11 District Chiefs Operate from Ghazni City

GHANZI CITY - Administrative chiefs of 11 districts of southern Ghazni province perform their official works from the provincial capital due to security problems, a public representative said on Wednesday.

Provincial council deputy head, Ismatullah Janmadwal, told Paht-wok Afghan News the 11 district chiefs had opened their offices in Ghazni city.

"These district chiefs have rented houses in Ghazni City and do not go to their districts even once in several months, an issue that has created problems for people," he said.

While the district chiefs carried stamps in their pockets, but people who needed their help roamed the city streets searching for them, he said.

A civil society activist, Jamil Woqar, said most districts of the province were unstable and therefore district chiefs could not travel there.

"The district chiefs are responsible to resolve people’s problems, but they do the opposite and create problems for people, they could be hardly found to address someone’s problem," he said.

Woqar asked local officials not to allow the district chiefs to open their offices in Ghazni city.

Shah Mohammad, a resident of Giro district, said: "I came to the provincial council with our district chief to sign my identity card, but I have been searching for him over the past few days and yet to find him.”

Juma Khan Taraki, the district chief for Ab-Band district, said a majority of his counterparts had opened offices in Ghazni city... (More on P4...)

Taliban Attack on Judicial Authorities in Afghanistan Widely Condemned

KABUL - The Deadly Suicide Attack against a Bus of Judges outside Kabul City on Wednesday which left at least 10 persons dead, has been strongly condemned.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) termed the attack as a coward act and condemned it in its strongest term.

"Attacks against judicial authorities are cowardly and contrary to international humanitarian law,” said Nicholas Haynes, the UN-secretary-general’s special representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA in a statement released here.

"I unreservedly condemn today’s attack, demand accountability for the perpetrators and urge authorities to do everything in their power to ensure adequate protection of judicial officials,” Haynes said in the statement.

In the deadly attack for which Taliban claimed responsibility, according to UNAMA statement, 31 civilians were killed and 10 injured.

According to the statement, the victims include employees of the Maidan Wardak provincial court and bystanders civilians in the area, including six children.

In the statement, the UN Mission reiterated international humanitarian law, to which all parties to the armed conflict are bound, prohibits attacks directed against civilians and the use of indiscriminate tactics, particularly suicide attacks using improvised explosive devices.

Similarly, the Afghan Interior Ministry, in a statement released here... (More on P4...)

Security Forces Kill 61 Militants Over 24 Hours

KABUL - Afghanistan Security forces killed 61 militants during special operations over the past 24 hours, the Afghan Defense Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

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18 Bamyan Education Officials Jailed, Fined

BAMYAN CITY - The Turin court of central Bamyan province on Wednesday sentenced 18 education officials from three to six years in jail and fined them over embezzling pensions’ salaries amounting to millions of afghanis. The officials had been accused of misusing authority and embezzling tens of millions of afghanis belonging to retired teachers. The accused were introduced to the attorney’s office in February. The urban court sentenced a number of the accused to jail terms and others.

Based on the court’s verdict, former Bamyan education director Mohammad Reza Aqa was sentenced to six years in jail and fined 8.9 million afghanis and former Bamyan and current Daikundi education director Mohammad Ali was jailed for three years and fined 3.3 million afghanis.

The sentencing officer of Shahr district of Bamyan, Sultan, was sentenced to six years in jail and fined 7.7 million afghanis. Hussain Ali, education manager of Wardas district, was sentenced to three years in jail and fined 3.9 million afghanis. Ghulam Hussain Shafii, deputy Bamyan education director was fined 40,000 afghanis fine. Mir Hussain, human rights manager, was jailed for two months, Bismullah, an education... (More on P4...)

Atmar to Visit Azerbaijan Next Week

KABUL - Mohammad Hanif Atmar, national security advisor to Afghanistan’s president, will visit Azerbaijan the next week, Afghanistan’s embassy in Baku told Trend Wednesday.

During the visit, Hanif Atmar will hold a number of high-level meetings and discuss the strengthening of bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Azerbaijan.

The Afghan official’s visit will take place at the invitation of the Azerbaijan side.

Trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Afghanistan stood at $9.37 million in January-April 2016, according to the Azerbaijani State Customs Committee. The entire amount accounted for the exports to Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan doesn’t import products from Afghanistan. (TNT)