation codenamed "Zarb-e-Azb" in Pakistan.

"President Ashraf Ghani thanked General Qamar Javed Bajwa for his sentiments and reiterated that both nations must work together for peace and stability in the region," the Pakistani army said. (Xinhua)

KABUL - Afghanistan's High Peace Council (HPC) on Sunday slammed Pakistan for its controversial role in the Afghan peace process, saying Islamabad has been the key obstruction in the way of purposeful peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban group.

"The Taliban leadership live on that side of that border and operate under the control of Pakistani intelligence officials, this has made it difficult to establish direct contact with them," said HPC Advisor Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar.

The government must reach an outcome with Pakistan over peace talks with the Taliban, an HPC advisor Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar said.

"The ones who sheds the blood of women and children are acting against the will of Allah (God)," he said.



It is believed that no direct contact has happened between the government and the Taliban over the past two years. Meanwhile, Office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah has said that the Taliban leadership has never responded positively to the Afghan peace negotiation offer, adding that such a negative approach by the group will lead to its complete elimination.

"They (Taliban) rejected the call for ... (More on P4)... (10)

Recent Attacks: 2-Day National Mourning Announced

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday announced a two-day national mourning on Sunday and Monday for the victims of recent terrorist attacks in capital Kabul and southern Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

During the mourning period, the Afghanistan flag would fly half-mast to express solidarity with families who lost their beloved ones to the string of deadly attacks on Tuesday.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said the mourning would be observed to express sympathy and solidarity with victims' families in Kabul, Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

It said the two-day national mourning also aimed at expressing the Afghan nation's sympathy to families of the five UAE diplomats who were killed in the Kandahar attack.



The presidential decree announced the two-day (Sunday and Monday) national mourning and said Afghanistan flag would fly half-mast at all offices in the country and Afghan diplomatic missions abroad.

Holy Quran would be recited in all mosques and headquarters of the security forces and government departments across the country, the statement

added.

A tomb would be also built in Kandahar province and a memorial plaque would be placed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in respect and memory of the martyred UAE diplomats, the statement said.

The decree also ordered a high government delegation to participate in a memorial reference for the slain diplomats in the UAE. (Pajhwok)

Kochi's Remarks on Tajikistan Envoy's Personal View: MoFA

KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has distanced itself from the Afghan ambassador's remarks on Tajik and Russian mafia's role in production of drugs in Afghanistan.

Afghan Ambassador to Russia Qayyum Kochai recently told a US-based television channel that mafia groups in Tajikistan and Russia had hand in the growing production of drugs in the war-torn country.

Subsequently, the foreign ministry of Tajikistan summoned the ambassador and asked the Afghan government to investigate Kochi's remarks. In a statement, the foreign ministry in Kabul acknowledged on Saturday the



ambassadorial remarks regarding some Central Asian States, particularly Tajikistan, had caused panic among officials of these countries.

The statement said such remarks never demonstrated the policy and stance of the Afghan government; instead they represented his personal viewpoint. The Afghan government was shocked by the remarks, it added.

The ministry hailed Tajikistan as Afghanistan best neighbour, saying the two countries had been enjoying good relations over the years. They had a common culture, history and language and their relations were based on mutual respect, it concluded. (Pajhwok)

Separate Force for Protection of Industrial Parks Proposed

JALALABAD - Insecurity is a huge threat to the nascent commerce sector in eastern Nangarhar province, says an official, who wants a separate force to ensure the security of industrial parks.

Sher Alam Amlawal, head of the commerce and industry department, told Pajhwok Afghan News in an exclusive interview that customs duty and lack of electricity were major hurdles to the local industry.

He said the Hesarak Industrial Park, set up five years ago, was ready for to host industries but not a single industrial unit had started functioning at the park so far due to insecurity.

The official said 241 factories were functional across the province, where 4,000 people had been employed. He claimed his department provided facilities to businessmen to get factory permits within three days in Nangarhar.

Previously an industrialist had to wait for 20 days getting the permit in Kabul, not in the provinces.

On the revenue of his department, he said they had collected 23.8 million afghanis this solar year, compared to 16.2 million afis in the previous year.

He said growing tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan had led to a decline in business activities in Torkham, with cross-border trade plummeting rapidly. He said this year 1,688 permits had been issued to different trade centres and the process was underway.

