

### (1) New Taliban....

Pakistani officials if they had known about Mullah Omar's death before it was announced. They also said they were surprised. This came as a sudden shock to them," he noted.

The US government had no reason to doubt Pakistan's position, he said, adding only small group of Taliban leaders and family members had knowledge of Omar's demise. "So I think, this came as a surprise to all of us. Really the situation we find ourselves in is how to respond to this..." (Pajhwok)

### (2) Pilgrims be ....

Afghan pilgrims. The president hoped that Hajj process would be completed peacefully and all the pilgrims would come back without facing problems. The statement said the pilgrims had been provided more facilities this year as the prices of airfare had reduced and more comfortable living place had been selected for them in Makkah and Madina. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Govt. Lacks ....

There is lack of commitment among leaders to overhaul the election system."

He, however, demanded the ERC to work in coordination with civil society organizations and other watchdogs so that the target of a transparent election system in the country could be achieved.

He said last presidential elections were the worst in the history of the country, which gave birth to current economic, security and political challenges.

Ahmad Saedi, a political analyst, said the ERC was comprised of representatives of government leaders and it was a political body that had no self powers.

The analyst said such commission should be apolitical with self-powers so they could work independently produce result.

Earlier, the ERC chief had said the government was committed to bring drastic reforms to the election system to ensure free, fair and transparent ballot.

The commission formally began getting suggestions from political parties, civil society organizations, women rights activist and international stakeholders regarding reforms to the electoral system.

Shah Sultan Akefi said the commission wanted to make the process transparent and the government was committed to bring reforms to the body.

The ERC reassured to evaluate all conditions for which election commissioners got nominated and would incorporate changes to the laws in order to ensure neutrality during elections.

The commission was formed following a presidential decree and officially started work last week. The panel is headed by Shah Sultan Akefi. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Carter Assures ....

to support it for years and years and years -- not with direct combat support but financially and with advice and assistance," Carter added.

In response to a question, the defense secretary said the situations in Afghanistan and Iraq were different and the two countries could not be compared.

"The two situations are very different. In Afghanistan, we have a government that warmly welcomes US support for the building of the Afghan security forces, that commands them in a nonsectarian manner," he explained. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Gen. Dostum ....

making militia groups in the north. "Those who make these statements are very short-sighted people." These statements come as the CEO's Office has warned Pakistan that if it fails to dismantle terrorist sanctuaries, Afghanistan will - with the help of the international community - directly hit militant hideouts on the other side of the Durand Line.

Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News, the CEO's Cultural Advisor, Sayed Aqa Hussain Fazel Sancharaki, said that the Afghan National Unity Government's stance is clear toward neighboring countries especially Pakistan.

He said: "We often told Pakistan to demonstrate sincerity in fighting against terrorism otherwise Afghan security forces are capable to eliminate militants' sanctuaries inside and outside the country." Relations between Kabul and Islamabad have soured considerably in the past few weeks, especially

after Afghan intelligence sources accused Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) of carrying out the spate of attacks against Kabul - attacks that left almost 50 people dead and over 400 wounded.

Following mounting criticisms against the government of Pakistan, the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan, Janan Mosazai, was summoned by Islamabad on Wednesday.

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry while meeting Mosazai conveyed Pakistan's concerns over the recent spate of allegations leveled against them. (Tolnews)

### (6) Council of ....

for International Development (USAID) have already cut off further aid for the electronic ID program because of the halting process. The European Union (EU) has warned it could halt funding as well.

The pilot phase was initially intended to start on August 19, which coincided with Afghanistan's National Independence.

"We hoped that the Council of Ministers would have discussed two important topics concerning e-NIC: including the timeframe for the exact launch of the distribution process and how to prevent complete termination of financial assistance to the department," e-NIC head Ezmarai Baher said on Friday.

According to Baher, a total budget of 100 million USD has been made available by international donors for supporting the e-NIC program. But disagreements between NUG leaders is said to have gotten in the way of a smooth trial distribution. Now, officials report some 800 employees working at the e-NIC department have not been paid their salaries for months.

"This situation not only damages national spirit but also damages our self-confidence, it indicates that we, the Afghans, can't do anything," Afghan journalist Sayed Zia Danish said of e-NIC delays.

"The problem emerged during Karzai and continues," political analyst Bakht Mohammad Bakhtyar said. "We are losing time and the government must act." (Tolnews)

### (7) 'Foreign Propaganda...

introduced themselves as civil society activists, but in fact they worked for promoting the agenda of the Taliban. "I mean they work for promoting violence through their poetry and messages."

