

(1) Dostum Warns

in the last two years following directives by others and they were kept unaware about the death of their leader. About the Taliban new leader's statement in which he stressed on intensifying the war, Dostum said he knew Mullah Akhtar Mansour well and wanted him and other Taliban to put down their weapons and end the decade long conflict in Afghanistan. The government wanted Taliban to join the peace process; however, in the case of denial the groups would be defeated and perished by the valiant Afghan security forces. Gen. Qadam Shah Shahim, chief of the armed forces, said as many as 300 militants, including Pakistani, Uzbek and Chechen, had been killed in clearing operation codenamed Shamsheer in the past two weeks in the province. He alleged foreign spy-networks for supporting terrorists in Afghanistan and said that militants were purged of several localities of Faryab with the help of uprising groups. Over hundreds security men thanked 1st vice president for visiting Faryab to boost the morale of security forces. (Pajhwok)

(2) Tehran, Kabul....

Iranian Border Guards Commander Brig. Gen. Qassem Rezayee and his Afghan counterpart Maj. Gen. Shafiq Fazli in the Afghan city of Nimrouz, the two sides voiced readiness to do their best to boost security of joint borders. Gen. Fazli said Afghanistan has been engaged in a war against terrorism, Al-Qaeda and drug traffickers for more than three decades, and expressed the hope that through unity and brotherhood existing between the border guards of the two countries the enemies would be defeated soon. The Iranian commander said that both Tehran and Kabul are resolved to secure joint border in a bid to pave ground for glorifying of their trade interactions. (Pajhwok)

(3) Officials Attended

regarding Pakistan's behavior and games." Interior Minister Noor-ul-Haq Ulumi said: "The news of Mullah Omar's death is a good message to our forces. It also conveys this message to the enemies that the path to war only leads to their failure and destruction." Ulumi said the officials who did propaganda on behalf of the enemy from inside the government should be dealt with sternly. "Unfortunately, it has been seen that even in Kabul some officials have attended the mourning ceremonies of Mullah Omar." Officials of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) have said that directives have been sent to all provinces not to allow any mourning ceremonies for Mullah Omar. Sattar Murad, economy minister, said: "Unfortunately, the nation becomes upset after seeing some situations. Taliban do not spare anything against our people but in front of the members of this government and High Peace Council a terrorist is being remembered as a Mujahid." Abdul Bari Jahani, information and culture minister, said the National Directorate of Security (NDS) should identify those people who had given the president false information regarding Mullah Omar's Eid message based on which the president had thanked him. He added the issue should be taken seriously otherwise next time also false information would be given to the president. (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghans Have

portive of national reconciliation since the Soviet invasion and never took part in the civil strife. When the Taliban emerged in Kandahar 20 years ago, Mohammad recalled, he had tried his level best along with some of his associates to bring about a patch-up between the fighters and Mujahideen leaders. In this regard, he had paid a flurry of visits to the southern province. "When the Taliban captured Kabul, we continued our efforts and stayed in touch with militia leadership in the capital. We also contacted Prof. Abdur Rab Rasool Sayyaf and Ahmad Shah Massoud. Regrettably, our frenzied efforts yielded no significant result," he said. Even after the Taliban government's ouster, the advisor said, they had pushed ahead with the reconciliation drive. A member of the joint Afghan-Pakistan Peace Jirga, he attended a number of conferences on the topic. After being nominated as Nangarhar governor in the early years of Hamid Karzai's rule, Mohammad underlined the imperative of peace at the inaugural ceremony for the Akhundzada Mosque in Hadda area of Jalalabad - a call that drew criticism from some elements.

During a visit to the main provincial jail, the ex-governor once again reaffirmed his aversion to war and urged all sides to reach a negotiated settlement. "The militants are also Afghans. We will have to talk even after killing a hundred individuals." The peacenik has this message for opponents of dialogue: "We should go for parleys before we spill more blood. If we embrace our disgruntled brothers, the enemy will not get the chance to meddle in our affairs."

