

# Afghan Army Ousts Foes From Capital

**KABUL, Afghanistan, June 26 (Reuters)** — An artillery barrage and air raids today swept opponents of President Burhanuddin Rabbani from their last major position in this capital.

Officials and hospitals reported at least 28 dead and more than 210 wounded, most of them civilians, in two days of battles in Kabul and the western city of Herat, where the opposition responded to the Kabul offensive with air strikes.

Sporadic rocket and artillery fire from positions controlled by the President sent up puffs of smoke as missiles hit areas still controlled by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the President's major rival, in the southern and eastern outskirts of the city.

Mr. Rabbani's troops attacked at dawn from hilltop posts in the north of the capital. Witnesses said fire was concentrated on bases of a former Communist General, Abdul Rashid Dostum, who is allied with Mr. Hekmatyar.

## End to Stalemate

The capture of General Dostum's main positions on Tapae Maranjan mountain was a major victory after months of military stalemate.

"We have taken Tapae Maranjan — all of it," said Gen. Haji Fahim, chief of National Security, as he stood in the ruins of Kabul's ancient Bala Hissar Fort, captured from General Dostum on Saturday.

A soldier returning from the battlefield said most of General Dostum's artillery posts along Tapae Maranjan had fallen.

"We captured Tapae Maranjan this morning," said a soldier, Brigadier Hezbollah, who like some Afghans used one name. "After the fall of Bala Hissar fort the enemy became demoralized and after a few rounds of bombing and shelling they retreated to the south and east."

## Retreat to the East

Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami forces and General Dostum's militia were retreating rapidly eastward, and the front line had moved out of Kabul's main shopping street in the city center to the town of Khodaidad on the outskirts, General Fahim said.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said the Government captured 500 prisoners as General Dostum's force of about 1,000 men retreated, and disarmed many more as they left the capital.

"For Dostum it's a big disaster," he said. "Gulbuddin Hekmatyar will have to find a new ally. As an armed group Dostum's militia no longer exists in Kabul."

In a two-day offensive to force Mr. Hekmatyar and his allies out of Kabul, the President's troops captured Tapae Maranjan and the Soviet-built Microrayon housing complex, which has been the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting in the battle for Kabul, General Fahim said.

## 18 Killed, 142 Wounded

Initial reports from hospitals said 18 people had been killed and 142 wounded, many of them noncombatants.

A senior general for the Rabbani forces said he expected many more dead and wounded from the fighting on both sides.

The fighting was the fiercest for weeks in Kabul, where more than 2,500 people have been killed since the latest battle for supremacy between Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar began Jan. 1.

Celebrating Government fighters fired hundreds of rounds into the air as darkness fell, lighting up the night sky before an appeal on state-run Kabul Radio halted the shooting.

The two men came to office after the Communists were defeated more than two years ago, but they have been fighting ever since.