

(1) Leadership...

because only a few chose him." The Taliban announced Mansoor as their new leader on Thursday and released a purported audio statement from him on Saturday in which he called for unity in the Taliban. That comes after Afghan officials said Mullah Omar died in April 2013 and Taliban officials acknowledged his death. On Sunday, the Taliban issued a written statement purportedly quoting Jalaluddin Haqqani, the leader of the notoriously brutal Haqqani insurgent group, in an effort to quell rumors about his death and further support Mansoor.

The statement, posted to the Taliban's website, quoted Haqqani mourning the loss of Mullah Omar. It said Haqqani backed Mansoor as the Taliban's leader.

"My particular recommendation to all members of the Islamic Emirate is to maintain their internal unity and discipline," the statement quotes Haqqani as saying, using the Taliban's name for Afghanistan. The statement added Haqqani said followers should not be deceived by enemy propaganda.

Haqqani is the leader of the Haqqani Network, a terrorist group based in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas that is believed to have conducted many bloody attacks inside Afghanistan. While it rarely claims responsibility for its attacks, they are usually identifiable by their use of complex tactics, like a large number of assailants including suicide bombers. Haqqani's son was named as a deputy of Mansoor in earlier Taliban statements. Rumors of Haqqani's death have circulated and been denied by militants for the past year.

If Mansoor fails to appease Taliban fighters and field commanders on the ground, the ultimate beneficiary could be the Islamic State group. The rival Islamic extremist group, which already controls about a third of Syria and Iraq with affiliates in Egypt and Libya, has established a small foothold in Afghanistan and is actively recruiting disillusioned Taliban fighters. Meanwhile, as Taliban representatives have attended peace talks with Afghan government officials, the extremists have intensified their attacks on local security forces after NATO and U.S. troops ended their combat mission at the end of last year. (AP)

(2) 5 Year Policy ...

their repatriations to the country. Minister of Repatriation and Refugees Sayed Hussein Alemi Balkhi said, "Efforts are underway to prepare a policy which hadn't been there to resolve the Afghan refugee's challenges and problems, this has been a big need." He also added that 32 Governmental departments are responsible to provide cooperation with the Ministry of repatriations and Refugees to resolve the Afghan migrants and refugees' problems."

Its said that six million Afghans returned to the country in the past several years, but due to insecurity has caused that others not to return to Afghanistan.

Based on the statistics about 3 million Afghan migrants are living in Iran and Pakistan.

The following measurements comes after that insecurity has caused Afghans to leave Afghanistan for European countries, hundreds of Afghans are lined up in Passport department of Afghanistan to leave the country with the legal documentations. (ATN NEWS)

(3) Govt. Fails

"women empowerment and protection". Nazari said the women's empowerment and protection programme had been approved in 2008, but no government institution could practically work on its implementation. She insisted it was every ministry's responsibility to play its part in making the women's protection programme a success. She urged the officials concerned to fully participate in the programme.

Elimination of gender-based violence, improvement of women's capacities, giving decisions-making slots and ensuring their safety and security were the main elements of the programme, she said. According to Nazari, as many as 14 individuals had been appointed in the decision-making body of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), but it was regrettable they included no woman.

"The execution of this programme has been included in the Women's Affairs Ministry's 100-day action plan," said Nazari, who asked participants of the meeting to implement the programme on a priority basis. (Pajhwok)

(4) Aid Groups

Department, Humayun Muhtat, said all preparations have been made, but

that the identity cards' issuance has been delayed on account of political issues.

"Our department will face serious financial problems in the upcoming 15 days if no improvements are made to the draft plan of the e-NIC issuance by the Council of Ministers this week," Muhtat told TOLONews. Meanwhile, the Electoral Reforms Commission (ERC) has reiterated the importance of the e-NIC program to the success of future elections.

"It is difficult to include the e-NIC issuance in a short-term plan," ERC member Assadullah Saadati said. "We want to suggest the e-NIC issuance as part of a short-term plan of reforms in the electoral system. There is a serious need."

Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA), Naeem Ayubzada, has said the program should be rolled out in at least 10 provinces before the next elections. "The e-NIC issuance is a serious need in bringing reforms to the electoral system," he said. "They should implement this process in at least 10 provinces before the upcoming parliamentary elections."

