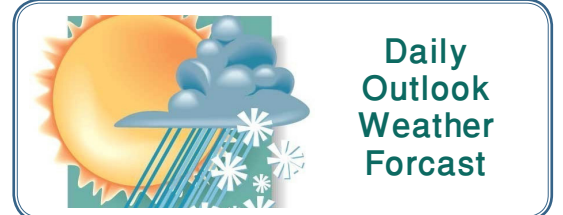


Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Chance of Rain	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	22°C 8°C		9°C -2°C		19°C 6°C		11°C 4°C		13°C 2°C		1°C -9°C		12°C 0°C



Aga Khan Rejects 'Clash of Civilizations' Between Muslim World and West

KABUL - The spiritual leader of Shia Ismaili Muslims Prince Shah Karim Al Hussaini Aga Khan called for greater cultural understanding between the Muslim World and the West, rejecting the notion of a fundamental 'clash of civilizations'.

In his speech at Harvard University, Prince Aga Khan once again insisted on pluralism and said the society must strive to be more 'pluralist' and 'cosmopolitan'.

His remarks were apparently aimed at searching for the difference and diversity by the people who should learn it.

Addressing a packed audience at Memorial Church, Prince Aga



Khan said globalization should not mean the creation of a single, homogenized society where all differences are erased, rather it means people should seek out diversity and learn from it.

Insisting on mutual respect regarding what we have in common and what makes us different, Prince Aga Khan said "In my view, the deeper problem behind any prospective clash of civilizations is a profound clash of ignorances. And, in that struggle, education will be an indispensable weapon."

Issuing a reminder to the Muslims of the world, he said the central tenet of ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Afghan and World Leaders Condemn Paris Attacks

KABUL - World leaders - including Afghanistan's president and CEO - on Saturday morning came out in strong condemnation of the Paris attacks Friday night which have so far left at least 120 dead and a further 200 injured - 80 of whom are serious.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the attacks and said the ongoing killings by terrorists of civilians around the world is an unforgivable crime.

He said the Paris attacks show that terrorism has no borders and that terrorists are the enemy of everyone. He said that terrorism was a common regional threat.

Ghani also passed on his condolences to the French President Francois Hollande and said that Afghans feel the pain of terrorism and the people of France more than anyone else.

Afghan CEO Abdullah Abdullah took to twitter early Saturday and said: "Afghanistan condemns the terrorist attacks that killed innocent people in Paris. Our hearts and prayers go to families and friends of the victims."

He went on to say: "We condole and sympathize with the government and people of France."

Abdullah also branded the attacks as "brutal, barbaric and coward attacks (which) show that terrorists have no religion, belief or ethnicity. Global efforts must eliminate terrorism."

"Terrorism, fundamentalism and extremism are our common challenges and threatening all. We together need collective efforts to fight such mentalities," he said.

Meanwhile in a message to Hollande, the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani also condemned the attacks.

He said: "Terrorist attacks, which killed and wounded a lot of innocent people in Paris, caused great sorrow and grief."

"I, on behalf of the great Iranian nation which has been a victim of scourge of terrorism, strongly condemn the ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Four Years of Efforts to end the Conflict in Syria

VIENNA - As yet another round of talks gets underway on Syria in Vienna on Saturday, here is a recap of efforts to end the four-year-old conflict:

- ARAB INITIATIVES - November 2, 2011: The Arab League says it has reached an agreement with Syria to end the fighting, free detainees and get troops to pull out of cities.
- None of the clauses are respected, however, and the League suspends Syria in the subsequent weeks before approving unprecedented sanctions against it.
- In early 2012, Damascus formally rejects the plan and says it is determined to crush the rebellion.
- ANNAN PLAN - April 12, 2012: UN and Arab League envoy Kofi Annan manages to establish a truce, but it collapses within just a few hours.
- GENEVA I - June 30, 2012: A so-called action group meeting in Geneva says it has reached agreement on a Syrian transition of power, but quickly reveals differing interpretations of the deal. The group consists of Arab states, Britain, China, France, Russia, Turkey, and the United States. ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Iranian Commander Blasts Pakistan, Afghanistan over Lax Border Control

TEHRAN - Commander of the Iranian Border Guards Brigadier General Qassem Rezayee warned Pakistan and Afghanistan to take practical measures to tighten their lax security control over borders with Iran to prevent the drug-traffickers from crossing the border.

"Since drug traffickers had crossed the border into Iran from Pakistan and Afghanistan, we officially declared our official protest at the border guards of Pakistan and Afghanistan to more seriously block the activities and penetration of drug traffickers through their borders to Iran," General Rezayee said on Saturday.

He said that by using intelligence tips, the border guards in Zahedan (Sistan and Baluchistan province) came to be informed of the intentions of an armed gang of drug traffickers to smuggle drugs into Iran and staged a raid on them.

"The borders guards in a surprise ...*(More on P4)...(14)*



Pakistan Army Chief Heads to US as Pressure Grows over Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's influential military chief will visit US from Sunday, a trip analysts say will underscore security issues facing Islamabad and Washington in the region as well as the imbalance in civilian-military power in Pakistan.

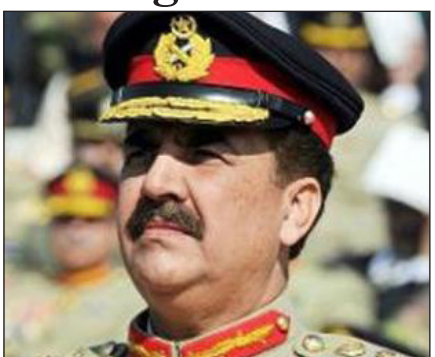
The November 15-20 visit apparently instigated by General Raheel Sharif comes weeks after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met with US President Barack Obama at the Oval Office to discuss many of the same issues said to be on his army chief's agenda, including Afghan peace talks and Pakistan's nuclear ambitions.

