

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	34°C 29°C		24°C 11°C		34°C 19°C		30°C 19°C		31°C 13°C		18°C 06°C		27°C 13°C

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Obama Considering Plan to Leave Significant Force in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - President Obama is seriously weighing a plan to keep as many as 5,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan beyond 2016, according to senior U.S. officials, a further setback of his goal to end U.S. military involvement there before he leaves office. The plan presented in August by Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would focus primarily on counterterrorism operations against the Islamic State, al-Qaeda and other direct threats to the United States. Obama has made no final decision on the proposal, which was developed before the Taliban captured Kunduz last month, the first major Afghan city to fall to the Taliban since the war be-



gation in 2001. Afghan security forces, supported by American planes and combat advisers, have since been able to retake most, if not all, of the city. But the initial

collapse of the Afghan forces in Kunduz has fed long-standing worries that Afghan forces lack the necessary air support, logistics and intelligence capabilities to survive on their own after U.S. service members leave the country. The 3,000 to 5,000 troops envisioned under Dempsey's proposal would be one part of an emerging plan for a global counterterrorism footprint, developed after the Islamic State's rampage through much of Iraq and Syria. Gen. John Campbell, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, also has developed as many as five options that range from a small embassy force to as many as 7,000 troops. Dempsey's ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

US Defence Chief Warns Russia has 'Losing Strategy' in Syria

MADRID - US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter said Monday that Moscow is pursuing a "losing strategy" in Syria amid rising tensions after a Russian fighter jet violated Turkey's air space. Moscow last week began bombing in Syria, claiming it was hitting Islamic State jihadists. But the Pentagon says Russian jets have targeted other rebel groups in order to support the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. "Russia has escalated the civil war, putting further at risk the very political resolution and preservation of Syria's structure of future governance it says that it wants," Carter said

in Madrid at the start of a five-day trip to Europe. "It remains my hope that Vladimir Putin will see that tethering Russia to a sinking ship is a losing strategy." Carter's trip is aimed at thanking allies from the US-led coalition that is carrying out daily drone and plane strikes against IS in Iraq and Syria. In a fresh complication of the four and a half year Syrian conflict, which has claimed around 250,000 lives, Turkey said its F-16 jets had intercepted a Russian fighter plane that violated Turkish air space near the Syrian border at the weekend. A senior US defence ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Quetta Shura Taliban Leader Killed in Faryab



KABUL - Shekh Wali, a Taliban local leader and member of the Quetta Shura of Pakistan has been killed in a clash with security forces in Faryab. Abdul Satar Barez, acting governor of Faryab says hundreds of Taliban insurgents attacked Maymana, the capital of Faryab, from four different angles on Sunday evening and "wanted to take control of the city but security forces drove them out." "The security forces drove insurgents out after 11 hours of clashes in which 23 Taliban insurgents including the Taliban's shadow governor and member of Quetta Shura of Pakistan was killed," he said. In addition, 13 other insurgents were injured in the

clashes. Barez believes that this attack was organized in Pakistan and Shekh Wali led the offensive in the province. "Our investigations show that the battle was planned in Pakistan and Shekh Wali led it. He was also a member of Quetta Shura of Pakistan and he was killed in the attack," he added. Meanwhile, security head of Faryab, Barialay Parwani says that "the situation is back to normal in Maymana and the people are going to work and the government employees are in their offices." This comes after local jihadi leaders announced their support for the security forces on Sunday after the attack by the insurgents. *(Tolonews)*

Kunduz Cleanup Operation Underway



KABUL - A massive cleanup operation by government and other organizations was underway in Kunduz city early Monday morning - with the initial focus having been on removing bodies that littered the streets. TOLONews reporter Karim Amini, reporting from Kunduz, said that government officials and local security forces were also returning to their offices to start their own cleanup operations. Scores of people were out on the streets but the majority were still holed up in their homes by mid-morning. One resident said government should put out an announcement telling residents it is safe to leave their homes. A number of shopkeepers had however come out to assess the damage that they had sustained during the week-long battle of Kunduz following its collapse to the Taliban last Monday. One shopkeeper said: "Clashes have caused some damage

to my shop but I have come to clean up and reopen for business." The streets were slowly coming to life as cyclists, motorists and pedestrians started venturing out. The owner of a local restaurant said he too had returned to work and said fortunately he had not sustained any damage to his business. A heavy presence of troops in the city was however testimony to what the locals have survived and all vehicles were being closely inspected by troops at checkpoints. Some residents were also out buying basic foodstuffs and a few women have also been seen on the streets. One woman said she was on her way to a doctor - something that until now, residents have not been able to do. Karim says that Kunduz residents want to get back to normal as soon as possible but for some it will take time. One resident said that although security ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Pentagon Promises Kunduz Airstrike Answers

KABUL - U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Sunday promised a full and transparent investigation into whether a U.S. aircraft providing support for American and Afghan commandos was responsible for the explosions that destroyed a hospital in northern Afghanistan, killing 22 people. Speaking to reporters traveling with him to Spain, Carter said, "the situation there is confused and complicated, so it may take some time to get the facts, but we will get the facts." He said he spoke to Gen. John Campbell, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, and to Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during his flight to Madrid, adding that "there will be accountability as always in these incidents, if that is required." Carter said he told Campbell to make sure that the U.S. provides any medical care needed for those in the northern city of Kunduz. U.S. officials said American special operations forces advising Afghan commandos in the vicinity of the hospital...*(More on P4)...(12)*