About local products, he said aluminum tools, agriculture and electrical equipment, marbles, food products, non-alcoholic drinks, rickshaws, plastic pipes, carpets, furniture and clothing are manufactured in the province.

Besides domestic consumption, the items are exported to India, Pakistan, the US, France, Tajikistan and other countries.

Amlawal said a detailed report on how to counter future problems and challenges had been compiled and dispatched to the ministry. The creation of a special force has been ... (More on P4)... (14)

HPC Advisor Sacked for Calling Taliban Angels of Peace

KABUL - A High Peace Council (HPC) official has been sacked for calling Taliban 'Angels of Peace' - remarks that evoked an angry reaction from the Ashraf Ghani administration.

HPC Advisor Abdul Hakim Mujahid had been shown the door following his controversial remarks, a statement from the Chief Executive Secretariat confirmed.

A day earlier, the government said it would not allow anyone to call the killers of Afghans the angels of peace by exploiting the freedom of speech.

The Presidential Palace said that the government respected the freedom of speech but would not let anyone glorify



the killers of innocent women and children and other saboteurs.

"The terrorists, who inflict miseries on our people on a daily basis to please outsiders, deserve to be eliminated. Our security forces are legitimately fighting against these groups," the statement added. The Palace advised the ... (More on P4)... (11)

Afghanistan off to Flying Start, Rout Ireland

KABUL - Afghanistan have trounced Ireland by five wickets in their opening match of the inaugural Desert T20 tournament in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Batting first in Saturday's encounter at Abu Dhabi, Ireland were restricted to a meager 125 for six after they got off to a good start. Paul Stirling was Ireland's top scorer with 25.

Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) spokesman Farid Hotak told Pajhwok Afghan News Mohammad Nabi, Amir Hamza and Rashid Khan teased the opposition with their remarkable spin.

Although Gary Wilson chipped in with 23, other Irish batsmen comprehensively failed to read the hard-to-understand line of the spinning trio, Hotak said.

Najeeb Taraki (31) and Mohammad Shahzad (29) gave Afghanistan an opening stand of 54 before Jacob Mulder claimed the wickets of Shahzad and Captain Asghar Stanikzai.

At one point, Afghanistan slumped to 99 for 5 but Nabi stabilised his side with a confident ... (More on P4)... (12)

Abducted ICRC Staff Member Released in Kunduz

KABUL - A staff member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who was abducted in December, has been released and is now with the ICRC team in northern Kunduz province, the committee said on Sunday.

In a statement from Geneva, the ICRC thanked the Afghan authorities and the communities who mobilized and played a role in facilitating their colleague's release.

The staff member was abducted on December 19, 2016 while travelling from the ICRC office in Kunduz to the sub-delegation in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province. While three other colleagues were left unharmed, he was taken and held for almost four weeks.

"We are relieved and grateful that Juan Carlos is now back with us, safe and sound," said ICRC head of delegation in Afghanistan, Monica Zanarelli. "His abduction was a terrible ordeal for him, as well as for his family, friends and colleagues."

"Our priority now is Juan Carlos' well-being and getting him home to his family. We would ask everyone to respect his, and his family's privacy at this time," Zanarelli said.

Present in Afghanistan for 30 years, the ICRC will not comment on the identity of the ... (More on P4)... (13)

KPK Prosecution Data on Afghan Refugees Proved Wrong



KABUL - The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) government had exaggerated, lied and hid the fact over Afghan refugees' involvement in criminal activities, a media report said on Sunday.

Contrary to the widespread notion of massive involvement of Afghan refugees in major crimes, a study has revealed that they constitute just over one per cent of those found to have been involved in offences deemed heinous, according to dawn. Documents retrieved through the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act, 2013 provide startling details of crime statistics involving Afghan refugees that run contrary to the claims often peddled by the civil law enforcement agencies.

These documents were obtained from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's Directorate of Prosecution and Department of Police to cross-check and corroborate the statistics. The statistics obtained pertain to the period from 2014 to Sept 30, 2016, and involve

New Polio Case Detected in Paktika: MoPH

KABUL - A new polio case has emerged in Barmal district of southeastern Paktika province, taking to 13 the number of infected children in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said on Sunday.

In a statement, the Pub-

lic Health Ministry said it along with its partners would respond urgently to prevent more children from being paralyzed. The statement added Bismillah, a 24-month child, was diagnosed positive on December 16, the seventh case in Barmal district. (Pajhwok)