

(1) Ghani Vows ...

National Directorate of Security [NDS] chief to identify those who work as [double agents] within the government."

Furthermore, he reiterated that Pakistan had entered into a undeclared war against Afghanistan. "We have defined it as a 'undeclared war' and Pakistan has accepted this definition," he told the journalists.

Once again the president said that the terrorists were entering Afghanistan from Russia, China, Chechnya and especially Pakistan.

"The war is imposed on us, and we are engaged with a wily enemy," Ghani said, pointing to Pakistan who has long been accused of harboring terrorists on its soil. This was the second time in a week that Ghani appeared before the nation over the issue of Kunduz - which fell to the Taliban on Monday. (Tolonews)

(2) Ibrahimi Wants ...

needed facilities to the displaced families in Kunduz.

The lower house speaker said though Afghan forces had recaptured the provincial capital, fierce clashes were still ongoing in many parts of the city.

Ibrahimi identified the delay in launching operation in Kunduz and improper administrative and security management as the main reasons behind the fall of Kunduz City.

A day earlier, spymaster Rahmatullah Nabil told the Wolesi Jirga after being summoned that a massive planned operation in Kunduz had to be delayed for some reasons.

"There are many reasons behind the fall of Kunduz City and one of the reasons is that the governor of Kunduz was an incompetent and inexperienced person who had been unable to run the affairs in a proper way."

President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday dismissed Kunduz governor Mohammad Omar Safi and appointed his deputy as the acting governor.

Ibrahimi informed that the lower house had appointed a delegation to investigate the fall of Kunduz City and the investigation would reveal why the city collapsed.

The speaker stressed better management of security affairs and said: "We have full trust in the ability of our security forces. Our demand from senior security officials is that the search operation in Kunduz should continue until all areas of the province are cleared of militants."

Under the Acting Law, Ibrahimi said an acting official could not perform his/her duty beyond two months and the acting defence minister was performing his duty against the law.

President Ghani appointed Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai as the acting defence minister on June 24 this year after his nomination as the defence minister-designate was rejected by the Wolesi Jirga.

Without going into details, Ibrahimi said a large number of people had migrated from Kunduz to other areas during the past four days.

He said most of the displaced families had moved to Zangal area of Imam Sahib district, where they faced a number of problems. He urged the ministry concerned to assist the displaced families with needed relief goods. (Pajhwok)

(3) No Change...

Afghan forces had the capabilities and training necessary to preserve the gains that have been made over the last 13 years.

"When it comes to policy decisions, I don't have a lot of news to make in this regard, but there are two observations that I have," he said in response to a question.

"The first is that the president, when accounting these decisions in the past, when it comes to our military commitment to Afghanistan, has routinely noted the conditions on the ground influence that policy process," he remarked. Before arriving at any decision, he explained, the US continue to monitor efforts by the Afghan government and security forces to retake Kunduz, and that would factor into a longer-term assessment of conditions on the ground, Earnest concluded. (Pajhwok)

(4) NATO Hopes ...

Ashraf Ghani and his cabinet ministers had pledged to bring reforms to procurement procedures, eliminate corruption and ensure rule of law.

He said the purpose of CSTCA's continuing assistance to Afghan officials was aimed to help enhance the capacity of the local security personnel in different areas.

He hoped continued international assistance would help improve the situation in Afghanistan. Semonite believed Afghan security forces were fully capable of bringing peace and stability to the country.

New CSTCA's head Davis praised the previous leadership and pledged all possible efforts to protect past achievements. He said his main objective would be enhancing the capacity of the Afghan forces so they could safeguard their country.

He stressed transparency and accountability, believing the Afghan force were capable of handling their security affairs.

Gen. John F. Campbell, Resolute Support (RS) mission chief, said: "The CSTCA personnel must feel proud of the hard work they are doing in support of Afghan security forces." (Pajhwok)

(5) No Recurrence ...

entire city during the operation that continued until 3:30am. NATO forces also provided air support, Siddiqui added.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed the security forces had wrested back Kunduz City despite strong resistance from militants.

In a statement, the MoD claimed 150 insurgents had been killed and 90 others wounded in the offensive. The forces had reached Bala Hesar hilltop, pushing back the Taliban from Pul-i-Rahmat Khan area.

Interior Minister Noor-ul-Haq Ulumi, who was also present at the press conference, said the security forces had taken the control of Kunduz City. He spurned rumors that the government was too weak to retake the strategic province.

