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May 13, 2015

Jalalabad Partly Cloudy 32°C 19°C	Ghazni Clear 23°C 9°C	Kandahar Clear 35°C 19°C	Mazar Clear 32°C 19°C	Herat Clear 32°C 15°C	Bamayan Clear 14°C 3°C	Kabul Clear 26°C 12°C
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Nawaz Promises to Complete Pakistan-Funded Projects

KABUL - Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday pledged to complete projects his country has initiated in Afghanistan.

Sharif, who arrived in Kabul at the head of a high-level delegation, held talks with President Ashraf Ghani at the presidential palace. At the delegation-level meeting, both the sides discussed various issues of mutual interest, including security and economic cooperation, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

Pakistan army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif, who accompanied Nawaz



Sharif, said the territories of Pakistan and Afghanistan would be not be used against each other, according to Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Asim Bajwa.

In a series of tweets, Bajwa said the army chief also extended full support for Afghan led peace efforts and added that Pak-Afghan relations will strictly adhere to a policy of non-interference.

General Raheel further said that Afghanistan's enemy will be treated as Pakistan's enemy and vice versa.

The army chief also directed the Frontier... (More on P4)...(9)

Ministry of Defence

ANA Soldiers Among 89 Dead in Clashes



KABUL - Nine Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and 80 insurgents have been killed during the two days clashes with security forces in different parts of the country, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Tuesday.

Nine ANA personnel lost their lives in a showdown with the enemy in different parts of the country, the statement said. But Taliban claimed inflicting heavy casualties on security forces in the firefight.

In Jawand district of Badghis province, as many as 13 rebels were killed while three other militants were killed in the Khogyani district of Nangarhar province, 14 in Gulistan district of Farah and 16 in the Imam Sahib and Ghor Tapa locality of Kunduz province, the statement added.

As a result of clearing operation, 15 militants were killed in Sangin district of Helmand, 12 in Sar-i-Pul province, 10 in Paktika, Ghazni and Jawzjan provinces.

The Jawand district has already fallen to Taliban, however, security forces on Tuesday claimed regaining the district. More than 80 anti-state elements were wounded in clashes, the statement said, adding that security forces seized huge cache of weapons and explosives. (Pajhwok)

Allegations Against Muslimyar Refuted

KABUL - Director National Directorate of security (NDS) in eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday rejected that brother of incumbent Chairman Senate Muslimyar had any links with terror organization. Earlier, the 1st Deputy Speaker of Wolesi Jirga Haji Zahir Qadir alleged that the prime suspect involved in suicide attacks in eastern Nangarhar province was residing in the house of Chairman Senate Fazal Hadi Muslimyar's brother.

He said security officials were ordered to stay away from searching the house of Younis, the brother of Muslimyar, for three hours before they were allowed to enter the house.

He said two suspects having hands in recent incidents of violence in Nangarhar were living in the house of Muslimyar's brother Younis who is the commander of 02 brigade of Public Order Police. He accused Muslimyar of his involvement in suicide and other kinds of attacks, adding that chairman senate was blacklisted by the US.

Gen. Hasamuddin Hasam, 1st deputy director of NDS, Deputy Governor Mohammad Hanif Gardiwal, Police Chief Brig. Gen. Fazal Ahmad Sherzad and Brig. Gen. Dad Mohammad Khan provincial NDS director briefed Mesharano Jirga on the allegations leveled against Muslimyar.

Brig. Gen. Dad Mohammad Khan said no member of Muslimyar's family... (More on P4)...(12)

Fresh Violence Erupts in Herat City

HEART CITY - Afghan security forces and militants were locked in intense gun battle after heavily-armed insurgents mounted attacks on a number of security check posts in the Shindand district of western Herat province on Tuesday, an official said.

The rebels stormed check posts in Qila, Maldar and Chowk Zaghali which led them to gun fight with security forces, the governor's spokesman said.

Ihsanullah Hayat told Pajhwok Afghan News that the firefight lasted for hours but he had no details into casualties on either side. Abdul Rauf, police spokesman, said 20 rebels were killed and a mine planter was detained by police during the firefight. The security forces, he said remained unhurt, which erupted at 8:00 am in the morning.

He put the number of militants at 200 fighters who took shelter in local schools and targeting security forces positions. Taliban also threatened shopkeepers to close their shops, he added. (Pajhwok)

6 of the 31 Abducted Passengers Died Before Prisoner Swap

KABUL - At least six of the 31 abducted passengers passed away before the Afghan government and local tribal elders manage to broker a deal for the freedom of the 19 hostages, it has been reported.

A local tribal elder Mirza Khan told The Wall Street Journal that five of the hostages were executed and an elderly man died of natural causes.

Khan quoted a number of the hostages who were freed by the anti-government armed

militants, reportedly following a prisoner swap in southeastern Ghazni province.

According to Khan an Afghan soldier was also among those executed by the anti-government armed militants on Monday.

A member of the provincial council Asadullah Kakar said earlier that the hostages were released in exchange of 22 Uzbeks including women and children.

However, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said the 19 abducted passengers were freed



without prisoner swap and denied the government has paid any ransom to the militants.

The anti-government armed militants released 19 of the 31 abducted passengers and... (More on P4)...(10)

Calamity-Hit Badakhshan Families Want Aid, Assistance



FAIZABAD - Though the Ministry of Defence dispatched food items and tents through helicopters to the floods-affected families of northeastern Badakhshan but the people demanded they direly needed more assistance, an official said on Tuesday.

Director Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) warned that the affected families would face famine-like situation if they were not provided with food assistance.

Humayun Dehqan told Pajhwok Afghan News the flash floods damaged a vital bridge, blocking the main road from Faizabad to the affected areas. The authorities, he said were forced to transport food items and tents through helicopters to the affected community.

He said that Red Crescent, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF and World Food program (WFP) provided food assistance and shelter to the people affected by land sliding. The food and other assistance included 85 tons of food items, 163 tents, 237 pairs of pillow and beds, 340 blankets, 180 sheets and dresses for 237 persons.

Abdullah Naji Nazari, head of the provincial council, said the dead bodies buried under the debris could not be retrieved in the aftermath of the devastating land slide.

Local... (More on P4)...(15)

UN's High Commissioner for Refugees Set to Visit Afghanistan

KABUL - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, is scheduled to arrive in Afghanistan on Wednesday for a two-day visit to assess the progress and the continuing challenges in UNHCR's largest repatriation operation worldwide.

More than 5.7 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan since the current

voluntary repatriation operation started in 2002.

The UNHCR said in a statement that aside from reviewing UNHCR's operation in the country, the main purpose of Guterres' visit to Afghanistan is to discuss with senior government officials

long-term solutions to the Afghan... (More on P4)...(11)



ANSF Retake Control of Jawand District

QAL-E-NAW - The security forces have been able to regain control of Jawand district in western Badghis province - three days after the district fell into the hands of the Taliban.

The incident took place when dozens of Taliban insurgents carried out coordinated attacks Sunday night, according to local officials. Deputy spokesman of Interior Ministry, Najib Danish,



said Tuesday that Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) members launched a joint operation on Monday to regain control. "Control over the district was regained a few hours ago," Danish said, adding that clashes... (More on P4)...(13)



Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (heart) speaks during a joint press conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul, Afghanistan on Tuesday May 12, 2015. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Tuesday that a peaceful Afghanistan would benefit Pakistan and Islamabad supports the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. (Xinhua/Ahmad Massoud)