

## 5 Taliban officials removed from sanctions list: UN

AFP, United Nations

A UN Security Council panel said Tuesday it has removed five top Taliban officials from its list of individuals subjected to sanctions imposed over their links with al-Qaeda.

A statement said the panel on Monday "approved the deletion (de-listing) of the five entries" from its blacklist of individuals subjected to a travel ban, assets freeze and arms embargo.

The move coincided with an announcement by Afghan President Hamid Karzai that he would press for Taliban names to be removed from the UN blacklist at a major conference on Afghanistan in London Thursday.

Karzai hopes to win Western support at the London talks for a plan to offer money and jobs to persuade Taliban fighters to lay down their weapons.

The five officials removed from the UN list are Abdul Wakil Mutawakil, who was foreign minister under the now ousted Taliban regime; Faiz Mohammad Faizan, a former deputy commerce minister; Shams-US-Safa, a former foreign ministry official; Mohammad Musa, a deputy planning minister; and Abdul Hakim, a former deputy frontier affairs minister.

The UN statement said Abdul Hakim broke with the Taliban and has been governor of the Afghan province of Uruzgan since May 2007 while Mohammad Musa has been an elected

member of parliament from Wardak province since May 2007.

A Western diplomat said the five were now believed to be "moderate Taliban officials" with whom Karzai could start a dialogue.

The UN blacklist had been established under UN Security Council Resolution 1267, adopted in October 1999 for the purpose of overseeing implementation of sanctions imposed on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan for its support of Osama bin Laden's extremist network.

Under the resolution, UN member states are required to impose travel bans, an asset freeze and an arms embargo on any individual or entity associated with al-Qaeda, bin Laden and/or the Taliban.



Taliban fighters display their weapons during a patrol in Ghazni province on January 23. The commander of Nato-led troops in Afghanistan has said foreign fighters allied with the Taliban cannot be "reintegrated" into Afghan society and some may have to be killed or captured.

## China-Tibet talks resume amid bitter climate

AFP, Beijing

Talks on Tibet's future resume this week after a 14-month hiatus that has seen China tighten its grip on the Himalayan region, leaving few signs Tibetan autonomy hopes will be realised soon, observers say.

Representatives of the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama's exiled Tibetan government were to meet at an undisclosed location in China for the intermittent and secretive talks for the first time since November 2008.

## 'Gulf should not allow Iran attacks from US bases'

AFP, Kuwait City

Iranian parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said yesterday that Arab states in the Gulf should not allow the United States to launch attacks on the Islamic republic from bases in the region.

"States in the region which house US military bases should know that these bases must not be used against Iran. The region should not become a launchpad for aggression against Iran," Larijani told a news conference in Kuwait.

Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, all members of

the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, are home to major US military bases. Bahrain is home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet.

Larijani, however, assured Gulf neighbours that Iran "does not want to inflict any harm on the GCC states," and charged that the United States was scaring the Gulf from Iran to promote its presence in the region.

"I believe that for the sake of having new military bases in the region... and control over its resources, the Americans and Zionists are trying to scare the region from Iran," he said.

## Indo-Pak leaders asked to avoid public spats

ANI, Washington

US Joint Chiefs of staff Admiral Mike Mullen has urged India and Pakistan to restrain themselves from publicly accusing each other and to avoid disputes which could further destabilise the region.

Addressing the third annual US Central Command chiefs of defence conference here, Mullen said issues can be discussed resolved privately without raking up public anger.

"I think it's really important that we work as hard as we can with each other, and that any kind of public accusations or public finger pointing, quite frankly, that does not serve any of us well. That doesn't mean we won't have disagreements. But I hope that we can do that privately, and not publicly," The Dawn quoted Mullen, as saying.

## Bomb kills 3 children in NW Pakistan

AP, Peshawar

A bomb planted near a house in northwestern Pakistan exploded yesterday after children playing nearby tried to open it, killing three of them, said police.

The blast partly destroyed the house in Nanger Khani village in Upper Dir, an area near Pakistan's volatile Afghan border, said police official Gul Zameen Khan. Police are investigating why the bomb was placed there, he said.

Pakistan has been plagued by rising violence from a Taliban-led insurgency that has declared war on the government.



Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi (L) and his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahayan attend the Friends of Democratic Pakistan conference in the Gulf emirate of Dubai on Tuesday.

## Development key to Pak battle against terror: FM

AFP, Dubai

Development programmes in violence-plagued areas of Pakistan are an essential part of the country's fight against militants, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said in Dubai on Tuesday.

"Holding and building violence-affected areas (is) fundamental to achieving a decisive victory against terrorism," Qureshi told the Friends of Democratic Pakistan conference.

"All our efforts against terrorism and extremism will come to naught should we fail to address their root causes," he said.

"Poverty and socio-economic deprivation are being exploited by the terrorist outfits" to recruit young people into militant organisations, he said.

Qureshi said that failure to address economic problems may sap Pakistani public support for further operations.

"If we fail in looking after the local population and their lives do not change for the better, the public support for operations in the Fata (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) region may not hold," Qureshi said.

## Recruitment of a Communications Specialist

Cowater International Inc. (www.cowater.com) is the executing agency for a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), "Strengthening Comptrollership and Oversight of Public Expenditures" (SCOPE). This is a capacity development project, working with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG) of Bangladesh. We are seeking applicants for a part-time consultant as the **Communications Specialist**. The primary responsibilities of the Communications Specialist will be to assist SCOPE, working closely with OCAG and an international Parliamentary Relations Expert to:

- develop and refine external communications strategies and action plans, including a Public Relations Handbook, PAC Handbook and Media Handbook;
- develop and refine internal communications strategies;
- lead orientation workshops and seminars for OCAG;
- help OCAG to establish a Communications Unit;
- provide advice with respect to the development of an OCAG website; and
- provide ongoing assistance to OCAG with respect to their communications activities, including press releases, media lock-ups in advance of tabling audit reports.

Desired qualifications include the following:

- relevant University education at the undergraduate level and preferably graduate level;
- at least 10 years of directly relevant experience;
- experience in developing or improving handbooks, guides, and other tools;
- familiarity with the work of Supreme Audit Institutions;
- very good understanding of the public sector in Bangladesh
- demonstrated skills and experience in facilitating workshops or other training events;
- fluency in English; and
- excellent communication and writing skills.

The anticipated level of effort for the position is approximately 4 months between February and June 2010, then approximately 4 months per year (part-time) for the next two years. Applications are being sought from individual consultants only, not from firms and other organizations. Please send your CV and remuneration expectations by **10 February 2010 to:**

Peter J. Armstrong  
Field Project Manager  
SCOPE Project  
2nd 12-Storey Government Building  
(9th floor), Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.

Applications can also be sent by fax or by email:

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