

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear	 <p>Daily Outlook Weather Forecast</p>
	35°C 19°C		24°C 09°C		33°C 19°C		32°C 21°C		33°C 16°C		19°C 05°C		27°C 12°C	

WH Renews Support for Peace in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The White House (WH) on Tuesday condemned the Taliban attack on Kunduz City, saying Afghan forces had successfully retaken several government buildings. "The United States strongly condemns the Taliban attacks in Kunduz, and we stand with the Afghan people in our commitment to peace and security," White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest told reporters here. Afghan forces had begun to retake the city and had wrested back control of several government buildings, he said, adding the United States and coalition forces were providing advisory support.



Responding to a question, Earnest acknowledged the situation in Kunduz was fluid. "As we affirmed during the September 26 High-Level Event on Afghanistan, the US, Afghanistan's neighbors, and our international partners will continue to strongly support President Ghani and the national unity government to improve security, continue to target terrorists, and preserve the gains we have made together," he said. Cooperation between the US, its coalition partners and the Afghan government had grown over the last 13 years, ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Hakimi, Canadian Envoy Discuss OCB Meeting Agenda



KABUL - Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi and Canadian Ambassador Deborah Lyons on Tuesday discussed the agenda for the next full level Oversight and Coordinating Body (OCB) meeting to be held in late October. The OCB meeting will be attended by high-level representatives from the Afghan ministries of finance, defence, interior and embassies of Australia, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland, Canada, US, UK, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Korea, Japan, the UAE and Turkey. Other officials will represent the ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

1,000 E-ID Card Distributors Placed on Suspension

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has suspended around 1,000 workers charged with distribution of computerised national identity cards, an official said on Wednesday. The employees were placed on suspension on Tuesday in compliance with orders from Interior Minister Noor-ul-Haq Ulumi, the distribution agency's head Humayun Mohtat told Pajhwok Afghan News. Mohtat linked the move to suspension of international aid to the organisation, which had no funds to finance workers' salaries. The official estimated monthly staff salaries



at \$800,000. The suspended staffers would be called back to work as and when the distribution of the electronic ID cards resumed, he promised, without giving a specific date. In a letter to the workers, the

ministry said: "MoI is thankful to you for your services and will prioritise hiring you once again when political issues are resolved and cash support from donor nations resumes." The ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Pentagon Hopes ANSF will Retake Kunduz from Taliban

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon on Tuesday exuded confidence the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) would soon retake Kunduz province from the Taliban. "The ANSDF have amassed a sizeable force to retake the city, numbering in thousands. We are confident they will defeat the Taliban and restore the city to Afghan control," Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said. He added the Pentagon was ready to provide all help to the Afghan forces in their endeavor to strengthen their control of the strategic city



and vanquish the insurgent movement. Responding to a question, he said the US strike on the

outskirts of Kunduz was a force protection raid conducted by an F-16 against the Taliban advancing toward the airport and presenting a threat to American and Coalition personnel. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Claim Overrunning Khak-i-Safed District



FARAH CITY - The Taliban on Wednesday claimed they had overrun the Khak-i-Safed district of western Farah province, but officials said there were only two security posts which had been shifted elsewhere. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi said the fighters captured the district centre last night after surrounding it for a long time. The rebels seized five tanks of government forces, arms and ammunition after capturing the district, Ahmadi said.

But Farah police chief Brig. Gen. Fazl Ahmad Samadyar rejected Ahmadi's claims and said no clash had taken place last night in the Khak-i-Safed district. He said there were one police and one Afghan National Army post and the two posts were shifted from the district's Qorghana area to Nasrullah Qala area last night. There had been no clash during the transfer of the posts, the police chief said. Qorghana is located near the district centre while Nasrullah Qala is about eight kilometers away. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Experts Urge More Air Strikes as ANSF Battles Taliban



