

History knows no resting places and no plateaus.

Henry

Kunduz Falls to the Taliban

KUNDUZ CITY - On the eve of the National Unity Government's one year anniversary, the Taliban launched a massive and well executed attack against the strategic northern city of Kunduz and by late afternoon Monday had taken control of the city.



Taliban has seized the provincial council building, the offices of the local High Peace Council, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) building, UNAMA offices and other key official facilities including private Banks.

Officials also reported that the Taliban has over run the local prison and freed all prisoners. Reports indicate that heavy fighting continues around the police headquarters and the provincial governor's office.

However by late afternoon reinforcements arrived from Kabul and are stationed in the Dasht-e-Kandahari area where they are waiting for orders to storm the city. One Kunduz resident, who lives close to the police headquarters, told TOLONews.com, on condition of anonymity, that civilians are off the streets and in hiding - mostly in their homes and in basements where possible.

Sediq Sediqi Security Forces Preventing Advancement of Taliban in Kunduz City

KABUL - Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior told a press conference in Kabul on Monday afternoon that security force have been preventing the advancement of Taliban militants in Kunduz city. He said that security forces have good cooperation and are moving ahead vigilantly in order to prevent civilian casualties.



Sediqi further said that a security plan was prepared to clear of insurgents from the city. He hoped that by the end of the day security forces will have ... (More on P4)...(2)

Transparency Urged as Govt Slaps 10% Levy on Telecoms Companies

KABUL - Afghans this week were up-in-arms over government's new 10 percent tax levy against communication services which will directly affect mobile phone subscribers. The public's concern is not however so much about the levy but about the possibility of the money being embezzled.

MPs Want UN, US, UK Envoys Summoned Over Insecurity

KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga (WJ) members on Monday accused the government of failing to reverse the tide of insecurity, expressing the desire to summon US, UK and UN envoys to the lower house over the deteriorating security situation.



He said nobody felt secure in northern Kunduz province and the supreme commander of the armed forces was responsible for the current state of affairs. Earlier in the day, local officials said Taliban attacks on northern ... (More on P4)...(3)

Kabulov Warns of Afghan Problems Spilling Across Border

USHANBE - Russia's special representative to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, has given an exclusive interview to Russian news agency Interfax in which he warns of "Islamists" in Afghanistan concentrating along the Tajik and Turkmen borders.

currently 4,000 to 5,000 militants massed in areas of northern Afghanistan near the border with Tajikistan and some 2,500 near the border with Turkmenistan. Kabulov also said there are at least three militant training camps operating that are running two-month training

courses for recruits. Kabulov said each camp can train 50 recruits, "which is 150 militants every two months." Kabulov said these recruits are coming from Central Asia. Kabulov said the governments in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, ... (More on P4)...(5)

Hassan Rouhani Iran Regards Afghanistan's Development its Own



KABUL - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has said "his country will always be a supporter of the people and government of Afghanistan," urging Kabul to intensify the war on narcotics. Rouhani, who met Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah in New York on Monday, said Tehran regarded development and security of its neighbours including Afghanistan as its own.

Transparency Urged in Nominating Selection Body

KABUL - Election watchdogs on Monday stressed early nomination of selection committee's members so they could choose new commissioners on the electoral bodies.



The observers urged selection of honest and qualified people in the proposed committee in order to avoid irregularities in elections and confrontation between leaders of the unity government. Electoral Reform Commission (ERC) had suggested that the selection committee should be comprised of seven members, including three from civil society groups.

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