The e-NIC department has been preparing for the rollout process for the past several months. The Census Law has also been approved and there is no major procedural hurdles left, other than a stamp of approval from the executive branch. (Tolonews)

(5) Ghani Undergoes...

Ghani injured his foot a few weeks ago while attending an event to mark World Olympics Day.

No further details were given. (Tolonews)

(6) 100,000 Mosques....

province to inaugurate the hajj complex which cost \$1 million provided by the Ministry of Hajj and Auqaf. He said the complex building had been completed two years ago, but some technical problems delayed its inauguration.

He said the structure had facilities like a teaching centre, kitchen, dining hall, living rooms, a clinic, a mosque and others.

The minister promised to construct a hall for holding seminars at the provincial Hajj and Auqaf Department and a library for Balkh residents. (Pajhwok)

(7) Taliban New....

successor and Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of the Haqqani Network, and Maulvi Haibatullah Akhonzada his two deputies.

On Saturday, the Taliban in a statement said Taliban leaders and members pledged allegiance to Mansour at the Thursday's gathering. Taliban's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid released an audio message of Mullah Mansour's speech to the gathering to media outlets. The audio lasts 34 minutes and voices of participants and Azan (call for prayers) could be heard twice besides the voice of a crying child.

The statement did not say where this gathering took place, but a minister during Taliban's regime, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok that it was held in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Balochistan province.

In his address, Mullah Mansour stressed unity among the Taliban ranks, saying disunity among them just pleased their enemies and created more problems for them.

"The leadership of Taliban council is a huge responsibility that is now placed on my shoulders. This is not an easy task. One or two people could not run the movement, but all have to join hands."

Mansoor said problems and difficulties would increase as some circles would try to create rifts among them, but they would follow into footsteps of Mullah Omar and would not let the gains to be wasted.

Mullah Mansour vowed to utilise all his energies to follow late Mullah Omar and his mission. "We need to be patient and should try to go to those friends who are unhappy. We will have to convince them and take them on board."

He also cautioned against the killing of civilians. "In the name of jihad, the killing of innocent people is not Islamic. We need to win the hearts of people, then we can rule their hearts," he said.

He said insurgency would continue and advised his followers not to pay attention to rumours spread about the Taliban campaign.

"Our goal and slogan is to implement Shariah and an Islamic system, and our jihad will continue until this is done," he said in the message.

Mansoor also mentioned peace talks with the Afghan government, though it was not clear whether he supported them.

The second round of talks between

Taliban and Afghan government representatives that had been expected in Pakistan on Friday was postponed following the announcement of the death of Mullah Omar.

Meanwhile, the BBC reported that Afghan Taliban's Supreme Council had not been taken into confidence over the appointment of the group's new leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour.

However, a spokesman for the group told BBC that Mullah Mansour had not been appointed "by all Taliban" which, he said, was against Shariah. The council will now hold a meeting to elect a new leader, he added.

In his mid-50s, Mullah Mansour served as head of the aviation department during the Taliban government and remained the shadow governor of Kandahar.

Within the organisation, he remained on the supreme council and deputy to Mullah Omar and also headed the political and military division of Taliban, because of which he has been maintaining direct contact with the field commanders.

Taliban spokesman Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi said those who elected Mullah Mansour did not followed the rules.

"According to Islamic rule and principles, when a leader dies, a Shura (council) is called, then its leader is appointed," he added. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghanistan to....

give acceptable outcomes."

The new graduated Afghan National Army officer's vow they are ready to join battlefields and combat against insurgents in the country.

Currently Afghan security forces are fighting against Taliban militants in different areas in the country, the graduation of new officers who will join battlefields will have a positive impact. (ATN NEWS)

(9) Hundreds Migrants....

Turkey's Cunda Island in Ayvalik, where they were given food and drink, before being taken to the Ayvalik Police Department Foreigners Bureau for deportation processing. 268 Syrian and Afghan migrants were apprehended by authorities off the WATERS of the town of Ayvack in the northwestern province of Çanakkale as they were attempting to sneak onto Lesbos.

