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| Jalalabad Chance of Rain 31°C 24°C | Ghazni Chance of Rain 26°C 16°C | Kandahar Partly Cloudy 40°C 28°C | Mazar Clear 39°C 31°C | Herat Clear 37°C 22°C | Bamayan Chance of Rain 24°C 15°C | Kabul Partly Cloudy 28°C 20°C |
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

MoD to Launch Large Military Operation in North

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Sunday announced that the Afghan security forces will soon launch a large scale military operations in northern Afghanistan in the hope of eliminating insurgents and bolstering law and order in the embattled region. The news comes after months of clashes between the Afghan security forces and Taliban militants in provinces across northern Afghanistan, a region that has traditionally been a less restive part of the country. Earlier this year, insurgents pushed into provinces like Badakhshan, Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan and Balkh, prompting local mujahideen leaders to arm them-



elves and band together in order to resist the influx of foreign militants and concomitant violence. Now, it would appear, the Afghan military plans to take the situation into their own hands for a large, definitive strike to halt the militant offensive. "The Chief of Army Staff has been in the northern provinces since Wednesday and is busy in planning the kick off of military operations for wiping out insurgents," MoD spokesman Dawlat Waziri told TOLONews on Sunday. "The Afghan National Army will soon eliminate militants from northern parts of the country," he added. Members... (More on P4)...(9)

Logar Airstrike Victims to be Conferred with Medals



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Sunday pledged to confer with highest state medals on security officials died in Logar airstrike. A statement from the Presidential Palace said on Sunday that last Monday's airstrike that involved two US helicopters targeted ANA outpost and killed eight soldiers and

wounded six others, prompting the president to order an investigation into the incident. Officials in Logar said the air assault targeted ANA checkpoint in the Baraki Barak district's Chaltan area at about 6:00 am. The statement said that the president expressed deep concern... (More on P4)...(10)

\$5m Allocated for Uplift Projects in Kandahar

KANDAHAR - At least \$5 million has been allocated for development and reconstruction projects in southern Kandahar province, officials of Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development (RRD) and National Solidarity Program (NPS) have said on Sunday. Ahmad Wali Azizi, head of NSP for central and southern zones, explained the projects in a meeting with Governor Dr. Humayun Azizi. Security played pivotal role in spending the budget in a transparent way since the budget had been properly utilized last year in areas where security situation was better, Azizi added. He accused several local influential people used to utilize the development budget for their personal interest in the past. He demanded the governor develop village committees which could provide support and control corruption in the uplift projects. The governor assured nobody would be allowed to utilize the NSP budget without legal process, he said, warning those who lived in cities could not be included. (More on P4)...(11)

Kabulis Criticize Telecommunication Services

KABUL - A number of Kabul residents (Kabulis) on Sunday criticized telecommunication services and the safety of phone calls saying that when they make calls they get crossed lines and connect with other users at the same time. The residents believe that the government is not monitoring activities of telecommunication companies. "I called my brother but my call was connected to another person. The telecommunication services have lots of problems recently and we hear voice of others during phone calls," Nangiyalai, a resident of Kabul told TOLONews. Abdul Ghafoor another resident of Kabul came up with same remarks about the problem, and said: "Recently telecommunication services have lots of problems and our calls are not safe. We call one person but it gets connected with many people. We want the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology... (More on P4)...(14)

Taliban Abduct 14 Passengers in Baghlan Province

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Taliban insurgents reportedly abducted 14 passengers in northern Baghlan province on Saturday evening, local officials said. The incident took place in Pul-e-Khumri, the capital of the province, after a number of Taliban insurgents stopped a bus which had about 20 passengers on board, including six wom-

en, a member of Provincial Council of Baghlan, Bismillah Attash said. "They took all the passengers but later they released six women after negotiations with the tribal elders," he said. However, the government has not yet commented on the incident - neither has the Taliban. Kidnapping cases have in-

creased substantially in the country in recent months, especially on provincial highways. In February, armed gunmen kidnapped 31 bus passengers in Zabol. After months of negotiations 19 were released in a reported prisoner swap. However, the whereabouts of the remaining 12 hostages is still unknown. (Tolonews)

350 U.S. Airmen Deployed to Afghanistan

KABUL - Three hundred and fifty airmen from the Ellsworth Air Force Base in the U.S. were deployed Friday to Afghanistan to provide support to local forces.



A portion of the 28th Bomb Wing's B-1 bomber fleet shipped out from the base in western South Dakota on Friday. U.S. Air Force officials say the airmen are going to be providing air support and presence over Afghanistan. They say they'll also be conducting a variety of tasks to provide critical battlefield support and long-range strike capabilities.

However, Dawlat Waziri, Ministry of Defense spokesman, said the ministry was not aware of such a deployment. "So far we don't know anything about this but you [TOLONews] need to ask the president's spokesman about this," he said.

