Afghan Gov’t Confirms Mansoor’s Death, Taliban Rejects

KABUL — Afghan officials on Thursday denied reports that the Afghan Taliban’s leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor was injured in a gunfight in the country’s southwestern Baluchistan province.

Mansoor’s spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has also denied the reports as “false propaganda” by the Afghan intelligence agencies.

In response, the official source said that no plane deal involved with the Taliban would be in accordance with the country’s Constitution.

He accused the government of breaking the ceasefire and said the parties will continue to talk to secure the future of Afghanistan.

US-Afghan Operation Frees at Least 40 Prisoners

KABUL — An Afghan and U.S. official said Friday that a joint military operation has freed at least 40 Afghan prisoners from a Taliban prison in the southern Helmand province.

A statement from the U.S. mission in Afghanistan said that special forces from the two countries carried out a joint operation on the prison in Nangahar province.

President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday stressed the need for collective efforts to be adopted to control the refugee issue by changing the narratives and the country’s approach to managing the county.

Pentagon Accused of Spending $150M on Luxury Villas

KABUL — The military oversight body urged the Senate to look into over $150 million in contracts for luxury villas in the U.S. for U.S. military personnel.

The Department of Defense’s inspector general said in a report that money saved in defense costs could be used to improve the quality of life for service members and their families.

Chinese FM to Attend Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan

KABUL — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will attend the ministerial conference on Afghanistan scheduled in Islamabad from Dec. 8 to 9.

The conference is expected to bring about meaningful cooperation between the Afghan government and the international community.

Quote of the Day

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.