

Jalalabad Clear 23°C 8°C	Ghazni Clear 10°C -2°C	Kandahar Clear 17°C 3°C	Mazar Partly Cloudy 17°C 8°C	Herat Partly Cloudy 16°C 2°C	Bamayan Clear 2°C -7°C	Kabul Clear 13°C 0°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Ghani Fires Kunduz NDS Chief

KABUL - As war-hit Kunduz city in northern Afghanistan slowly returns to normal following its fall to the Taliban almost two months ago, President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday vowed to improve its security and strengthen local governance.

During his day-long visit to the city, Ghani also announced the dismissal of National Directorate of Security chief for Kunduz - because of what officials described as incompetence in the run up to the siege.

The president also warned that some officials will be investigated over additional lapses in security in the city.

But as insurgents continue to clash with security forces in some areas of the province, Ghani



warned them of severe repercussions unless they lay down their arms and join the government's peace process.

This development comes just days after the Kunduz fact-finding team submitted its final report on the fall of the city - saying the primary reason was the lack of coordination between government leadership and the National Security Council (NSC) that led to the crisis.

The fall of Kunduz was followed by a major backlash from the Afghan opposition groups and the general public.

But in addressing Kunduz residents on Thursday, Ghani announced that his government will endorse the report of the Kunduz fact-finding committee.

"The NDS was fully incompetent, and security officials committed negligence while on duty. Today I dismissed them from the job. Based on the military law, legal action will be taken against some of them and new cadres will be appointed for the Kunduz intelligence agency department," Ghani said.

Ghani did however urge residents to put forward their suggestions and perspectives on the appointment of new officials for the province. He asked residents to give the government three more weeks to clear the province from insurgents.

"The entire personnel of the local police will come under the command of provincial police departments. ... (More on P4)...(6)

Seminar Focuses on 'Sidelineing of the Youth'

KABUL - Political commentators on Thursday blasted government and some individuals for using the youth in Afghanistan to achieve their own political goals.

These remarks were made during a seminar in Kabul on the "Role of Youth In National Consolidation". Speakers outlined social and political problems faced by the youth of Afghanistan today and accused certain elements and political groups of using them as tools to further their own cause.

Some speakers said that despite decades of struggle and sacrifice, the youth have been sidelined and that politicians are ignoring their potential value to society.

Former Afghan ambassador to Spain, Massoud Khalili said in his speech that much blame could be attributed to Afghanistan's neighbors for, what he said, was efforts to create ethnic division among the people of the country in the course of political gain.

"The Afghan youth should find a leader. Who is a leader? A leader is the one who does not believe on discrimination on the basis of ... (More on P4)...(8)

A New Initiative by Private Sector for Generating Petrol

KABUL - A petrol manufacturer factory with an investment of close to a million dollars in Kabul has started to work and generates petrol from old tires.

Officials of the factory said that they will generate twenty thousand liters of petrol daily.

"If the government supports our productions, we are able to purify and generate petrol," said Sanaulah, Technical consultant petrol manufacturer.

In the meantime, the government has already announced to support the domestic products and will stand by its commitments.

The factory which is in Kalakan ... (More on P4)...(10)

Hekmatyar has Offered Conditional Support to Afghan Peace Process



ISLAMABAD - The Chief of Hezb-e-Islami party, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has offered conditional support to the Afghan peace process while seeking a comeback and leverage in the politics.

He has been designated a "global terrorist" by the United States and blacklisted by the United Nations along with Osama bin Laden.

With a desire to come out of the shadows, the latest statement by Hekmatyar is considered to assert influence and gain new leverage in Afghan politics.

Hekmatyar's conditions are similar to the other militant groups fighting the Afghan government, including the Taliban militants.

He wants a complete withdrawal of the US and NATO forces from Afghanistan and organization of a new election in 2016.

"Peace can be established and the fighting can end once the occupation is over, foreign forces leave and the people of the Afghan nation are given the right to choose their own destiny ... (More on P4)...(9)

Global Landmine Casualties Increase, Afghanistan Largely to Blame: Study

LONDON - Long-term progress in reducing the number of landmine casualties was reversed last year, and rebel groups used the mines in 10 countries, the largest number since 2006, researchers said on Thursday.

Non-state groups were still using the deadly devices in the 12 months to October 2015 in Colombia, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen, and in Afghanistan, where there was a sharp increase in

casualties from improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Landmines were also used by rebels in three countries - Iraq, Tunisia and Ukraine - where they were not used last year, and by three states: Myanmar, Syria and North Korea. "While the world has made great progress, the past year has seen disturbing steps backward in terms of new use of and casualties from landmines," said Jeff Abramson, editor of the study, which

was carried out by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, a lobby group.

