

<b>Jalalabad</b> Chance of Rain 33°C 24°C	<b>Ghazni</b> Partly Cloudy 26°C 16°C	<b>Kandahar</b> Clear 39°C 25°C	<b>Mazar</b> Partly Cloudy 38°C 28°C	<b>Herat</b> Clear 36°C 20°C	<b>Bamayan</b> Partly Cloudy 21°C 10°C	<b>Kabul</b> Partly Cloudy 29°C 19°C
--	--	--	---	---------------------------------------	---	---

**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# US Senate Panel Passes Afghan Accountability Act

WASHINGTON - A key Senate panel on Wednesday unanimously passed a bill seeking to promote increased accountability for American assistance in Afghanistan and calling on the secretary of state to develop a multi-year strategy in this regard. Passed by the powerful Foreign Relations Committee, Afghanistan Accountability Act of 2015, introduced by Senator Bob Menendez, authorizes funds to support the Afghan government's anti-corruption and audit institu-



tions as well as civil society and human rights watchdog groups. It also authorizes funds to improve oversight and accountability of the Afghan National Security Forces (including the police) and civil society watchdogs. The legislation is co-sponsored by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker and Senator Marco Rubio, among other things authorizes the transfer of funds for Afghanistan to be used ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Proscribed Haqqani Network Chief Jalaludin is Dead Also: Taliban

KABUL - A day after confirmation of Taliban leader Mullah Omar's death, chief of the Haqqani militant network and father of Sirajuddin Haqqani, Jalaludin Haqqani, died almost a year ago and was buried in Afghan province of Khost, Taliban said. While news of Jalaluddin Haqqani's death had been making rounds for almost a month now, Dawn.com said that multiple credible sources in Taliban confirmed on Friday that he had died of illness almost a year ago. However, the militant group has not officially given out a statement over Haqqani's de-



mise. It said that Sirajuddin Haqqani, Jalaluddin's son, has been running the militant network for over a year now, ever since his father's illness. The Haqqani network was ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Chabahar Port Agreement Nears Final Stage



KABUL - As the governments of Afghanistan, India and Iran finalize negotiations over the Chabahar Port trade agreement, focus has shifted toward plans for the development of the key infrastructure related to the project, which is expected to help connect Afghan goods to global markets. First and foremost, the Indian government is now expected to make a number of investments in construction at the port itself, which is located on the Iranian coast. Meanwhile, according to

the Iranian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mohammad Reza Bahrami, Iran will begin building a railway to connect the Chabahar Port to Zahidan province in Iran. "Our objective is to build more capacities in Afghanistan," Ambassador Bahrami said on Friday. "We firmly believe that the access of our Afghan friends to Chabahar Port will help them export their commercial products to regional and world markets and this could favor both countries," he added. One ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Nawzad District in Helmand Recaptured by ANSF

LASHKARGAH - Nawzad district in Helmand province was on Friday recaptured by Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) during an operation led by Kandahar Police Chief Gen. Abdul Raziq.

Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) confirmed the recapture of Nawzad district and said that according to initial reports 50 Taliban were killed.

"ANSF retook Nawzad district this morning, clearance operations are still going on and 50 Taliban are dead according to initial reports," said Sediq Sediqqi MoI spokesman.

At least two Afghan security force members were killed and 31 others wounded during the recapture operation, Sediqqi added.

Nawzad district of Helmand province collapsed into the hands of the Taliban on Wednesday.

According to local officials in Nawzad district, intense fighting has been reported over the past two days between Afghan forces and Taliban fighters. Eventually on Wednesday afternoon the district collapsed to the Taliban.

No civilian casualties were reported. Taliban are yet to comment about the operation. *(Tolonews)*

## Mullah Omar's Death Won't Derail Peace Talks: Officials

KABUL - Members of the Afghan government's delegation for peace negotiations with the Taliban on Friday reassured that the death of Mullah Omar would not negatively impact the talks, a hopeful outlook that has been echoed by independent analysts.

Mohammad Natiqi, a member of the first government delegation sent to Islamabad to meet with Taliban leaders earlier this month, emphasized that the new leadership of the Taliban, especially Mullah Akhtar Mansour, who was reportedly appointed Mullah Omar's successor, is willing and ready for peace talks.



"I believe the death of Mullah Omar will not affect the peace talks, because the delegation we had for the first round of peace talks was appointed by Mullah Akhtar and Mullah Akhtar was leading the delegation," Natiqi said on Friday. "I think Mullah Akhtar

is willing to continue peace talks." On Thursday, the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced that the second round of talks originally scheduled to take place on Friday would be postponed at the request of the Taliban.

Although the statement did not go into detail, it came right after news of Mullah Omar's death was confirmed by Taliban spokesman, indicating a likely connection between the sudden shake up in leadership and the postponement. Earlier ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Peace Talks Postponed at Taliban's Request: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Thursday afternoon that the much-awaited second round of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban has been postponed. The talks were due to take place tomorrow, Friday.

