

Quote of the Day

A weak man has doubts before a decision, a strong man has them afterwards.

Karl Kraus

Ghani Vows to Uncover Truth Behind Kunduz Collapse

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said on Thursday that three commissions have been established to probe the Kunduz crisis and that those responsible for the situation will be brought to justice.

In a media briefing over the Kunduz siege, Ghani said that until a full investigation has been conducted, it was premature to hold someone accountable for the fall of Kunduz to the Taliban.

He however stressed that right now all focus should be on clearing Kunduz from insurgents.

"First we need to save Kunduz then we must go after those responsible for the incident," he said.



He declared that the insurgents had taken the fight to the north because of the gas pipeline project which he said is vital for Afghanistan.

According to Ghani, the north will be very important for the next ten years and that the enemies are trying to disrupt infrastructural development projects.

In addition, he praised the security forces for their sacrifices in defending the country.

Touching on the issue of spies within the government - which has lately been referred to as the fifth pillar of government - Ghani said: "I have personally instructed the ... (More on P4)...(1)

Ibrahimi Wants Kunduz Operation Continued



KABUL - Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi on Thursday called for the ongoing military operation in the capital of northern Kunduz province to be continued and stressed better administrative management there.

Kunduz City fell to the Taliban late on Monday after they mounted a three-pronged attack on the city on the night

between Sunday and Monday.

But on Thursday, the Afghan security forces wrested back the entire city from the Taliban during a counter offensive that began last night and is still ongoing.

Ibrahimi told reporters in Kabul the Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation should provide ... (More on P4)...(2)

First Lady Calls on Youths to Have Confidence in NUG

KABUL - Rula Ghani 'Bibi Gul', the First Lady of Afghanistan has called on youths to have confidence in National Unity Government. Rula Ghani said on Thursday that the government has been busy for improvement. "Government was busy for improvement. It is following the outcome. You are the future of Afghanistan. Government wants to build a bright future for you. You can trust the National Unity Government," she said.

Rula Ghani advised youths to be united and fulfill responsibility for the reconstruction of the country.

Her call comes as thousands of Afghans, most of them youths, are leaving the country every month because of insecurity and lack of work. An envoy of Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations in Iran said earlier this week that up to 60,000 Afghans are crossing the border only into Iran every month.

Mohammad Asif Durzabi said ... (More on P4)...(6)

No Change in Policy on Afghanistan: WH

WASHINGTON - Pledging support to the Afghan government, the United States said on Wednesday it was monitoring the situation in northern Kunduz province.

A White House (WH) spokesman told reporters in Washington that at this point the US had no policy announcement to make with regard to America's presence in Afghanistan.

"The US continue to monitor efforts by Afghan National Defense and Security Forces to retake Kunduz. The US



and coalition forces are providing advisory support and have conducted a limited number of air strikes," Josh Earnest said. He added the US would continue to work closely with President Ashraf Ghani, the Afghan government and its international partners to ensure that ... (More on P4)...(3)

Mohaqqiq Asks for NGO Support to Rescue Kunduz, Wardoj Victims

KABUL - Haji Mohammad Mohaqqiq, the second deputy of Chief Executive Officer of National Unity Government (NUG), Abdullah Abdullah on Friday met delegates from various national and international humanitarian organizations to help those affected as a result of the recent Taliban attack on Kunduz city and residents of Wardoj district in Badakhshan. The fall of Kunduz last week left many civilians homeless. ... (More on P4)...(7)



... (More on P4)...(7)

NATO Hopes for Better Security Environment in Afghanistan

KABUL - NATO on Thursday expressed satisfaction with the overall security environment in Afghanistan, saying local forces were fully capable of taking charge of security affairs.

Top NATO security officials expressed the views during a change-of-command ceremony in Kabul. Maj. Gen. Gordon B. Davis took charge of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTCA) from Maj. Gen. Todd T. Semonite.

CSTCA headquarters in Kabul provides assistance to the Afghan security forces in management, budgeting, accountability, planning and execution of projects, as well as rule of law.

Semonite said they had tried their best to utilize aid to Afghan security forces in a proper manner in the past 13 months, with CSTCA working closely with Afghan officials in different areas. The American general acknowledged President ... (More on P4)...(4)

Stanikzai No Recurrence of Kunduz Failure in other Provinces

KABUL - Acting Defence Minister Masoom Stanikzai on Friday called the fall of Kunduz a tragedy and a bad experiment that would not be allowed to unfold in other parts of the country.

Speaking to reporters here, he paid tributes to the security officials and said Afghanistan had been fighting a covert war, in which the enemy was aided by unknown sources.

On the night between Sunday and Monday, hundreds of Taliban gunmen stormed Kunduz City from various directions, capturing the strategic town after a few hours of clashes with security forces.

Earlier, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Siddiqui told Pajhwok Afghan News the security forces had launched a special operation on Wednesday night to drive militants from the city.

He said the security forces were able to take control of the ... (More on P4)...(5)

Taliban Failed to Move Mullah Mansour to Kunduz: Gen. Murad

KUNDUZ CITY - Afghan deputy Army Chief, who is leading the Kunduz battle, said on Friday that the Taliban intended to move their new leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour to Kunduz after capturing the city earlier this week.

Gen. Murad Ali Murad said however that the insurgents failed to do so after the security forces launched two operations in Kunduz - which fell to the Taliban on Monday after hundreds of armed insurgents stormed the prov-



ince, over ran government facilities and blocked all main routes leading to Kunduz.

"Taliban wanted to have control over Kunduz and bring Akhtar Mansour to the province to ... (More on P4)...(9)

Sharif Pledges Continued Support for Afghan Peace Process

WASHINGTON - Tensions between Kabul and Islamabad were not in the interest of either side, Pakistan Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif told the United Nations said Wednesday.

"Pakistan will persist in the endeavour to help resume the dialogue process and promote peace and stability in Afghanistan. We can, however, do so only if we receive the required cooperation from the Afghan government," Sharif said.

In his address to the UN General Assembly, he noted Pakistan-Afghanistan relations had undergone a positive transformation after the

installation of the national unity government in Kabul. "In response to the request from the Afghan government and with the support of the international community, Pakistan ... (More on P4)...(8)

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60pc of Kabul Bank Looted Money Recovered



KABUL - More than 60 percent of the money stolen from Kabul Bank has been recovered, Da Afghanistan Bank officials said on Thursday.

The bank, once the country's largest private lender, nearly collapsed after revelations that most of its money had been loaned to its politically powerful managers and shareholders and their associates to fund reckless investments and beachfront mansions in Dubai.

Subsequently, two senior shareholders were removed and the government took the bank's control.

Sher Khan Fernud, Khalil Ferozi, Mohammad Husain Fahim, Mahmood Karzai, Gulbahar Habibi, Abdul Ghafar Dawi, Mohammad Ibrahim, Sofi Nisar, Tahir Zahir, Daud Nasim were among those violating Article 34 of the bank law by misusing

customers' deposits. Last year, reports appeared in the media about the bank losing \$300 million due to mismanagement, cronyism and dubious lending.

Khan Afzal Hadawal, central bank's deputy governor, told reporters in Kabul almost 60 percent of the total embezzled money had been recovered.

He said the government had injected \$825 million to the bank since it went into crisis and it was up to the government to collect money from debtors.

He said people who had assets in Kabul should be ready sell their properties to the government if they failed to deposit cash they owed. He termed the Kabul Bank crisis as huge and argued that such issue required much time to be resolved. (Pajhwok)