Eliminating Taliban in Kunduz is our Top Priority: Murad

KUNOZ CITY - The Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Gen. Murtal Ali Murad, who is leading operations in Kunduz against the Taliban, said that eliminating and suppressing the insurgent group in the province is their top priority.

He said the operation in Kunduz has been launched on a number of fronts. “Unfortunately, the center of Qala-i-Zal district fell to the militants last night (Saturday night), but we will soon retake the district,” Murad said. He added: “Only dead and weakened Taliban will have a place in Kunduz afterwards. Taliban will be eliminated in Kunduz. Meanwhile, the Civil Order Police commander in Kunduz, Gen. Zafar Ali, said that NATO troops are assisting in this operation.” The Resolute Support mission’s air support are cooperating with the Afghan forces in this operation and we welcome this,” he said. “Our priority is to retake the areas that are under Taliban control. We want to ensure the safety of Kunduz residents,” said Sher Ali Kamaraz, commander of police in Spin Boldak area.

According to reports Taliban has blown up the Spin Boldak Checkpoint Bridge which connects Kunduz city with Jamiy Salih and Dand-e-Achchi district as well as with the Sher Khan Port. Talking on this, Murad said: “Taliban has destroyed Achchi Bridge. We have sent our technical teams to this area to address the problem and reoccupy the way as soon as possible.” Meanwhile, Parwan’s 26 Corps said in a statement that nearly 45 Taliban militants were killed and 15 others wounded over the past 26 hours in Kunduz (Tolokno).

Our Needs Being Ignored, Grumble Helmand Security Forces

THE KANDAHAR POST - Afghan security forces, fighting against militants in southern Helmand province, complain they are not compensated and even their simple problems are assigned to the handicapped.

These security forces have been fighting against the insurgents in Babaji and Chah Anjir areas on the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital, for the past 10 months.

Babaji is the fourth district of Lashkar Gah where the Taliban have been able to find a stronghold. Some days ago, the rivals captured Chah Anjir area of Nad Ali district, located close to Lashkar Gah.

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August 22, 2016

KABUL - As the rift between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Ghanai enters its 10th day, sources said on Sunday that the two leaders will meet for the second time within the next few days to overcome their differences.

The chief executive’s deputy spokesman, Javed Fadak said that it is difficult to overcome Afghan president’s challenges and address the public’s demands without cooperation between the National Unity Government (NUG) leaders. According to a number of sources, the two leaders held a warm meeting on Wednesday, where the chief executive discussed his demands with Ghani. “President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah want to working side by side,” Fadak added.

A number of analysts meanwhile criticized the NUG leaders for the rift and called on the president and the chief executive to work together and overcome their current challenges. “Afghanistan will face problems not only in politics but also in security and the economy if the rift between the two leaders continues,” said political commentator Abdullah. (More on P. 4)

ETWA Welcomes Govt’s Proposal to Restore Electoral Reform Process

KARSH - The Election and Transparency Watch Organization of Afghanistan (ETWA) on Sunday welcomed a recent government’s proposal aimed at restoring electoral reform process through amending the electoral law.

In a statement, ETWA called on the government, particularly the Cabinet, to consider proposals and recommendations of civil society during the election reform process. ETWA said it considered the work of the Electoral Law Review Committee. (More on P. 4)

Pakistan’s Apex Court Moved to Extend Refugees’ Stay

PESHAWAR - Pakistan’s apex court has been moved to extend a year in the deadline for the repatriation of Afghan refugees from the country. Advocate Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta approached the Supreme Court under its original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights.

The applicant requested the top court to restrain police law enforcement. (More on P. 8)

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