

(1) Nation be...

about the developments made during the past one year of the government with acceptance of problems. He said during the next 100 days of the Cabinet, important issues including security, Cabinet's contact with provinces, good governance, employment, economic issues and evaluating government enterprises and companies would be considered.

The statement said no government organ could sell a government land property without confirmation from the commission concerned.

The commission is formed of representatives of the ministries of finance and urban development and the Independent Directorate of Land with the Presidential palace responsible to identify government properties in Kabul and provinces. President Ghani said the establishment of a constant and organised contact between the central and local governments was vital, saying holding a meeting after every six months between provincial governors and Cabinet members was part of the plan.

The half yearly meetings would discuss existing problems, share suggestions and find solutions, he explained.

He said the Cabinet members could contact local government officials through telecommunications, particularly video conferences and solve problems.

"It is important to have active governance on district level, therefore the Ministry of Finance should predict budget for district administrations in the coming fiscal year," the statement quoted Ghani as saying.

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) presented a proper mechanism to improve contact between central and provincial governments for addressing problems to the Cabinet and the National Security Council (NSC).

The mechanism provided by the IDLG was approved by the Cabinet and the NSC, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(2) US Senate ...

Taliban and placed at risk the hard-earned gains of the past decade, he said.

"The Taliban's capture of the key city of Kunduz in northern Afghanistan is the latest manifestation of this dangerous reversal," McCain alleged.

Yet, Obama is still on pace to withdraw all US combat troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2016, he said adding that for years, military commanders and senior diplomats have warned that such a calendar-based drawdown would all but ensure the same tragic outcome that we watched in Iraq after 2011.

"It is time that President Obama abandon this dangerous and arbitrary course and adopt a plan for US troop presence based on conditions on the ground," McCain said.

Another Republican Congressman Mac Thornberry, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said news reports that the Taliban has retaken Kunduz are discouraging, but not unexpected.

"Obama's failure to fully resource his strategy for Afghanistan forces our troops and their leaders to focus on meeting next year's withdrawal deadline, rather than America's security needs," he said.

"The fall of Kunduz to the Taliban is not unlike the fall of Iraqi provinces to ISIL—it is a reaffirmation that precipitous withdrawal leaves key allies and territory vulnerable to the very terrorists we've fought so long to defeat," Thornberry said. (Pajhwok)

(3) Germany Says...

in Kunduz was worrying and the experiences of the last few days had to feed into NATO's decision about Afghanistan, due in the autumn.

NATO had planned to withdraw all forces by the end of next year. (Reuters)

(4) Pakistan should...

fail to subdue us, as they have on other occasions over the past few years. In the larger context, Afghanistan continues to be the victim of terrorist organizations and violent extremists, including Daesh (ISIL) type cells trying to find a foothold." He said the guerrilla style low-intensity warfare would have been history by now. "We call on Pakistan to do what its leadership promised to us a few months ago when they agreed to crack down on known terror outfits - meaning the enemies of Afghanistan."

He said they agreed to a paradigm change in their relations and engagement towards peace talks with the Taliban. Events turned out differently after it was divulged that the Taliban leader had been dead for over two years and the episode was a sham, he said.

"A loss of trust can have irreparable consequences for all sides. We need to learn from that. We also call on regional stakeholders and our international partners to realise the gravity of the situation, and use their good offices or any effective means to support our aspirations for a genuine and durable confidence-building process leading to talks with willing Taliban and other armed opposition groups."

He said the Afghans had reached the one year mark for the anniversary of the national unity government and he was delighted to report to the UN assembly that Afghanistan had achieved significant milestones in the past year.

"Thanks to the exemplary generosity of our friends, progress made in Afghanistan over the last 14 years cannot be discounted. We succeeded in prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable, improve living standards, provide access to education to boys and girls, and improve healthcare quality."

He said life expectancy in Afghanistan had increased by an average of 20 years since 2001, with Afghans living well beyond the mere 40 years of age that had once been their norm.

"Improvements in the health of women and children are particularly notable, as illustrated by the 54 percent increase in the number of infants delivered, and the decrease of infant mortality by 62 percent."

He said through the focus on gender equality, equity, and equal opportunity adapted by the government, female political participation had also been strengthened.

During the 2014 election, he said, voters comprised of 35 percent females. "Women now claim 11 percent of judgeships, with an additional 20 percent in training."