Rahmatullah Nabil, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) chief, said the government forces had been under immense pressure after security transition from foreign troops. The Afghans must convert challenges into opportunities to steer their country out of crisis, he stressed. (Pajhwok)

(6) First Lady...

that every day up to 2,000 Afghans are crossing the border which in one month is 60,000.

He said that most of these people are trying to reach out to European countries through Iran.

In several occasions Afghans have lost their lives while illegally crossing the border into other countries, having traffic accidents or suffocation inside the shipping containers. (KP)

(7) Mohaqiq Asks ...

"According to statistics, thousands evacuated the city and sought refuge in Takhar province and Kalafgan including 500 who are trapped in Sher Khan port. We want to know what the ministers and charity organizations are doing to provide them necessary assistance," he said.

Referring to the fall of Kunduz, Mohaqiq praised the courage and determination of Afghan troops, saying that Afghan forces showed that they can handle threats and are ready to thwart plots.

"The advance of the security forces proved that they had enough capability to compensate whenever a threat is posed," Mohaqiq said.

This comes at a time that a Kunduz MP Fatima Aziz has announced a hunger strike in protest over the situation.

"Our people do not have a morsel of bread, they are in extreme need and can not come out, we are here on strike to attract the attention of international organizations and the UN to come to their support," Fatima Aziz said.

"My whole family has been trapped in Kunduz war, please help the people," a resident of Kunduz said.

According to reports, residents in Kunduz are being subjected to horrific ordeals. (Tolonews)

(8) Sharif Pledges ...

made strenuous efforts to facili-

tate the reconciliation process," he added.

Dialogue did begin between the Afghan government and the Taliban, which was an unprecedented first, the premier observed, regretting that certain developments stalled the process.

Later on, militant attacks in Afghanistan intensified, which were unequivocally condemned by Islamabad. "We are encouraged the international community, including major powers, desire continuation of the peace process in Afghanistan."

Sharif appreciated China's proactive role in promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region. "We welcome China's vision of One Belt, One Road. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will spur regional economic integration..."

He also welcomed Russia's greater focus on Asian cooperation. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which Pakistan would be joining this year as a full member, offered great promise for promoting regional connectivity, he believed. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban Failed...

hold a press conference there and also show their existence in Afghanistan and that it is through support of Pakistan," the four-star Afghan general said.

Briefing the foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani who is also in Kunduz, Murad assured the people of Kunduz they would clear their province from insurgents and continue the operation until the insurgents are eliminated.

"The situation in Kunduz is under our control. However we are not allowing families to return back to their homes until we are not fully sure about the situation," said Murad, who is also the Afghan National Army (ANA) Ground Forces commander.

In addition, he explained that the Taliban had carried out severe brutalities and also looting sprees during their attack on Kunduz.

"What they [Taliban] have done to the people of Kunduz was different from those in other parts. They have looted people's properties, stolen vehicles and also women's jewelry. They have also killed a number of people at their homes," he added.

Rabbani, meanwhile, praised the security forces and also assured the residents of Kunduz that their province will soon be cleared of insurgents.

"We have come here to tell our security forces that the entire nation is standing behind them," Rabbani said.

Meanwhile, the Amnesty International also expressed deep concerns over what it said "terrorize of Kunduz residents" by the Taliban and said the group was involved in mass murders and gang rapes in the province.. (Tolonews)

(10) Peace will...

150 insurgents had been killed and 90 others wounded in the offensive. The forces had reached Bala Hesar hilltop, pushing back the Taliban from Pul-i-Rahmat Khan area. (Pajhwok)

(11) Over 300 ...

huge threats of Taliban counterattacks.

According to Sharif, the airstrikes by the foreign troops have proved helpful for the Afghan forces in eliminating the insurgents.

He said however that families who have been trapped in their homes are facing food shortages. The Kunduz city center collapsed into the hands of the Taliban after hundreds of insurgents, armed with light and heavy weapons, launched a well-planned and coordinated attack on the city on Monday.

After the city fell to Taliban, the militants stormed the government facilities and also attacked the prison, freeing all 600 inmates, including 110 Taliban members.

The troops inside the city are battling the insurgents and have retaken several parts of the city. But the reinforcement troops have still not been able to make their way to the city as the highways are blocked by the Taliban. (Tolonews)

(12) Security ...

generations to come and to overcome impediments of challenges to security, to sovereignty and to unity," former Indian foreign minister Salman Khurshid said.