About the creation of the High Peace Council, he said differences among members of a society were a natural phenomenon and there had to be some mechanism to resolve those disputes.

"At times, the differences lead to serious problems. In such a situation, someone has to work for reconciling the warring sides," observed Mohammad, who had been promised appointment as chief negotiator by then president Hamid Karzai after his electoral victory.

But rifts emerged Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani and Sibghatullah Mujaddedi when the High Peace Council was about to be set up, said the ex-governor. "As a result, I declined the slot to settle their row."

He acknowledged criticism of HPC's composition as valid, saying a peacemaker should be acceptable to both warring factions. But he said the situation in Afghanistan was different and the group that constantly fought against the Taliban had to lead the council.

About peace efforts on domestic and foreign fronts, Mohammad said: "I think all strategies and recommendations should be considered. We have to work with all those trying to achieve peace on how to make use of different views in this regard."

Asked about Pakistan's role, he said an individual asked Mullah Naseeruddin how long he would take reaching a certain village. Naseeruddin told him to go on. The question was thrice repeated and he came up with the same answer.

When the man resumed walking down the road, Naseeruddin told the man the approximate time he would take to reach the village. The man asked why he was required to thrice ask the same query. To this, Naseeruddin said: "I didn't know much about your speed." "We can practically see how sincere Pakistan is in cooperating with the Afghan peace endeavours. But there is a dire need for cooperation from the neighbour," he remarked, insisting there was no solution to the Afghan imbroglio other than peace. Before the Afghans lose control, they should arrive at some conclusion. (Pajhwok)

(5) 48th ASEAN....

will be a huge step towards making the ASEAN motto 'One Vision, One Identity, One Community' a reality," said Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak at the opening ceremony. The ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, the bloc's roadmap for the next ten years, is also expected to be adopted this year. By establishing the ASEAN Community, the region is hoping to enhance its role as a global player and take a more active role in the international community, according to Najib. He expressed belief that an increasingly integrated ASEAN is on course to be the world's fourth largest economy in 2050, and it is time for ASEAN to fulfill its potential. "The unity between our nations has never been stronger," said Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman at the opening ceremony, who also showed great optimism. A series of related meetings will be held following the foreign ministers' meeting, in which ASEAN's dialogue partners, including China and the United States, will take part and exchange views on regional issues with the bloc. (Xinhua)

(6) India Praised....

and expected to be completed in nine to 12 months. The reconstruction of Salma dam started during the tenure of Sardar Mohammad Dawoud Khan decades before but it was halted because of the war in the country. The project was restarted in 2005 and scheduled to be completed sometimes in 2016. (KP)

(7) Herat Airport....

Italian government would fund the direly needed project. Sakhidat Rasouli, the airport director, told Pajhwok Afghan News currently the airport was ready for international flights, but due to lack of passengers there were no international flights. "Earlier, we had direct flights to India and Pakistan, but Safi Airways announced that due to lack of passengers they had lost 100 million afghans," he recalled. Rasouli added, with the expansion of

the airport and building new terminal more facilities would be provided for passengers.

The airport was reconstructed with the help of Italy and the US four years back at a cost of \$2 millions but according to local officials it was inadequate. (Pajhwok)

(8) 'Thousands of

the responsibility of health ministry to stop the import of unhealthy milks inside the country. Currently 70 percent babies, he said were fed by their mothers in the first hour of their death and 60 percent in the first six months of their birth. He said it was not a satisfactory figures and the government would try to explore ways for spreading awareness message in this regard.

According to statistics, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said as many as 100,000 children under the age of five lost their lives out of which 47,000 died due to malnutrition. (Pajhwok)

(9) 'Pakistan Needs....

had informed it about the death of Mullah Omar, there was no official response from Islamabad.

Similarly, he said that though Pakistan had brokered the recent Afghan-Taliban peace talks, the authorities were reticent about its role earlier. He called upon the government to take the house into confidence about the negotiations.