Three Coast Guard vessels were dispatched to Ayvack's Küçükkuuyu district upon being tipped off that illegal migrants were preparing to sneak into Greece. The vessels 'TCSG-8', 'TCSG-28' and 'SAGEIT-25' conducted operations at the Sivrice, Bademli and Kadırgaburnu locations, where they apprehended 268 migrants, including many WOMEN and children, as they were preparing to depart for Lesbos. The migrants were brought to the Küçükkuuyu pier where they were given food and water before being taken to the Ayvack Police Department Foreigners Bureau for deportation processing.

Additionally, 50 Syrian migrants were apprehended off the waters off the resort town of Bodrum in Turkey's southwestern province of Muğla when their two inflatable boats began sinking as they attempted to sneak onto the Greek island of Kos. Located only four kilometers off the Turkish mainland, Kos is a frequent target for migrants attempting to illegally sneak into Europe.

The Turkish Coast Guard had received a call at 5:00 am local time (2:00 am GMT) on Sunday by a local yacht captain that two inflatable boats full of migrants were on the verge of sinking. A Coast Guard vessel was dispatched to the site, where they rescued 50 Syrian migrants including 12 children and 10 women. Yusufi Cehad (40), one of the migrants, explained that they had originally purchased three boats from Izmir, though one of them had a puncture and was abandoned, forcing them to load all 50 migrants on just two boats. Loaded above capacity, the two boats began sinking into the water, with some of the migrants falling into the water, only to be saved at the last moment by the Coast Guard. (bgnews)

(10) Increasing

for their weddings. Most of them returned back as drug addicted, he added. Ahmad Omaid hails from Takhar said that he went to Iran to earn money for his wedding while returned as drug addicted. "I borrowed four lac Afghans from people to tie the knot to my cousin five years ago whom I loved. The people demanded their money back after two months of my wedding. I decided to go to Iran to take off the debt and I spent four years there. My wife left me by force when she came to know about my drug addiction," he added.

"Drug addiction made me to live without family and out of home even

while living in my own country and area," he lamented.

Maulvi Abdul Samad, head of Ulama council, said increasing wedding expenses caused moral exploitation and drug addiction among youth. "Heavy wedding expenses and inappropriate cultural activities have halted youth from marriages," he opined. The departments' concerned, he said, should take immediate notice of the situation to reduce youth problems.

Aaqebatullah Adeebyar, director information and culture, confirmed heavy wedding expenses and customs prevailed in the province. "We do not have any special branch to reduce dowry but we look forward to clerics to preach against the customs in their sermons," he suggested. (Pajhwok)

(11) Talks with....

Taliban to keep their insurgency on. She alleged the government for having complete understanding with the Taliban in reference with yesterday's ceremony arranged to pray for the departed soul of Mullah Umar.

The High Peace Council (HPC) on Saturday called the demise of Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Umar Mujahid as an opportunity to ensure peace and stability in the war-torn country.

Speaking to reporters, Abdul Hakim Mujahid, HPC acting head, asked the government to make use of the situation and push for stepping up the peace negotiations with Taliban.

On Thursday, the Taliban on confirmed the death of their leader but did not say when or where he died. Omar's health deteriorated in the last two weeks and not for a single day did he go to Pakistan, they said.

Another HPC member Maulvi Peer Mohammad Rohani said he and the Taliban leader had fought against foreigners together and prayed for the departed soul. (Pajhwok)

(12) Lashkargah....

high officials for establishing gas stations. "Not a single plot has been left for government construction in the city."

Atal said he had asked the mayor and other municipality officials to refrain from corruption and illegally grabbing lands, but they continued to do so.

The public representative said several government officials strongly supported the mayor who considered himself not answerable to the provincial council.

"We have valid evidence of corruption in Lashkargah municipality and we ask the central government to investigate it and bring the culprits to justice," he demanded.

The municipality offered no services but collected taxes on various pretexts, he said. He warned the provincial council would take action on its own if the central government did not take immediate action against the mayor. Safiullah, a shopkeeper, said the municipality had failed to provide enough services to the people despite increasing taxes.

