

Clear 24°C 14°C	Ghazni Clear 18°C 3°C	Kandahar Chance of Rain 24°C 09°C	Mazar Clear 22°C 13°C	Herat Clear 23°C 8°C	Bamayan Clear 13°C 9°C	Kabul Clear 21°C 8°C
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Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

# Drug Dealing Biggest Threat to National Security: Study

KABUL - A new survey conducted in the northern provinces, particularly in Balkh, illustrates that the biggest threat to national security is rooted in the cultivation and dealing of drugs. According to the survey conducted by Khat-e-Naw (New Line) Research Institute, this year about 20,000 hectares of land was used to grow poppies in northern Badakhshan, Baghlan and Faryab provinces. The study also found that the money made from the poppy fields was the main source of funding for insurgent groups. "The war in Afghanistan is the war on drugs," the institute's head, Abdul Qadir Misbah, said.



Numerous terrorist organizations are located across the country. Even there are rumors that PKK [Kurdistan Workers' Party] militants have also made their hideouts in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, residents and social activists urge that the eradication of drugs production and trafficking can put an end to the ongoing conflict in the country. In addition, they also urged the government to identify the king pins in the industry and bring them to justice. "As long as the faces of these drug mafia ..(More on P4)...(8)

## ANSF to Launch Fresh Winter-Offensive Against Insurgents

KABUL - As war games go, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said Monday that the Afghan National Army and Police forces movements will increase against terrorists in winter season. Officials in MoI declared that with Afghan flags rippling in every parts of the country, the military operations will be more in those areas that the in-

surgents have presence. "Our movements will increase in the winter season which most of them would be in areas that have previously witnessed insurgent attacks," Sidiq Sidiqi, MoI spokesman said. The current year was a bloody and deadly year for Afghanistan that the armed Taliban group ..(More on P4)...(9)

## NATO Launches Biggest Military Exercise in 13 Years



TRAPANI, Sicily - NATO is launching its biggest military exercise in 13 years, mobilizing 36,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen from more than 30 countries to test the alliance's ability to respond to new secu-

city threats. NATO Deputy Secretary-General Alexander Vershbow told the opening ceremony Monday that the Trident Juncture exercise will ..(More on P4)...(10)

## Security forces Rebuff Taliban Attack on Shindand District

HERAT - Security forces have rebuffed a coordinated attack of Taliban militants on Shindand District of western Herat province. Hundreds of Taliban armed with heavy and light weapons launched the attack early on Monday morning. Taliban initially attacked a number of security posts but

clashes reached to the vicinity of the district center during the day. Additional forces were called for assistance who helped push back the militants. Officials had not released information about possible casualties of the clashes by the time this report was filed. (KP)

## Karzai wants Bilateral Security Agreement Explained

KABUL - Hamid Karzai, the former President of Afghanistan in a show with Russia's RT television network said that foreign hand was involved in attack on Kunduz city. He said that if that foreign hand is Pakistan, the Bilateral Security Agreement between

the U.S. and Afghanistan has to be explained which references to helping and defending Afghanistan if there's a foreign aggression. RT's correspondent Sophie Shevardnadze started her questions with why the radicalism is escalating in Afghanistan. Karzai said: Well, ..(More on P4)...(11)

## Joint Special Forces Contingent of MoD Praised

KABUL - Ahmad Zia Masoud, Special Envoy to President for Reforms and Good Governance has praised the second company of the Ministry of Defense's joint Special

Forces contingent for their bravery in Kunduz war. Lt. Col. Khalid Amiri, Capt. Qutbuddin, Capt. Mohammad Usman, and Capt. Ali Yawar, ..(More on P4)...(12)

## Defense Minister

## Taliban Hid in Bombed Hospital

KABUL - Afghanistan's acting defense minister said Monday that the Doctors without Borders hospital bombed by U.S. forces in the northern city of Kunduz was being used by insurgents as a "safe place." The hospital was bombed by a U.S. AC-130 gunship in the early hours of Oct. 3, killing at least 22 people and wounding many more. The main building was destroyed and the hospital has been shut down. "That was a place they wanted to use as a safe place because everybody knows that our security forces and international security forces were very careful not to do anything with a hospital," Defense Minister



Masoom Stanekzai told The Associated Press, adding that a Taliban flag had been mounted on one of the hospital's walls. Doctors Without Borders, also known by its French acronym MSF, has repeatedly denied that Taliban fighters

were present in the hospital compound at the time of the attack. "Every staff member in Kunduz working for MSF has repeatedly reported to us that there were no armed people in the hospital at the time of the..(More on P4)...(13)

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