UK’s Upgraded Puma Helos Prepare for Afghan Deployment

LONDON - The United King- dom is to deploy its newly upgraded COBRA II Puma Helos to southern Afghanistan within weeks after initial operating ca- pabilities were announced last week. The Ministry of Defence announced, on the Press Association’s news wire, on Thursday what was described as the start of a full-scale deployment to Afghanistan. It is due to begin within weeks as the UK’s existing fleet of Pumas is rapidly on the way to being replaced by the new aircraft. The upgrades to the Pumas involve a number of improvements, including new cabins, improved electronic systems and better fuel efficiency. The upgrades will also increase the helicopter’s range and increase the amount of cargo it can carry. The new Pumas will be operated by the 16-member of the 130th (South East) Regiment of the RAF Regiment. The regiment is to be deployed to Afghanistan as part of the NATO Resolute Support Mission in the country.

ALP Personnel among 14 Dead

GHAZNI CITY - Seven Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel and seven civilians were killed and two others wounded in a clash against a group of Taliban fighters in western Ghazni province, the Afghanistan Interior Ministry said Thursday. Mohammad Ali Ahmad told Pajhwok Afgh- an News that the attack took place in the early hours of Thursday morning. It was reported that a group of Taliban fighters attacked the ALP personnel in the Panjsher district of Ghazni province, killing seven of them and wounding two. The exact details of the attack remain unclear, but it is believed that the Taliban fighters were targeting the ALP personnel to weaken their presence in the region. The Afghan government has vowed to take measures to ensure the security of its citizens, especially in regions where the Taliban are active.