

## In Remote Parts of Logar, 40,000 Girls out of School

PUL-I-ALAM - Thousands of school-age girls are yet to be enrolled in schools in remote parts of central Logar province due to security problems and cultural restrictions.

Mohammad Shapur Arab, spokesman for the Logar education department, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the education sector had significantly improved in the province during the past 15 years.

"But still some families in rural and remote areas do not allow their girls to attend school due to security problems and cultural restrictions," he added.

He said around 40,000 girls were not allowed to go to school due to the mentioned problems despite recruitment of female teachers in schools in rural and remote areas. "Many families think it is a shame to send girls to school while some families do not allow their girls to go to school due to security problems," Arab added.



He said the education department had talked with ulema, tribal elders and civil society activists and had also launched public awareness programs about solution to the problem.

Kamila, a resident of Mohammad Agha

district, told Pajhwok that her husband was refusing to allow their daughters to get education outside home.

"There is a special school for girls here, but three of my daughters do not attend it because their father does not allow them, he

says he cannot tolerate people speak about his daughters," she said.

Mohammad Nasar Ahmadzai, a tribal elder from Khwaja Ismail area of Kharwar district, said there were no schools for girls in the district and people ...*(More on P2)...*(9)



### Farah Residents Say Fed up with Insecurities

FARAH CITY - The residents of western Farah province say they are tired of insecurities which they blame on government's negligence.

Abdullah, 28, a resident of Farah city, the provincial capital, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they were fed with continued violence and instability.

He said local residents were being terrorized by both the military and armed insurgents who daily attacked security posts on the outskirts of 3rd, 4th and 5th police districts.

Abdullah said his home was situated around one hundred meters from the provincial police headquarters and he could hear firing every night.

"Crime incidents have increased compared to the past in the province", he concluded.

Mehrabuddin, another resident of the 3rd police district, also expressed his concern over the increasing insecurity.

He said: "When I go to office, I don't think I would return home safe because of daily killings."

Meanwhile, Dadullah Qane, a provincial council member, also expressed his deep concern and said so far 33 military officials had been killed in the past one month in dozens of attacks on security check-posts. He accused the provincial authorities of negligence about the insecurity.

Governor Abdul Basir Salangai also confirmed Taliban militant activities across the province and cited lack of ammunitions and security personnel as major reasons behind the insecurity in the province.

He said he had shared the issue with President Ashraf Ghani and efforts were underway to resolve the issue. *(Pajhwok)*

### 12 Border Police Killed, 5 Injured in Takhar Clash

TALOQAN - A dozen border policemen were killed and five others wounded during a clash with Taliban insurgents in Dashti Qala district of northeastern Takhar province, an official said Monday. Police spokesman Maj. Khalilullah Asir told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents coordinately stormed the Aye-Khanum port late Sunday night at around 1:30am.

He said 12 border policemen were killed and five others wounded in the attack. ...*(More on P2)...*(10)



### Young Afghan Citizen Arrives Back in Germany

KABUL - A 20-year-old Afghan citizen, who was wrongfully deported last month, has arrived back in Germany.

Nasibullah was sent back to Afghanistan along with 68 others, Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) acknowledged.

The asylum-seeker had been deported at a time when his appeal was being processed. According to Deutsche

Welle, his initial asylum petition had been rejected in April last year.

But a decision on his appeal before a court in Greifswald was yet to be made. His case is the latest in a series of illegal deportations.

Soon after landing at Berlin's Tegel Airport, the man said: "I'm happy to be back in Germany. I hope I may stay here, and I thank you for your support," *(Pajhwok)*

### Taliban Shut Main Kandahar-Qalat Highway in Zabul

QALAT - Taliban insurgents have shut the Kandahar-Qalat highway in the Shahr-i-Safa district of southern Zabul province, an official said on Monday.

Police chief Mustafa Mayar told Pajhwok Afghan News the rebels had planted landmines on the highway in the GhashiMunar area of the district, allowing no government vehicle to pass.

