

<b>Jalalabad</b> Cloudy 26°C 16°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 19°C 4°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Partly Cloudy 27°C 12°C	<b>Mazar</b> Cloudy 24°C 11°C	<b>Herat</b> Cloudy 26°C 8°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Cloudy 17°C 3°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 19°C 8°C	<b>Daily Outlook Weather Forecast</b>
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# Trilateral Emergency Meeting on Refugees Proposed

KABUL - The Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation has proposed an emergency trilateral meeting with Pakistan and the United Nations, an official said on Wednesday. Pakistan extended, apparently for the last time, the deadline for Afghan refugees' stay in the country until March, 2017. But the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has halted the repatriation of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan until March 2017 due to the advent of winter. "This issue has raised concerns for us. How can thousands of Afghan refugees return to Afghanistan in a month or weeks now when the returning process has



been delayed and the deadline by Pakistan is approaching," said Hafiz Ahmad Miakhel, media advisor to the Afghan Ministry of Refugees. According to Miakhel, Pakistani Refugees Minister Abdul Qader Baloch, who visited Kabul a few months ago, had signed an agreement with the Afghan government extending the deadline to the end of 2017. But Pakistan backed out of

the agreement and the final decision would come from the Pakistani Cabinet. Miakhel said earlier November 15, 2016 had been set the deadline for unregistered Afghan refugees in Pakistan, where hundreds of unregistered Afghan refugees lived and could not return in the short time. He also said the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation had urged Pakistan and the United Nations refugee agency to hold an emergency trilateral meeting on the refugees and reach upon an agreement. However, no decision has been made as yet. Duniya Aslam Khan, UNHCR spokeswoman in Islamabad, said UNHCR and the ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Insecurity Keeping Investors at Bay in Ghazni



GHAZNI CITY - Some businessmen say they could not make investments due to insecurity in southern Ghazni province, but officials say they are ready to provide them security. Trader Abdul Rahman told Pajhwok Afghan News on Wednesday that insecurity had lately increased in Ghazni. He said besides insecurity there were other problems that discouraged traders to invest. "Unknown people threaten traders, kidnap their children. Ghazni lacks airport and electricity, how can one invest here," he asked. Rahman said he had wound up his businesses in Ghazni and had started making investments in Kabul, Herat and Balkh provinces. Another trader, Mohammad Alam Ahmadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "The situation is not good in Ghazni. I do business in Herat and if the situation in Ghazni improves, I will shift my business here." He said the Kabul-Ghazni highway was insecure to the extent that common people, forget about traders, could not commute on it without fear. Ahmadi urged the authorities ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Noor Reacts to Political Agreement Report with Ghani for Leaving Balkh

KABUL - The provincial governor of northern Balkh province Ata Mohammad Noor has rejected reports of political agreement with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to leave Balkh and assume a key post in the capital. Noor issued a statement after a report emerged on a local newspaper suggesting that the prominent political figure belonging to Jamiat-e-Islami has agreed to leave Balkh province. Calling the report as baseless, Noor said he had discussions with President Ghani in consultation with the President of Jamiat-e-Islami regarding the power share of their team, insisting that respect to the share of their belongs to those who have stood with the party following a same path. He said no agreement has



been reached regarding his transfer from Balkh to capital Kabul as he emphasized that he serves for the nation. In the meantime, sources close to Ata Mohammad Noor rejected the report as baseless and said the governor and chief executive of Jamiat-e-Islami is currently in United Arab Emirates. Munir Farhad, a spokesman for Ata Mohammad Noor said no political agreement has been concluded between Noor and President Ghani. The report published by Hasht-e-Sobh daily quoted anonymous officials saying that the agreement has concluded and Noor will be transferred to Kabul to assume a key post in the government. The paper also added that the new governor of northern Balkh province has been selected in line with the demands of Noor who is politically close to him. *(KP)*

## 4,000 war-displaced families taking refuge in Balkh

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Nearly 4,000 families displaced from a number of insecure northern provinces have taken refuge in Balkh province during the current year, local officials said on Wednesday. Balkh refugees' department head, Abdul Saboor, told Pajhwok Afghan News on the sidelines of an IDPs related two-day workshop that the displaced families settled in different parts of Balkh belonged to troubled Faryab, Kunduz, Baghlan, Sar-i-Pul and Takhar provinces. Over the past one month at least 500 families currently living on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif had been displaced from Faryab and Sar-i-Pul provinces, he added. A displaced woman, Gul Khanam, said she left Qaisar district of Faryab along with her family and started residing at a refugee camp in Mazar-i-Sharif. "I am very concerned about my children as winter has arrived and we are living in tents. The government has provided us with some food but still we lead a miserable life." A Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation official Mehryar Sabaar, who attended the workshop, said nearly 90,000 families had been internally displaced mostly in Nangarhar, Kunduz, Helmand and Faryab provinces. *(Pajhwok)*