He said common people could not visit the municipality office except a handful of individuals involved in secret deals on state property with the municipality officials.

But deputy mayor Ahmad Massoud Selab rejected the allegations of the provincial council chief. He said the municipality's affairs were carried out in accordance with the laws and no one was allowed to introduce their own code of conduct.

He said the issuance of a plot license to two people might be a mistake or a result of some other administrative problems. Selab said the municipality provided every facility to people under its capacity. (Pajhwok)

(13) Gen. Rainey

division. Division-level changes of command don't normally occur in deployed environments. This is the first ever division-level change of command in Afghanistan. You were the Army's first modular division. You led the charge into Baghdad. And your legacy of service in World Wars I and II is well known, particularly with the 55 Medal of Honor recipients who served in your ranks."

Murray, at BAF for nine months, was nominated for promotion to lieutenant general, is awaiting Senate confirmation, and will be reassigned to the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

"Two years ago tomorrow I took command of 3ID that was still deployed in Kandahar," Murray said. "And there have been a lot of changes. Here in Afghanistan, over the past eight months, we went through a change of mission - Enduring Freedom to Freedom Sentinel to Resolute Support. I'm proud of the team we have built here at Bagram Airfield and proud of the relationships we have built with the leadership of Parwan Province and

the leadership at the National Judicial Center. Most of all, I'm proud of the Soldiers, families and civilians of the 3ID, and the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, DoD civilians, and contractors that are all critical team members of team BAF. I couldn't have asked for a better staff either at Fort Stewart or over here."

"I'm honored today to join the ranks of the legendary 3rd Infantry Division," Rainey said. "It's humbling. The dog-faced soldier's record of service and excellence is unquestioned. From the Marne to Baghdad, Kandahar, and Bagram today. I look forward to working with all of our Afghan partners, NATO, and coalition teammates at this critical point in the mission."

Campbell said: "Maj. Gen. Jim Rainey was hand selected to lead this phenomenal division as it continues its mission here in Afghanistan. Jim, you're ideally suited for this command. Welcome back to Afghanistan. Your time and experience both here and in Iraq will serve you well. You have my total confidence. I know you will lead both 3ID and U.S. Forces - Afghanistan teams well. I wish you and all of the Marne team the very best." (Pajhwok)

(14) Kunar

governor said the floods had caused financial losses to residents in nine districts, washing away roads, bridges, dams, residential houses and crops on hundreds of acres of land.

The floods had uprooted about 142 families who received the relief goods including tents, sheets, water tanks, carpets, complete sets of kitchen accessories, 150 kilograms of wheat, 10kg of ghee, 10kg of pulses, salt and biscuits. Provincial Natural Disaster Management Authority director Ghulam Ali Sabat also said the floods had caused huge financial losses to residents in various districts.

He said more than 500 acres of land, 81 hydropower small dams, three mosques, three bridges, 69 water-heads, a nine-kilometre canal, a two-kilometre stream and fruit orchards on about 20 acres of land had been damaged by the floods.

He said a girl had died in the Chapa Dara district due to the flooding.

A resident of Chapa Dara district, Nasrullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Our homes and farm land were washed away by the floods, leaving us in the open without shelter. But today we are happy for receiving the aid."

He urged the government to provide further assistance to the affected families.

Besides Kunar, flash floods unleashed by days of raining had caused damages in Kabul, Paktika, Ghor, Kapsia, Paktia, Logar, Ghazni and other provinces. (Pajhwok)

(15) Senior Taliban....

the morning that Maulvi Habibullah and other militants had been killed in the strike," he added.

Meanwhile, the district chief said that security forces had killed three militants who used to extort money from commuters on main the highway in Qala Taqi area.

Taliban have not yet commented on the incidents but claimed killing two policemen and injuring four others in an attack on a check post. (Pajhwok)

(16) Militants Torch....

Haji Naik Mohammad, head of the local community, said the assistance was for 240 families. "It was planned and decided that the aid would be distributed among families living in area under Taliban control while some would be distributed in nearby areas, had the aid reached to area," he added.

RC office in the province also confirmed aid of 71 families had been burnt in the district but had not mentioned the name of any group. According to RC officials, RC had completed survey and found at least 300 vulnerable families that needed assistance. (Pajhwok)

(17) 17 Taliban....

