

Jalalabad	Clear	Ghazni	Clear	Kandahar	Clear	Mazar	Clear	Herat	Clear	Bamayan	Clear	Kabul	Clear
	41°C 23°C		28°C 12°C		39°C 21°C		36°C 23°C		34°C 17°C		18°C 5°C		31°C 14°C

Daily Outlook Weather Forecast

Gen. Brown Says He Has Enough Air Power to Step up Afghan Strikes

KABUL - The top commander of U.S. air operations in the Middle East said that if the U.S. were to step up its air attacks over Afghanistan, he has the planes in place to do it.

According to U.S. media reports, Lt. Gen. Charles Brown was quoted as saying in a Pentagon teleconference from his headquarters in Qatar that "it's a task that we can handle with the forces that we have on hand."

The Washington Examiner reported that before this could happen, President Barack Obama would need to order a change in the rules of engagement.



Unlike in Iraq and Syria, where the U.S.-led coalition is enabling local fighters with daily airstrikes in support their offensive operations against Islamic State positions, in Afghanistan, U.S. commanders are limited to conducting airstrikes that fall into

three narrow categories: in self-defense, to attack Daesh or al-Qaeda, or to prevent Afghan forces from being overrun.

According to the article, the Pentagon justified the drone strike against Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour as a defensive strike - because Mansour was deemed an imminent threat to U.S. and NATO forces.

The Pentagon reportedly said the death of Mansour removed "an obstacle to peace," but his replacement Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, has reportedly vowed not to take part in peace talks with the Afghan government and threatened more violence.

The Washington Examiner said members of the U.S. Congress ... (More on P4)...(7)

Karzai Urges Taliban to Join Peace Process



KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai has once again said the war in Afghanistan has been imposed on the Afghans and is being fought in the interests of others.

A statement from Karzai's office said it was repeatedly proved that the current hardships had been imposed on Afghans who were being sacrificed for the interests of outsiders. The death of Mullah Akhtar Mansour across the Durand Line once again proved the current war in the country was the war of others, Karzai said in the statement.

"No human being should enjoy the death of another human being and specially the Afghans should not be happy over the death of another Afghan," he said, calling on the new leadership of Taliban to join peace process and return to their ... (More on P4)...(8)

Kandahari Woman Breaks Traditions to Work as Street Vendor

KANDAHAR - Pushing a handcart to sell cucumbers on the streets in Kandahar city, Kulsoom is the first woman that has dared to break the tribal traditions and earn an independent livelihood.

"Poverty forced me to work and on average I can earn 200 Afghan (around 2.9 U.S. dollars) daily through selling cucumbers on the streets of Kandahar city," Kulsoom, 45, told Xinhua recently.

In patriarchal Afghanistan where people, especially in rural ... (More on P4)...(9)

Gen. Raziq Habatullah Lacks Influence to Unite Splinter Taliban's Group



KANDAHAR CITY - Police chief for southern Kandahar province says that the newly appointed Taliban leader, Mullah Habatullah Akhundzada had no high influence to unite all Taliban militants.

During an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Gen. Abdur Raziq said the Taliban militants would be divided into several groups after the death of Mullah Akhtar Mansour.

Maulvi Haibatullah Akhundzada was elected on Wednesday as successor to Mullah Akhtar Mansour, who was killed in a US drone strike in Pakistan's Balochistan province on Saturday.

"The Taliban's new leader has no enough influence compare to Mullah Mansour, therefore he would be not able to unite all the militants," he said.

Mansour was not only a prominent Taliban official and remained in close relations with Mullah Mohammad Omar, he was also managing all ... (More on P4)...(10)

Construction of Khwajah Rawash Phase-I to be Completed in 90 Days

KABUL - The Ministry of Urban Development Affairs of Afghanistan (MUDA) said Thursday that the construction work of Phase-I of Khwajah Rawash residential project will be completed in 90 days.

According to MUDA, an agreement was signed on Thursday between the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs, Afghanistan Urban Water Supply Corporation, Da Breshna Sherkat, and the heads of contractor of Khwajah Rawash. A statement by MUDA said the agreement was signed in the presence of representatives of owners of the apartments.

The statement further added that the Phase-I construction work of the project will conclude in 90 days with the Breshna Sherkat to provide electricity and the Afghanistan Urban Water Supply Corporation to work on the water supply of the project.

The remaining works of the project will be carried out by the other contractors, including clearance of the apartments and creation of landscapes ... (More on P4)...(14)

Afghan Air Force Participate in 50 to 180 Missions a Day: MoD

KABUL - The Afghan Air Force (AAF) participate in 50 to 180 missions a day to support the Afghan National Security and Defense (ANSDF) forces.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense, Dawlat Waziri, said the Afghan Air Force utilizes the available resources, including combat and airlift equipment to support the Afghan ground forces.

He said the Afghan Air Force provide close-air support as well as logistics support to the Afghan forces in their fight

against terrorism.

The Afghan defense officials said last month that the Afghan Air Force carried out the most missions in mid-April by flying 83 missions over a period of 24 hours. The Afghan Air Force has started the new fighting season with the increased capabilities as several combat planes have been added to the inventory during the past several months. The Afghan Air Force officials have said they have so far received 9 A-29 Super Tucano fixed wing light at-



tack aircraft from the United States as well as surveillance unmanned aerial vehicle which are expected to further boost the capabilities of the Afghan forces. Afghanistan also received 3 Mi-25 gunship helicopters from India last which are in service with the Afghan Air Force. (KP)

Senior Advisor to Paktika Governor Detained

SHARANA - Intelligence officials on Thursday detained an advisor to the governor of southeastern Paktika province for collecting money from government departments in the name of the governor.

