

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Clear	<b>Bamayan</b>	Clear	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	38°C 27°C		32°C 14°C		41°C 22°C		37°C 24°C		35°C 28°C		23°C 08°C		34°C 18°C

**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Pro-Taliban Clerics Meet in Quetta on Succession Row

KABUL - Hundreds of pro-Taliban religious leaders have gathered near Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Balochistan province, to resolve a lingering dispute over who should lead the militant group following the death of its supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, a report said on Thursday.

An American newspaper "Stars and Stripes" quoted unnamed senior Taliban political official as saying that as many as 1,000 scholars with various ties to the Taliban, including some of the group's top religious leaders, began meeting in the area south of Quetta on Wednesday.



Omar's brother Mullah Abdul Manan, eldest son Mullah Mohammad Yaqub and a significant faction within the insurgency oppose the election of Mansoor as the group's supreme leader.

Mansoor has been trying to consolidate power after the group confirmed in July that the organization's founder and longtime supreme commander, Mullah Omar had been dead for at least two years.

There has been controversy over whether Mansoor was legitimately named as the new supreme commander. Mansoor rejected the nascent peace ... (More on P4)...(9)

## Pamir Region Facing Threat of Starvation as Militants Block Supply Routes

FAIZABAD - Nearly 90 percent of the population of the Pamir mountain region is facing major food shortages because insurgents have blocked off key supply routes, local officials of northern Badakhshan province said on Thursday.

Gul Mohammad Bedar, the Deputy Governor of Badakhshan, claimed militant groups have shut down transit routes for communities in Zebak, Eshkkashim, Shighnan and Wakhan districts. He said local authorities lack the capability to transfer food supplies by air.

Meanwhile, residents have reported that health issues related to hunger and malnutrition have already begun to take their toll on women and children living the isolated communities. Some have warned of the potential for mass starvation if action is not taken within the next week.

Reports of conditions in the Pamir region have traveled with residents fleeing the choked districts for cities like Faizabad, which is in the center of the province. Eyewitnesses say Pamir communities have been facing food shortages for over a month. "People are eating radish plants," one Pamir resident in ... (More on P4)...(10)

## Officials Say NATO Tariff Exemption Enabling Bad Business Practices

KABUL - Fuel imported for the NATO forces still in Afghanistan is exempted from custom tariffs. But recent reports by Afghan officials have suggested the exemption distorts competition in the market and enables large amounts of subpar quality fuel to enter the country.

At a time when the Afghan economy is facing a drop off in international investment and public budgeting problems, experts have urged the government to tighten up revenue streams, especially when



it comes to trade through the country's customs offices. "There are hundreds of businessmen who import oil

from foreign countries to Afghanistan with custom tariffs, but, at the same time, large ... (More on P4)...(11)

## Nimroz Insecurity Hampering Uplift Projects: Public Reps

ZARANJ - People's representatives and residents of southwestern Nimroz province complain growing insecurity is hampering implementation of reconstruction projects, blaming the government for negligence to ensure law and order in the area.

The residents, however, expressed satisfaction over security situation in some areas but militants from other provinces sometimes disrupt security situation.

The demanded the government to bolster security and implement welfare projects, especially road construction, building health clinics,



schools, water dams and other construction projects.

A provincial council member Mullah Gul Ahmad Ahmadi said security situation in some parts of the province was good but Khashrod, Dilaram and Chahar Burjak districts were under severe militants' threats.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News that Taliban have sneaked from Farah and Helmand provinces and created security problems for people here. Taliban fire rockets into the center of Khashrod district, storm security posts, kill government officials and ... (More on P4)...(12)

## Mother of ANP Blast Victim Pleads for Help

KABUL - Mansour was an active, serving member of the Afghan National Police's Crime Investigation Department in Kabul's PD8 district when he lost both his legs earlier this week in an IED blast. His wife and two children were also wounded in the explosion.

The incident occurred after a magnetic mine was attached to the vehicle the family was traveling in. Mansour had been taking his children to a clinic for vaccinations when the incident happened in Qalacha.

The officer's devastated mother, said her son had provided security to the people and to politicians but that no one has yet reached out to help him or his family. "I feel pain all over my body, I am a mother and I buried two legs of my son and now half of him remains," Mansour's mother said on Friday.

This was sadly not the first time tragedy has struck the family. The mother said another son of hers, who was an Afghan National Police member, was killed a while back in Pul-e-alam in Logar province.

The devastated mother called on government to ... (More on P4)...(14)

## Violence against Female Journalists Affecting Media Work



KABUL - A new study shows more than 100 cases of violence against female journalists have been registered and that their weak presence is affecting the quality of media work.

The contents of the study were discussed at a gathering titled "Women journalists as preservers of justice and equality" in Kabul.

The study focusing on 150 journalists and 15 officials of media outlets in Kabul and Balkh provinces says underrepresentation of women journalists had a negative impact on the contents, quality and effectiveness of media activities.

Social and Cultural Organization (SCO) head Masouma Mohammadi said advocating improved lives for journalists had been one of their main activities.

