

(1) Kunduz Falls...

The fighting is particularly fierce in the southeastern area of the city." Dominic Medley, UNAMA spokesman, said late afternoon that UNAMA has "temporarily relocated our staff from Kunduz to other locations in Afghanistan."

He also said that the situation in Kunduz is a matter of serious concern for UNAMA.

Power meanwhile, was cut to the city early Monday morning, residents confirmed and cellphone reception is also extremely limited with hardly any coverage.

They also say that the Taliban flag has been raised at a number of locations across the city including in the city centre.

Another Kunduz resident told TOLONews.com that Taliban fighters are driving openly in the city in government military vehicles brandishing their weapons.

Earlier Monday, officials said that the bulk of Kunduz security forces were outside the city limits fighting the Taliban in a number of outlying districts when the early morning attack was launched.

Officials say reinforcement troops have been sent to the area along with air support. However, air strikes are not possible as the inner city is densely populated.

Reports earlier in the day from health officials put the casualty toll at 40 civilians - including dead and wounded. In addition 10 security force members were reportedly killed or wounded. No further details were however available.

Eyewitnesses meanwhile, report having seen scores of bodies in the streets of the city FOLLOWING 14 hours of heavy fighting.

According to local officials, Kunduz governor Mohammad Omer Safi is currently in Tajikistan and the security chief of the northern province is in Kabul.

It has also been reported that at least 45 Taliban members have been killed.

The province is one of the most volatile provinces in the northern region of the country, with three districts reportedly under Taliban control. Security force members have waged an ongoing battle with insurgents in the area for the past few months.

Kunduz city meanwhile is a key hub in the extremely mountainous northern region, and the only road to Takhar and Badkhashan provinces leads out through the city.

Meanwhile, reporting from the outskirts of the city, TOLONews journalist Karim Amiri says rumors are rife among the locals that the siege was pre-planned and an insider attack. He also says residents are desperately trying to flee the city. (Tolonews)

(2) Security Forces ...

full control over the city. However, reports from the area suggest that Taliban have occupied several government compounds and hospital in the city and are now trying to reach out to the police HQ and governor house.

Taliban launched the attack on Kunduz city from western, northeastern and southern sides last night.

Public Health officials in Kunduz have told media that seven civilians and 14 security men have lost lives and 47 others, most of them civilians, have been wounded in the clashes.

In the morning, Police HQ of Kunduz confirmed killing 20 Taliban in the clashes. (KP)

(3) MPs Want ...

Kunduz City had been repulsed, but the rebels claimed capturing several areas and government buildings including the main hospital.

The Taliban launched their coordinated attacks on Kunduz City, the capital of Kunduz province, on Sunday night at around 2am, overrunning some areas around the city.

Sher Wali Wardak, a lawmaker from Kabul, said people across the country had been raising the issue of fast deteriorating security, but there was no one to take measures and improve the situation.

He urged the speaker to summon ambassadors of UN, US and UK and question from them about Afghanistan's security situation because the keys to peace and stability were in their hands.

MP Zmarak Padkhwabi echoed Wardak remarks and demanded the foreign envoys be summoned to the house.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy urged unity and said: "You the representatives of the house should have been in Kunduz now to show solidarity

with security forces."

Qazi Nazir Ahmad Hanafi, a lawmaker from Herat, criticised the US for what he said assisting both parties to the conflict in Afghanistan. He questioned why the US did not provide complete equipment to Afghan security forces.

The speaker said the security situation in some provinces was going out of control and said the parliament could do nothing except summoning government officials to ask them about their failure. (Pajhwok)

(4) Transparency Urged ...

tax which comes from communication services, this will help government to jointly collect the taxes with the private communication companies,"

spokesman for the ministry of finance, Ajmal Hamid Abdul Rahimzai said.

MoF officials have warned communication companies against embezzling the money and said that any company found guilty of tax irregularities will face legal action along with huge fines.

According to statistics, currently up to 23 million Afghans use communication services.

The Afghan government recently enforced the move and has ordered communication companies to collect the money and transfer it to government treasury.

"There are huge problems, they steal money under different pretexts, government and companies must have monitoring systems in place over this issue," a resident of Logar province, Gul Mohammad said.

"We are determined to prevent the issues, however, we do not reject the problems in the new system, but we are committed to prevent embezzlement of the money," a spokesman for the ministry of communication Salim Samim said. (Tolonews)

(5) Kabulov Warns...

and Uzbekistan are aware of this situation in northern Afghanistan.

