

Jalalabad Clear 35°C 18°C	Ghazni Clear 24°C 09°C	Kandahar Clear 33°C 16°C	Mazar Clear 32°C 21°C	Herat Clear 27°C 11°C	Bamayan Partly Cloudy 18°C 04°C	Kabul Clear 27°C 12°C
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Military Operations Launched in Badakhshan after Taliban Attack

FAIZABAD - The Afghan security forces have launched military operations in Wardoj and Baharak districts of the north-eastern Badakhshan province to clear the insurgents, local police officials said Saturday.

The operation was launched on Friday night after the arrival of reinforcements from Kabul and still continues in the districts to clear the insurgents, a spokesman for Provincial Police Chief, Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai said.

"The Afghan airforce is also supporting the ground forces in the operations," Ahmadzai said. "So far more than 50 Taliban insurgents were killed in the operations."

In addition, two security force mem-



bers were injured in the operations. This comes after Taliban insurgents seized control of Wardoj. Afghan security officials confirmed this, 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 district 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 ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Erdogan Urges Putin to Change Mind over Syria Bombing

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday urged Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to reconsider Moscow's bombing campaign in Syria, accusing the Russian military of turning a blind eye to the killing of dozens of civilians.

Speaking in an interview with Al-Jazeera Arabic, Erdogan expressed anger that whereas Moscow had informed Ankara it would be attacking Islamic State (IS) jihadists in Syria, it had in fact targeted moderate Syrian rebels.

"I will definitely speak to Putin... I will express my sadness over this matter," said



Erdogan in a transcript of the interview published by the official Anatolia news agency. "Since we are two friendly countries, I'll ask them to review the steps they have taken ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Gen. Raheel Say Would Not Allow Even A Shadow of IS

LONDON - Pakistan Army chief General Raheel Sharif has said that his country would not allow "even a shadow" of Islamic State and termed the group a greater threat than al-Qaeda.

"As far as Daesh (Islamic State) is concerned, in Pakistan, even a shadow of Daesh would not be allowed," Sharif said in an address to The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in London on Friday.

In May, the Islamic State militant group claimed the killings of at least 43 members of the Shiite



Ismaili minority in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi. Leaflets backing IS jihadists have been seen recently in parts of northwest Pakistan and pro-IS slogans have appeared on walls in several cities. "There are people in ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Int'l Charity's Afghan Clinic Bombed, 9 Staff Dead

KABU - Nine local staffers for Doctors Without Borders were killed and 30 were missing after an explosion near their hospital in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz that may have been caused by a U.S. airstrike.

In a statement, the international charity said the "sustained bombing" took place at 2:10 a.m. (2140 GMT). Afghan forces backed by U.S. airstrikes have been fighting to dislodge Taliban insurgents who overran Kunduz on Monday.

U.S. forces in Afghanistan ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Syria to be 'Another Afghanistan for Russia'

BEIRUT - Syria will be a "tomb for its invaders", a Saudi cleric and militant said in a video posted online on Friday. Abdallah Muhammad Al-Muhaysini, a Saudi cleric in Syria's northwestern Aleppo province with links to the local Al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat Al-Nusra, was referring to the ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Afghan Troops Retake Badakhshan District

FAIZABAD - Ministry of Defense has confirmed that after a large-scale military operation, Afghan security forces managed to retake Baharak district in the north-eastern Badakhshan province on Saturday morning.

The operation was launched on Friday night after the arrival of reinforcements troops from Kabul. The district fell to the Taliban earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, Badakhshan provincial council has said that the Taliban are making gains in some other parts of the province after taking control of Wardoj and Baha-



rak. One MP, Fawzia Kofi said: "If the collapse of Wardoj and Baharak districts to Taliban is not handled, this will bring Faizabad, center of the province, under threat," MP Fawzia Kofi said. *(Tolnews)*

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