Asil Jan Mehboob, who came all the way from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to attend the workshop, told Pajhwok Afghan News that he would share with the youth in his area many things that he learned at the workshop about violence. He urged the youth to work for peace and development.

Another participant, Attiqullah Mutmain, a civil society activist from western Herat province, said the government should provide jobs to the youth.

"For combating violence and prejudices, the youth from different provinces need to be brought together to combine their efforts against these evil thoughts."

The LIO office said similar workshops would be organized in other provinces for the same purpose. (Pajhwok)

### (8) US Blocks ....

Minister Nawaz Sharif's scheduled visit to White House in October, media reports state.

The US has been reimbursing Pakistan for operations and maintenance costs incurred in direct support of its operations in Afghanistan since 2001. So far \$13 billion USD has been reimbursed to Pakistan under this arrangement. The CSF arrangement was supposed to end with the completion of the drawdown in December 2014, but the US government late last year extended the program for another year through legislation which envisaged additional conditions, including a requirement for certification by the defense secretary that military operations in North Waziristan have significantly disrupted the safe haven and freedom of movement of the Haqqani network in Pakistan.

The certification has to be made by the US defense secretary to congressional committees after every six months.

The last tranche of \$337 million USD was received by Pakistan last month. The non-certification will affect the disbursement of the next installment.

It comes at a time when the US is discussing the future of CSF post-2016.

Doubts have been expressed in the past by both the US and Afghanistan that the Haqqani network has been spared in the Operation Zarbi-Azb. But it's the first time that the US has taken such a harsh step.

It also shows how seriously the Americans take the continuing threat posed by the Haqqani network, whose current chief Sirajuddin Haqqani earlier this month took over as Taliban's deputy chief during the succession in the insurgent group that followed the disclosure about Taliban chief Mullah Omar's death.

Pakistani military has, however, been insisting that "terrorists of all shades" were targeted in Zarbi-Azb launched in June last year.

The operation is in its final phases and the ground offensive for clearing Shawal valley is expected soon. The military has over the past few days stepped up air strikes against terrorist targets in Shawal, killing dozens of terrorists and "damaging their (terrorist) infrastructure, including an ammunition dump". Despite differences over the Haqqani network, the US has been appreciative of the North Waziristan operation.

Some US officials have, however, been cautious in media comments regarding their assessment about the impact of operation on the Haqqani network as they say: "We welcome Pakistan's public commitment that the operation is and would be indiscriminate."

But they wouldn't be more specific about their assessment.

They further say that it is important that terrorist safe havens do not re-emerge in the area. (Tolnews)

### (9) Pro-Taliban....

talks with the Afghan government in his first address after being elected as the supreme leader. In Quetta, Yaqob has recognized the gathering's authority, but Mansoor, who claimed he already has the official vote of the Taliban's leading council, has not, the source told the American newspaper.

A Taliban military commander in Helmand province told Stars and Stripes that he had been informed of the gathering, but said he could not confirm if the agenda would be limited to leadership issues.

He said similar gatherings had been used in the past to work out a variety of issues related to the Taliban's organization. Either way, the meetings are a clear effort to unify the group, the commander concluded.

While declining to confirm the specifics of these meetings, Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban said the group's religious scholars had been seeking to resolve the dispute for some time.

Earlier, the rival factions had approached a top religious leader Maulana Saimul Haq, the leader of his own faction of Jamiat-i-Ulema Islam (JUI-S) in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to help resolve the succession row.

Omar's brother Abdul Manan had told Pajhwok Afghan News and other media outlets that they had not been consulted on the appointment of Mansoor as the Taliban's new leader. He had said the Taliban's central leadership would soon make a decision in this regard.

A Taliban commander in southern Afghanistan told Pajhwok Afghan News over the telephone that he was informed about the gathering in Quetta.

He said he did not know if the gathering had reached any decision, but added that a number of Taliban commanders wanted to join the peace process but they needed guarantee of their security. In August, Pajhwok Afghan News reported that Maulvi Haibatullah Noorzai, a top deputy to Mansoor, narrowly escaped an assassination attempt when unidentified gunmen attacked his convoy in Pakistan's Baluchistan province. Noorzai and the head of the Taliban's leading council, Maulvi Abdul Kabir, were in the area to try to drum up support for Mansoor. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Pamir Region ...

