

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	36°C 19°C		25°C 08°C		35°C 17°C		31°C 19°C		31°C 14°C		17°C 03°C		27°C 11°C



Peace will Return to Kunduz Soon, Ghani Tells Elders

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Friday met elders from Kunduz and discussed with them the security situation in the embattled northern province. The elders praised the security forces' courageous response to the insurgent siege of Kunduz City, the provincial capital, a statement from the Presidential Palace in Kabul said. Ahmad Zia Massoud, the president's special advisor on reforms and good governance, Senator Mohammad Din Hamdard, Eng. Abdul Hadi Aimaq and other high-ranking officials were present on the occasion. The elders assured the president of



all-out support to the government forces and demanded the provincial security institutions be strengthened to deal with emergency situations. In response, Ghani said the control Kunduz was in the hands of his government hand and the situation had been fully controlled. The ongoing operation would be expanded to other districts for durable peace in Kunduz, he promised. He said Kunduz residents were patriotic and elders should not allow the enemy to gain influence among people. In a statement, the Ministry of Defence claimed...(More on P4)...(10)

Over 300 Insurgents Killed, Including Foreigners, in Kunduz Battle



KABUL - More than 300 insurgents, including foreign nationals, have been killed in the Kunduz battle, which is being led by foreign militants, according to local officials. The Police Chief of Kunduz confirmed the casualties and said that Arabs, Chechens and Pakistani militants were leading the war in Kunduz - which fell to the Taliban on Monday. TOLONews journalist Sharif Amiri - who is the first journalist to make his way to Kunduz city - reports that still some parts of the city are being controlled by the Taliban. He said the citizens cannot move freely in the city as there are...(More on P4)...(11)

Security Dialogue Opens in Herat

HERAT - Delegates from various countries and institutions are attending a two day Security conference in Herat, the capital of western Herat province to discuss matters of common interests with the main focus on regional and Afghanistan's security. participant Sat the conference said on Friday that the security of regional nations, particularly that of Afghanistan, was extremely under threat of the insurgent groups, calling on allies of Afghanistan to come with a solid stance and mount pressure on countries that deliberately back terrorism. Addressing the conference, Rangin Dadfar Spant, a former security adviser to former



president Hamid Karzai said that a Muslim and neighboring country to Afghanistan has been involved in destabilizing Afghanistan, referring to Pakistan's Afghan policies, however, he criticized the allied countries for supporting that country. It appears that the delegates

will offer a number of recommendations during the conference in a bid to address the ongoing security, economic and political situations in Afghanistan. "We cannot [abandon] you as you attempt endeavor to find in your lifetime peace for...(More on P4)...(12)

Taliban Seize Badakhshan's Wardoj, Baharak Districts

FAIZABAD - After fierce fighting with security forces, Taliban insurgents seized control of Wardoj district of northern Badakhshan province, Afghan security officials confirmed, stating that Taliban assaulted Wardoj late Thursday night which led to the collapse of the district. The fighting erupted late night and lasted for several hours, resulting in the collapse of the province to the Taliban. Reacting to the fall of Wardoj, Afghan security officials stressed that a military campaign of Afghan national army and other relevant security agencies is underway to



retake the district. Meanwhile, Badakhshan provincial council has said that the Taliban are making gains

in some other parts of the province after taking control of Wardoj. In a new development, Taliban managed to take control of Baharak district on Friday. "If the collapse of Wardoj and Baharak districts to Taliban not handled, this will bring Faizabad, center of the province under threat," MP Fawzia Kofi said. "Unfortunately, the government has not been able to deploy the forces in a good way in Badakhshan, the forces do not have serious determination to fight," MP Amanullah Paiman said. "Taliban have seized control of only two CHECK posts in Wardoj, we have launched operation in the area," a defense...(More on P4)...(13)

Unemployment Rate Spikes in Afghanistan



KABUL - The unemployment rate has peaked to 40 percent in Afghanistan, showing a 15 percent increase as compared to the same time last year, officials said Friday. According to Central Statistics Organization (CSO), the unemployment figure for 2015 was only 25 percent. Insecurity, lack of jobs in government and the PRIVATE sector organizations and a downturn of industries are the main factors behind growing unemployment, CSO officials said. "Those who had jobs are now

unemployed and at the same time no new jobs were created," deputy CSO Chief Haseebullah Muahid said. "Unemployment has had a rapid growth and it rose by about 15 percent." In addition, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) officials also agreed with SCO statements and admitted that numerous factory workers are jobless. According to ACCI, several skilled workers are also unemployed due to economic issues facing...(More on P4)...(15)

