



LATEST: [Journalists blame officials for concealing facts](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [Advertise](#)

Welcome



[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Politics & Government](#)

[Business, Economics & Reconstruction](#)

[Education & Culture](#)

[Society, Health & Environment](#)

[Security, Crime & Accidents](#)

[Sports & Entertainment](#)

[Elections](#)

[Photo Service](#)

[News Archive](#)

[About Us](#)

Advertisements



## In Ghazni, Taliban FM radio goes on air

Sher Ahmed Haider - Aug 8, 2009 - 20:52

GHAZNI CITY (PAN): Less than two weeks ahead of the presidential and provincial council polls, a Taliban FM radio station has gone on the air in the troubled southern province of Ghazni.

Radio Shariat, which daily broadcasts three-hour programmes at 88 megahertz in Qarabagh, Giro and Andar districts, is a typical Taliban mouthpiece, asking Afghans to stay away from the election process.

A spokesman for the FM radio says the station has been set up in the mountainous area of Shahi Kot, lying south of Gardez, capital of the southeastern Paktia province.

But FM broadcasts cannot be heard clearly over such a long distance. The station airs religious programmes, poetry praising Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), pro-Taliban songs and commentaries on daily occurrences.

For the Taliban movement, which previously relied on independent media outlets, websites and night letters in spreading their views, the radio station represents a significant step in the propaganda war.

Speaking on behalf of the Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid told Pajhwok Afghan News the radio station was the most effective communication tool for the fighters.

He claimed the guerrillas were in control of enough territory in Ghazni, where they could freely run the FM radio, which could be listened to in a 50-kilometre radius from the provincial capital.

In order to convey their message to the masses, Mujahid added, Taliban had set up similar radio stations in Paktia, Paktika, Kunar and Nuristan provinces.

Authorities in Ghazni City, when approached for comments, said they had no information about Radio Shariat. However, they promised to probe the launch of the radio station.

The Qarabagh district chief said he had not yet personally listened to Radio Shariat broadcasts. However, residents informed him of the pro-Taliban programmes aired on a daily basis.

Mohibullah Khpalwak said Radio Shariat was a mobile station airing its programmes from a vehicle parked in a far-flung mountainous area.

Listening to the radio for the past two weeks, a Qarabagh resident said the broadcasts tended to be disorganised at times. "Just like me, Radio Shariat has many listeners," Siqquallah added.

Radio Shariat also has listeners in the Taliban-infested Andar district, whose dweller Ziaullah hears its programmes every evening. The resident said he enjoyed listening to songs on the radio.

mud

Pajhwok Photo Service



KABUL, Aug 09, 2009 : A female vendor arranges her bangles as she waits for customers on Froshgah Road here on Sunday. PAJHWOK/Lataria Farshad

Advertisements



[Contact Us](#) | [Jobs](#)