Nawa District Back Under Taliban Control: MPs

GRAZI CITY - A group of Ghani’s MPs provoked attention in the Lower House on Saturday, claiming that Ghani’s Nawa district had once again lapsed into the hands of the Taliban, despite efforts made by the security forces. The Ghani lawmakers said the security of the district to the border of Pakistan makes it particularly susceptible to Taliban pressure.

Nevertheless, while the Taliban have declared official statements that the district has been overrun and under government control in various releases by the group’s spokesman, officials at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) have said that the district is secure for Afghan forces. Just a week ago, security officials celled what seemed a landmark achievement in the capturing of Nawa district after nine years of Taliban rule.

Although local officials do not confirm the fall of the district to the Taliban, as far as we know, security forces had taken this district, but could not prevent and it fell once again,” Ghani MP Mohammad Ashkhan said on Saturday.

The lawmakers’ claims have been substantiated by videos released by the Taliban showing their presence in Nawa district.

“A day ago, Ghani announced that security forces had taken control of this district, I doubted the accuracy of the news,” Ghani MP Mohammad Ali.... rubbed....

Govt. to Fully Back Free Media: President

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Saturday reiterated his commitment to ensuring free media and resolving problems of media people were among priorities of his government.

Ghani expressed this after meeting with ministers and other officials of the Information and Culture Ministry.

“I wanted to try to evaluate their 100-day plan in office, a statement from Presidential Palace said.... (More on P6-18)....

Watchdog US Needs to Push Ahead with Handover of Afghan Aviation

NEW YORK: After spending more than $500 million over 12 years rebuilding Afghanistan’s civil aviation, the United States is still running Afghan civil aviation to help control traffic congestion and other problems hard to track even local air traffic controllers.

Also a failure by the Afghan government to meet... (More on P5-18)....

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Ministry of Education Faces Acute Books Shortage

KANDAHAR CITY - Over hundred prisoners were released from Kandahar prison on Saturday, which was closed following an incident that killed security guards.

Col. Ghaus Khan, a prisoner official at Kandahar jail, told Pajhwok Afghan News most of the prisoners were released because of their poor medical condition.

Mohammad Nazem, a newly re-elected governor, said he had spent over a year (More on P4-18).