Attack on Khwaja Ghar Led by Foreign Rebels: Governor

TALOQAN - The acting governor for northeastern Takhar province said on Friday the Taliban attack on Khwaja Ghar district was led by foreign militants. On Wednesday night, the insurgents stormed into Khwaja Ghar after seizing the Imam Sahib district of Kunduz province. But the security forces wrested back the town 13 hours after it fell. Acting Governor Abdul Latif Ibrahim told journalists in Taloqan, the provincial capital, that the battle for Khwaja Ghar was spearheaded by foreign insurgents. Pakistani, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Jandullah, Tajikistani and Chechen fighters were leading the Afghan rebels in Khwaja Ghar and Dasht-i-Archi districts, he claimed. "Yes, I confirm the support of foreigners to Taliban from their base in Kunduz for attacks in different areas including Khwaja Ghar," the acting governor alleged. Before leaving Khwaja Ghar, he said, the Taliban set alight the office complex, houses of the district chief, police commander, a government-owned guesthouse and the police headquarters. Police officer Najibullah Farkhari, who participated in the battle for Khwaja Ghar, said the security personnel has suffered no casualties. Several militants were killed or wounded, he added. Without giving specific casualty figures, he said: "The Taliban have shifted their dead and wounded associates to Dasht-i-Archi district. (Pajhwok)

Russian Provides Scholarship for 170 Afghan Students

KABUL - The Russian embassy in Kabul on Friday announced the names of 170 Afghan students found eligible for educational scholarships. Ambassador Alexander Mantyskiy said provision of the scholarships to Afghan students was a priority of the Russian government. He added the 170 students would soon depart for universities of the Russian Federation. Shah Sultan Akifi, head of the Afghan Students Union (ASU), thanked Russia for



the scholarships. He hoped the scholarship recipients would get maximum advantage of the opportunity. (Pajhwok)

AISA Yet to Receive Land for Logar Industrial Park

PUL-I-ALAM - The provincial council (PC) on Thursday said local officials had been unable to hand a piece of land over to the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) for the establishment of an industrial township in accordance with a decision taken two years back. PC chief Hasibullah Stanikzai told Pajhwok Afghan News the provincial government had reached a decision with...(More on P4)...(14)

President Dismisses Kunduz Governor after City Fall



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani dismissed the governor of northern Kunduz province and appointed his deputy Hamdullah Danishi as the acting governor on Wednesday, three days after Kunduz's capital city fell to the Taliban. Kunduz governor Mohammad Omar Safi was abroad when Kunduz City was captured by hundreds of Tali-

ban militants who mounted a three-pronged attack on the strategic urban centre on the night between Sunday and Monday and captured the entire city late on Monday. Safi, who returned to Kabul on Wednesday after media reports claimed he had fled to Europe after changing several destinations, was removed as the...(More on P4)...(16)

UN Secretary-General and Abdullah Discuss NUG's Year in Power



NEW YORK - The Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban-ki Moon met with Afghan CEO Abdullah Abdullah and discussed the work undertaken in the first year of the National Unity Government and the current situation in Afghanistan. The Secretary-General expressed appreciation for the political, economic and social reform agenda of the government, and the need for continued international support for Afghanistan. Both leaders agreed on the priority of a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan as the only durable mechanism for peace. The Secretary-General expressed his support for an Afghan-led peace process. The Secretary-General emphasized the commitment of the United Nations to Afghanistan and its people. (Tolonews)

Pakistan Reiterates Support for Afghan Peace Drive

KABUL - Pakistan has voiced its concern over the current situation in Afghanistan, saying it sincerely desires peace in the neighbouring country. Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry journalists on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York: "Pakistan wants peace in Afghanistan for the sake of stability in the entire region." Problems in Afghanistan could be solved through negotiations, not by blame game, the diplomat said, adding the Pakistan government had been in contact with the Afghan leadership. He made clear Pakistan would never accept the occupation of any



part of Afghanistan by any group. "Afghanistan is being run by a democratically elected and legitimate government." In response to a question about Chief Executive Abdullah's criticism of Pakistan, the diplomat urged an end to the blame game and counselled restraint. He went...(More on P4)...(17)

Fierce Battle Underway for Zar Ab District of Jawzjan

SHIBERGHAN - Heavy fighting is underway after Taliban stormed the Zar Ab district of northern Jawzjan province from four sides on Friday, an official said. Zabihullah Zahid, the town's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents

launched attacks at around 7:00am from Zardi area on the district headquarters. Intense fighting was ongoing as of 12:00pm between security forces and the assailants, he said, adding the supply route from Pusht Tapa district had...(More on P4)...(18)