Afghan and foreign media have been reporting increasing unrest in northern Afghan provinces throughout this year including the presence of militants from Central Asia. (Asia-Plus)

(6) Iran Regards ...

and production of narcotic drugs. He also said connecting Iran's railways to Afghanistan's Herat province could raise bilateral cooperation.

Abdullah thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support to the people and government of Afghanistan specially in the reconstruction area. He said Iran had proved its brotherhood and friendship under all conditions. (Pajhwok)

(7) Transparency ...

President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree ordering the Administrative Affairs Office at the Presidential Palace to introduce members of the selection committee, but the decree is yet to be implemented.

Election watchdogs on Monday insisted the selection committee should be formed at the earliest and urged transparency in the process.

Yousuf Rashid, Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) executive director, told Pajhwok Afghan News previous selection committees lacked transparency because their meetings were conducted secretly and information about the membership remained secret.

He, however, said such problems had been resolved to a great extent and balance had been considered between members from different organizations and government institutions in the new proposed selection committee.

The FEFA executive head said media outlets had the right to be informed about meetings of the selection committee.

Naeem Ayoubzada, the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) head, said members of the selection committee should be independent and not affiliated with the government.

He said the proposed committee should work under defined rules and regulations and its members should be selected in a transparent manner. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghanistan...

also mentioned the upcoming NATO defense ministerial next week and foreign ministers' meeting in December and said the alliance would make important decisions during the two meetings. (Pajhwok)

(9) Up to 60,000 ...

Durzabi said that on average, every week 20 Afghans die in fire of border security forces, traffic accidents or other accidents at their working locations in Iran.

Meanwhile, a group of Afghan migrants who were recently deported from Iran and Turkey while trying to reach out to Europe illegally say that they faced extreme hardship during their journey.

They said that some of them were severely beaten and some others disappeared. They called on parents to stop sending their children on this risky journey. (KP)

(10) ANSF Plan...

to Daesh and are determined to eliminate them," Sherzad said.

Elaborating on the anti-Daesh operation, commanders of Afghan national army in the eastern region vow to continue the operation until Daesh is eradicated from the region.

"We are always at war with foreigners, neighboring countries are always interfering in our country and we have sufficient evidences to prove it," the commander of 301 border police in east, Wali Khan Shinwarai said.

This comes after Daesh launched its first attack against government forces on Sunday. The attack occurred in Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province.

The attack ended with the killing of 85 Daesh terrorists. U.S forces provided air support to the Afghan forces during the battle. (Tolonews)

(11) HRW for...

tional forces.

A July 7, 2015 meeting in Murree near Islamabad between the Afghan government and the Taliban was seen as the first official meeting between the two warring sides. The Afghan government delegation in Murree included no women.

Afghan women's rights activists have persistently demanded to be full participants in peace talks, as set out in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and later resolutions.

Ghani has assured them that they will be included, but has also suggested that he did not intend to include women throughout the process, saying that he "will not bother them until the right time."

"For years, Afghan women have been denied a seat at the table when their future has been on the line," Taylor said. "For Ghani to claim that he would only 'bother' women to participate in talks at the 'right time' is a signal that their participation is somehow optional."

During past efforts to launch negotiations, Afghan women's rights activists have repeatedly spoken out about their fears that the government will trade away women's rights in an effort to reach an accommodation with the Taliban.

These fears have been exacerbated by the exclusion of women from the process. A 2014 study by Oxfam found that in 23 rounds of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban between 2005 and 2014, women were present on only two occasions. No women were ever included in discussions between international negotiators and the Taliban.

Previous negotiations have typically occurred with little transparency, with the public often learning of them only after they occurred. This has prevented Afghan civil society groups, including women's rights activists, from providing meaningful input to the government on their human rights concerns and their recommendations for ensuring human rights protections in the event a settlement is reached.

For instance, activists seeking justice for war crimes and crimes against humanity have had no real opportunities to ensure that amnesty for these crimes will not be on the table in the negotiations.

There have been signs of a greater willingness by the Taliban to discuss women's rights, though activists have viewed statements by Taliban leaders seeming to support some forms of women's rights with significant skepticism given the Taliban's continued abuses targeting women.

At a meeting in Doha in May 2015, three women participated. Malalai Shinwari, a former member of parliament who was one of the participants, told the Wall Street Journal, "They [the Taliban] said they won't make the same mistakes that they made in the past. They said they would accept the rights we have today."

