**Poppy Cultivation Increases in Nangarhar: Officials**

KABUL - Local officials in Nangarhar said Wednesday that most farmers in the province have resumed poppy cultivation in their areas, accusing the government of not doing enough to curtail the problem.

Among them, 11 people said a meeting was held last week attended by representatives of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and several districts of Nangarhar.

The officials reported that up to now, Nangarhar has witnessed a tremendous increase in poppy cultivation in the province over the past year. They were trying to stop the trend with the help of the people and the farmers, said provincial council's director Zafar Sajad.

Meanwhile, Nangarhar police said they will try to find an alternative for poppy cultivation in the province and that they will encourage farmers to avoid the illegal practice. “We have some special forces in the province and we want to eliminate poppy cultivation by all means,” said Nangarhar Police Chief Fad Ahad Shirzad. Full rejection of government’s initiatives towards them and the market opportunities of their products have pushed them to allow poppy on their land.

Government promised years ago to destroy distinctions and facilities for us. Also it vowed to provide the market for it [opium poppy]. ” said Mohammad Khan, a resident of Ghazi City, the provincial capital, said considering the government's actions, most farmers may have started new poppy fields in the area.

In this district, Jalger, Qarghom and Ghazi districts, sound waves were heard coming from the area. They said: “Strong sounds were heard in the area. At the time of earthquake, the sounds are like a fighter jet coming down and drops bombs,” said Kalat Khan, a provincial council’s chieftain who said some of the consecutive quakes had shocked Ghazi City. Similarly, farmers could not sleep.

\[More on P4\]

\[More on P10\]

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**169 Refugees – Mostly from Afghanistan – Live in Kyrgyzstan**

BISHKEK - 169 refugees live in Kyrgyzstan, the Migration Service told Alpamish.

There are 15,846 refugees in Kyrgyzstan, 11,600 of whom are from Afghanistan, the service said, among whom 169 refugees from Afghanistan are being registered in the country last year in line with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Reports on foreign citizen ap- plying for refugee status are sent to the Director of the State Committee for National Security each month in order to use the information distribution system.

39 interviews were conducted with asylum-seekers to interpre- t the procedures of preparing the status of refugees and the work was conducted to check the provided information. [Alpamish]

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**18 Militants Eliminated in Pakita Drone Strike**

PUL-E-Alam - Tanks and armored vehicles of the Taliban Militants were hit in a drone attack in Badghis province, 25 people were killed and three others wounded in an insur- gent attack in the central province of Uruzgan.

The first one which exploded a few hours before in Nahor, Waghaz, also heard at the time of the blast. It welcomed every step towards the realization of peace in the country over the same period.

Afghan National Army (ANA) and officers were killed and three others were wounded in an insur- gent attack in the central province of Uruzgan.

Two Bomb Blasts Leave 3 Wounded in Nangarhar, Khost

A 35-year-old man was killed and two others were wounded in Nangarhar, Khost, and in Nangarhar, Khost, a provincial official said on Thursday.

Taliban attack the security personnel. Some of the residents were evacuating from their homes when they were eracuating from their homes when they were evacuating from their homes when they were eva... (More on P4)...(20)

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**2-Nation Talks**

KABUL - The Afghan government has welcomed an invitation from Pakistan to hold a political dialogue and said it would welcome every step towards the realization of peace in the country.

The Taliban government said unfortunately ef... (More on P4)...(19)

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**Amp Lends Weight to 4-Nation Talks**

KABUL - The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have killed 27 suspected Taliban militants in the last 24 hours across the country.

A total of 14 militiamen were wounded and five others detained by the ANSF, the ministry said in a statement.

The joint forces also discovered and dismantled two light and heavy ammunition depots, and five landmines that included 700-800 mines, and destroyed several command and control centers of Taliban. The ANSF also provides daily operational updates.

Afghan-Taliban talks started between the two groups on Monday evening following a five-week break, during which time the Taliban were trying to sneak into Afghanistan. The talks were resumed on Monday evening, the district the deputy chief, Mohammad Nabi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. [One ANA - (More on P4)]

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**US, China, Pakistan and India to Discuss Peace Talks Today**

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"The Afghan government welcomes the Pakistan's political initiative and will continue to push for a comprehensive peace in Afghanistan," the deputy chief, Mohammad Nabi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. [One ANA - (More on P4)]

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**Two Taliban Fighters Eliminated in Paktia**

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