KABUL - The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) continued to battle insurgents on Wednesday near the northern city of Kunduz that was captured by Taliban fighters on Monday. Initial reports from the battle field SUGGEST that scores of Taliban fighters have been killed as a result of air strikes

by the US-led coalition forces and Afghan army which targeted Taliban positions in the area. Meanwhile, Afghan military experts have said that air strikes could inflict major casualties on the Taliban. U.S. defense department in a statement announced air strikes ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Attacks on Media Outlets in Embattled City Condemned

KABUL - A Paris-based media watchdog on Wednesday slammed Taliban's attacks on several media outlets, especially Roshani Radio and TV, after seizing control of northern Kunduz City. Reporters Without Borders blasted the insurgent movement for targeting news media, including Roshani Radio and TV, an independent broadcaster. The group also lamenting the torching and destruction of equipment. Roshani Radio and TV, founded by Sadiqa Sherzai, normally broadcasts 20 hours a day and provides coverage of women's issues. Nine of its 12 staffers are women. Reporters Without Borders said it was worried about the media situation in Kunduz and about the fate of several journalists, of whom there has been no news since Tuesday morning. Around 100 journalists work in the province, which has at least five radio stations, three TV stations and five newspapers, including two dailies. The armed forces were unable to protect journalists and media outlets. Reza Moini, the head of the Reporters Without Borders Afghanistan desk, said: "We remind all parties to the conflict - both state and non-state actors - of their obligation to protect journalists." In a statement, he said: "International law - including the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols - forbids deliberate attacks by state or non-state actors ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Up to 100 Daesh Militants Killed in Achin Offensive

JALALABAD - Up to 100 Daesh or Islamic State fighters have been killed during security forces' operations in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, police said on Wednesday. Nangarhar police spokesman Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal told Pajhwok Afghan News that hundreds of Daesh affiliated fighters attacked security posts in Abdul Khel area on Tuesday morning. He said the militants were



killed after fresh forces led by the provincial police chief reached the district and the ground and air offensive continued till Tuesday evening,

...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Nangarhar Police Chief: ISI Leading Daesh in Nangarhar

KABUL - The police chief of eastern Nangarhar province says that Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is leading the Daesh militant group in his province. Fazal Ahmad Shirzad said that 90 per cent fighters of the group are Pakistani nationals. Shirzad's comments come as Daesh is extending its AC ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Kunduz Crisis Pushes up Takhar Hotel Rates



KABUL - Travelers from northern Takhar and Badakhshan provinces en-route to Kabul and other provinces are being forced to pay inflated hotel rates while they wait out the Kunduz crisis. For people traveling by road from Badakhshan and Takhar, they have no alternate but to drive through Kunduz - and with the road closed, they are being forced to wait it out in Takhar. But they say hotel owners are taking advantage of the Kunduz crisis and have inflated room rates - especially as all hotels in Takhar are full. In addition, a number of Takhar provincial council members said that because of the road closure, food prices have also increased - something that is causing much concern among the locals. Residents and the provincial council members warned that if the road does not open soon, Takhar province will face serious problems. (Tolnews)

Badghis Doctors Go on Strike over Withheld Salaries



QALA-I-NAW - Doctors and other staff at the civil hospital in northwestern Badghis province on Wednesday went on strike against non-payment of salaries over the past six months. With their number reaching 120, the doctors, nurses and administrative staff of the central hospital staged a protest gathering at the hospital's courtyard. The hospital's chief, Dr. Abdul Latif Rustai, told Pajhwok Afghan News the doctors and other staff had been without salaries over the past six months. He said the hospital had run out of medicine since a month, accusing the provincial Public Health Director, Dr. Abdul Aziz Tariq, of ignoring the hospital's problems. Dr. Rustai warned they would con-

tinue their strike until all the doctors and other staff were paid salaries and medicine provided. Badghis provincial council chief Bahauddin also confirmed problems being faced by the civil hospital. He said it was beyond his understanding why the hospital was not provided medicine. The strike has landed patients in trouble. One of the patients, Abdul Qadir, said from his hospital bed that no doctors had visited them since morning and no was given any medicine. He urged the protesting doctors to call off their strike for the sake of patients' lives. He said currently there were 50 bed-ridden patients at the hospital. However, officials said problems of the ...*(More on P4)...(17)*