Faizabad told TOLnews. "If the government doesn't care, then we will not have no option but to support any side," he added, suggesting that local residents may be forced with no choice but to embrace their Taliban occupiers in order to eat.

In addition to security threats, lo-

cals say the closing of five joint bazaars along the border of Afghanistan and Tajikistan are another cause of the food shortages.

"If government officials do not focus on the border districts, undoubtedly, a number of people will face starvation," Badakhshan Provincial Council Deputy Qutbuddin Qader said. (Tolnews)

### (11) Officials Say....

volumes of oil are being imported without custom tariffs, which creates unhealthy business competition," Oil Importers Association chief Azerakhsh Hafizi said on Thursday. "Businessmen are not prepared to import oil under such circumstances," he added.

Ministry of Finance (MoF) officials have confirmed that issues exist when it comes to duties and regulation of fuel imports, but emphasized that NATO forces have been asked to report their fuel procurement details every four months to ensure that proper accounting takes place.

"We asked the NATO officials to clarify their needs for oil every four months, that way for misuse of oil imports through NATO is prevented," MoF spokesman Ajmal Hamid Abdul Rahimzai said. Last week, the Afghanistan National Standard Authority (ANSA) reported NATO's tariff exemption was a major reason behind the Afghan fuel market being flooded with low quality product. (Tolnews)

### (12) Nimroz Insecurity....

plant roadside bombs, he informed.

Ahmadi said that the 215th Maiwand Military Corps forces stationed in Shorabak district of Helmand should also take part in ensuring security of Nimroz province.

"No development projects have been implemented in Kashrod district, only three schools are active which are supported by local elders. Militants are likely close these schools where 800 students are getting education," he said.

The residents of Nimroz were co-operating with the government to ensure security, but the government should implement welfare projects, Ahmadi added.

Mohammad Sabir, a resident of Nimroz province, said law and order situations were good in some parts but Khashrod and Dilaram districts were unstable where uplift projects could not be initiated.

"We want government to clean our canal, construct our road and build health clinics here" he said. He said militants took control of all areas of Khashrod district except its center and Zaranj-Dilaram highway. He added the government should clear the areas under rebels' control and implement construction projects.

Khashrod district chief Mohammad Hasham Noorzai also confirmed growing insecurity in his district.

He said only villages around the district center were stable while around 50 villages outside the district were under militants influence.

All militants in Khashrod were forced by Afghan forces in Helmand to flee but they established their hideouts in this district, he said.

Noorzai added current number of security forces was enough for maintaining security in the district but more forces were needed to launch clearing operations.

"The militants' supply convoys cross through Khashrod district to Herat, Farah and Ghor provinces," he said, adding that mafia groups were also a cause of instability in the region."

The level of drugs cultivation is high in Nimroz province. But local officials say that Nimroz is the transit route for drug traffic from Kandahar, Helmand, Farah and Herat provinces to Iran and European countries.

Some people complain the government is negligent to implement reconstruction projects in secure areas.

Suhrab, the development council head of Chahar Burjak district, said major problem of the residents was unpaved and bumpy road. He said patients sometimes lose their lives on the road to hospital.

He added that farmers were also facing troubles transporting their products to market due to lack of a proper transportation road. Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Dilawar Shah Dilawar said three weeks ago militants conducted a large attack on Khashrod district

but their attack was repulsed.

He said security forces were able to maintain security in the province. Dilawar said efforts were on to bring stability to insecure areas and pave the ground for implementation of reconstruction projects. (Pajhwok)

### (13) First Kabul ....

remove them," he said.

He also stated that President Ashraf Ghani is closely monitoring the situation - which will see pilgrims being flown between Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia in different stages over the next four weeks.

"We have considered best services ever for pilgrims and the residences are very close to the places of worship."

"For the first time, we have signed contracts with the world's two largest catering companies so as to ensure food for our pilgrims," he said.

"We have flights from all four zones but about 13,000 pilgrims will leave from Kabul airport," he added.

Afghanistan has a 23 day window period in which to fly in its pilgrims, he said.

Osmani said recently that his ministry had cut costs for this year's Hajj by \$10 million USD.

Osmani, who had been reporting back following a Saudi Arabia trip last month said: "We have a \$10 million USD decrease in this year's Hajj expenses."

The minister said that a delegation of 13 officials had spent a month in Saudi Arabia to make arrangements for Afghan pilgrims.

The Hajj minister said at the time that the holy Zam Zam water will also be distributed following an agreement reached with a Saudi company.