Mullah Mohammad Omar, the military official said.

Abdul Jamil Sadiqui, the town's administrative chief, confirmed receiving reports about the infighting. He said more Taliban groups had begun either joining the peace process or staging infightings after the death of their supreme leader.

Separately in the same district, six Taliban militants were killed on Sunday when the bomb they were planting to target security forces went off, said Reza. He said the dead included Mullah Bari aka Adam Khan, a landmine-making expert.

The Provincial Council chief, Syed Abdul Baqi Hashimi, said the blast killed four insurgents and wounded another three. (Pajhwok)

(18) 14 Rebels....

The statement said that eight ANA soldiers were also killed in attacks and roadside bombs.

A day earlier, MoD had said that 127 rebels and 12 ANA soldiers were killed in different parts of the country in the past two days, the claims rejected by the militants. (Pajhwok)

(19) Afghan Woman....

allegedly entered their room and inappropriately touched the woman, who was sleeping. She woke up and started screaming.

She, along with her sister, tried to push him out of the room as the accused allegedly molested her, the police added.

The statement further added that the victim fell down in the scuffle, breaking her teeth as Singh fled the room but was caught by a security staff and was handed over to the police.

Max Healthcare issued a statement, saying, "We follow a zero-tolerance policy on any sexual misconduct incident with our employees or patients and their families. We have a comprehensive induction policy for our on-rolls and contractual employees. We also train our employees on compassion and correct conduct. We are highly disturbed about this condemnable incident in the hospital by a contractual employee." (KP)

(20) Flash Flood

The floods occurred in Alingar, Alishing and Dawlat Shah districts due to heavy rains, according to the officials. Every year, flash floods occur in the northern, eastern and western parts of the country and cause widespread destruction at this time of year.

Last week, the National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) said that over a three-day period 12 provinces suffered heavy flooding, leaving in the wake a number of villages facing destruction and loss.

Parwan, Kapsia, Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Jowzjan, Panjshir, Nuristan, Maidan Wardak, Bamiyan and Paktika provinces all recorded heavy rain and flash floods.

In addition 2,500 families suffered major property damage and losses. (Tolonews)

(21) 2 Security Personnel..

"Special Police Unit forces were in their way to their bases when Quick Reaction Forces mistakenly opened fire on them taking them as militants," the source said.

On the other hand, Qaisar police chief said Quick Reaction Force personnel was killed and two others wounded in a rocket attack. The rocket was fired by Afghan National Army (ANA) forces, he added.

However, the 209th Shahin Military Corps spokesman Maj. Reza Rezayee said that the rocket was fired by militants that inflicted casualties on three ANA soldiers and destroyed a vehicle. (Pajhwok)

(22) IAEA Should....

provision by Iran of explanations regarding outstanding issues."

The roadmap enables the IAEA to "issue a report setting out the agency's final assessment of possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program, for the action of the IAEA Board of Governors, by 15 December 2015," he added. (Xinhua)

(23) UN Member

The SDGs are a set of 17 universal environmental, social and economic goals, at the center of the post-2015 development agenda which governments are currently negotiating.

"The conversation has changed because now there is more importance given to the question of domestic resource mobilization in each country," Montiel said. (Xinhua)

(24) US Supports....

vulnerable to politically-motivated disinformation from other sources.

In her final remarks, Ambassador Elliott proposed that the government of Tajikistan and media outlets actively protect and promote citizens' access to independent media in order to lessen the potential for disinformation while also stimulating the industry to be more diverse, competitive, and lucrative. (Asia-Plus)

(25) Pakistan Releases....

Aziz will visit India to discuss several key issues including anti-terror cooperation. The Indian fishermen are likely to be handed over to the Indian officials at the Wahga border on Monday. Pakistan and India routinely catch fishermen who cross water boundaries for illegal fishing. Groups working for the welfare of the fishermen say the fishermen mistakenly enter other's water as the two nuclear rivals have not yet reached an agreement on maritime boundaries. The freed Indian fishermen told reporters that they had been treated well by the jail authorities in Pakistan. (Xinhua)