During the proceedings, the Senate witnessed an exchange of harsh words between chairman Rabbani and Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal who was trying to convince his fellow senators not to discuss the issues that damage the country's image. (Pajhwok)

(9) Afghan Taliban

have a small but growing presence in Afghanistan.

The Kunduz governor's spokesman, Abdul Wadood Wahidi, said around 50 Taliban fighters in the province's Archi district joined the IS three days ago after being offered money. This set off fierce fighting between the rivals and the Taliban arrested the defectors, he said.

The incident, Wahidi said, "shows there is a fracturing among the Taliban ranks."

The Afghan government, meanwhile, banned any public mourning for Mullah Omar, saying late Monday that it would cause "anguish and humiliation" for those who have lost loved ones to the war with the Taliban.

A statement from the National Directorate of Security said public gatherings to commemorate Mullah Omar's death would be a "legitimate military target." (AP)

(10) Hiding Mullah....

mentioned where and when he had died.

Taliban announced Mullah Mansoor's appointment with the consent of the group but Mullah Abdul Manan—Mullah Omar's brother—opposed Mullah Mansoor's appointment in an audio interview.

Media reports said that prominent Taliban leader had not participated in the gathering when Mullah Mansoor was nominated while few other leading leaders left the gathering as a protest against Mansoor nomination.

Supreme council of Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan had also opposed Mullah Manoor's nomination and announced that the council would announce new leaders after Mullah Omar's memorial ceremonies were over.

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, rejected the news of differences within the group and tweeted on Tuesday that western media spread the news of differences among Taliban. He suggested to contact Taliban media office for accurate information regarding Taliban related issues. (Pajhwok)

(11) Negotiations Best....

maintained by troops along Line of Control (LoC). "We are fully prepared to respond to entire spectrum of threat." COAS said.

Referring to ongoing peace talks between Afghan Government and Afghan Taliban, COAS said, it is the only credible way to achieve lasting peace. "Detractors and spoilers are against peace and prosperity of Afghanistan and the region." (Agencies)

(12) Taliban Reject

administration in eastern Nangarhar province has confirmed his contacts with Mullah Yaqoub.

This comes after Abdul Zahir Qadir, first deputy speaker of Wolesi Jirga or Lower House of the parliament, claimed that Pakistan's secret agencies have killed Mullah Mohammad Yaqoub.

As per the reports, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoub, 27, is the eldest son of Mullah Mohammad Omar who is

standing against Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor to take the charge of Afghan Taliban.

He is reportedly graduated from a Madrasa (religious seminary) in Karachi city of Pakistan. (KP)

(13) Gatherings....

thousands of Afghans and any commemoration or mourning ceremonies for him were an insult to the thousands of martyrs of the nation.

It said all security and defence forces had been directed that such rallies were "a legitimate military target." The statement urged local residents not to participate in such sessions.

The statement claimed Mullah Omar had been mysteriously killed in April 2013 in a hospital in Pakistan's port city of Karachi.

Also on Monday, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Seddiqi told a press conference that a handful of individuals who had the blood of Afghans on their hands took part in memorial ceremonies for Mullah Omar.

Without going into details, he said the people knew the individuals who participated in the commemoration sessions.

Two days ago, the High Peace Council acting head Abdul Hakim Mujahid and some Harkat-i-Inqilabi Islami Party members attended a memorial service for Mullah Omar in Kabul. (Pajhwok)

(14) Bereaved

help stop recurrence of such tragic events in future.

Wafa offered condolences to the bereaved families of Jalrez incident on behalf of president.

Khogyani said that 560 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were provided with edible and non-edible items. The families displaced due to insecurity in their areas.

The governor said that a survey team found at least 560 deserving and vulnerable families which were supported by UNHCR and World Food Program (WFP) in coordination with refugees and repatriation directorate of the province.