He said the security forces had

been dispatched to the area to clear the highway for traffic. Nazar Mohammad, a resident of the locality, confirmed the militants had closed the highway, planted mines on the busy route and placed boulders on the road. Elsewhere in the south, the insurgents blocked the Kabul-Kandahar highway in Ghazni City, where clashes have been underway between the security forces and Taliban for four days. *(Pajhwok)*



#### (1) Taliban Advance...

make peace with Kabul Heavy fighting is taking place between Afghan government forces and militants. With government buildings and police headquarters under attack, multiple accounts suggest the city is largely controlled by the Taliban. The attack is a major blow to President Ashraf Ghani and his government in the run-up to parliamentary elections, scheduled to take place in October.

Situation 'under control' It's reported that Taliban fighters surprised government security forces with their attack, which has so far killed at least 100 Afghan policemen and soldiers. However, on Monday, Afghan Defense Minister Tariq Shah Bahrami and Interior Minister Wais Barmak said the situation was under control. "We have lost a number of men, but the number of casualties on the side of our enemies is four times larger," Bahrami told reporters during a press conference.

The defense ministry claims the number of civilian casualties is between 20 and 30. Around 200 Taliban, including Pakistani and Chechen fighters, were supposedly killed. Both ministers said they are hopeful security forces will regain control of the city within the next 24 hours. *(AA)*

#### (2) US Advisors...

Lt. Gen. Mohammed Sharif Yaftali, Afghan Ministry of Defense chief of general staff, told a press conference yesterday that the Afghan forces were focused on clearing the city entirely.

But the clearance operations would take time so as to avoid civilian casualties, financial loss and destruction to the city.

The NATO spokesman said in addition to the initial strike and close-air support on Friday, US forces

"Again, tactically, operationally and strategically, the Taliban achieved nothing with this failed attack except another eye-catching. *(Pajhwok)*

#### (3) UNAMA Welcomes...

The role of the United Nations is to provide technical advice to the electoral management bodies, to coordinate the efforts of the

international community, and to channel international funding for the elections. Elections are the fundamental expression of sovereignty in any democratic country, and are the responsibility of the government, electoral institutions, political actors, civil society, the media, voters and all other relevant stakeholders.

"The electoral management bodies have demonstrated that they can respond to constructive criticism, but they need the support of all stakeholders," said Yamamoto, who is also head of UNAMA. "All Afghans have a stake in successful elections, and it is therefore crucial for all Afghans to exercise their civic duty and participate in Afghanistan's democratic processes."

The United Nations remains committed to assisting the efforts of the Afghan people in conducting what are truly Afghan-owned elections for the first time since 2001. The United Nations fully supports all Afghan citizens in exercising their civil and political rights, and continues to support the Afghan government and people of Afghanistan in their pursuit of democratic development, prosperity and durable peace. *(Pajhwok)*

#### (4) IEC Responds...

In doing so, the protestors, who set up tents in the immediate area, effectively prevented IEC employees from going to work.

Early Monday afternoon, police however stopped a suicide bomber from gaining access to the protestors.

The suicide bomber did however detonate his explosives, killing at least one policeman and wounding one other.

This comes a day after the IEC said a number of parliamentary election candidates, who have been disqualified, warned the commission not to announce the final list of names.

According to the IEC, the 35 disqualified candidates said they will embark on protest action if their names are removed from the final candidate list.

The IEC chief Abdul Badi Sayyad meanwhile said on Monday afternoon that the disqualified candidates have asked the commission to postpone the announcement of the final list and the draw to determine the order of candidate names on ballot papers.

He said the disgruntled candidates need to

take up the matter with the IECC and with organizations and individuals that lodge the original complaints against them. *(Tolo news)*

#### (5) Trapped Ghazni...

casualties could not be ascertained as all telecom and media services have been down in Ghazni.

Inayatullah Naser, one of the protestors in front of the Grand Mosque, said that both the warring sides and civilians had suffered heavy casualties in the Ghazni battle.

He said around 200,000 residents of Ghazni City currently faced a serious shortage of food, drinking water and health services.

"A serious humanitarian disaster is possible if the ongoing situation is not controlled in Ghazni", he said.