NDS Officials in Khost Arrest Haqqani Commander in Burqa

GHAZNI CITY - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency has arrested a Haqqani Terrorist Network commander who was wearing a Burqa and trying to enter Khost city. A statement released by NDS on Monday states that Niamatullah alias Khalid S/O Zanzir Gul was assigned by the terrorist network as the military commander for Dwa Manda District. The statement further states that Niamatullah was sent from across the border for terrorist activities in Khost city. Niamatullah has confessed to his links with Haqqani network in a footage released by NDS. Niamatullah said in the footage that he was given the responsibility as the military commander of Dwa Manda District in Miranshah (Pakistan) and was in charge of 100 militants of Haqqani group. He added that he has also carried out anti-government activities in Spera besides Dwa Manda District. Pointing to his hand, Niamatullah said he sustained injuries during these activities. *(KP)*

U.S. General Afghan Forces Called for Air Strike in Kunduz

WASHINGTON - Afghan forces asked for U.S. air support while fighting the Taliban in Kunduz shortly before an air strike resulted in the deaths of civilians there, the American commander of international forces in Afghanistan said on Monday. U.S. Army General John Campbell's comments fell short of squarely acknowledging U.S. responsibility for an air strike that killed 22 people in an Afghan hospital run by aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) on Saturday. "We have now learned that



on October 3 Afghan forces advised that they were taking fire from enemy positions and asked for air support from U.S. forces," Campbell said in a briefing with reporters. "An air strike was then called to eliminate the Taliban threat, and several civilians were ac-

identally struck." Campbell said U.S. forces were not under direct fire in the incident and the air strike had not been called on their behalf, contrary to previous statements from the U.S. military. He criticized the Taliban for ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Taliban Violates Dand-e-Ghori Deal: Officials

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Baghlan Provincial Council said on Monday the Taliban militants have violated the Dand-e-Ghori Deal after they attacked military bases in Bagh Shama and Chashma-e-Sheer areas in Pul-e-Khumri city in the northern province. The deal was signed between tribal elders, government officials and the Taliban about three weeks ago and prevents both military operations and rebels attacks from being carried out in the area. Dand-e-



Ghori is part of Pul-e-Khumri city. Local security officials have not commented on the latest developments but confirmed that the security forces are

clashing with Taliban insurgents after they attacked the bases. Mohammad Zarif Zarif, member of Baghlan Provincial ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Suicide Bomber Targets Kabul Home Of Former Helmand Governor



KABUL - A powerful explosion rocked Kabul just after 8pm local time on Monday night in what is believed to have been a suicide bombing at the home of former Helmand governor, and former deputy head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) Naeem Baloch. The attack took place on Darulaman Road, close to parliament and to the Russian Embassy. Additional insurgents are believed to have gained access to the house after the suicide bomber detonated his explosives. They are reportedly in the house but a police officer told TOLONews.com at the scene that security forces are currently carrying out a clearance operation. Eye witnesses report that families were evacuated from nearby homes. In addition they say that at least four people have been injured, including two children. Authorities have also cordoned off roads and cut power to the area. Large numbers of security forces have however arrived on the scene. The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack *(Tolonews)*

UAE Calls for Stronger Trade Ties Among Islamic Countries



DUBAI - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of economy and foreign trade urged Monday stronger economic ties among the Islamic countries to further boost Islamic business across the world. "There are 1.7 billion Muslims living worldwide and the economies of the 57 Islamic states grow at an average of 5 percent per year," Sultan Al-Mansouri told the Global Islamic Economy Summit (GIES) 2015. Earlier in the day, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum opened the two-day GIES, which is organized by the Dubai Islamic Economy Development Center (DIEDC). In a keynote speech, Nobel lau-

reate Muhammad Yunus urged over 2,000 delegates not to regard Islamic business and finance as a means to focus on earning money, but to find the balance between the economy, society and the environment. "Economy is not about profits; it is about people. All three Ps, the profit, people and the planet, are equally important," said Yunus, who received the Noble peace prize in 2006 for pioneering the global microfinancing movement to help the poor. According to a DIEDC report released at the forum, the overall size of the Islamic economy worldwide is 1.81 trillion U.S. dollars. It is poised to grow to 2.58 trillion dollars by 2020. *(Xinhua)*

MSF 'Disgusted' By Officials Justifying Attack

KABUL - Medecins Sans Frontieres on Monday demanded a full, transparent and independent investigation into the bombing of their hospital in Kunduz and said they were "disgusted" by the recent statements from some Afghan officials who have tried to justify the attack that killed 22 people. According to Christopher Stokes, General Director of the organization: "MSF is disgusted by the recent statements coming from some Afghanistan government authorities justifying the attack on its hospital in Kunduz. These statements imply that Afghan and US forces working together decided to raze to the ground a fully functioning hospital - with more than 180 staff and patients inside - because they claim that members of the Taliban were present." "This amounts to an admission of a war crime," he said adding that it "utterly contradicts the initial attempts of the US government to minimize the attack as 'collateral damage'." "There can be no justification for this abhorrent attack on our hospital that resulted in the deaths of MSF staff as they worked and patients as they ...*(More on P4)...(14)*