"The holy Zam Zam water will be sent to Afghanistan by reliable Saudi companies and then we will distribute them to the pilgrims," Osmani said.

In addition, he said that savings on air tickets for pilgrims had also been achieved after Ariana Afghan Airlines won the contract to transport pilgrims to Medina and to Jeddah.

"About a \$250 USD decrease has been achieved per ticket and this year the Ariana tickets are cheaper," Osmani said. (Tolnews)

### (14) Mother of ....

support her son in his recovery and to assist his children and wife.

"I want the government to provide medical treatment for my son and to support his children and wife. My son was a police officer and was defending the people, but he is poor," she added.

Mansour's brother also spoke out: "We have lost hope in this government. I request the international community to reach out and help and do something for his treatment." (Tolnews)

### (15) Ban Ki-Moon ....

In this capacity, he served as the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform (2008-2014), the Chair of the fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (2014), Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people (2006-2015) and the Vice-President of the sixty-third, sixty-fifth and sixty-seventh sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

Prior to this, the statement said Tanin was an analyst, producer, and editor at the BBC World Service from 1995 to 2006; and a research fellow in International Relations at the London School of Economic and Political Science of the University of London from 1994 to 1996.

Tanin graduated from Kabul Medical University in 1980. Born in 1956, he is married and has two children. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Peace, Beefed....

Qasim Jangalbagh, Kunduz police chief, said after receiving complaints from residents they decided to restrict them and seize their weapons.

He said for many days through local television channel they urged the armed men not to enter Kunduz city and those who did not comply were arrested and their weapons seized.

According to local officials more than 7,000 illegal armed with majority of them in Khanabad district existed in the province creating security

issues to the people. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Logar Schools ....

the Taliban even closed down Darul-Hifaz and Darul-Ulomo, so not only the school girls, they also closed religious centers, claiming that these institutions are funded by the government," Stanikzai told TOLnews.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has not provided any comments regarding the arrest of six school principals in Logar, but said it welcomes the help of the NDS.

"Education centers aren't the place for political and military activities, and anyone who tries to conduct such activities in Afghanistan's education sector will get a reaction," MoE Publican Department head Mohammad Kabir Haqmal said. "The Afghan intelligence and security forces are authorized to deal with them." (Tolnews)

### (18) Pakistani ID....

in New York City in 2009. The US had announced a bounty of \$5 million US dollars on top of his head.

Born in Saudi Arabia, Shukrijumah had also spent some times in the United States but killed in military operation in South Waziristan in 2014.

The investigation further reveals that a total of about 50,000 ID cards have been issued illegally in Pakistan. (KP)

### (19) 7 Militants....

the fight and said "both parties used heavy weapons but I don't have exact information about casualties." Security forces had defused landmines in the area, he added.

The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

### (20) 3 Students

hammadullah confirmed the incident and said "people have told me that Taliban fired the rocket launcher." The injured student was shifted to a hospital for treatment, he added.

Security forces and Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

### (21) 6 Rebels Dead....

not yet commented about the operation but claimed killing a policeman and injuring three others. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Petrol Prices....

one gram Arabic gold was 2,000 and the price of one gram Russian gold was 1,650.

Moneychanger Ahmad Shah said buying rate of one US dollar was 63,40afs, while 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 607 afs. Last week's exchange value of one dollar stood at 63.50 afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 607afs. (Pajhwok)

### (23) 2 Civilians ....

of Kunduz. Separately, a man who sexually abused a 10 years old boy was arrested by police in Kunduz.

Provincial police spokesman Sayed Sarwar Hussaini said the man on Wednesday took the boy to a house and abused him. The victim boy was stated to be in critical condition and was shifted to Kunduz zonal hospital for treatment, he added. (Pajhwok)

### (24)S. Korea,....

Korean soldiers were maimed on Aug. 4 following the explosion of landmines, which South Korea claimed had been planted by the DPRK. Pyongyang denied any role in the blast. (Xinhua)

### (25)EU Says ....

there is full backing for the stability support for the program just signed by Greece," Breidhardt said, adding that "Regardless of elections, reforms can now be implemented."

"There is no need for a new political decision for the reform to be implemented," Breidhardt noted. (Xinhua)

### (26)N. Korea's....

War state", KCNA quoted him as saying. The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff responded with a direct message to the KPA, urging it to refrain from any "reckless acts" and warning that it would react strongly to any further provocation. (AFP)