President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashimi was also not aware of the move. The deployment meanwhile is expected to last six months. The Commander of the 37th Bomb Squadron deployed with the airmen, told a US news agency that crews will provide multi-role combat airpower in support of U.S. and coalition forces. Commander Joseph of the 37th Bomb Squadron said, "We're going to be providing air support over Af-

ghanistan as well as an operation, providing air presence, combat strike, intelligence, surveillance, and doing whatever missions the combat commanders ask us to do while we're deployed." This is the first deployment for many of the airmen. Commander Joseph, who only gave his first name for security reasons, says the airmen have gone through 12 months of intensive training, and he is very confident in their capabilities. (Tolonews)

Guard Involved in Journalist's Harassment Referred to AGO

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga second deputy speaker on Sunday said he has referred his bodyguard who was accused of assaulting a journalist to Attorney General Office (AGO). Mohammad Amin Babak, host of a talk show in Khurshid television network, was left bloody-nosed by Nazir Ahmadzai's bodyguards around five days ago. Some media rights advocates on Saturday condemned the assault and urged prosecution of the guards. Babak had earlier said: "Our road without any reason was blocked by Nazir Ah-

madzai's guards for more than 30 minutes. After waiting, when I honked to open the road one of the guards attacked me inside the car." Ahmadzai had said the problem had occurred without his presence and now it had been politicized. He has said to have sacked his guard and referred him to AGO for more investigations. The decision comes following pressures by media activists and social society activists. According to NAI from May 2014 until May 2015 more than 105 cases of violence against journalists have been recorded. (Pajhwok)

Kandahar Trade Delegation in Sistan-Baluchistan



ZABUL, Iran - A trade, marketing and investment delegation from Kandahar visited Sistan-Baluchistan Province to examine investment capacities in the province. Upon arrival at Milak border Customs Office, members of the delegation met and held talks with Iranian businessmen and official and exchanged views in trade and economic fields. Governor of the border city of Hirmand, Mohammad Ali

Piri, congratulated the Iranian nation for the nuclear talks and said this victory will definitely be useful for the entire world, especially the friendly and fraternal country of Afghanistan. He said the Islamic system of Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution has been always a supporter of the nation and legal government of Afghanistan and in the course of years of hosting Afghan refugees has played an... (More on P4)...(12)

Helmand Special Persons Demand Due Rights

LASHKARGAH - Scores of family members of martyred and other disabled persons in southern Helmand held a rally on Sunday, demanding their due rights. Ghulam Ali, a protester, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had not received pensions of his slain sons. "I have the responsibility to feed my grandsons of my slain children since their pension has been ceased for the last one year." The Directorate of Martyr, Disabled, Labour and Social Affairs (MDLSA) should pay the amount on time to the families to minimize their miseries, he added. Bibi Gul, another protester, said: "My son was in police when he was killed and left ten children behind. I don't know the reason of delaying the pension of my slain son." She accused the MDLSA for not issuing pension on time to the families who sacrificed their lives for the motherland. Asadullah who lost his arm in fighting said that "all other departments perform their duties efficiently except MDLSA." He blamed the staff of MDLSA for asking favors and bribes for releasing pensions of slain people. Mohammad Nader Watanawal, director of MDLSA, said he distributed all the amount and charity among deserving families. MDSL received 125 million Afghans for three months but only half of the amount had been received in last six months, he explained the reason of delaying... (More on P4)...(13)

Afghanistan Seeks Tajikistan's Support for Cross-Border Trade



DUSHANBE - Afghan diplomats have asked Tajikistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) to help improve cross-border trade in Afghan territory. According to the CCI press center, this issues was discussed here on July 24 at a meeting between Sharif Said, Chairman of Tajikistan's CCI and Mojibullah Malik-zade, noted... (More on P4)...(15)

in Tajikistan. Afghan diplomat reportedly noted that restriction on free movement of people and commodities impeded the cross-border trade between the two countries. "It is necessary to remove tariff and technical barriers impeding the cross-border trade," Mojibullah Malik-zade noted. Sharif-Said, for his part, noted... (More on P4)...(15)

Agricultural Test Farm in Nangarhar Yields Positive Result



JALALABAD - Officials of the agriculture department in eastern Nangarhar province said that a test farm established for research purpose has yielded positive result regarding improvement in crops. The farm which contains different kinds of fruits and others plants is located in the eastern part of Jalalabad City, the provincial capital, on 10

acres of land. Eng. Hamidullah Nazir, director agriculture, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the farm included 79 samples of pomegranate plants, 66 citrus samples and different other plants. He said the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has built five test farms in the country and the farm in Nangarhar has produced positive results... (More on P4)...(16)

Social Media Powerful Tool to Expose Corrupt Officials: NAI

KABUL - Social media users have an effective role in revealing the officials mired in corruption, trampling laws, NAI executive director said on Sunday. Abdul Mujib Khalwatgar, executive director of NAI-supporting open media in Afghanistan, expressed these views at a ceremony arranged to mark the Social Media Week. Three years earlier, NAI announced the last week of July as social media week in Afghanistan. NAI officials said this was the fourth time they were celebrating the social media week under the slogan of "differences of opinion in social media do



not mean animosity." He hoped social media week would formally be incorporated in formal calendar. According to Khalwatgar, more than 1.3 million Afghans had access to social media and the figures were on the rise on daily bases. "Social media has found... (More on P4)...(17)