

Jalalabad Cloudy 22°C 11°C	Ghazni Chance of Rain 9°C 0°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 17°C 4°C	Mazar Cloudy 8°C 5°C	Herat Chance of Rain 8°C 1°C	Bamayan Chance of Snow 4°C -4°C	Kabul Cloudy 11°C 2°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Insurgents Kidnap over 20 Bus Passengers in Zabul

QALAT - More than 20 bus passengers were kidnapped early Saturday morning while traveling along the Zabul-Kabul highway. The hostages, from Zabul province, were reportedly taken off four different buses at a single point along the highway, said local officials. Security forces and provincial officials have reportedly arrived at the scene and have cordoned off the area in a bid to track the kidnapers and hostages. According to TOLONews journalist, Ahmad Wali Sarhadi, who was at the scene soon after the incident occurred, said the kidnapping happened between two police checkpoints - which were 3 km apart. In addition, security forces conduct 24 hour-a-day patrols along



this highway. An official source said the incident happened near Nawrak district about 35 kms from Qalat, the capital of Zabul. Meanwhile the president's office has vowed to track down the kidnapers and ascertain the details surrounding the incident. Police also said Saturday they have launched an investigation into the matter. This latest incident took place a mere 24 km away from the point where Daesh militants kidnapped 31 bus passengers in February. Following the release of most hostages, the last five were freed a week ago. However, this comes close on the heels of the Zabul Seven incident, which saw the beheading of seven ... (More on P4)...(6)

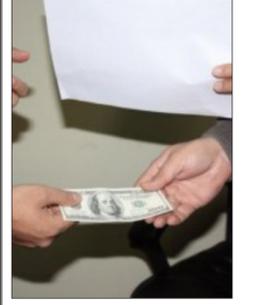
Taliban Accessed Weapon from Kunduz, Threats Northern Province



KABUL - A member from the investigative committee assigned for Kunduz has warned that the amount of weapons which Taliban taken after capturing Kunduz city will threaten Northern provinces security condition. Mohammad Ayub Rafiqi said, "Taliban have taken about 30 Amvees four wheeled Drive tanks while Afghan security forces while they have left Kunduz city to Taliban."

He also mentioned that if security forces unable to retake weapons it will create more insecurity in Northern part of the country. Spokesman for the Ministry of Interior Affairs Sediq Sediqee has rejected the number of the tanks taken by Taliban but do confirmed that some amount of weapons were accessed by Taliban while they were in Kunduz city. Mr. Sediqee also mentioned that those tanks which were accessed by Taliban will be hard for them to move it somewhere, searching unit continues to find them all but Taliban may have taken them to a place where they can use it to destroyed. (ATN)

Two Employees of Finance Ministry Arrested on Corruption Charges

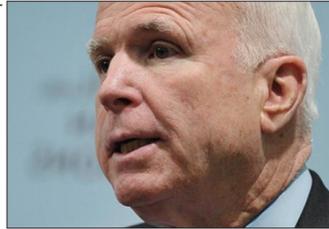


KABUL - The two officials of the Revenue Department of Ministry of Finance were referred to the Attorney General after prosecutors detained them for demanding bribe, the ministry said in a statement. The case is under further investigation and the suspects would be dealt with in accordance to the law. Fight against corruption is in the priorities of the Ministry of Finance and whoever demanding bribe would face legal action, the statement adds. The National Unity Government (NUG) expressed strict stance against corruption when it came into shape in September last year. Before this arrest, The Ministry of Urban Development Affairs and Housing referred six of his employees for legal processing after finding them guilty of corruption. (KP)

McCain's Meeting with Sharif 'Productive' but 'Taliban Still a Threat'

WASHINGTON - U.S Senator John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said on Friday night he had "enjoyed a productive meeting with Pakistan Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif on co-operating to fight our terrorist enemies." McCain said in a statement the fight against the Taliban is far from over and that the Taliban continues to play a key role in the region. "I appreciate General Sharif

meeting with Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee this week. The meeting was productive and informative to all Members of the Committee." The statement went on to read: "We value our relationship with Pakistan during these very challenging times. Members believe that the fight against



the Taliban is far from over and the Taliban continues to play a key role in the region." "Under ... (More on P4)...(7)

10 % Telecom Service Tax Within Commitments to Int'l Community

KABUL - Ministry of Finance said that the deduction of 10 % tax on every recharge of SIM card is based on the commitments Afghanistan has made with the international community for self-sufficiency. "This is part of the commitments we have with world. When the National Unity Government (NUG) formed and presented document of self-sufficiency, we promised to gradually move towards self-sufficiency," Minister of Finance Mohammad Ekil Hakimi who was summoned to Saturday's session of the Lower House or Wolesi Jirga said. He said that the decision was



already taken and applied when he took charges as the Minister of Finance. About the collection of income tax, Hakimi said that Afs 104 million have been collected as the revenue so far this year and more tax money is dropping into the

government treasury. Minister Hakimi further said that the attention of the United Nations (UN) and donor countries have been drawn to Afghanistan and pretty soon the UN will start working on a three-year project with Afghanistan. (KP)