The edible items consisted of 150 kilograms of wheat, 10 kilograms of pulses, salt and 11 kilograms of edible oil, he said, adding that UNHCR provided three blankets, two tarpaulins, two buckets, set of kitchen, water buckets, soap and a medical health care box to each family.

Shams-u-Rahman, an IDP from Narkh district, thanked the organization for assistance and demanded more assistance on emergency basis to resolve their problems. (Pajhwok)

(15) Kabul Police....

number of homeless people and drug addicts in Kabul - many of which are women and children.

Footage broadcast on TOLONews shows groups of people ravaged by opium and other street drugs and portrays their desperate plight.

Afghanistan remains at the top of the list in terms of poppy cultivation - which is used to produce heroin - a highly-addictive street drug.

Although just a small portion of the poppy cultivated is used by drug users in Afghanistan, recent reports state that the total number of drug users in the country is about three million. (Tolonews)

(16) Kabul Surgeons....

small and large intestines. We were successful in separating their intestines and dividing them between the two babies - equally," he added.

Meanwhile, the father of the baby girls, Haidar Ahmad, said he didn't believe that his babies could be separated from each other and survive. "We had no hope that they will remain alive. But when we came here, the doctors' operation was successful, and now the baby girls are alive and are separated from each other," he said.

Conjoined twins are rare in the world. There are one or two conjoined twins in 10,000 births of twins. This is the first time that conjoined twins underwent such a surgery in the country. (Tolonews)

(17) Afghan Taliban

Manan - rejected the decision, calling for a wider election and revealing a rift within the movement.

Lately, Taliban fighters have been defecting to the Islamic State group in northern Kunduz province, and the two rival militant groups have increasingly fought it out there. The IS, which already controls about one-third of Syria and Iraq, is thought to have a small but growing presence in Afghanistan.

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factors, he said.

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(18) Red Crescent....

Rasoolyiar had allocated a land for construction of office building in the city. He reassured that Afghan security forces would follow rules and principle of wars during the fight.

Dr. Esmatullah Qazizada, a senior RC official, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they provided artificial limbs to war and polio affected persons and more than 100 persons mostly war affected contacted them on daily basis.

RC had the capacity to reach to needed and affected persons on time, he added. (Pajhwok)

(19) Kandaharis Snub....

hour, demand of all Afghans and the Islamic law. The destination of the people issuing a jihad decree in Afghanistan would be hell, the scholar ruled.

Attallah Atta, a provincial council member, said Taliban were divided into two main groups - one supportive of talks and the other intent upon fighting. He viewed differences between the groups as a setback to the country and asked the militants to go for talks for the stability sake.

Ahmad Shah Spar, a civil society activist, said: "We should learn from past experiences since Pakistan had nominated Omar as the supreme leader of the faithful. Pakistan then received 51 aircraft from the US, using Omar and later announced his death at a crucial time. Nobody has seen his body."

President Ashraf Ghani has done all he could to pressurise Pakistan to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table and travelled to Saudi Arabia, China and several other countries to muster their support, Ahmad Shah said, blaming Islamabad's dubious role.

The Afghans, who expected Mansoor to support dialogue, were disappointed by his announcement. The Taliban chief should not forget the destiny of his predecessors living in Pakistan like Mullah Omar, Mutasem Agha Jan, Mullah Baradar and others, he said.

He asked the government to welcome the peace process besides focusing on training Afghan forces to crush terrorists' infiltration from neighbouring states. He also urged the new Taliban leader to stop killing innocent Afghans with financial resources and weapons from outsiders.

Eng. Kabir Darwesh, civil society activist, said the numbers of widows, orphans and martyrs already too high and both sides should go ahead with peace talks. War was in no way in the interest of the Afghans and Mansoor must take back his statement. (Pajhwok)

(20) Baghlan Residents....

have brought about positive changes to the lives of people."

Some local elders, however, blasted some projects for poor quality, calling them waste of money.

Shah Mohammad, head of farmers' cooperative in Dahan-e-Ghori district, said dozens of kilometres of protective walls have been built, sans any quality.