This meeting was followed by a June meeting in Oslo bringing together Taliban representatives and Afghan women leaders specifically for the purpose of discussing women's rights.

Both the Taliban and the Afghan government emphasized that this meeting was not part of the negotiation process.

The negotiation process is in limbo at the moment following the July disclosure that Taliban leader Mullah Omar died on April 23, 2013, the Taliban chose a new leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour.

In August 2015, Mansoor discounted current efforts as "propaganda campaigns by the enemy." At the same time, relations between the Afghan government and the Pakistani government have become tense, adding another complicating factor to the effort to convene talks.

"The pause in peace negotiations creates the opportunity for the Ghani government to work with women's rights activists and groups to get the negotiation process right going forward," Taylor said.

"Ghani should take steps now to genuinely integrate women into the peace process at every level, from district and province peace-building bodies to the highest level team advising the president and sitting across the table from Taliban negotiators." (Pajhwok)

(12) WJ Admin ...

own private business, adding that this prevents the house from accomplishing its own legal tasks efficiently which also includes the summoning of key government officials over national issues.

"Serious criticism exists against the admin board as the chairman remains busy with his own business, ignoring the issue, in-fact hindering us," Paktia MP Gul Padshah Majidi said.

"The admin board seeks to put its responsibility on lawmakers while the board is responsible to implement parliament's internal rules on members and conduct disciplinary processes," Balkh MP, Mohammad Abdoh said.

Reacting to lawmakers' allegations, parliament speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy strongly rejects the claims made by them, saying that any member who remains absent in the future will face legal action.

"I do not agree with the allegations, the admin board has done its job, but it depends on you [lawmakers], whenever you want to summon a SECURITY official, we are ready to abide by your decision," he said.

"On the basis of civil service law, the lawmakers who remain absent from the house for 21 days, we will not pay them their salaries and will deal with them in line with the internal rules and the law," house secretary Abdul Rauf Enaami said.

The Afghan Lower House of Parliament consists of 249 seats.

The parliament was expected to vote on three legislations at Monday's session, but because of a lack of a quorum were not able to as only 80 lawmakers were present. (Tolonews)

(13) US Tracking...

city after launching coordinated attacks.

Sayed Sarwar Hussaini, spokesman for the provincial police chief of Kunduz, told The Associated Press on Monday that gun battles are still underway between Taliban militants and Afghan government forces.

He says Taliban gunmen have occupied a number of government buildings in the city, including a hospital and a courthouse.

Kunduz city, capital of the province of the same name, has twice come under attack by the Taliban this year. The strategically situated city was once one of Afghanistan's wealthiest. (AP)

(14) Spain to...

Project Manager Shukriya Jalalzai said they were interested in implementing similar educational programs in far-flung areas to enable rural women and empower them. (Pajhwok)

(15) AI Calls for ...

activist - and must ensure that there are no reprisal attacks against them."

"Reports that the Taliban have already sent armed fighters into a public provincial hospital are extremely worrying. Hospitals are places of sanctuary under international law and their staff must be allowed to do their vital life-saving work without the threat of violence

or undue interference." (Tolonews)

(16) Access to ...

will have major effects in limiting corruption, localizing democracy and strengthening the people's political and social participation in state building.

People will gain access to state and public budgets, and official spokespeople will be inclined to share information with journalists and citizens.

Previously, statistics indicated that violence against journalists in Afghanistan was increased by NUG officials compared to the former government.

Historically, the government of Afghanistan has been marked by a lack of transparency, with only a vague - and thus far unenforced - reference in its decade-old constitution to the guaranteed right to access to information.

The access to information law covers non-governmental organizations and the private sector. (ATN)

(17) Social Good...

progress at school. The event will also include a panel discussion with development experts on gender equality, education, access to clean water and renewable energy and how to create rural jobs.

"This is the start of a new era that will define how development works for the next 15 years," said UNDP Country Director, Douglas Keh. "Today, we hope to raise awareness of the SDGs and what the new development agenda means for Afghanistan."

The participants, including students and civil society activists, will join the global conversation by posting updates and their own opinions live from the summit, using the hashtags #GlobalGoals, #2030Now and #SGSKabul.

The Social Good Summit in Afghanistan is part of more than 100 Social Good Summits being organized around the world. (Wadsam)

(18) Indian-Funded...

government's affairs. He said Wesa would rarely visit the university and had been unable to give special attention to the institute.

