Pakistan Local Poultry Industry hit by Smuggling from Afghanistan

MADRAS, Iran - Poultry farmers in northern Balkh province complain of smuggling of expired chicken meat from Pakistan, a practice hampering the local industry. The Poultry Union head added the government was working to set up a facility for sudden marketing system of the sector by establishing more farms. Currently, chicken meat is being produced in 80 different poultry farms in the northern zone.

Badar Ahmad Mirzadi, head of the Poultry Farmers Union, told Pajhwok Afghan News many of the poultry farms import chicken from Pakistan and bring them up in these farms. He revealed rumors that northern provinces would become self-sufficient in chicken meat production. "Unfortunately, I have to say the ever increasing poultry farms are functional because of the chicks imported from Pakistan. Therefore, local production of chickens cannot grow," said Mirzadi.

He said 60 factories were producing chicken in Afghanistan but due to lack of government attention, they were faced with multiple problems. Mirzadi said 8,000 to 10,000 chicks were imported into Mazari-Sharif every 24 hours and after they grow in some days, the meat is sent to neighboring provinces - Faryab, Jowzjan and Sar-i-Pul.

He said the government, businessmen and consumer groups preferred imported oil meat as something relatively less affected by the local industry. In addition, Mirzadi termed the smuggling of expired chicken meat from Paki- stan another factor hampering local productions.

Rahmatullah, a resident of Ballak, said he kept 2,000 to 3,000 chickens in his farm and sold them after they grew. He launched the business 10 years ago with a small number of chickens but he became happy with his business. He said the smuggled chicks of chicken from Paki- stan harmed the local market. Rahman said despite government ban on... "(Pajhwok Phu)

GHAZNI - At least 7 Taliban milita- ents were killed in separate air- strikes conducted in the past 24 hours in southern Zabul and southern Ghazni provinces.

The anti-government armed militiamen including Taliban have not commented regarding the inci- dents so far. Both Zabul and Ghazni are among the relatively volatile provinces in Southern and South-eastern parts of Afghan- stan.

Taliban militants are active in some of the restive districts of the two prov- inces where they often attempt to carry out terrorist related activities against the government and security institu- tions (KP). The MoD dispatched reinforcements to the district and the situation is cur- rently under control. Police chief Col. Mirzadul Sadat said Pajhwok Afghan News the milita- nts conducted a coordinated attack in the district of southern Zabul province. In a statement, the Ministry of De- fense (MoD) said several militants conducted the assault in the district of southern Zabul province. However, the government had not commented on the attack.

7 Taliban Militants Killed in Ghazni and Zabul Airstrikes

KABUL - A Taliban commander and a fighter of the group were killed in separate improvised explo- sive Device explosions which went off prematurely in northern Baghlan and central Logar provinces. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said a local Taliban commander who was planting an improvised explosive device in Dand-e-Shahbahar, an area of Baghlan province was killed when the exp- losive went off prematurely.

The ministry in a separate statement said a Taliban fighter was killed in an improv- ised explosive device in Khwadar district of Logar province.

The anti-government armed militiamen including Taliban have not commented regarding the inci- dents so far. Taliban frequently use improvised explo- sive devices as the weapons of their choice to target the security forces and government personnel but the Isaf stated that such attacks are civilan target.

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