A total of 3,678 people were killed or wounded by landmines over the last year, about 10 per day. This is up from 3,308 in 2013 but far lower than in 1999, the year a major treaty came into force, when there were around 25 casualties each day.

The true figure is likely to be higher than the one recorded, but the ... (More on P4)...(7)

Terror Groups Equip in Pakistan to Fight Against Afghanistan: Atmar

KABUL - Afghanistan National Security Adviser Hanif Atmar said that the terrorist groups are supported and equipped in Pakistan to combat in Afghanistan but Islamabad does not act against them.

Hanif Atmar, National Security Adviser a meeting with Turkish ambassador in Kabul declared that the Afghan government works on a new mechanism for peace to not rely only on Pakistan.

Turkish ambassador, Ali Saeed, said that his country is ready to host Kabul-Islam-

Kunduz Residents Concerned Taliban Planning New Assault

President Ghani Meets Delegation from Quetta and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Thursday met with the delegation from Quetta and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

In the meeting that took place in Presidential Palace "ARG", President Ghani welcomed the political leaders from Pakistan.

President Ghani mentioned the struggle of Bacha Khan, Khan Shahid and their friends and said that "Fulfilling their desires are our responsibilities."

The delegation included by Mahmood Khan Achakzai,

chairman Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Asfandyar Wali Khan, president of Awami National Party, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, head of Qaumi Watan Party, Afrasiab Khattak a senator representing the Kohat Division of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province in the Senate of Pakistan and other political figures.

Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, head of Qaumi Watan Party thanked President Ghani for sending representatives to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for attending the funeral of late Pashtun nationalist Afzal Khan Lala. (KP)

KABUL - A number of Kunduz residents and provincial council members have warned that Kunduz city will once again fall to the Taliban in next year's fighting season if serious attention is not paid to the province's security situation.

Concerns were raised at a gathering in Kunduz city where residents praised security force members for their response against the insurgents during the fall of the city about two months ago but said the insurgent group was planning another attack.

"It seems that a number of Taliban fighters have been living on the outskirts of Kunduz city, after they took the city and were pushed back," said Abdul Ghafoor Hotak, head of Kunduz youth organization.

He said that Taliban militants are preparing for their next attack on the city.

"They are busy working on their ... (More on P4)...(11)

UN Report \$28b Worth of Drugs Trafficked Annually on Balkan Route from Afghanistan

VIENNA - In a new report on Friday, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shows that the total value of illicit heroin and opium trafficked from Afghanistan to Western Europe through the Balkans amounts to some US\$28 billion every year. Sixty-five per cent of this total (US\$18 billion) is generated in Western and Central Europe.

The four largest European markets for heroin - France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Italy - account for nearly ... (More on P4)...(12)



DUSHANBE - Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (lower house of parliament) participated in the 8th plenary session of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Parliamentary Assembly (PA) in St. Petersburg on Thursday.

Parliamentary speakers from Tajikistan, China, Iran, Pakistan and Serbia also attended the session that endorsed a number of module laws.

On November 26, Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy also held talks with

Ibrahimi Holds Talks with His Tajik Counterparts

Ubaiddulloyev, Speaker of the Tajikistan's National Assembly. Ibrahimy and Ubaiddulloyev reportedly discussed energy, trade and security cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. (Asia-Plus)

Smart City Commission 'Stonewalled' by Some Departments

KABUL - A member of the Smart City housing project investigative team said on Thursday that some government agencies involved in the release from prison of Khalil Ferozi and the signing of the housing scheme contract are not cooperating with them.

Chairman of the joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee and member of the task team

Ghani Appoints Task Team to Probe MP's Allegations

KABUL - After the claims made by the first deputy speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) that the National Security Council (NSC) supports Daesh fighters, President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday appointed a task team to investigate the allegations as well as the evidence brought up by the MP.

According to a decree issued by the president, the team has two members and a chairman - including Nasrullah Stanikzai as the head of the team, and Abdul Fahah Azizi and Mir Moham-



mad Anwar Sadat as its members.

The decree said the team has been tasked to assess the evidence brought by the first deputy spokesman of the Wolesi Jirga in accordance with the Constitution, the law on internal and foreign

crimes, and other laws including the internal job principles at the house.

As per the decree, the team is also responsible to investigate the arming some irresponsible people and that the report should be submitted to ... (More on P4)...(13)

Insurgents Threaten Key Kabul-Jalalabad Highway

KABUL - Members of Laghman provincial council on Friday reported that security threats have drastically increased along the key Kabul-Jalalabad highway in recent weeks, putting the lives of travelers at great risk.

Meanwhile, residents in



Laghman province have said that unknown armed men apparently affiliated with insurgent groups frequently appear on the highway and sometimes open fire on vehicles, an issue which has created major concern among regular ... (More on P4)...(15)