

Jalalabad Clear 38°C 24°C	Ghazni Clear 30°C 14°C	Kandahar Clear 41°C 23°C	Mazar partly cloudy 34°C 24°C	Herat partly cloudy 33°C 19°C	Bamayan Clear 22°C 7°C	Kabul Clear 32°C 17°C
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Warsaw, Brussels will Promote Development of Afghanistan: Olson

WASHINGTON - U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) Richard Olson on Wednesday said that the investments in security and development that the international community has made in Afghanistan are yielding dividends.

"With momentous achievements in education, health, the economy, infrastructure, women's rights, and the most dynamic media landscape in the region, Afghanistan has made unparalleled developmental gains. Its armed forces, too, are stronger



and more capable than ever," said Olson in Washington DC. Olson's appearance in an appearance at the Atlantic Council previewed the United States' aspirations

for the NATO Warsaw Summit in early July where NATO allies and partners will reaffirm financial commitments to support the Afghan National Security Forces, as well as the October Brussels Conference on Afghanistan and its pledges of further development assistance through 2020. "Warsaw and Brussels will reaffirm the international community's shared goal to promote the development of a secure, democratic, and increasingly prosperous Afghan state with strong institutions that fulfill the public's expectations and respond to challenges and crises," he said. "We can think of this as operation 'Resolute Commitment.'" (PR)

UN to Host 4-Way Talks on Afghan Refugees' Problems



KABUL - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plans hosting a four-way meeting on the problems being faced by Afghan refugees. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and the European Union (EU) would attend the talks, Filippo Grandi, head of the UN refugee agency, told IRNA on Tuesday evening. Participants will explore solutions to permanently resolve the problems the Afghan refugees have been facing. The date and venue are yet to be ... (More on P4)...(9)

Border Skirmishes: Kabul, Islamabad Trade Blame at UN

WASHINGTON - Pakistan is indulging in unnecessary provocative actions at the Torkham border, posing a threat to international peace, a top Afghan diplomat told the UN Security Council on Tuesday. Pakistan had stepped up illegal construction of military installations, abuse of Afghan nationals and restrictions on trade, Afghan Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal said during the Security Council's debate on Afghanistan. "In the past three months, the violation of our sovereignty and territorial integrity continued, with over 820 instances of artillery shelling of our eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Khost, Paktika, Kunar and ... (More on P4)...(10)

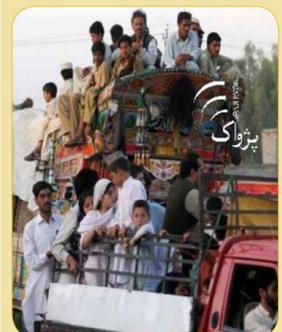
Soldier Guns Down 4 Colleagues in Badghis



QALA-I-NAW - An Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier has killed four of his colleagues and injured three others in the Jawand district of western Badghis province, an official said on Wednesday.

ANA's brigade commander in Badghis, Col. Sher Mohammadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the insider attack took place in the Kotal Siah area of the district late on Tuesday. He said the rogue soldier killed four of his colleagues and injured three others at a security post. The attacker was also killed by another soldier at the post, he added. Meanwhile, the Taliban said the attacker, Eid Mohammad, was their member in ANA ranks. They also confirmed the attacker had been killed in return fire. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan Deports More than 250 Afghans Via Torkham



PESHAWAR - More than Afghans have been deported to their country through the Torkham border, a report in the Pakistani media said on Wednesday.

The undocumented Afghans were awaiting deportation since June 14 when the border was shut as a result of skirmishes over the construction of a gate on the Pakistani side, Dawn reported.

Detained in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the 254 Afghans were charged under the Foreigners Act and handed over to Khyber political administration for deportation. (Pajhwok)

US Rules out Abrupt Disengagement from Afghanistan

KABUL - A top Obama administration official on Tuesday urged the Taliban to come to the negotiating table, insisting the US would not abandon Afghanistan. US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Olson said: "Taliban should not keep away from talks, hoping that the US is going to abandon Afghanistan."

The militant outfit should not suspect the genuineness of America's support for the Afghan-led peace talks that the US continued to support, he told an audience at



the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think-tank. Washington expected the Quadrilateral Coordination Group -- involving China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US -- to use

their leverage to drive the Taliban to the negotiating table, the diplomat said. India and Iran, two regional countries having stakes in a stable Afghanistan, might be included in the peace push at a later stage, the ambassador indicated, according to reports in the Indian media. "India has been a supportive partner. Pakistan has concerns about Indian involvement, but Pakistan hugely exaggerates the Indian influence in Afghanistan," ... (More on P4)...(8)

Taliban not Seeking Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan: CEO

TEHRAN - Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah underlined that the Taliban is not looking for sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

"Unfortunately, the Taliban leadership has resorted to violence and has not shown willingness to reach sustainable peace with the Afghan government," Abdullah told FNA on Wednesday. He, meantime, said that Iran and Russia consider peace in Afghanistan as beneficial to the region, and announced that the regional countries are closely following up the peace talks in Afghanistan. In late May, a fifth round of four-nation talks aimed at laying the ground for a negotiated end to the Afghan war began in Islamabad, as hopes faded for bringing the Taliban insurgents to the table quickly.