He said the Afghan government was strengthening laws and regulations dealing with torture and was taking necessary measures to prevent and prosecute individuals involved in any form of torture per the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

Abdullah said the recently escalating security issues had slowed down state building and overall progress. "But our national security forces, through their patriotism and resilience have demonstrated that they are ready to face the challenges posed by the Taliban and other terrorist and violent extremist groups." He said he and President Ghani had prioritised a comprehensive reform agenda to root out corruption from the Afghan society and institutions and to promote transparency and efficacy at all levels of government, the judiciary and at the national and sub-national levels.

In addition to security challenges, he said, the menace of the illicit drug trade in Afghanistan was having an adverse impact on the economy and society.

However, he said they had a new comprehensive action plan to combat the drug economy more effectively.

"We are determined to meet the 10-year long goal of defeating narcotics once and for all. Regional cooperation on the drug problem is another key pillar of our strategy." (Pajhwok)

(5) Fall of ...

operation, retaking the newly-built police headquarters and the prison from the Taliban. The operation is ongoing

President Ashraf Ghani, who marked his first anniversary in office on Tuesday, vowed to retake Kunduz City from Taliban.

Senators at today's session strongly criticised the provincial security officials and the governor of Kunduz province for their failure to avoid the debacle.

Senator Sher Mohammad Akhundzada said security forces had retreated despite having arms and ammunition.

He said the insurgents had seized weapons, arms caches and captured dozens of vehicles. In addition, they looted banks and jewelry shops, he claimed.

He demanded the provincial governor, the police chief, and other senior army officials be charged with treason and awarded capital punishment.

Senator Faisal Sami also lambasted the government for failing on security front and said the Kunduz incident made it clear the Afghan government could not protect the country from insurgents.

He claimed the Afghan government and local residents suffered \$1 billion in losses as a result of the fall of Kunduz City. He claimed the insurgents had freed 602 inmates including Taliban shadow governors and other commanders.

Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said government officials did not listen to lawmakers' suggestions and that was why Taliban easily captured the northern city.

He said the US and NATO were silent over the Kunduz incident which was regrettable.

Muslimyar said the so-called Islamic State fighters had staged attacks on security check-posts in Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province and 90 percent of the fighters were Pakistanis. (Pajhwok)

(6) Uma Bharti ...

WAPCOS Limited, presented a dividend cheque of Rs. 16.50 crore for the year 2014-2015 and bonus shares of Rs. 1000 lakhs to Bharti.

The dividend of Rs.16.50 crore is the highest ever since inception of the company with 10 percent growth over the previous year. WAPCOS is eligible for "Excellent" rating on the basis of its performance in all financial and dynamic parameters under an MOU such as turnover, profitability, new business, projects implementation, customer satisfaction, human resource management etc. WAPCOS is now planning to increase its operations in Latin America and CIS Countries. (ANI)

(7) Parliament...

on Tuesday that the officials must appear before Parliament at Wednesday's general assembly.

The decision came after the government was accused of negligence in preventing the collapse of Kunduz. Kunduz city fell to the Taliban on Monday after hundreds of armed Taliban insurgents stormed government facilities including the prison, which led to the escape of about 600 inmates, including 110 Taliban members. (Tolonews)

(8) South Asia...

economic integration. Abdul Qadir Bahman, Deputy Chief Executive of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and one of the participants, told Pajhwok Afghan News the conference was very important for regional trade especially the trade between Afghanistan and the rest of the region.

"Our aim to attend the conference is to see how we can exploit the opportunities for the private sector of Afghanistan and let them familiarise themselves with their counterparts in the region."

According to Bahman, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Afghanistan was in the initial stages and Afghanistan could learn much from other south Asian countries in this regard.

An agreement on a joint chamber of commerce between India and Afghanistan had been reached.

He said the joint trader body would study the challenges the Afghan and Indian traders faced in trade between them and evolve a mechanism on how to resolve them and facilitate them with better opportunities.

He added problems concerning security, infrastructure and transit were some of the challenges creating hurdles to foreign investment in Afghanistan.

Annette Dixon, the World Bank vice president for South Asia, speaking at the conference, said South Asia was one of the least integrated regions of the world, despite huge potential that the countries of the region possessed to deepen their economic cooperation.

She said other regions of the world like the EU facing similar challenges South Asia faced today had been able to integrate. "There is more trade between South Asia and the rest of the region than between the countries of the region themselves," she said, adding that it was a missed opportunity given the size of the market in South Asia.

The Asia and ASEAN region contribute nearly 53 percent to the world trade, while South Asia despite huge potentials contributes approximately five percent only.

She cited the World Bank funded CASA-1000 as an example how energy needs of the region could be met.