Many from Karzai's previous administration believe that Afghanistan has always been harmed by Pakistan and some other gulf states, accusing them of been involved in supporting and funding terrorist groups to destabilize Afghanistan.

According to Spanta, Taliban and other militants associated to Daesh are making foreign policy tools of the countries who Afghanistan believe to be backing terrorism,

"One of the Muslim countries located in Afghanistan's neighborhood somehow constitutes the biggest hideout of the terrorists," he said. "Almost 80 percent of terrorist attacks had been carried out in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Nigeria and Syria during 2013." Meanwhile, local officials and organizers of the event have said that Afghanistan has major potential in attracting international investments, calling on the nation's allies to come forward and invest in the country. (Tolonews)

(13) Taliban Seize...

ministry of spokesman Dawlat Waziri said.

"Issues which have emerged in Badakhshan are under our study and soon we will address these issues," spokesman to ministry of interior Sediqq Sediqqi said.

Wardoj district saw some of the fiercest battles between Taliban and Afghan forces over the past two years. Unrest in the district has left several casualties among Afghan troops. A few months ago, 16 troops were killed in a Taliban ambush.

Wardoj collapsed just days after the Taliban this week got control of the strategic city of Kunduz in northern Afghanistan - the first such incident since a U.S -led western coalition toppled the regime from power back in 2001. (Tolonews)

(14) AISA Yet to...

AISA two years ago that it would provide the agency 250 acres of land in the Mohammad Agha district for the establishment of an industrial township.

But the local government was yet to implement the decision, he said. "I have talked to AISA chief about the launch of work on the township, but he said the land authority should first hand over the required land to the agency."

Stanikzai said AISA had budget for the construction of various sections of the proposed township, but the agency needed to be provided the required land.

"The budget for the Logar industrial township has not been given to another province and AISA officials have told me they will not use the money elsewhere," the public representative said.

However, some people had earlier claimed ASIA had transferred the budget for the Logar industrial township to another province. The provincial council chief urged President Ashraf Ghani to issue orders for the allotment of land to the proposed industrial township in Logar province. (Pajhwok)

(15) Unemployment...

factories at industrial parks.

"Lack of development projects has resulted in increased unemployment," ACCI executive chief Atiqullah Nasrat said.

Based on the figures provided by the ministry of labor and social affairs, over 1.8 million eligible workers are unemployed in Afghanistan.

This comes as thousands of Afghans are reportedly fleeing the country due to what they believe is lack of jobs and security.

This has caused a huge refugee crisis across Europe as daily thousands of immigrants, most of them from Syria and Afghanistan, are illegally entering European countries in a bid to find jobs and a peaceful life. (Tolonews)

(16) President ...

Kunduz governor by President Ghani through issuing a decree, appointing Danishi as acting governor.

The reports about Omar's fleeing to Europe was widely criticized on social media, with some accusing him of taking bribe in exchange for handing Kunduz City over to the Taliban.

The presidential decree called Danishi as highly educated and experienced person.

The Taliban, who have been in control of Kunduz city since

Monday, tightened their grip on the city on Wednesday when they captured the strategic fortress Bala Hisar. Kunduz police said the Afghan forces retreated from Bala Hisar in the afternoon. The Taliban had laid siege to Bala Hisar for the last three days, asking the security forces to surrender, but they did not.

Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz on Wednesday said so far 30 people had died and more than 200 hospitalized in Kunduz City with gunshots.

Taliban militants reportedly patrolled the city on Wednesday in vehicles and on foot and used mosque loudspeakers to tell residents that they would not be caused harm. But residents said they faced a number of problems including water and food shortages as all shops and roads had been closed. The UN and foreign NGOs airlifted workers from the city on Monday. Most of the security forces have massed on the airport, which remains free from Taliban control. (Pajhwok)

(17) Pakistan ...

on to remark: "Pakistan believes the solution to the Afghan issue lies in further cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. We should avoid blame game and find a lasting solution."

Aizaz said Pakistan would not allow the use of its territory for any activity against any country. The US and China also desired the reconciliation process to bear fruit, he added. (Pajhwok)

(18) Fierce Battle...

been closed. If reinforcements were not sent in soon, the district might fall to Taliban, he warned. Police chief Brig. Gen. Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani confirmed the fighting and said security officials in Faryab and Sar-i-Pul provinces had been contacted for help.

