Leadership Challenged in Afghan Taliban after Mullah Omar

KABUL - The brother of the late figurative head of the Afghan Taliban on Sunday praised a growing challenge to the extremist group’s newly appointed leader, even as it offered a statement purportedly quoting a well-known militant supporting him. Mullah Abdul Manan, the brother of the late Mullah Mohammad Omar, told The Associated Press that new Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour was “selected” by a small circle of his own supporters. That comes after Mullah Omar’s son. Yasir, also wanted Masood Ulama to have the support of the wider Taliban. With both men demanding a new vote, that could throw the leadership of the Taliban into greater disarray as it weighs whether to reissue a final peace talk with the Afghan government or continue in bloody, nearly 14-year insurgency. “I stand with my nephews,” Manna said. “There should be a (grand council) so everyone has a chance to choose their own leader. I do not accept this selection of Mullah Akhtar Mansour.” (More on Pg. 1)

Govt. Fails to Empower Women: Nazari

KABUL - Women’s Affairs Minister Deborah Nazari said on Sunday the government had failed to deliver on most of its pledges regarding empowering women and expanding their decision-making role. “The government has set the agenda and we are on track,” Nazari said. (More on Pg. 6)

Aid Groups Set 15-Day Deadline for Kabul to Start ID Rollout

KABUL - After continued delays at the end of the 2016 National Identity Card (NIC) program, a number of aid organizations warned the Afghan government to clarify their plan for launching it within the next 15 days or face calls for funders to reconsider. Ghani Undergoes Successful Surgery in Germany

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has undergone sur- gery on his foot in Germany and is recovering well, said sources from the Presidential Palace on Sunday. According to them, the surgery was successful. Ghani reportedly traveled to Germany last week and was accompanied by his personal physician. (More on Pg. 5)