KABUL - A number of military officials in Helmand province said on Wednesday that despite a surge in violence in Helmand province, President Ashraf Ghani has still to give the orders for a large-scale offensive operation against the Taliban.

But provincial governor Hayatullah Hayat said plans are underway to launch a wide-scale operation across the province. “Our planning is under way, and soon, this week, an offensive operation against the Taliban,” Hayat said.

Ghani has still to give the orders for a large scale operation against the Taliban in violence in Helmand province, President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday termed illicit drug menace as a national problem and called upon Afghans to stand along with the government in fighting the menace. “Like poverty, the problem of drug in society is a national problem and a serious challenge,” Ghani said while inaugurating a drug treatment center in the capital.

Afghan lawmakers representing the central provinces have warned the government of national unity leaders would be responsible for the consequences by changing the 500kV project route from Bamyan to Salang. Lawmaker Ghulam Sakhi Nouri said the issue of TUTAP route across the province would be presented to the central government.

“Considering the consequences of the issue of changing the route of TUTAP project across the province, the central government would be responsible for the consequences,” Nouri said.

In the drug treatment center inaugurated in the capital, the National Rehabilitation and Treatment Center Omid, according to a statement of President Palace. In the drug treatment center established in Phoenix, a U.S. military compound in the eastern edge of Kabul was housed units of U.S. forces during the presence of Vice President for Security.

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