KABUL - At least five civilians were killed in an airstrike by Afghan forces in the central province of Logar on Monday evening, a number of local residents claimed.

The residents, who talked to TOLOnews on Tuesday, also claimed that the airstrike left 15 civilians wounded. They said that children were also among the victims.

An Army Commander in Logar, Colonel Abdul Mattin Hassibzadah, said the airstrike targeted a Taliban gathering in Kamal Khaneh village on the outskirts of Pul-e Alam, the center of Logar, which killed 25 Taliban members including key commanders and wounded 11 others.

Colonel Hassibzadah did not report civilian casualties in the airstrike and said there might be some civilians who didn’t survive at the Taliban gathering.

The Ministry of Defense said in a statement that the airstrike was carried out in Kamal Khaneh village in Logar killed 22 Taliban fighters, including their key commander Namath Marzal. The ministry also claimed civilians wounded.

Doel Davang, the governor’s spokesman, confirmed the security-operation against the rebels. He said these no- commanders were among the fatalities.

Mahbub Alhakamzadah, Mahbub Naqibat and Mahbub Hamii were identified as dreaded commanders. He said three others were also killed in the offensive. (More on P5-B30)

Fighting Intensifies in 6 Districts of Kundahar

KANDAHAR CITY - Taliban insurgents have intensified attacks in some districts of southern Kandahar province, an official said on Tuesday.

The militants have stepped up activity in Maiwand, Zhari, Zhob, Zharmal and Mereen districts.

Police Chief Maj. Gen. Tadin Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News: “Everyone knows plots are hatched across the Durand Line and militants are being told to escalate fighting.”

He said reinforcements had reached the districts to prevent possible insurgent attacks there.

Governor Hayatullah Hayat expressed concern over intense clashes. However, he believed the militants were seeking to strengthen their position at peace talks.

“Taliban have intensified clashes to show their power and seek to speak from a position of strength in the peace talks,” Hayatullah said.

Last week, the rebels conducted two deadly attacks in Marzat district and inflicted civilian casualties on security forces. (More on P4-B21)

5 Civilians Reportedly Killed in Logar Airstrike

FUL-A-LAM - At least 25 Taliban insurgents and two civilians have been killed in a drone strike in central Logar province, an official said on Monday.

Ahmad Shakoor Tazal, spokesman for the 4th brigade of the Afghan National Army’s 206th corps, said an airstrike on a Taliban base in Great Khati area of Logar’s Pul-e Alam district killed 23 Taliban fighters, including four notable commanders, were killed and 10 others wounded, he claimed.

Douel Davang, the governor’s spokesman, confirmed the security-operation against the rebels. He said three no- commanders were among the fatalities.

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5 Killed, 1 Wounded in Nangarhar Roof Cave-In

JALALABAD - Five members of a family were killed and six others wounded as a result of a roof collapse in the Pachiragam district of eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor’s spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the casualties happened in the Pash Parish area of the district in the morning.

Two men, as many children and a woman were killed and at least one woman was wounded in the incident, the official explained.

Khogyani added the injured were in critical condition. (Pajhwok)