CASA-1000 is the transfer of 1,300 megawatts of hydropower electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Pakistan. There was no reason for other such projects like TAPI not to succeed, she added.

The objective of the conclave being attended by government officials, business leaders, policy makers, civil society and media leaders of the region - is cited to stimulate informed dialogue between the private sector and government to promote regional trade and investment, which would in turn help catalyze higher growth and new job opportunities for all countries in South Asia.

Humayun Rasa, Afghan Minister of Commerce and Industries, is representing Afghanistan in the conclave and is expected to speak on the second day of the forum. (Pajhwok)

(9) Kunduz...

jewelry stores specializing in gold. "Taliban ... have destroyed a number of buildings, looted bazaars and even wanted to establish their base in the ACCI office in the city," he said.

MPs from Kunduz say the Taliban fighters have also looted a number of houses in the city.

"They took with them all the things that people had. They entered people's houses and even forcibly took their vehicles," an MP from Kunduz, Amanullah Paiman told TOLONews. (Tolonews)

(10) Northerners ...

Kunduz city fell to the Taliban on Monday after hundreds of armed Taliban insurgents stormed government facilities including the prison, which led to the escape of about 600 inmates, including 110 Taliban members.

However residents and civil society activists at a gathering in Balkh blamed the fall of Kunduz on government's negligence.

They warned if necessary steps are not taken, some other northern cities will also collapse.

"We are really afraid that such a big incident may also happen in other northern cities," a female social activist and resident of Balkh said.

Meanwhile, security officials in Balkh held an special meeting on Tuesday to discuss the security situation in the north and take preventive measures to make sure the Kunduz situation is not repeated in Balkh.

Furthermore, the Balkh Police Chief Sayed Kamal Sadaat stated reinforcement troops have been sent from Balkh to assist the forces in Kunduz.

"We have strengthened our security posts in Balkh and have provided the forces with more equipment to avoid the insurgents from making their way to Balkh," Sadaat told TOLONews.

In addition, the Police Chief of Takhar assured his residents that strong efforts were underway to prevent any subversive activities by the insurgents.

Kunduz, a strategic city in the north of Afghanistan, fell to the Taliban on Monday afternoon following over 14 hours of fierce fighting with local security forces.

The insurgents, believed to be in their hundreds, carried out a well-orchestrated and complex attack on the city and took control of key government buildings and facilities.

The security forces however launched a counter-attack operation in Kunduz and recaptured a couple of government buildings including the police headquarters and the prison. (Tolonews)

(11) U.S Carries...

this morning (local time) has meanwhile reportedly cancelled all further meetings and is scheduled to return home immediately. His office confirmed Tuesday that Abdullah is set to return home to due the Kunduz crisis.

The fall of Kunduz is the first such incident since the ousting of the Taliban 14 years ago. It also came on the eve of the National Unity Government's one year in power anniversary.

Reports have however emerged that local SECURITY forces working within the city limits have retaken Kunduz city's police headquarters and the prison.

Hundreds of reinforcement troops have been deployed to the area and are expected to launch a full military operation soon.

However, Kunduz residents report that they have not had power since early Monday morning and that because of this mobile connectivity is limited as they are not able to charge their batteries.

Some residents also report that there is also now no water.

A number of residents who spoke to TOLONews.com Tuesday morning have said the streets are currently very quiet and that people are hiding in their homes.

Kunduz fell to the Taliban late Monday afternoon after more than 14 hours of heavy fighting. The group executed a well-orchestrated attack at 3am local time from within the city limits. In addition they closed off the four main access points into the city - effectively cutting off the city from the rest of the country. (Tolonews)

(12) Lack of ...

some sort of compromise or deal made behind the collapse of the key city in the northern parts of Afghanistan.

"No collapse would have happened if there was full coordination in tactical areas. There are problems in this aspect and the enemy has used this in its favor," deputy spokesman for MoD, Dawlat Waziri told TOLONews.

On the other hand, the MoD says foreign insurgents are behind the war in Kunduz and that Taliban militants are equipped and funded from foreigners.

"Foreign hands are behind this incident. The Taliban are supported and funded by such hands. Foreign fighters are among them and a big GAME is going on," Waziri said.

The fall of Kunduz city in the country's north has created concerns among the nation, however, security officials have vowed to retake the city as soon as possible. (Tolonews)

(13) Desperate for...

the intension to serve the people." During their one year in office, the leaders only did one thing that was appointing their campaigners to high government posts, he said.

He said the security situation had deteriorated and the prices of necessary commodities jumped and unemployment and corruption increased.