He accused the government of committing negligence in dealing with the massing Taliban in the province and warned: "If the government fails to do something about this tragedy, we will erect protest tents in every part of Kabul."

"The government is responsible for the ongoing situation in Ghazni and it neglected to prevent the militants from advancing", Naser said.

Other protestors had similar views. Rahmatullah Andar, another protestor, accused the government of indifferent attitude toward Ghazni and demanded trial of the provincial governor.

He alleged the Ghazni governor colluded with the Taliban and handed over the province to the militants without taking any prior measures.

Also today, the interior and defense ministers told a press conference that clearing operations from four sides had been launched in Ghazni city and hoped the situation in the city would improve soon.

The security bosses said reinforcements and senior military officials including the chief of army staff, deputy interior minister and an intelligence office had reached Ghazni taking leadership of the battle there. *(Pajhwok)*

#### (6) New Round...

Christopher Kolenda, an Afghan veteran who attended the meeting, told the Daily Beast: "I was struck by what I detected was

a much higher level of seriousness about bringing the conflict to a close than I saw in 2011."

According to the Guardian, a Taliban leader claimed Russian diplomats had shared with him intelligence that the US would leave Afghanistan in 2020. *(Pajhwok)*

#### (7) UN Asks...

reportedly becoming scarce and people are unable to safely bring casualties for treatment.

Main access roads both north and south of the city to larger cities where medical facilities are available are contested and unsafe for people to travel."

"According to sporadic reports from within the city, many families have reportedly taken shelter in their houses and are unable to leave their homes. Vital telecommunications networks and the electricity supply are down in the city of 270,000 people which has impacted on the water supply, and food is also reportedly running low." *(Pajhwok)*

#### (8) Offensive with...

reports showed around 100 security personnel and 20 to 30 civilians had been killed. He claimed 194 militants, including 12 key members, were killed and 147 others injured. Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak said 70 police had been killed in the past four days. He said security forces had launched clearing operations which had some achievements so far.

The clearing operations, he said, were going at a slow-pace in order to prevent civilian casualties because the insurgents had occupied local residences, religious places such as mosques.

When asked about the disappearance of 100 Special Police Unit forces, Bahrami said they were 50 in number and retreated to a safe place due to the intensity of the clash. *(Pajhwok)*

#### (9) In Remote Parts...

also did not allow girls to attend schools due to security problems.

"People in Kharwar are from Pashtun ethnic group, it is considered a shame send women outside of home, 99 percent of women here are uneducated," he said.

Asima, 15, a resident of Purk area of capital of Logar, said there were thousands of girls barred by their families from going to school. "I love writing and reading, but our elders do not allow us to get education," she said. She said she was still ready to start from the first grade if her family allowed her to go to school.

Pajhwok interviewed around 100 girls in Logar and almost all of them mentioned similar problems.

Shima Zargar, Logar women's affairs head, also said cultural restrictions had deprived thousands of girls of education.

"Despite the fact many people in this province are educated, but in remote areas girls are not allowed to go to schools because culture and traditions still rule there," she said. The women's affairs department has launched many awareness programs for encouraging families to let their girls attend schools and the programs are still ongoing, Zargar added.

Abdul Wali Wakil, deputy provincial council head of Logar, also said that many girls in the province were out of school.

"Some families do not allow their girls to go to school (due to cultural restrictions) while others fear security problems, therefore girls are not given the right to education," he said. He said development in a country was linked to an educated nation and all people should be serious in solving problems the education sector faced.

Governor's spokesman, Shamsad Larawi, said that local officials were trying to address the mentioned problems.

"Just a day earlier, the governor met with civil society activists and discussed with them bad cultures and restrictions on girls," he said.

Around 150,000 students including 40,000 of them girls currently get education in Logar schools. *(Pajhwok)*

#### (10) 12 Border Police...

However, he said the Taliban had also suffered casualties but exact figures were not known as yet.

On the other hand, the militants claimed killing 18 policemen and wounding ten others besides capturing weapons and ammunitions. *(Pajhwok)*