Khuda-i-Dad, a resident of locality, said people were fleeing their homes as fighting for the control of the district centre had intensified. (Pajhwok)

(19) Taliban Still...

siege. Cinema Street, Alokzai Warehouse, the Governor's House, police headquarters, the municipality building, Nawabad and Fatima al-Zahra High School are under government control.

He said the situation remained tense, with residents in urgent need of drinking water, food items and safety. Prices of essential commodities have dramatically shot up in the city.

On the other hand, police spokesman Syed Sarwar Hussaini said the air and ground offensive had been halted and security forces had taken positions in parts of the embattled city. He insisted the entire provincial capital was under government's control, as a search operation was underway to track down the insurgents. Hussaini did not give details about casualties. (Pajhwok)

(20) Khost Doctors ...

salaries. "We repeated contacted the NGOs concerned, the provincial council and the central government and held meetings with the provincial administration, but failed to elicit a positive response," Dr. Noori said.

He also criticised the Dutch HealthNet organization, saying the NGO had failed to fulfill people's needs and had been providing ineffective health services.

Ismail Khel and Mandokhel health centre chief Dr. Farid also accused the NGO of intentionally withholding their salaries. "After failing to win the contract, the NGO wants to overcome its losses and take revenge on the winning bidder by withholding our salaries."

Health officials said they would go on strike and would hold peaceful protests if their salaries were not released until next Thursday. (Pajhwok)

(21) Taliban ...

International that Taliban fighters were using a "hit list" to track down their targets.

It allegedly includes the names and photos of activists, journalists and civil servants based in Kunduz.

The woman said the Taliban's roadblocks on exit routes from the city forced her and numerous other women and men to flee on foot. They trekked for more than seven hours over rough terrain,

leaving them exhausted and with bloodied feet.

When the Taliban took control of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and other government and NGO offices in Kunduz on Monday, they gained access to reams of information about NGO staff, government employees and members of the security forces - including addresses, phone numbers and photos.

Since then, Taliban fighters have allegedly been using young boys to help them to conduct house-to-house searches to locate and abduct their targets, including women.

Another woman human rights defender had her home and office burned and looted by Taliban on Tuesday night. Taliban fighters kept calling her to ask about the whereabouts of the women whom she had been helping.

She and several other women managed to receive assistance for themselves and their children to flee to safety. But she told Amnesty International she and her family escaped with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and were left terrified by the ordeal. (KP)

(22) Taliban Leader...

and that they committed "rape, torture and murder."

The statement offered no details on the allegations of those atrocities but Amnesty International and U.N.'s representative in Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom, have also cited reports of extrajudicial killings and kidnappings in Kunduz during the battle over the city.

In Kunduz, residents said sporadic wildfires continued Friday as troops swept the city street-to-street to dislodge militants still hiding in people's homes. There was no water and electricity, and supplies of food and other basics were yet to come in. Hospitals were running short of medicines and facing staffing problems, doctors said.

"We urgently need medical supplies because the battle is still going on and so we expect more casualties," said SaadMukhar, head of the city's public health department, adding that supplies sent from Kabul were being held up on the way.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it had supplies ready to be flown into Kunduz as soon as the airport reopened. "Medical staff in the city cannot get to the hospitals because of the on-going fighting," Kunduz-based doctor Peter EsmithEwoi said in an ICRC statement. (AP)

(23) Afghani...

filling station official in the Qala-i-Fathullah locality, Obaidullah, said a litre of diesel cost 42afis and the same quantity of patrol 43afis, registering no change. Mohammad Sharif, a liquefied gas seller in KololaPushtaneighbourhood, sold a kilo of the commodity for 55afis. (Pajhwok)

(24) UN Development ...

cars." The new goals followed on from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the international community at the turn of the millennium.

The new set of goals was an expansion of the MDGs into 17 diverse thematic areas that cover poverty, hunger, education, gender equality and health, as well as a new raft of environmental concerns and broader social justice issues, such as inequality, decent work, peaceful and inclusive societies, and accountable institutions. (Xinhua)

(25) Deadly ...

track arms exports.

The OSCE's findings are embarrassing for the Kremlin, which has turned down its rhetoric on Ukraine and shifted attention to Syria, where it has begun air strikes. The report comes before President Vladimir Putin holds talks in Paris on Friday with the leaders of Germany, France and Ukraine on the peace process. (Reuters)

(26) Australian...

must tell you all this is a hoax," he wrote on a Facebook page under his alias Mitchell Scott.

Dyball travelled to Syria in May, reportedly to join a Kurdish militia group set up to recruit other volunteer foreign fighters. (Xinhua)