Afghani forces left the strategically crucial districts of Musa Qala and Nawzad five days ago, allowing the militants to take control of the area, Media reported, quoting reports by local media.

Amid rising concern over the ability of the state government and security forces to concentrate the largest military and foreign aid, Afghan security forces are struggling to secure the country amid a rising insurgency. As the NATO-led coalition’s military presence dwindled last year, Afghan leaders reached out to Moscow, which fought a war of its own in Afghanistan during the 1980s, for more Russian-made weapons, including small arms, artillery and attack helicopters.

“Today donation represents a deep friendship between two nations,” Afghan national security advisor Ramiz Rahim said.

KABUL - A charter airplane carrying 125 Afghan refugees back from Germany landed in Kabul on Wednesday, with officials on board eager to assure the returns that they have a future in Afghanistan. The refugees returned voluntarily, to what is expected to be the first of many such flights coordinated between the governments in Kabul and Berlin as well as the International Organization for Migration, according the German embassy in Kabul. Seeking to escape the violence and economic malaise that continue to grip their home country, Afghans make up a major portion of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have been pouring into Europe.

... (More on P4) ...

Protest Staged in Kabul against Delay in Rescuing Captive Troops

KABUL - Relatives of kidnaped Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers staged a protest on Wednesday, demanding their immediate release and warning of self-immolation if their demands were not met.

Three months earlier, the Taliban took 12 soldiers hostage after their helicopter made an emergency landing in the Ghar Tapa locality of the Paktika district of Farah province. The pilot and six security officials were killed on the spot. A dozen soldiers are still in Taliban’s captivity and there been no clue so far to the location where they are being held. The soldiers’ continued captivity has been fuelling concern among their families.

About 100 relatives of the missing soldiers gathered in the Shahr-e-Naw Park in Kabul.

... (More on P4) ...

Taliban Advances in Helmand as Afghan Troops Retreat

KABUL - Afghan officials said the Security forces are struggling to secure the country amid a rising insurgency. As the NATO-led coalition’s military presence dwindled last year, Afghan leaders reached out to Moscow, which fought a war of its own in Afghanistan during the 1980s, for more Russian-made weapons, including small arms, artillery and attack helicopters.

“This donation represents a deep friendship between two nations,” Afghan national security advisor Ramiz Rahim said.

KABUL - A chartered airplane carrying 125 Afghan refugees back from Germany landed in Kabul on Wednesday, with officials on board eager to assure the returns that they have a future in Afghanistan. The refugees returned voluntarily, to what is expected to be the first of many such flights coordinated between the governments in Kabul and Berlin as well as the International Organization for Migration, according the German embassy in Kabul. Seeking to escape the violence and economic malaise that continue to grip their home country, Afghans make up a major portion of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have been pouring into Europe.

... (More on P4) ...

Sweden Charity Says Foreign Troops Involved in Afghan Raids

Swedish Peace Forum, a charity to which the Swedish government has donated millions of dollars to help Afghan refugees, said Wednesday that foreign troops were present in a raid in which two patients were killed.

The Swedish organisation's director, Hakan Wike, said Wednesday that foreign troops were present in a raid in which two patients were killed.

The Swedish organisation's director, Hakan Wike, said Wednesday that foreign troops were present in a raid in which two patients were killed.

... (More on P4) ...

Pugwash Secretary General Ramusino in Kabul

KABUL - Pugwash Council secretary general Paolo Cotta-Ramusino has arrived in Kabul at the head of a delegation to discuss with Afghan officials the peace process.

The Canada-based organisation organises conferences and seminars to seek solutions to conflicts in various parts of the world.

The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (PCSWA) has offices in Washington, New York City and London.

... (More on P4) ...

German, Afghanistan Work together to Return Refugees to Kabul

KABUL - The Minister of Interior Noor-ul-Haq Ulomi has been appointed Afghanistan’s ambassador to Netherlands by the Presidential Palace.

According to the sources privy to the development, Taj Mohammad Talib has been appointed as the new Minister of Interior to replace Mr. Ulomi.

Meanwhile, Taj Mohammad Jabul has been appointed as the new Attorney General of Afghanistan.

President Karzai announced the new appointments, adding that General Abdul Rohman Balkhi has also been appointed as the new Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs. This comes a day after the killing of Afghan national security advisor Ramiz Rahim, in what is expected to be the first of many such flights coordinated between the governments in Kabul and Berlin as well as the International Organization for Migration, according the German embassy in Kabul. Seeking to escape the violence and economic malaise that continue to grip their home country, Afghans make up a major portion of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have been pouring into Europe.

... (More on P4) ...

Russia Gives a Gift of 10,000 Automatic Rifles to Afghanistan

KABUL - Afghan officials took delivery of 10,000 automatic rifles and millions of rounds of ammunition as a gift from Russia on Wednesday, another sign of deepening involvement by Moscow in the war-torn country. Dependent almost entirely on foreign aid, Afghan security forces are struggling to secure the country amid a rising insurgency. As the NATO-led coalition’s military presence dwindled last year, Afghan leaders reached out to Moscow, which fought a war of its own in Afghanistan during the 1980s, for more Russian-made weapons, including small arms, artillery and attack helicopters.

“This donation represents a deep friendship between two nations,” Afghan national security advisor Ramiz Rahim said.

KABUL - A chartered airplane carrying 125 Afghan refugees back from Germany landed in Kabul on Wednesday, with officials on board eager to assure the returns that they have a future in Afghanistan. The refugees returned voluntarily, to what is expected to be the first of many such flights coordinated between the governments in Kabul and Berlin as well as the International Organization for Migration, according the German embassy in Kabul. Seeking to escape the violence and economic malaise that continue to grip their home country, Afghans make up a major portion of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have been pouring into Europe.

... (More on P4) ...

13 Suspected Terrorists Detained with Weapons in Takhar Raids

KABUL - Thirteen suspected insurgents have been arrested on charges of staging terrorist attacks in northern Takhar province, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said Wednesday. The suspects were detained during separate raids in Talash, the provincial capital, and some other districts, a statement from the spy network said.

The detainees were involved in terrorist attacks, killing of religious scholars, tribal elders and kidnappings. One Kalaish, a prior and two hand grenades were recovered from them. (Pajhwok)