Zubaida, a teacher, said the incumbent government's one year was the worst period in her 22 years of life. Mohammad Nasim, a resident of Charikar, the capital of central Parwan province, said people had lost their trust in the unity government which proved the most corrupt in the country's history.

The 24-year-old claimed no development had taken place areas of security, economy and employment.

WaisuddinFarhangyar, a resident of Faryab province, said no major development took place during the one year rule of the unity government led by President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah

Mohammad Hussain Sadaqat in Bamyān province said the youth were leaving the country because the government had nothing to offer them while the internal situation was out of the government control.

However, Hamidullah, a resident of Kunduz province, said the government had some achievements. He said people must remain cooperative with the system for more successes.

He said due to the lack of foreign aid, the government had been facing problems and could not perform well in some areas such as security and economy. (Pajhwok)

(14) Fall of Kunduz...

Taliban and the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) to join the mainstream government.

Local officials have said that the Taliban, after overrunning the provincial capital, freed around 400 prisoners, including some notorious insurgent commanders and drug smugglers.

According to Qani, the Taliban alone could not capture the strategic city without the help mafia and drug smugglers.

He claimed local commanders Mir Alam and PakhsaParan had links with Taliban and both had left the city four days ago.

JavedKohistani, a military affairs analyst, said: "The fall of Kunduz city is part of a big plot." He said the "5th pillar of the government is directly involved in this debacle."

He said the National Directorate of Security (NDS) alone had deployed its 150 operatives in Kunduz and such attack was impossible in the presence of hundreds of security and intelligence officials.

He claimed the government knew about the attack, but it did not prevent the city from falling to the insurgents.

According to Kohistani, it was a historic defeat and a morale-booster for

the enemy. (Pajhwok)

(15) Mullah Mansoor...

retreated from the city in a bid to prevent civilian casualties.

The deputy chief of the Afghan National Army Gen. Murad Ali Murad appeared in a press conference earlier tonight and said the Afghan security forces did not fully respond to Taliban attacks as the militants have taken positions in residential houses and markets.

Gen. Murad further added that the Afghan security forces fully deployed in the outskirts of the city and promised that the control of the city will be taken back from the militants soon. (KP)

(16) Kunduz ...

of there being very few security force members in the city at the time.

On Monday, reports emerged that the majority of Kunduz-based troops were deployed to districts in the province when the siege took place.

"Taliban's acts are inhuman ... This time they [the Taliban] could not hide their faces under the pretext of humanity or Sharia law. Social media has helped in unmasking the Taliban and it helped revealing the real face of them, which is brutality," Saleh said.

He said the insurgents had achieved their goals in Kunduz and will leave the province in order to take the loot they have robbed. But he added that they will also protect the individuals that helped them to capture the city. (Tolonews)

(17) Europe Has...

states. She also urged parliamentarians to take concerted action on the European refugee crisis, which will be the center of three migration-themed debates to be held on Wednesday afternoon. The debates will focus on the need to review Europe's asylum policies, and also the unique challenges faced by transit countries such as Italy, Greece and Hungary. (Xinhua)

China is also to deploy its first helicopter detachment in UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, said the president.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has been involved in peacekeeping missions for 25 years, and is among the biggest personnel and fund contributors, he noted. (Xinhua)

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(19) Asians to ...

share of Asian and Hispanic immigrants in the next decades grows, the proportion of non-Hispanic whites is projected to become less than 50 percent by 2055, which means that no racial or ethnic group will constitute a majority of the U.S. population by then. (Xinhua)

(20) Meeting on ...

weeks of tough bargaining in Vienna, capital of Austria. Under the deal, the UN Security Council is expected to lift sanctions against Iran if the Islamic republic meets strict conditions regarding its nuclear program.

Wang said the meeting, the first of its kind since the deal was reached, has sent positive political signals on the promotion of the start of its implementation, as well as to build confidence, dispel doubts and provide political guidance to the preparation of the implementation." (Xinhua)

(21) Xi's UN Visit ...

other as equals, engage in mutual consultations and show mutual understanding.

The Chinese president called for building a security architecture contributed and shared jointly by nations and featuring fairness and justice, and also called for an open, innovative and inclusive outlook of development that benefits all, as well as increasing inter-civilization exchanges to promote harmony, inclusiveness and respect for differences, Wang said. (Xinhua)

(22) Rouhani Calls...

been elected two-years ago with a "mandate for consolidating peace and constructive engagement with the world." "Our policy is to continue our peace-seeking efforts in the region based on the same win-win principle, and act in a way that would lead to all in the region and world benefitting from these new conditions," he said. (Xinhua)