

<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
	37°C 23°C		28°C 12°C		34°C 17°C		29°C 19°C		30°C 12°C		23°C 8°C		29°C 15°C



# Mullah Omar Died of Natural Causes in Afghanistan, Son Says

PESHAWAR - Mullah Omar, founder of the Afghan Taliban, died of natural causes in Afghanistan, his son said in a statement calling for unity and quashing rumours about his father's mysterious death amid a leadership dispute. The dispute within the Taliban threatens a fledgling peace process with the Afghan government and may open the way for Islamic State to expand its toehold of influence. The Taliban in July officially confirmed Mullah Omar had been dead for more than two years, after the Afghan spy agency leaked the news. The next day, a hastily convened meeting appointed Omar's deputy,



Mullah Mansour, as leader. Many commanders and Omar's family were unhappy with the ap-

pointment. Some question why Mansour concealed news of Omar's death for two years. He said it was necessary to preserve unity amid the 2014 NATO withdrawal. Rumours have multiplied amid the splits. "I wanted to assure you that he died a natural death," Omar's eldest son, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, said in an audio tape released on Sunday night and authenticated by Taliban sources. "He had been sick for some time but his condition deteriorated," he said. "We made enquiries from the doctors, it seems he was suffering from HCV (Hepatitis C). "He stayed in Afghanistan even after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan. He died there and was laid to rest there." ... (More on P4)...(9)

## UN Helps over 53,166 Afghans Return from Pakistan



PESHAWAR - More than 53,166 registered Afghan refugees have returned to their country from Pakistan so far during the current year, the state-run news agency reported on Monday. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted their return under its longest-running voluntary repatriation programme, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said. It quoted an unnamed official as saying some 27,234 registered Afghan refugees had gone back to Afghanistan from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during the first nine months of the year. Another 11,758 documented refugees were repatriated from Punjab, 4,295 from Sindh, 6,255 from Balochistan, 740 from Islamabad and 2,884 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir. (Pajhwok)

## MoI Assigns Team to Probe Ghazni Prison Break

KABUL - Ministry of Interior (MoI) reported on Monday that a team of investigators has been assigned to investigate the massive prison break early Monday in central Ghazni province after Taliban blew the main entrance open. The Taliban stormed the maximum security prison just days after the MoI transferred twenty high risk ... (More on P4)...(10)



## Govt. Dismisses Reports that Pakistan Demanded Sacking of Key Officials

KABUL - The Afghan government on Sunday dismissed reports that Pakistan demanded the dismissal of a number of key local security officials, and said that at no time did Kabul receive such a request from Islamabad. Media reports circulating that Pakistan's national security adviser Sartaj Aziz tabled a list of demands during his recent visit to Kabul including one that Afghanistan must oust certain security officials from their posts, includ-



ing Rahmatullah Nabil, the head of the Afghan spy agency - the National Directorate of Security (NDS). Aziz has however confirmed that ties between Kabul and Islamabad have soured following the spate of deadly attacks on the Afghan capital last month. Ties between Afghanistan and ... (More on P4)...(11)

## 23 Afghan Journalists Quit Country

KABUL - 23 Afghan journalists have quit Afghanistan for Europe, NAI supporting open media in Afghanistan announced on Monday. NAI officials say that the 23 photojournalists were working with different media outlets in Afghanistan and left the country collectively

last night. According to NAI, these journalists made the decision for various reasons including security, censorship imposed on media and to pursue a good life. One of the 23 photojournalist who wished not to be named has told NAI that: "The deteriorating security situation,

lack of job security, uncertain future, internal violence and censorship imposed on media made them to quit the country." This is the first time more than 20 journalists leave the country at once. NAI while expressing serious ... (More on P4)...(12)

## Teachers' Strike Closes 71 Schools in Khost

KHOST CITY - Teachers have closed 71 schools in two districts of southeastern Khost province as part of their ongoing strike, affecting 58,000 students. The schools have been closed in Tanai and Gurbuz districts, with the striking teachers saying they are denied land plots the government has allotted to ... (More on P4)...(13)

## 15 Afghan Students Awarded Chevening Scholarship

KABUL - The United Kingdom (UK) government has awarded scholarships to 15 Afghan students to pursue their higher studies at different British universities. This was announced by British Ambassador in Kabul Karen Pierce on Monday, saying the scholarship holders included five women. ... (More on P4)...(14)

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