

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	34°C 18°C		26°C 9°C		34°C 16°C		29°C 13°C		33°C 12°C		22°C 7°C		27°C 12°C

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

World must Take Action to Stop Support for Terrorists: Iran FM

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the international community must take action to stop foreign support for terrorist groups in the Middle East. In a meeting with the UN special envoy for Iraq, Yan Kubish, in Tehran, the Iranian foreign minister denounced support for terrorist groups, including Daesh Takfiri militants, and said, "The international community should block the continuation of direct and indirect support for these groups." He added that the US-led coalition purportedly fighting the Daesh terrorist group in Iraq has had a weak



and unacceptable performance. Stressing that the situation in Iraq has an important and direct impact on stability and security of the entire Middle East, Zarif urged the international community to support the Iraqi government in its fight against terrorism. The Iranian minister reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's support for Iraq's unity and territorial integrity in the neighboring country, saying, "Any solution [to the tension in the Arab country] should strengthen unity, security and stability in Iraq and the region." Since September 2014, the US, along ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Merkel Defends Refugee Policy as Expression of 'Humanity'

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel Monday defended her open-door policy to refugees in the face of falling poll ratings, saying it was "part of the basic humanity of our country". It was not her job to "spread worry" but "to work on finding solutions to the problems", Merkel told mass-market daily Bild in a lengthy interview. She voiced understanding for citizens' fears given the record influx, expected to reach 800,000 to one million this year. But she stressed that "for me it is part of the basic humanity of our country that one deals with a refugee in a friendly way, as with every other human being". Asked whether she could imagine sheltering a refugee at her home, however, she said: "Although I have great respect for the people who do that, I could not imagine that for me now." To manage the migrant wave, Germany would have to quickly repatriate rejected asylum-seekers fleeing poverty not war, said the chancellor. "Newly arrived people without hopes of being allowed to stay will be sent back directly," she said. Despite mounting criticism within her conservative party, Merkel said she was "firmly convinced" that the Christian Democrats were behind her, adding that polls "are not my gauge". The chancellor also reiterated it was impossible to immediately end the influx of asylum-seekers.

"If someone wants to say 'let's stop it now', then they have to be able to stop it, but it's not that simple," she told Bild. The greatest migration crisis since World War II could only be solved together with Germany's European and international partners, she said, pointing at the war in Syria. "The diplomacy of the entire West -- but also of the Arab states, Russia and regional powers -- has so far been unsuccessful in Syria," she said. *(AFP)*

On World Day, UN Chief Calls on Int'l Community to Give Girls Opportunities

UNITED NATIONS - On International Day of the Girl Child, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday called on the world to give girls all the opportunities they deserve as they mature to adulthood. In his message on the world day, Ban said the international community should enable girls to avoid child marriage and unwanted pregnancy, protect them against HIV transmission, and acquire the education and skills they need to realize their potential.



"Girls everywhere should be able to lead lives free from fear and violence," Ban said. "If we achieve this progress for girls, we will see advances across society." Noting that the newly-adopted ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Kunduz Operation Intensified

KABUL - Security officials on Monday said Afghan security forces have intensified their operations to clear Kunduz of insurgents and in addition to ground operations, airstrikes and house-to-house searches are being carried out. TOLONews reporter Wali Arian, who has been embedded with security forces both in the air and on land, says troops are leaving no stone unturned in their bid to eliminate the Taliban. Arian said that house-to-house searches launched in Sedarak, Ali Khel and Zad Khel villages in Kunduz city have been successful. He said the security forces have targeted the Taliban militants hiding out in civilian homes and airstrikes have been conducted on their hide-



outs. "Heavy blows have been imposed on them [the Taliban]. Their vehicles have been burned. Intelligence reports reveal that the enemy has sustained a heavy casualty toll," said an air force officer adding that it was clear in one air raid that the Taliban fled across a nearby river. According to Arian, the security forces are now close to the Chahardara district - one of the main hubs of the Taliban on Sunday night. "The militants fought street to street in this area but they were pushed back and the security forces took control of the area," said Amir Khan, a member of a commando unit. Meanwhile, deputy army chief ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Security Forces Thwart Taliban Attack on Ghazni



KABUL - Taliban militants reportedly closed the Kabul-Kandahar highway on Monday in the Qarabagh district in Ghazni province in the hope of attacking six parts of the province. However, their attack was foiled by Afghan security forces who battled the insurgents for a few hours. The highway is a key transit route as it connects Kabul with Ghazni, Kandahar, Helmand, Herat and Farah provinces in the country's southern and western parts. Owners of transport companies in Kabul told how they are faced with ongoing security threats on the highway

and that their problems were made worse after the Taliban closed the highway for hours on Monday. Zikria, a driver for one of the transport companies, said he avoids the highway if he has passengers in his vehicle. "I was the first car in a line to move towards Herat but my friends called me and advised me not to travel because there was a battle going on in Qarabagh district in Ghazni and the Taliban had closed the way," he said. According to the transport companies, more than 90 vehicles - including buses - had been stuck in Qarabagh and their ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Taliban May Lose Positions in Afghanistan after Killing of Key Commander