## EU Stresses Safe Work Environment for Journalists

KABUL - The European Union (EU) on Wednesday expressed its deep concern over increasing violence against Afghan journalists, stressing respect for the freedom of expression. In the first six months of the current year, 54 incidents of violence against journalists -- murder, physical assault, detention and intimidation -- were recorded across the country. The latest report from the Afghan journalists' association indicates a 38 per cent increase in violence against

media professionals, compared to the corresponding period of 2015. "The figures are extremely worrying and I strongly condemn all violence against journalist. Freedom of expression is a fundamental right of the Afghan people and must be respected by all parties," said the EU special representative. Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin said: "I call on the government of Afghanistan to follow up thoroughly on each case of violence

against journalists and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice." In a statement, he said the government must create a safe work environment for all those in the media. The Afghans have enjoyed a high level press freedom in the past decade. "These achievements need to be protected and respected. The EU reiterates its continued support for strengthening journalists and media workers security and freedom of expression in Afghanistan." *(Pajhwok)*

## Commanders among 50 Rebels Killed in Paktika: MoI

KABUL - Fifty rebels, including a notorious commander of the Haqqani Network and a Taliban's shadow governor, have been killed during a ground and air operation in southeastern Paktika province, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Wednesday. According to a statement from the MoI, a top Haqqani Network commander Wahid known as Jamshid was killed along with three accomplices in Sardani Hindi village of Warmami district late on Tuesday. Civilians and security forces escaped unhurt during the



operation, the statement said. Elsewhere in the province, the statement said, 46 Taliban, including the group's shadow governor, were killed in airstrikes in Tand Boza area of Terwa district. Some light and heavy weapons and ammunition of militants were also destroyed during the raid. The MoI said the Afghan forces' operation against militants in Paktika province was going successful. *(Pajhwok)*

## 47 Taliban Insurgents Killed in Kunar Attack

ASADABAD - At least 47 Taliban insurgents were killed by security forces after they attacked Dangam district of eastern Kunar province, local officials said. In addition, 12 other insurgents were injured. Military officials believe that cooperation among the security forces in Dangam resulted in the heavy casualty toll. "The insurgents were planned a big attack in Dangam, Asmar, Watarpoor and Sarkano districts of Kunar but fortunately our brave security forces repelled their attacks in the province," Provincial ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Afghan Forces Kill Scores of Militants in Uruzgan

TRINKOT - Up to 80 militants have been killed in the southern Uruzgan province as a crackdown against armed insurgents continues, the local police said on Wednesday. "Operations against Taliban rebels which begun three days ago have left around 80 insurgents dead and injured almost 80 others around provincial capital Lashkar Gah," provincial police chief Wali Jan Sarhadi told Xinhua. The government forces have recaptured Charmgar and Sarshakhlo areas, forcing militants to flee, the official added. Taliban militants ...*(More on P4)...(14)*



## National Geographic's 'Afghan Girl' Denied Bail in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - The Afghan woman known internationally as the "Afghan Girl," thanks to her appearance on a famous National Geographic cover, has had a bail request turned down. Sharbat Gula, now in her 40s, is under arrest in Pakistan for falsifying documents and staying illegally in the country. "The petition filed in the special court was dismissed," her lawyer Mubasher Nazar said. Gila, whose striking green eyes in a National Geographic cover photo made her face known around the world, was 12 when photog-



rapher Steve McCurry captured his iconic image of her living in a refugee camp for Afghan nationals in Peshawar, Pakistan. Gula -- also known as Sharbat Bibi -- was arrested in ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Zakhilwal Wants Sharif to order Afghan Widow's Release

KABUL - The Afghan ambassador to Pakistan on Wednesday voiced his disappointment over the rejection of Sharbat Gula's bail application by an immigration court in Peshawar. Despite assurances from Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and other government leaders, the ambassador regretted, the bail petition of the iconic Afghan widow was turned down. The arrest of Sharbat Gula had already hurt feelings of all Afghans, Dr. Omar Zakhilwal wrote on his Facebook page. The ruling was a further disregard to public feelings, he said.



He urged Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to intervene himself in the case and order the release of the widow, a mother of four. The Afghan government is ready to facilitate the repatriation of Gula and her children's to ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Mir Bacha Khan Medal Conferred on Legendary Singer

PESHAWAR - The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor says Afghan refugees, who often complain of being harassed by local security forces, are Pakistan's guests and the government is trying to ensure their repatriation with dignity. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, speaking at an event organised by the Pak-Afghan Journalists Peace Forum at Nishtar Hall in Peshawar on Tuesday, said relations between the neighbouring countries were based on shared values. Arranged in honour of noted Pakhto singer Khyal Mohammad, the function was attended by Peshawar-based Afghan Consul General Abdullah Waheed Poyan, artistes, poets, scholars and journalists. Jhagra commended the Pak-Afghan Journalists Peace Forum for arranging the programme in honour of the legendary singer. Awami National Party (ANP) leader Mian Iftikhar Hussain and was also present at the function. Waheed Poyan, who presided over the function, called artistes messengers of peace. He also read out a message of President Ashraf Ghani and announced Afghanistan's civil award -- Meer Bacha Khan Medal -- for Khyal Muhammad. The Afghans were equally proud of the great singer in recognition of his immeasurable contribution to Pashto music and culture. *(Pajhwok)*