About the study, she said, it was aimed at evaluating the situation of female journalists and resolving their problems. She said one of the major problems female journalists faced was the high level of violence against them.

The level of violence against female journalists was higher in Kabul than Balkh province and common people and security

officials were to blame for this, she added.

After common people in Mazar-i-Sharif, it were families inflicting more violence on women journalists, she said.

Based on SCO's figures, since the beginning of the year, more than 105 cases of violence against female journalists have been registered in Kabul and Balkh provinces.

The cases include verbal abuse, threats, physical violence, sexual harassment and beatings.

Of the incidents, 41 cases occurred outside the field, as many in the field and 17 cases at workplaces.

The study finds that gender discrimination still exists against female journalists and 19.5 percent of them work without salaries or for only 3,000 afghanis per month.

Mujibullah Khelwatgar, NAI executive director, said the study should be expanded so that better results and findings could be obtained.

The research, he added, should also be focused on areas where the conflict was ongoing and where more conservative traditions prevailed. (Pajhwok)

## Peace, Beefed-up Security Return to Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Pajhwok Afghan News report regarding presence of illegal armed men in Kunduz City, the provincial capital of northern Kunduz province, forced authorities to improve law and order in the province.

Two months back residents of Kunduz city had expressed concerns that roaming of illegal gunmen had changed the appearance of the city.

After intensified conflicts in Chardara, Khanabad, and Gortapa districts, armed men had flocked Kunduz city, which turned the city into a military zone.

Majority of these men hailing from Khanabad district could be seen around markets and provincial departments.

Recently, local officials have banned armed men around the city turning the appearance of the city back to normalcy.

Shafiqullah Timori, a Kunduz resident, said for a long time armed men with unusual looks roamed around the city freely. "Following restrictions on these armed men, now they are rarely seen in public."

Mohammadullah, another resident, said armed men had turned the city into dangerous place. "Earlier, I used to see armed men everywhere and in every road. I was wondering why the government would not stop them. Some of them had even taken clothes and fruits from shopkeepers by force during Eid."

Preventing those men, he added, was good for the city creating a stable atmosphere for residents.

Brig. Gen. Mohammad ... (More on P4)...(16)

## First Kabul Flight Leaves for Hajj

KABUL - Afghan Minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs Faiz Mohammad Osmani said on Friday that the first flight of Hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia left on Thursday night and has arrived safely in Medina City, the second-holiest city in Islam after Mecca.

The second flight was scheduled to leave Friday morning. In addition he said this year's religious trip is expected to involve 24,250 pilgrims.

He said in preparation for the Afghan pilgrimage, the ministry had rented 21 buildings so as to have enough accom-



modation, both in Mecca and in Medina. He said the buildings all offered good quality service and facilities.

Osmani said that in order to improve the experience for the pilgrims - who have al-

ways had problems in this respect, the ministry had gone all out to ensure improved services.

"We have been able to find out the shortcomings and to ... (More on P4)...(13)

## Logar Schools Under Taliban Control, NDS Arrests Six Principals



ASAD ABAD - Taliban militants in eastern Logar province have established effective control over local education in their stronghold areas, reports from local officials indicate.

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Wednesday detained at least six Logar school principals on accusations that they attended a Taliban meeting.

"Relations shouldn't mean that these residents cooperate with the Taliban. They [Taliban] called these employees to come and sit with them, they even had to take their tests. The Taliban asked to inform them of teacher appointments," Logar Provincial Council Chair Haseebullah Stanikzai said on Friday. "In some remote regions, the Taliban take the attendance of teachers."

In addition to seizing command over school curriculum, however, Taliban militants have also elected to shut down certain schools, especially girls' schools. "Some of the schools have been closed by them; ... (More on P4)...(17)

## Ban Ki-Moon Appoints Tanin as Special Rep for Kosovo

KABUL - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon announced the appointment of Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan as his Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

A statement released on Thursday said that Tanin succeeded Farid Zarif, who will complete his assignment on 31 August.

The Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation for Zarif's successful management of the Mission in a challenging political environment and his dedicated efforts to further peace and stability in Kosovo and the region.

Tanin has, since 2006, served as Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations. ... (More on P4)...(15)

## Pakistani ID Cards Issued to Terrorists for as Less as \$100 Bribe

KABUL - Pakistan has been probing a scandal involving its National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) officials receiving bribe for issuing identity cards to militants.

According to official documents, the country's spy agency the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has uncovered this during its ongoing anti-terrorism operation.

"It has been found that many NADRA officials are involved in facilitating miscreants and terrorists in obtaining fake identity," a correspondence seen by AFP news states. Including a retired army brigadier

and a retired colonel, the names of 40 NADRA officials have so far popped up in the investigation.

Result of the current investigation reveals that the ID cards were issued to al-Qaeda and other militants such as Uzbek, Chinese and Malaysians for as less as 10,000 to 20,000 Pakistani Rupees. 10,000 Pakistani Rupees make less than \$100 approximately \$95.

An ID card was issued to Adnan El Shukrijumah, one of the leaders of al-Qaeda's external operation programme, who was wanted by the US over a plot to attack the subway system ... (More on P4)...(18)