We Were Aware about Threats against Kunduz

KABUL - General Abdul Rashid Dostum, First Vice President who this weekend returned home from a trip to Russia, India, Chechnya, UAE and Turkey, said that government had been aware of the heightened threats against Kunduz ahead of the Taliban's attack.

He said government also knew of plans against other provinces.

Dostum said the government did however work to prevent insurgent attacks on Kunduz and was working at preventing the same in other provinces. “We know that they had plans for Kunduz, Farah, Helmand and Kunar provinces...we have done a lot to prevent the attack and Kunduz residents should know that we are not careless,” he said.

He also says that during his visit to Moscow the Russian government promised to provide military assistance to Afghanistan if needed and said Russian officials have expressed their concerns about the presence of insurgents in northern parts of the country.

Dostum emphasized that the Russian Defense Minister General Sergei Shoigu was asked to provide necessary equipment for the Afghan security forces, especially for army troops, in order to fight Daesh and Taliban insurgents. (More on Pg.11)

Abdullah Asks Pakistan to Stop Backing Taliban

KABUL - Presiding over the weekly Council of Ministers (CmO) meeting on Monday, Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Unity Government (NUG), once again accused Pakistan of harboring militancy, and asked them to stop funding and assisting insurgents.

“We expect that funding to the Taliban is halted. Much trust will be built when funding to the Taliban ends,” Abdullah said.

At the meeting, Abdullah also praised Afghan troops who managed to push back insurgents and retake control of the strategic city of Kunduz in the northern province.

“Progress has been made regarding the clearance operations in Kunduz. Some of the people have returned to their homes, however, we want more security measures for Kunduz to be considered,” he said.

While the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan ensures Taliban’s commitment to work on restoring the Afghan peace talks which started following the reported death of Taliban’s inclusive leader Mullah Omer, Abdullah called on Pakistan officials to stop backing the militants in an effort to rehabilitate mutual understanding and trust between the two nations.

Referring to Pakistan’s controversial role in the war, some Afghan political commentators on Monday asked... (More on Pg.11)

Germany Pledges Continued Support to Afghan Forces

KABUL - The commander of NATO’s Resolute Support Mission in northern Afghanistan, Brigadier General Andreas Hannemann said on Monday that alliance forces have struggled to boost their capability in the Afghan national security forces. (More on Pg.7)

Task Team to Probe Fall of Kunduz Starts Work

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani’s fact-finding team ordered to probe the fall of Kunduz city officially started their work on Monday.

Based on President’s order, the team has visited the areas in which oppositions had emerged and they were told to carry out an investigation and assess the situation.

The five-member team is made up of independent experts and former government officials. They include former NDS chief Abdullah Saleh, former education minister Farooq Waziri, former Interior Minister General Abdul Hameed Mohammadi.

“- The commission is non-governmental, however, we will report to the president,” said Saleh, who was the former Afghan intelligence chief.

The president has promised to take action based on the findings of this commission.

The team members are... (More on Pg.11)

UNHCR Chief EU must Further Support Greece in Managing Refugees

ATHENS - The European Union (EU) has an obligation to provide Greece with further support in the management of the escalating refugee crisis, the UN’s High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said last Monday.

The Portuguese official held talks with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and visited reception centers on the island of Lesbos and Athens during his official visit... (More on Pg.3)

All Taliban Militants Driven out of Kunduz; Police Spokesman

KUNDUZ CITY - Afghan forces have taken control of all parts of Kunduz as they have purged Taliban militants from the city, a provincial Afghan law enforcement official announced on Monday.

“Kunduz was cleared of Taliban militants yesterday and the Afghan forces have been stationed in many parts of the city,” spokesman of Kunduz Police Neyei... (More on Pg.6)