KABUL - With the killing of key Taliban leader Mawlawi Ibrahim Shiwani during an Afghan special-forces raid in the west of the country, the positions of radical movement may decay in the region, state army officials are saying. Afghanistan's armed forces eliminated Shiwani on Sunday in the course of a sweep of the militants in the Bala Buluk district in Farah province, Army General Taj Mohammad Jahid told the Xinhua News Agency. According to official data, the total number of Taliban members terminated during that operation has reached 15. "Units of the Afghanistan army executed an operation sweeping Taliban terrorist group militants on Sunday morning and terminated 15 extremists, including Mawlawi Ibrahim Shiwani, who was considered in Taliban as deputy governor of the Farah Province," the agency said, citing the words of the General. Jahid suggested that the elimination of Shiwani would lead to a notable weakening of the Taliban across Farah province. Mop-up operations were also sustained in other districts in Farah's, as well as in nearby districts. The Taliban Islamic fundamentalist movement was founded in 1994 and ruled the country from 1996 to 2001. It's spread throughout Afghanistan and regularly clashes with legitimate governmental forces, claiming the lives of thousands of civilians. *(sputniknews)*

Militants who Fled Waziristan Attacked Kunduz: MoD

KABUL - Al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) and other foreign militant groups were involved in the Kunduz attack after Pakistan launched a military operation to oust them from the tribal areas of northern Waziristan, said Afghan acting defense minister Masoom Stanekzai on Monday. Pakistan launched a large-scale joint operation called "Zarb-e-Azb" in mid June



2014 which Pakistani officials said was aimed at eliminating militant groups from northern Waziristan, which is along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

CSTO, OSCE will Reinforce Border Between Tajikistan and Afghanistan: Borduzha



BISHKEK - borduzha The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) together will help Tajikistan in the strengthening of the Afghan border, said the CSTO Secretary General, Nikolay Borduzha, reported TASS on Monday. "We agreed to work together and collaborate on information security issues, to consider using the resources of the OSCE in the issue of drug trafficking...And we will seriously deal with the issue of assistance to Tajikistan in strengthening the border," said Borduzha at the session of CSTO Permanent Council dedicated to issues of ensuring security in Eurasia with the participation of the OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier. *(AKIpress)*

Russian Airstrikes in Syria Aimed at Helping Al-Assad Regime

MOSCOW - Vladimir Putin confirmed what many suspected -- that Russian airstrikes in Syria are meant to bolster President Bashar al-Assad's regime. But exactly how they're doing that remains a point of contention: Are Russians really focused on pummeling ISIS, or are they targeting Syrian rebels demanding an end to the Assad dynasty? "Our task is to stabilize the legitimate government and to create conditions for a political compromise ... by military means, of course," Putin told the state-run Russia 24 TV. "The units of international terrorists and their ilk have no desire to negotiate with the Syrian government, who is almost sieged in its own capital." Russia has said it's coordinating with the Syrian regime to target ISIS and other terrorists. Al-Assad has used the term "terrorists" to describe Syrians who seek his ouster. Since launching its first airstrikes in Syria on September 30,

Russia has flown dozens of combat missions and conducted more than 100 airstrikes, according to the Russian Defense Ministry. The Defense Ministry said Monday it conducted 55 airstrikes in Syria aimed at 53 ISIS targets over the past 24 hours. The day before, the ministry said, Russia targeted 63 ISIS positions, including 53 strongholds, a command center, four training camps and seven ammunition depots. But CNN military analyst Lt. Col. Rick Francona said he has no doubt Russia is targeting Syrian rebels rather than ISIS. "I think it's very apparent from the target sets that we're watching. Even the maps that are released from the Russians themselves show where they're concentrating their airstrikes," Francona said. "And if you look at the map where they are hitting, most of them are concentrated in that area between Hama and Aleppo -- and that's where the Syrian rebels have had success ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Govt. to Extend all Aids to Kunduz IDPs: Barmak



KABUL - Chairman of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) said that the government would spare no efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced people of Kunduz province. Presiding a joint meeting of government entities, national and international agencies as

well as lawmakers from Kunduz province to discuss the problems of the war-affected people of Kunduz, Barmak said that the number of displaced people of Kunduz and their whereabouts either living in open or with relatives elsewhere of the country including Kabul should be surveyed and registered. *(BNA)*