Analysts said Raheel Sharif's influence over both issues makes him, rather than the civilian leadership, the dominant broker for Washington's regional agenda.

The Americans "know where the power is", Pakistani defence and security analyst Talar Masood said.

However that is likely to make the visit "a bit trickier" for Sharif as he tries to balance Washington's demands, particularly in Afghanistan, said analyst Zahid Hussain, a columnist for Pakistan's top English newspaper Dawn.

Stability ...*(More on P4)...(15)*



Freed Hostages Claim Taliban Freed Them Not Govt.

KABUL - Five of the 31 Zabul bus passengers kidnapped in February arrived in Kabul on Saturday and said it had been the Taliban who freed them from Daesh insurgents.

According to one freed hostage, clashes erupted between Taliban and Daesh early this week. Taliban allegedly seized the area from Daesh and then released them, he said.

The 31 Zabul bus passengers were kidnapped in February by alleged Daesh militants who had stopped several buses on the Kabul-Kandahar highway.

The kidnapers reportedly took the hostages to Khak-Afghan district in Zabul.

One freed hostage Mohammad Yusuf said: "We were severely beaten by them [Daesh]. They were very cruel to us and they often warned us that 'we will kill you'."

He went on to say that Daesh militants warned: "If government does not swap you we will behead you."

The ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Insurgents Still Control 40 Percent of Imam Sahib

KABUL - Local officials in northern Kunduz said on Friday that insurgents still control 40 percent of Imam Sahib district in the province.

Up to 1,500 insurgents along with 200 foreign militants, many of whom are involved in bomb making processes, still operate in the area and fight security forces, local officials said on Friday.

"Those who plan suicide bombings, explosions and make mines are the foreigners, including Tajik engineers who design the mines and conduct explosions," said Imam Sahib district governor Imamuddin Quraishi.

Residents in the center of Imam Sahib district have said however that the security situation has improved recently.

"Security exists inside the district center, but outside, there is security forces but also the enemy," a resident of Imam Sahib, Haji Khanzada said.

"War between the two sides has had a major impact on businesses and poor people, the economy declines day by day," another resident Lailuma said.

Located in the northern part of Kunduz province, Imam Sahib ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

First Lady Urges Bigger Role for Women in Security Institutions



KABUL - First Lady Rula Ghani on Saturday stressed the need for women within security institutions to play a bigger role in safeguarding the nation - and women in particular.

Addressing delegates at the second conference of police women councils in Kabul, Rula Ghani called on all female police officers to make a strong effort to ensure the safety of women in the country.

She said Afghan women were the most vulnerable citizens of

the country - referring in particular to the humiliation of women meted out by the Taliban during their recent attack on Kunduz.

"The Kunduz incident showed that women are in the frontline ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

UN Envoy Backs Pakistan's Afghan Peace Efforts

ISLAMABAD - The UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom, appreciated Pakistan's contribution towards peace in Afghanistan and lauded Pakistan's role in launching much needed Afghan peace process.

Haysom met senior Pakistani officials at a time when international efforts are underway to revive the stalled talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. The Pakistan-brokered process faced a deadlock after the death of the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Omar, was revealed in late July.

The UN envoy met Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz,

National Security Adviser Nasir Janjua, Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry and Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Zubair Hayat.

UN officials in Pakistan said that both sides discussed "prospects for in Afghanistan and wider regional cooperation."

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Officials 65 Security Force Members Surrender to Helmand Taliban



LASHKARGAH - At least 65 Afghan security force members reportedly surrendered to the Taliban in southern Helmand province on Friday, local officials said.

Mirza Rahimi, the provincial governor, said at a press conference on Saturday that "65 Afghan security force members including three commanders surrendered in Sangin district," and that "the situation is under control in the district."

Rahimi said in the past month more than 200 Taliban insurgents were killed and injured. "Eighty five Afghan security force members and three civil-

ians were also killed in clashes," he said.

"More troops have arrived and we have started military operations in Marjah district and the forces have re-taken control of most of the areas which were under control of insurgents but clashes continue."

But provincial council officials rejected these claims and said "so far no operation has been launched in Marjah."

However, the officials said that heavy clashes are also ongoing in the capital of Sangin district but so far no reports of casualties has emerged. (Tolonews)

MoD Denies Helmand Troops Surrendered to Taliban



KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Saturday rejected earlier reports that 65 security force members had surrendered to the Taliban in Sangin district in southern Helmand province, arguing that a number of army troops might have been captured by insurgents.

"Our troops will never surrender to the enemy," Dawlat Waziri, MoD spokesman told TOLONews.

"There might be some problems. This is war. Moving forward and backwards, defending and leaving strongholds [tactically] can happen in war and they [troops] are allowed to do this [when required]," the spokesman added.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) meanwhile said national police force members are not faced with any problems in embattled Sangin district in the southern province.

"We are in contact with our police force members - who number thousands - and we do not see any serious problems in their lines," said Najib Danish, the MoI deputy spokesman.

But, a woman whose son is serving on the frontline with the Afghan National Army (ANA) claims her son and his colleagues have been surrounded by the Taliban for 15 days.

She said she has knocked on the doors of several government offices but no one has addressed her pleas. She said that now she wants ...*(More on P4)...(17)*