

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Cloudy	<b>Herat</b>	Clear	<b>Bamayan</b>	Cloudy	<b>Kabul</b>	Cloudy
	23°C 12°C		13°C 2°C		21°C 7°C		17°C 8°C		17°C 7°C		4°C -4°C		16°C 4°C



# Daesh Flag Lowered in Achin, 50 Fighters Killed

KABUL - Nearly 50 members of newly-emerged Daesh group have been killed in a wide-scale operation in Achin district in eastern Nangarhar, officials said Saturday. The joint operation launched three days ago in Shidal village in which more than 30 other members of the group were wounded. According to security officials, the anti-Daesh offensive will continue until the last hideout of the group - which has seized large cities in Iraq and Syria - is eliminated. In addition, the security forces destroyed a small base of Daesh and lowered their flag.



"Daesh flag has been lowered ... and our forces are advancing to other hideouts of Daesh," ANA commander Mohammad Nasim Sangin said. Praising the advances made by the forces, Achin's district governor Mohammad Ghalib Mujahid

assured the residents to clear their area from Daesh soon. "We will soon raise our national flag on all valleys in Achin and that with the cooperation of our security forces," he said. Meanwhile, the provincial council members of Nangarhar welcomed the operation and announced their full support to the forces. "This operation was successful in two terms. First, the enemies have suffered massive casualties and second, the civilians have not been harmed in this operation," provincial council member Zabihullah Zemarai said. They asked the security officials ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Taliban Local Leader Detained by Afghan Security Force



KABUL - A Taliban local leader has been detained in Afghanistan's western province of Herat, authorities said on Saturday. "During a timely crack, the personnel of Afghan National Directorate for Security (NDS) has arrested a prominent Taliban leader namely Sayyed Mohammad Din alias Sahadat along with one of his associate namely Enayatullah in Herat province," NDS, the country's intelligence agency, said in a statement. The detained insurgent leader was in charge of commanding several groups of militants in Qaisar district of northern Faryab province, the ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Herat Farmers to Make Afs 500mn This Year from Saffron Business

HERAT - Saffron harvest season has kicked off in Herat province and farmers are expecting to generate about 500mn Afghanis in revenue this year, Herat's agriculture officials said Saturday. According to officials, almost 1,000 hectares of land were planted with saffron and 140tons of saffron corms have recently been distributed to the farmers. "Herat's saffron is unique in its color and smell and has the best quality among the 300 types of saffron that are produced worldwide," said agriculture provincial official Ghulam Dastageer. He added the price of Herat's saffron hovers at 100,000 to 120,000 AFN in the international market.



"No other crop can replace saffron. And, it is the best alternative to opium," said Dastageer. Afghanistan was recently ranked the world's best saffron by the

International Taste and Quality Institute in Belgium, Brussels for the third year in a row. The spice is certainly a lucrative business to the farmers and gov-

en its ability to be grown in a dry environment, it may be a viable alternative for the poppy cultivation in the country. The plant is drought resistant and only needs irrigation twice or three times a year, compared to poppy plants irrigated six times a year. Another advantage is that growing saffron is legal in Islam, unlike poppy that is prohibited. It is normally cultivated in summer and collected in the last month of fall. It is used in making medicines, adding flavor to food, appetizers, and hot drinks and making perfume. It grows best in areas with light winter weather and dry, hot summers. (Wadsam)

## Interpol Assists Afghanistan Detain Suspected Killer in Iran

KABUL - Interpol has assisted Afghanistan to detain a suspected killer in Iran. According to a statement released by the Ministry of Interior, Mohammad Dawoud had escaped to Iran after stabbing a girl to death in Balkh province. "Mohammad Dawoud S/O Mohammad Amin a resident of Qul-lara Khalili village of Balkh's Sul-gara District had killed his maternal uncle's daughter with a knife and escaped to Iran," says Brigadier General Sayed Afandi, head of INTERPOL's National Central Bureau



in Kabul, in a statement released on Saturday. The press release adds that after efforts made by the Interpol of the Islamic Republic of Iran the suspected killer was arrested and handed over to Afghan side. The suspected killer has been referred to judiciary for further legal procedures. (KP)

## Forces Call for Air Support in Helmand Operation



LAHASKARGAH - Besides making progress in the ongoing operation in several districts of southern Helmand, the security forces have called for an air support to clear the areas from Taliban. The security forces advanced two kilometers after the Taliban bases in Marjah after the insurgents were repelled from Lashkargah, the provincial capital. According to reports, troops' reinforcement were being deployed to parts of embattled Helmand. The forces however stressed the need for air support and called on the central government to respond to their request. The Helmand fighting has entered its 20th day. However, the insurgents have been driven out of Lashkargah and the fighting is limited to Marjah district. (Tolonews)

