

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Cloudy	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Cloudy	Kabul	Clear
	25°C 14°C		18°C 5°C		26°C 19°C		20°C 13°C		27°C 11°C		15°C 3°C		21°C 9°C



British Army Officer to Train ANSF

KABUL - A senior British Army officer who lives with his family in Pocklington will be in Afghanistan for the next 12 months helping to train the Army there in the fight against the Taliban. Lt Col Iain Hallam, commanding officer of the 4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, flew out last Sunday and will become a mentor at the Afghanistan National Officer Academy. The 48-year-old, whose wife, Anna, teaches English at Pocklington School, admits he will miss his family - there are also three daughters aged 20, 18 and 14 - and his rugby union where he is a referee having previously played the game at scrum half. After he left school in Blackpool, Lancashire, he joined the Army as a Private in 1987 but soon became an officer after his basic training. He left the Army in 2006 and became a reservist. He was a school business manager for a few years but then became a full-time Army reservist for the last five years. Lt Col Hallam said: "My father was in the Army and it was something I always wanted to do. I have enjoyed life in the Army. It has been great and I have had a really exciting and varied life so it has been very interesting." Lt Col Hallam, who has lived in Pocklington for around seven years, has served in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and has done three tours of Iraq. "Our ... (More on P4)...(13)

Nations Weigh Ceasefire, Transition Plan in Syria

VIENNA - The United States, Russia and other regional and world powers were considering a new plan Friday to set up a ceasefire in Syria within the next four to six months, followed by the formation of a transition government featuring President Bashar Assad and opposition members, officials told The Associated Press. How long Assad could remain in power under the transition was still unclear. The Western officials said the United States and its partners supported the timetable as a



first phase toward ending the four-and-a-half year civil war that has killed more than 250,000 people and uprooted more than 11 million, leading to the growing terrorist threat of the Islamic State and sparking a refugee crisis throughout Europe. They said an agreement hadn't yet been reached, but that the 19 nations meeting in Vienna were considering the idea. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter, ... (More on P4)...(9)

Quake-Stricken Afghan Villagers Self-Help Amid Relief Operation

FAIZABAD/ASADABAD - Quake-stricken villagers in Afghanistan have been doing their best to help themselves while waiting relief from aid agencies since the devastating 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck parts of the country on Oct. 26. "Up to 15 districts of eastern Kunar province had been affected by the quake. Dozens of rough roads were blocked by landslides. No army machinery arrived due to insecurity and difficult terrain. Local residents are trying to reopen roads by shovels after local officials promised to



pay them cash," Mohammad Habid, a resident of Kunar, told Xinhua. The quake with a depth of 210 km hit the Hindu Kush mountain range in northern Afghanistan on Monday, with strong tremors felt in Pakistan and India. The natural disaster, which struck nine out of the country's 34 provinces ... (More on P4)...(14)

Taliban Suffered Heavy Casualties in Takhar Clashes

TALEQAN - Spokesman of Takhar governor said Friday that at least dozens Taliban fighters were killed and wounded during overnight clashes with Afghan security forces, backed by local anti-Taliban militiamen. He noted that following the complete filtration of Khawja Char district, operations will

begin in Durqad district. In result of clashes between Afghan security forces and the armed Taliban group more than 30 Taliban fighters were killed and 30 others injured. Clashes come at the edge after Taliban captured one of the districts of the Takhar province. Durqad ... (More on P4)...(11)

Humanitarian Assistance Arrives from Pakistan



ISLAMABAD - A C-130 aircraft carrying humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan arrived in Kabul on Friday from Islamabad, a press release from Pakistani Embassy in Kabul stated. The consignment, mainly containing wheat flour, was handed over to the Deputy Minister/Deputy Chairman of Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) Muhammad Aslam Sayas by Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Syed Abrar Hussain, at Kabul Airport, the press release stated. The ... (More on P4)...(10)

Taliban Being Repelled from Embattled Dasht-e-Archi

KUNDUZ CITY - Dozens of residents in Dasht-e-Archi district in Kunduz have raised weapons and have joined the security forces to drive the Taliban insurgents out of the embattled province. According to reports scores of Taliban fighters have been surrounded by the forces in west of the district. According to him, the insurgents are launching attacks on the security forces from the civilian homes - which the militants ... (More on P4)...(12)

Italy to up Contingent in Afghanistan

ROME - Italy is to swell its forces in Afghanistan to make up for the return home of a Spanish contingent busy with Force Protection, Defence Undersecretary Domenico Rossi told the House Friday. "The government has de-

ecided to re-modulate the reentry of some of the contingent" from Afghanistan "and to increase its numerical consistency" as of the end of 2015, "in a way held to be suitable for compensating for the reentry of part of the Span-

ish contingent that had been dedicated to Force Protection", he said. On October 19 a NATO commander said Italy, Germany and Turkey are willing to keep their military in ... (More on P4)...(15)

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