

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 14°C 2°C	Ghazni Partly Cloudy 2°C -19°C	Kandahar Clear 9°C -4°C	Mazar Snow 3°C -4°C	Herat Clear 4°C -6°C	Bamayan Clear -9°C -20°C	Kabul Clear 3°C -12°C
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Weather Forecast Brought to You by MTN Afghanistan

No Afghan Refugee Involved in Terrorism: Mosazai

KARACHI - Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Janan Mosazai on Saturday said the terrorism is a matter of concern for both Afghanistan and Pakistan, adding that leaders and institutions of both countries are in contact with each other against terrorists. Talking to media he said that he could proudly say that no Afghan refugee was involved in crimes and terrorism in Pakistan. He said there are 1.6 million registered Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and the Afghan government is working to ensure their safe return to the country as early as possible. "Afghan refugees had played a vital role in the economic development of Pakistan in last three decades", Janan Mosazai added. He claimed that more than 200 local and foreign terrorists have been killed during Afghan security forces' operation in Kunar province. (Agencies)



Militants Still in Control: Dangam Residents



ASADABAD - Despite tall claims by security officials that insurgents have been driven from the Dangam district of eastern Kunar province, residents of the troubled town on Saturday said the heavily-armed rebels were still in control. About one and a half months ago, hundreds of armed insurgents launched simultaneous attacks in various parts of the district, targeting local security forces and residents spearheading an uprising against them. Lt. Gen. Zaman Waziri, 201st Selab Military Corps commander in the east, told a gathering last week that the conflict in ... (More on P4)... (10)

Pakistan Duping World on Border Trench: Gen. Raziq



KANDAHAR CITY - The Kandahar police chief on Saturday alleged Pakistan was deceiving the international community by digging a 480-kilometre trench along the border on the pretext of preventing militant infiltration. Gen. Abdul Raziq levelled the allegation while responding to a question from this scribe during a press conference at the Governor's House media office in the capital of the southern province. Raziq said the eight-foot deep and 10-foot wide trench in Balochistan province ... (More on P4)... (13)

Turkmen Aid for Disaster Victims Reaches Jawzjan

SHIBERGHAN - Turkmenistan's food aid for victims of natural disasters arrived in northern Jawzjan province on Saturday, an official said. Bazaar Bhai, Turkmenistan's consul general, told reporters in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, 1,000 war and natural disaster-affected families would benefit from the aid. He said his country planned to build ... (More on P4)... (14)

ISIS Not in Helmand: Governor's Spokesman

KABUL - Omar Ziwak, spokesman for acting governor of Helmand has turned down reports of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) or DAESH reaching Helmand province. "There is no such group with the name of DAESH", he said. Residents of Sangeen district at the beginning of this month said that a new group has started operating in their areas wearing black clothes and carry black flag. Residents said that the group is joining hands against the Taliban under the command of Abdul Rauf an ex-Taliban devotee. Local officials confirmed that a gun battle has also taken place between the new formed armed group and Taliban which has left about 20 people dead from both sides. In the meantime, Taliban leaderships have asked fighters not to allow ISIS operate in Afghanistan. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) which is also known as ISIS, IS or DAESH last June enlarged their attacks against security forces in Iraq and Syria and took more areas from them. The group according to reports is in the hassle to enhance the network leaving Al-Qaeda and all other terrorist groups behind. The group after occupying more areas in Iraq and Syria is now reportedly busy in recruiting fighters in other countries including central Asia. (KP)

Irrigation Tools Distributed to Farmers in Northeast



KABUL - As many as 370 sets of irrigation tools, including water tanks, pipes and water pumps, were distributed to orchard owners in northeastern provinces, an official said on Saturday. Eng. Mohammad Ghulam Mullakhel, coordinator of the Agriculture Ministry's National Horticulture and Livestock Project (NHLP), said 45 sets of tools were distributed to orchard owners in Kunduz, 150 in Takhar, 170 in Baghlan and five in Badakhshan ... (More on P4)... (11)

Ghani off to Riyadh to Mourn King's Death



KABUL - Accompanied by a high-level delegation, President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday left for Saudi Arabia to offer his condolences to its new King Salman, a day after the death of his half-brother King Abdullah. Former King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, a US ally and a cautious reformer, died early Friday aged about 90. President Ghani left for Riyadh, the kingdom's capital, this afternoon, a statement from the Presidential Palace said without identifying other officials accompanying him on the trip. The late king's body, wrapped in a cream-colored shroud, was borne on a simple litter by members of the royal family wearing traditional red-and-white checked headgear. The body was quickly moved to nearby Al-Od public cemetery and buried in an unmarked grave, in keeping with ... (More on P4)... (12)

Thousands of Illegal Afghans Detained in Pakistan



KABUL - Police in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province have detained 1,900 illegal Afghan nationals in a series of search operations, a media report said on Saturday. A total of 5,550 suspects have been taken into custody and 1,800 weapons of different kinds were recovered from them, said a Pakistani newspaper, quoting a police report on the province-wide operations. The News International said 19,700 houses and 40,000 hotels were searched for suspects while security of 23,557 educational institutions was scrutinised. The search op-

eration was intensified after the Army Public School (APS) attack on December 16. In Punjab province, police arrested 935 illegal Afghan refugees under the Foreign Act from different cities. Police also registered 465 cases against them. Of the 755 sus-

UNSC Stresses Need for Further Cooperation in Central Asia

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council (UNSC) on Friday stressed the need for cooperation and coordination between governments in Central Asia and regional organizations to strengthen peace, stability and sustainable development in the region. In a statement to the press, the 15-member body underlined the need for governments to collaborate with the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), and acknowledged the role of the UN regional office in assisting those countries to respond to domestic and transnational threats to peace. The UNRCCA ... (More on P4)... (16)

New Australian Ambassador Presents Credentials to Ghani



KABUL - Australia's new ambassador to Afghanistan Matt Anderson on Saturday presented his credentials to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani. Ghani accepted the ambassador's credentials during a meeting at the Presidential Palace here. The diplomat promised to do his best to cement Afghan-Australian ties. A statement from the Palace quoted Anderson, who replaced John Phillip, as promising continued Australian assistance and special attention to Afghanistan. Canberra's military and financial assistance had been vital to ... (More on P4)... (17)