In a statement issued by the ministry, Pakistan said: "In view of the reports regarding the death of Mulla Omar and the resulting uncertainty, and at the request of the Afghan Taliban leadership, the second round of the Afghan peace talks, which was sched-



uled to be held in Pakistan on 31 July 2015, is being postponed."

The statement went on to say that "Pakistan and other friendly countries of Afghanistan hope that the Taliban leadership will stay engaged

in the process of peace talks in order to promote a lasting peace in Afghanistan."

"It is further hoped that those forces, which due to their mollified intent wanted to undermine the peace talks, will ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Taliban Quetta Shura Mansour Appointed by ISI

QEUTTA - The newly-elected Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour was a Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) appointment, a senior member of Taliban's Quetta Shura [Council] told TOLONews.

"Mullah Mansour has been appointed by ISI as the successor of Mullah Omar and we do not accept this decision," the source said on condition of anonymity.

The members of Quetta Council were currently holding a meeting on the issue, the source added.

"The late Mullah Omar had selected someone else as his possible successor," he continued.

These statements came a day after the Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed in a statement the appointment of Mansour as the new Taliban chief.

Earlier in the day, reports suggested that certain senior members of the Taliban have opposed appointment of Mullah Mansour as the successor of Mullah Omar. Mansour was elected, according to a Taliban statement to the media on Thursday, as the new leader of the Taliban after the Afghan government and as well as the Taliban confirmed the reclusive Mullah Omar died in 2013 in Pakistan's port city of Karachi.

According to the reports, Abdul Qayoum Zakir, Taliban's military head; Mullah ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## 4 New Polio Cases Detected in Farah

FAIZABAD - The polio vaccination drive is underway in western Farah province at a time when four fresh polio cases have been registered, an official said on Thursday.

A total 10 new polio cases were registered across the country, with four of them in Farah province. Polio is a life crippling disease and the virus could only be prevented by vaccination.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar Shaiq, director of public health, said two new polio cases were detected in Ghani Murgh and Jawza areas of Gulistan district. One in the Shagi and Sawr locality of Balaboluk district.

According to Shaiq, the polio virus affected children in-



cluded three girls and one boy who had been died.

The virus had been transferred by militants from Pakistan, he said, adding the deadly virus was still found in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria. *(Pajhwok)*

## 10 Kunduz Villages Cleared of Taliban

KUNDUZ CITY - At least 10 villages in the Aqtash area of Khanabad district in Kunduz province have been cleared of Taliban, officials said Thursday.

Kunduz police chief Abdul Saboor Nasrati, said that troops on Wednesday started clearing out the insurgents in Basos and Kuhna Qala in Aqtash. He said in total ten villages had been cleared of Taliban.

During the clearing operation 10 Taliban were killed and five others were wounded, Nasrati said. The clearing operation is still on going, Nasrati add-

ed. This comes after Taliban insurgents reportedly seized control of as many as 80 villages on Monday night in northern Kunduz province, officials said.

Afghan security officials believe however that the war increased in the north and east of the country after insurgent groups came over the border from Waziristan in Pakistan.

Concerns have however been raised over why Afghanistan did nothing to prevent the problem after Pakistan military forces launched an operation to clear insurgents from Waziristan. *(Tolonews)*

## Politicians Urged to Prefer National Interests



KABUL - Abdul Ali Mohammadi, legal advisor to president, on Thursday has urged politicians to learn from the Afghan cricket team making way to 2016 T-20 world cup because of the team's unity while politicians prefer their personal interests.

Afghanistan had been known as a war and conflict zone for the last several years but Afghan cricket team had changed that notion altogether after making way to 2016 world cup, he added. "Appreciating

cricket heroes can help change the image of the war torn Afghanistan into a vibrant and emerging state," he said, adding that the youth had the capacity to prove their talent at international level.

Afghanistan had been divided into parts due to personal gains and interests by few politicians who earned bad name for their country, Mohammadi noted, saying: "We should keep national interests supreme over our personal interests." *(Pajhwok)*

## Campaign Against Hepatitis Launched in Jalalabad



JALALABAD - At least two percent of the country's population mostly youth and children, 5,000 of them only in eastern Nangarhar province, are infected with hepatitis A and B, the Ministry of Public Health said on Thursday.

Mohammad Younus Bargami, coordinator HIV program, said at a gathering commemorating International Hepatitis Day that efforts had been accelerated to control the disease.

"At least three persons die of Hepatitis in every three minutes in the world and two percent of population is

tainted with hepatitis in Afghanistan. The treatment of the disease is not possible in the country's hospitals since it is expensive," he added. Bargami said: "We provide anti-hepatitis vaccines to children and also have started awareness programmes to enable people to protect themselves from the disease."

Provincial HIV program coordinator Noor Hassan Bashar Yar said that efforts would be expedited to curb the menace. He said that 3,145 persons were infected with Hepatitis B and 1,315 were ...*(More on P4)...(15)*