"Majority of these walls are weak and cannot withstand heavy floods. Some of them have already been destroyed," he added.

Mohammad Nasim Mudaber, a local elder from Andarab district, said: "these projects have not been distributed evenly in all districts. For example in Baghlan-e-Markazi district more than 200 projects have been implemented, while in Burka district around 20." (Pajhwok)

(21) Paktia Towns....

continued telecom services for their businesses. He said the problem had emerged a few months ago and in the past, they did not face such suspension of the telecom services.

A shopkeeper in Samkani district, Haji Muallim, held similar views and said the limited telecom services had created many problems for local residents.

He said there were fewer security problems in Paktia when compared to some other provinces, but the province faced more telecommunication problems than other provinces.

In the Lazha Mangal district, only MTN Telecom Company has been operational. Lal Marjan, a resident of the district, said: "For years, telecom networks had not been working prop-

erly in our district. Even the only service (MTN) could be hardly accessed near the district centre."

He said people travelled to other areas for making calls or climbed mountains. (Pajhwok)

(22) University Graduates.

deputy head of the University Support and Workforce Development Program (USWDP) project and an organiser of the conference, told Pajhwok Afghan News the \$92 million USWDP was being financially supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Launched in August last year, USWDP is aimed to improve administration and academic quality in Afghan universities by training faculty members and students to international standards, improving the quality and relevance of academic programs, and enhancing the accreditation system within the Ministry of Higher Education.

Dr. Jabbarkhel said the project also aimed at strengthening relations between public sector universities in the eight economic zones and the private sector and paving the ground for the private sector to exploit the potential of university graduates in economic development and creating jobs for them. (Pajhwok)

(23) 9 Welfare....

of houses in three villages and construction of protective walls.

More than 1,600 families would benefit from potable water facilities and 300 more families from other services. Mohammad Humayun Barlas, Feroz Nakhchir district chief, urged residents to cooperate in protecting the facilities and overall security of the district.

"Without people's cooperation, security problems would rise and no project would be implemented," he warned. (Pajhwok)

(24) US to Speed

cooperation will be enhanced." Kerry added that there was also agreement to "talk about how to integrate the region's ballistic missile defences based on some of the activities of other countries". (AFP)

(25) Mediterranean....

Europe's doorstep," said IOM director general William Lacy Swing.

Though the inflows of migrants to Italy and Greece have been similar this year, 97,000 and 90,500 respectively, there is a significant discrepancy in the number of recorded deaths, with approximately 1,930 migrants losing their lives trying to reach Italy compared to about 60 individuals dying on their way to Greece.

IOM indicated that it expected more migrants to attempt the hazardous crossing to reach European shores as summer progresses.

Figures show that 1,607 migrant fatalities were reported last year over the same period, and that 3,279 lost their lives in 2014 alone. (Xinhua)

(26) Obama Faces....

If implemented, coal's share of electricity generation in the country would fall to 27 percent by 2030, EPA chief Gina McCarthy said in a briefing on Sunday.

"Climate change is no longer just about the future that we're predicting for our children or grandchildren," said Obama in an announcement in the White House. "It's about the reality that we're living with every day."

According to the new plan, all U.S. states are asked by the EPA to design their own plans to reach carbon reduction goals assigned to them by 2030. If a state fails to submit its plans by September of 2016, the EPA will impose its own plan upon it unless the state applies for an extension period to finish its plan. (Xinhua)

(27) Qatar's FM....

region," he said. Qatar is an important U.S. ally in the Gulf, hosting American bombers, support aircraft and the forward headquarters for U.S. Central Command at its vast al-Udeid air base.

It also splits control of a vast underwater natural gas field with Iran, a fellow OPEC member. It has long positioned itself as a venue for mediating thorny regional conflicts, and it last week hosted a visit from Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who has made outreach to his Arab neighbors a priority. More work must be done to build confidence on both sides, including on the issue of "interfering in other countries' internal affairs," he said. (AP)