## Insurgents Attack Marjah District as Helmand Operation Continues



LASHKARGAH - After being repelled from Nad-e-Ali district and parts of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, the Taliban insurgents have moved towards Marjah district and seized control of some areas. It is reported that heavy clashes broke out Friday between security forces and Taliban militants, which resulted in collapse of parts of Marjah and Haji Haidar areas to the insurgents. "Nearly 800 Taliban fighters took part in the attack on Marjah over the past 24 hours," he quoted a security official as saying. According to him, several families have evacuated Marjah after the insurgents started using their homes as shields. "Only one person has left at our home while the rest have fled to safe areas," a resident of Marjah told TOLONews (Tolonews)

## Afghan Delegation Visits Peshawar to Condole Death of Afzal Khan

PESHAWAR - A 46-member delegation from Afghanistan, led by Deputy Chief Executive Engineer Mohammad Khan, reached Peshawar on Saturday to offer condolences to the Awami National Party



on the death of veteran politician Mohammad Afzal Khan.

A press release by the Awami National Party (ANP) said some of its leaders, including former chief minister Ameer Haider Hoti, Afrasiab Khattak, ex-Senator Zahid Khan, Atif Afridi and Sardar Hussain Babak received the Afghan delegation at the Bacha Khan international airport Peshawar. The ANP president Asfandiyar Wali Khan would welcomed the delegation at the Bilour House, the home of senior party leader Ghulam Ahmad Bilour. At the Bilour House, the Afghan delegation offered Fateha for Mohammad Afzal Khan, commonly known as Khan Lala who died on November 1.

The delegation won't be able to travel to Khan Lala's village, Bara Drushkhela in Swat district, apparently due to security concerns.

The high-level Afghan delegation is led by Deputy CEO Engineer Mohammad Khan. Other members of the delegation include a number of ministers such as Abdul Bari Jehani, Mohammad Gulab Mengal, Abdul Nabi Farahi and Hussain Alami Balkhi, deputy ministers Hekmat Khalil Karzai and Zartash Shams, President Ashraf Ghani's advisers Mohammad Alam Rasikh, Asadullah Wafa, Mohammad Akram Khpalwak, Mohammad Usman Sahibzada and Mulla Jora and High Peace Council members Abdul Hakim Mujahid and Aminuddin. (Agencies)

## IOM Distributes Aid to 1,000 Earthquake-Hit Families

KABUL - International Organization for Migration (IOM) distributed vital relief supplies across northern, central and eastern Afghanistan this week, helping families affected by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake that struck on 26 October.

Assessment conducted by government, IOM, UN and other NGOs shows an estimated 8,300 families in 14 Afghan provinces were affected by the earthquake. More than 100 people lost lives and around 500 others sustained injuries.

According to a report published by IOM on Saturday, the toll could rise further as remote communities are accessed by assessment teams.



The report further states that the organization distributed relief items to approximately 1,000 families in Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Takhar provinces, and distributions are ongoing for additional assessed families in these provinces. "With the majority of assessments completed, getting aid to families in need is our priority," said IOM Afghanistan Chief of Mission Richard Danziger. Assessments have been completed in 98 districts out of the 117 estimated ... (More on P4)...(8)

## Afghan Farmers Find Alternative to Opium

KABUL - Plant for Peace, a U.K. charity offers a clever solution on how to combat Afghanistan's drug trade.

Plant for Peace, founded by a British businessman James Brett in 2007, is an initiative designed to assist smallholder farmers in Afghanistan. The charity provides training as well as saplings to Afghan families to replace their opium poppy fields with pomegranates.

"I wanted to create a sustainable model that would enable those families to not only just survive but actually thrive. The outcome of this thought was Plant for Peace" said Brett. Using the Afghan pomegranates, Plant for Peace turns the fruits into powder form and produces organic yogurt coated fruit bars. A company formed for this purpose, has



been selling "Plant for Peace" labeled fruit bars in the U.K. since May. Brett has attracted a few prominent names to his charity including army generals, entrepreneurs, professors, as well as the princess of Jordan, Basma bint Ali. He also received support from the U.S. government to plant 1.9 million trees in Afghanistan. Brett, who is married to an Armenian, lives in Armenia but spends almost 60 percent of his time in Afghanistan. He speaks some Dari and can now understand about 40 percent of conversations. He said he doesn't experience security problems because of his good relations with tribal elders. (Agencies)