A reliable source at the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Paktika told Pajhwok Afghan News that intelligence officials caught Azimi, a senior advisor to the governor, red-handed collecting money from government organizations.

During the arrest of the advisor besides NDS officials, members of the prosecutor's office and court representatives were present, the source said, adding Azimi had earlier also collected money for the governor and had been chased by NDS agents.

Meanwhile, a source at the governor's office confirmed the arrest of Azimi but didn't provide ... (More on P4)...(11)

Afghan War May Not Escalate with Hibatullah Succession: NATO



KABUL - NATO's Resolute Support Mission (RS) in Afghanistan on Thursday said it did not expect the war in Afghanistan would escalate with the election of Taliban's new leadership.

Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, RS spokesman, told a press conference here that Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour was targeted because he was a direct threat to Afghan and coalition forces and he was against peace in the country.

Five days ago, Mansour was targeted by US drones while returning from Iran in the Balochistan province of Pakistan. On the appointment of Mullah

Hibatullah Akhundzada as Taliban's new supreme commander, Cleveland said "the Taliban leadership has two options which are to continue killing innocent people or to join the peace process."

However, he was optimistic about future, saying "it is expected that Mullah Hibat would choose the peace option."

Choosing peace could introduce the Taliban leader as a personality of peace and could also prevent his supporters from dying, he said. Taliban should realize that they could not win the war and ... (More on P4)...(12)

"Keeping History Alive" UNESCO Publication Launched in Kabul

KABUL - "Safeguarding heritage and diversity is more than a cultural issue. It is an issue of citizenship, bringing people together around shared values. To build peace tomorrow, we need to safeguard today Afghanistan's heritage today"

said the Director-General, highlighting the role of culture as a driver for social cohesion and self confidence.

CEO Dr. Abdullah Abdullah highlighted the wealth of the cultural heritage in Afghanistan, and its role in building

a sense of common purpose, especially in turbulent times: "Some have tried to turn our diversity into a liability - but it is clearly an asset and we should be proud of it. Wherever you go in Afghanistan, in Bamiyan or in Herat, in Balkh or in Kandahar, you see how rich this country really is, at the crossroads of civilizations, home to creative traditions like carpet making, wood carving, music... It gives hope and confidence to be a part of this heritage."

The publication looks back at the efforts of UNESCO and other individual and institutional actors to safeguard ... (More on P4)...(15)



Hothkel Residents Owe Millions of Afghanis in Unpaid Power Bills

KABUL - Around 3,000 families in Hothkel locality of capital Kabul owe millions of Afghanis to the power utility in unpaid electricity bills and some families have extended electricity to their homes illegally.

Da Afghanistan Breshna Shirkat (DABS) officials acknowledge the problem and say talks with elders of Hothkel area are underway to find a solution to the issue. Non-payment of electricity dues

Pajhwok learnt that residents of the locality have long been refusing to pay their electricity bills amounting to millions of Afghanis

and some families enjoyed illegal power connections from the main supply lines. Farid Hothkel, deputy head of the local council in Hothkel area in the 9th police district, told Pajhwok Afghan News as many as 3,000 families lived in A and B sections of Hothkel and only 2,000 families had installed electricity meters and 1,000 others used illegal methods to consume electricity.

According Farid, five years ago, the entire village consumed electricity worth 600,000 Afghanis to 700,000 Afghans per month and the ... (More on P4)...(13)

Mansour's Death Splits Taliban, Claim Afghan Officials



KABUL - Afghan security officials on Thursday claimed the Taliban had split into more factions and had weakened after the death of their leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour.

National Security Council (NSC) spokesman Tawab Ghorzang told a press conference here that the Afghan government was closely monitoring recent changes in the insurgency and would benefit from them for peace.

"If Taliban and other militants don't shun violence,

they should meet the fate of their leaders," he said, adding Afghan security and defence forces would continue fighting those hell-bent on unleashing violence against the people and the government of Afghanistan.

He said after the death of Mansour, differences had emerged in the Taliban. Ghorzang also welcomed the US decision to blacklist two Pakistan-based militant groups, saying the Afghan government believed in joint fight and ... (More on P4)...(16)

Heavy Clashes Ongoing in Baghlan

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Heavy clashes are ongoing between Afghan forces and Taliban in Baghlan province, officials said Friday. Police officials in Baghlan said that the main objective behind the operation in central Baghlan is to clear the area of Taliban.

Super Tucano attack aircrafts have also played a significant role in movements of Afghan forces.

"Five villages have been cleared of Taliban and their dead bodies remain on the battle field. Six of them were killed and 11 others wounded but there are no casualties among Afghan forces," said Abdul Rashid Bashir Baghlan police chief care-taker.

Meanwhile Army officials said that the operation will continue until all insurgents have been cleared.

"Our aim was to reach besieged forces and now they don't have any problems - all supplies have been delivered to them and the operation will continue until all villages are cleared," said Ziauddin, an Army commander in Baghlan.

Residents said the Taliban torched many houses before fleeing the area.

"When fighting ended we returned to our homes and almost half the village was destroyed," said Najibullah a resident.

"Taliban burnt everything and we suffered lots of losses," Sayd Amir another resident said.

Currently large parts of Dand-e-Ghori and Dand-e-Shahabuddin are still under the control of Taliban. (Tolonews)