Few months ago when Wesa was replaced by a new governor, it was hoped he would now pay attention to the university, but he did not pay a single visit to the campus currently plagued by a number of administrative issue, the student said.

"Dr. Toryalai Wesa after his removal as the governor had been in Kabul for two or three months and then went to Canada, leaving the university without a leadership."

He said the big problem was the Ministry of Higher Education's inattention to the university as so far no official from the ministry had visited the campus.

He said the situation had created many problems for the university administrative staff and pushed the institute on the brink of closure.

He urged President Ashraf Ghani to rescue the university from being closed by resolving problems on the campus.

Another student, Asmatullah, had similar complaints. He said since the inauguration of the university two years ago, only 21 students had been enrolled, a process currently brought to a halt.

"The former Kandahar governor did not discharge his duty as chancellor of the university even for a single day. Previously all the affairs would be handled by vice-chancellor Dr. Rokhan Wolasmal, but he was recently appointed as Kandahar mayor."

He said the real issue lied with the Ministry of Higher Education which did not want the university to be in Kandahar and thus ignoring it.

An official at the university administration, wishing to go unnamed, acknowledged the university was on the verge of closure.

He said former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had pledged the university's establishment in 2011 when he visited Afghanistan and the project was said to be part of India's \$500 million assistance for Afghanistan.

It had been pledged that until the university was fully established on the Tarnak research farm with \$100 million Indian aid, its affairs would be run at the Canadian-built Agriculture and Livestock Institute in Kandahar City, he said, but added the university building's reconstruction was yet to be launched.

About the importance of ANASTU, the official said agricultural

research, extension and training were the three basic components developed countries had adopted to realise economic self-sufficiency. He said the entire nation had their eyes fixed on ANASTU.

He said countries who had adopted the three components formula had not only been able to achieve self-sufficiency but they fulfilled needs of other countries. (Pajhwok)

(19) 16 Killed...

member of the provincial council, Abdul Ghani Paktin, said 20 people had been killed and 60 others wounded in the incident.

The Ministry of Interior said nine civilians had been killed and 33 more wounded in the bomb blast. Paktika Governor Aminullah Shariq accompanied by local officials, traveled to Khairkot district and visited the incident area, according to a statement from the governor's house.

The statement said a child was among 10 people killed and 33 more people including nine children were injured in the incident. The officials also visited the injured people.

The Taliban have denied involvement in the attack. A similar attack last year in the Yahyakhel district at a volleyball match killed 45 people and wounded at least 50 more. (Pajhwok)

(20) Paktika ...

lack of concern for civilian casualties, particularly women and children.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy in Kabul issued a statement condemning the attack and sharing condolences with the victims.

"The Embassy of the United States condemns yesterday's horrific attack on a crowd of Afghans playing sports in Paktika province, and offers our sincerest condolences to the victims and their families," the embassy said in the statement.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemned yesterday's attack in Paktika. (Pajhwok)

(21) Analysts ...

tack and not to lodge a strong protest.

President Ghani then phoned Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and condemned the incident, insisting Afghanistan would never allow its soil to be used against its neighbours.

Fakor said the insurgents had their attacks focused on Nangarhar and Kunduz provinces as they believed they would be able to achieve gains given the weak provincial governments. (Pajhwok)

(22) Russia Sees...

challenges, such as eradicating extreme poverty, combating inequalities, ensuring food security and healthy lifestyles and shifting to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption, will require additional financial, industrial and technological resources, supported by an environment of constructive cooperation and mutual assistance." (Xinhua)

(23) Russia ...

senior State Department official told reporters: "It was a very thorough exchange of views on both the military and the political implications of Russia's increased engagement in Syria."

Kerry also discussed Syria with Iran's foreign minister during a meeting at the United Nations on Saturday. (Reuters)

(24) German ...

reasons or fleeing war," said government spokesman Steffen Seibert.

The debate came amid signs of growing tension among asylum seekers, part of a wave of mass migration into the European Union from the Middle East and parts of Africa. (Reuters)

(25) Ban Opens...

to overcome divisions over the way forward.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, whose country has taken in some two million Syrian refugees, will open the meeting that coincides with intense diplomacy to address the war in Syria.

The European Union last week agreed to inject \$1 billion to UN relief efforts in Syria's neighboring countries, but Ban said more should be done to ensure that the migrants are treated with dignity. (AFP)