'Peace in Pakistan Linked to Afghanistan's Stability'



KARACHI - Begum Nasim Wali, who has parted ways with the Awami National Party and is now heading her own faction, said on Friday that enduring peace in Pakistan was linked to stability in Afghanistan. "NATO forces will only withdraw from Afghanistan when they feel that there is no threat to the country from its neighbouring states," the former provincial president of the ANP and the late Khan Abdul Wali Khan's wife said at a "Meet the Press" programme at the Karachi Press Club. Looking frail and in poor health, Begum Nasim, who is the daughter-in-law of the Khudai Khidmatgar Tehreek leader Bacha Khan, said Afghanistan had been betrayed and everyone knew as to who had trained the terrorists operating there. "Flowers don't blossom from fireballs," she said. "If somebody's house is set on fire, they're bound to respond." She hoped that army chief Gen Raheel Sharif would remain committed to the aim of facilitating the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. She also praised the military for launching the operation Zarb-e-Azb in the tribal areas. To a question, she said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government's performance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had not impressed her so far. Begum Nasim, who is popularly known as Mour Bibi,

said she had jumped into the arena of politics to advance the philosophy of Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Bacha Khan) and Abdul Wali Khan. She has been in the city for the four days to organise her newly formed party and will leave for her hometown on Saturday (today). She said she had come to the city with a message of peace to all and in her previous visit too she had tried to preach that peace was essential for the survival of the mankind. She described politics as a "calculus game for power" wherein it was difficult for a sincere and honest person to work. Begum Nasim, who has fought and won many battles for the ANP, said she had decided to restart her political activities by engaging with disgruntled party activists. She was sidelined by the ANP leadership in 2005 after the removal of Farid Toofan, her biggest supporter in the party. The veteran politician said she had spent a quiet life for six years and now had broken her silence with a dedication to raise her voice for the oppressed. "We are the only party that never compromises in politics and has always foiled conspiracies against democracy. She said unfortunately the land of the Pakhtuns had been turned into a battlefield, where the blood of innocent people was being shed for vested interests. ... (More on P4)...(9)

Secret NATO Report Paves Way for More Involvement in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS - NATO is set to increase its support for Afghanistan's security forces, after alliance members approved a classified report prepared for upcoming ministers' talks, diplomatic sources told DPA on condition of anonymity. In the document, NATO has agreed, among other things, to look into the possibility of sharing intelligence with Afghan security forces, dpa has learned. This could help prevent incidents such as recent Taliban attacks for which local authorities were unprepared. NATO trainers are also due to be deployed more in the country's conflict areas. Protection in an emergency would be provided by alliance airstrikes, according to the report. NATO would not confirm the content of the report, but a spokesman said that the situation in Afghanistan would be discussed at a meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels on December 1-2. In the run-up to those talks, alliance members are due to pledge troop contributions for all ongoing NATO missions, during a meeting on Wednesday and Thursday at NATO's military headquarters in the Belgian town of Mons. NATO's current training and support mission for Afghanistan, codenamed Resolute Support, comprises around 13,000 troops. Any combat activity is restricted to self-defence. The German government decided Wednesday to increase its presence in Afghanistan to ... (More on P4)...(10)

World Powers to Help Iran Redesign Reactor as Part of Nuclear Deal

DUBAI - Six world powers will help Iran redesign its Arak heavy water reactor so that it cannot produce weapons-grade plutonium, according to a document released by the state news agency IRNA on Saturday. The document was signed separately on Nov. 13, 17 and 18 by the foreign ministers of Iran and the P5+1 (the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany) as well as EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. It became effective on the date it was signed by all states. The fate of the Arak reactor in central Iran was one of the toughest sticking points in



the long nuclear negotiations that led to an agreement in July. Removing the core of the heavy water reactor to produce less plutonium is a crucial step before the relief from sanctions starts. Iran will act as project manager, according to the document, while China "will participate in the redesign and the construction of the modernized reactor" and the United States "will provide technical support and review ... (More on P4)...(8)

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China, India Discuss Cross Border Terror from Pakistan, Afghanistan

BEIJING - India and China on Saturday agreed to set up a dedicated communication channel to boost security co-operation as Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with China's security czar on issues like cross border terrorism from Pakistan and the Afghan situation. During discussions between Singh and Meng Jianzhu, who oversees internal and external security, both sides agreed to setup an exclusive communication channel between their home ministries for speedier communication on terror-related issues.

"There was lot discussion on terrorism," Singh told the Indian media after his meeting with Meng. Mutual concerns relating to Pakistan and Afghanistan figured in the talks, he said. Meng has replaced former national security head, Zho Yongkang, who was sentenced to life for corruption and abuse of power. To the surprise of Singh and Indian officials, Meng, who is head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), was also joined by State

Councillor and Interior Minister Guo Shengkun. Besides Meng and Guo the meeting was attended by several vice ministers and top officials, Singh said. Guo had a lengthy meeting with Singh yesterday during which both sides agreed to form a ministerial committee on security related issues, creating a platform for the first time to have an annual review of cooperation on terrorism, cyber security, cross border crimes and drug trafficking. Most importantly both the sides ... (More on P4)...(11)