Also in late May, Taliban confirmed the death of the militant group's leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour and announced Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhundzada as his successor. A statement by the group said Mawlawi Akhundzada was appointed as the successor of Mansour after he was unanimously voted by the leadership council members. The statement further added that Sirajuddin Haqqani

and Mullah Omar's son Mullah Yaqoob have been appointed as deputy supreme leader of the group. Mullah Mansour was killed in a US drone strike in the vicinity of Baluchistan province of Pakistan late on Saturday afternoon. The group's leadership council started negotiations for the appointment of Mansour's successor a day after he was targeted in the airstrike. (FNA)

Afghan-Pakistani Leaders to Discuss Border Dispute During SCO Summit



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif are set to meet on the sidelines of the Shanghai Summit in Uzbekistan on Friday to discuss the current Torkham border dispute between their two countries. A number of political analysts have said that Afghanistan must use international platforms such as Shanghai to mount pressure on Pakistan to end its hostile policies toward Afghanistan. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is to meet on Friday in the Uzbek capital of

Tashkent. Analysts say Kabul has so far failed to convince Pakistan's strategic allies, such as China, to pressurize Islamabad into changing its policies toward Afghanistan. "We need a permanent diplomatic effort. Countries will not change their policies on Afghanistan overnight," political analyst Fardin Hashemi said. "Currently the issue of Torkham is important. However, the main challenge is to bring the Taliban to the negotiation table," political analyst ... (More on P4)...(11)

Farah Exports Watermelon Worth 2b Afghanis this Year

FARAH CITY - There has been a drastic increase in the yield of watermelon in western Farah province and so far this summer the fruit worth 2 billion Afghanis had been exported, an official said on Wednesday. Shah Mohammad, a senior official of the agriculture department, told Pajhwok Afghan News this year there was a bumper production of watermelon in the province and its quality was also good. According to him, last year 341,000 tonnes of watermelon had been produced by 11,000 hectares of land. So far during the current

year, 420,000 tonnes of watermelon have been picked from 12,000 hectares, showing a four tonnes increase per hectare. He linked timely rains and abundant water availability to the higher watermelon yield. Last year the price of per 5 kilograms of watermelon was 12-20 Afghanis but the figure has soared to 25 Afghanis in 2016. Mahmood said Farah consumed up to 10 percent of the crop, with the remaining 90 percent exported to other provinces and abroad. "We exported the fruit ... (More on P4)...(12)

US Envoy Dismisses Pakistan's Concerns over Indian Role in Afghanistan

KABUL - The United States has told Pakistan to rather focus on fighting terrorism than overestimating India's role in Afghanistan. The US Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Olson says "Pakistan itself will not be secure, until and unless" it took action against terrorist organizations, such as the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network. "Pakistan will not have bright future until it takes action against Taliban," Olson told a think tank of the Atlantic Council in Washington DC. He reaffirmed the US pledge of more than \$3 billion per year of financial cooperation



in support for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). This will be for the period 2018 through 2020. Afghanistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mahmoud Saikal, has asked the international community to take action against state sponsors of

terrorism in Afghanistan's neighborhood. He has also asked the UN Security Council to implement the UN sanctions against the Taliban. Olson maintains the role of India in Afghanistan continues to be exaggerated by Pakistan. "I sometimes feel that the ... (More on P4)...(13)

Iran Warns UN of ISIS Rise in Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Iran's mission to the United Nations has expressed concern over a rise in the activities of the Takfiri Daesh (ISIS / ISIL) terrorist group in neighboring Afghanistan. Gholam-Hossein Dehqani, Iran's deputy ambassador to the UN, called attention to a United Nations report which has found that armed conflict in Afghanistan currently stands at its highest level since 2001. "Afghanistan continues to face major security, political, and economic challenges," Dehqani told a UN Security Council session on Tuesday. He voiced Tehran's concern about the growth of ISIS in Afghanistan as well as the emergence there of affiliated outfits like Daesh-Khorasan, the so-called "Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan," and "East Turkestan Islamic Movement." Failure to seriously confront these groups, Dehqani said, would mean that we should expect a more troubled future. The Takfiri group, which is mainly based in Iraq and Syria, has managed to make inroads in Afghanistan. The Afghan province of Nangarhar bordering Pakistan has been the area where Daesh has gained a foothold. ISIS has reportedly managed to establish connections with Taliban's splinter groups, especially those believed to be discontent with changes in Taliban's leadership. ... (More on P4)...(14)