Taliban Attack Wardak, Cut Highway

KARUL - Taliban fighters on Wednesday cut the highway linking Kabul to the southern city of Kandahar, following an attack on the main town of Wardak province to the west of Kabul, officials said.

The attack on Maidan Shahr, about 45 km (28 miles) from the capital, follows a series of assaults on provincial capitals in recent months as Taliban militants step up their insurgency aimed at toppling the Western-backed government in Kabul.

Fighting was continuing just outside the town, and the main highway was blocked, said Abdul Rahman Mangal, a spokesman for the provincial government. Buildings in the town were under attack, and entrances had been ambushed, the Taliban said in a statement, warning residents to stay clear of the fighting.

Last month, after pushing into the city of Tarin Kot, in the central Afghan province of Uruzgan, fighters also managed to get into Kunduz in the north and Lashkar Gah, the capital of southern Helmand province, threatening to overrun security forces.

Argument with Faryab Official Allegedly Behind Dostum’s Statement

KABUL - A number of reliable sources said an argument between the First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum and the head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Faryab was behind the recent statement made by the country’s VP. According to the sources, the head of the NDS office in Faryab complained about Dostum to Kabul and he was supported by the central government.

“The money is not spent for his own benefit and that is the reason behind the recent statement by the VP,” said Javed Faqiri, a senior official in lower house of parliament in Faryab.

Dostum’s Remarks Met with Mixed Reaction in Wolesi Jirga

KABUL - The recent remarks made by First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum against the National Unity Government (NUG) leaders were met with mixed reaction at Wednesday’s session of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament).

Some MPs criticized the statement while others supported Dostum’s opinion.

A number of MPs said Dostum’s remarks were made for his own benefit and that senior officials in government will not ..(More on P4)...(12)

Afghan-Americans Want to See Hillary Next US President

WASHINGTON - A large number of Afghan-American communities living across the United States have declared their support for Hillary Clinton as the next US President, a media report said on Wednesday.

The Afghan communities have launched a campaign supporting Afghan and Muslim communities that are part of the US society, according to the community leaders.

They said Hillary Clinton played a critical role in the killing of Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad of Pakistan. As Secretary of State, she helped the Afghan people as they fight against Al-Qaeda and its allies.

They called her a strong and capable leader, who recognized sacrifices of all Afghans for declaring Afghanistan a ‘major non-NATO ally’ of US. The American-Afghan and Hillary Clinton was champion of women’s rights and has been a strong supporter of Afghan women and human rights activists.

Afghanistan and the US have shared blood together at the battlefield to defeat Al Qaeda and terrorism and Hillary Clinton values those sacrifices and would stand strong with the Afghan people as they fight against global terrorism and extremists, the report said. (Pajhwok)

Civil Society Seeks Emergency Aid for IDPs, Refugees

Zabul Chief Justice Suspended over Sodomy Charges

QALAT/KABUL - Local officials on Wednesday said the chief justice of southern Zabul province has been suspended for alleged sexual harassment of a male staff member.

A video clip shows Chief Justice Gulab Mohammad Khatir wearing a dress on social media networks.

The Zabul government’s spokesman, civil society leader and human rights activist Dr. Namaullah Hamidard demanded the displaced and refugees people were placed in a pitiable situation and Hamidard demanded based on information from the refugees department, 130,000 individuals have ..(More on P4)...(11)

Police Commander ‘Defects’ to Taliban in Uruzgan

TIRINKOT - A police commander ‘defected’ to Taliban militants along with his 33 men in the troubled district of central Uruzgan province on Wednesday.

The police chief for Chora district, Aka, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the 33 police battalion commander based in Chora district had surrendered to Taliban along with his 33 men. He identified the commander as Qajar Khan who had been serving as the commander for 3rd police battalion over the past two months. He said Chora district had already been besieged by Taliban and he said probably forced ..(More on P4)...(13)

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