Resident Want Dehna Ghori Retaken from Rebels

KABUL - Growers in 22 provinces have harvested close to 4,000 metric tons (MT) of soybeans, says Nutrition and Education International (NEI), a NGO that has been promoting soybean farming in Afghanistan. NEI is a NGO that has sent a key component of Afghan agriculture, soybean, as a source of nutrition in Afghans.

NEI has contributed to the soybean harvest by sending seeds and other agricultural inputs. Last year, the NGO trained more than 12,000 soy farmers in 22 provinces in Afghanistan. In 2016, the number of trained farmers reached 17,000 across 31 provinces. In a statement, the organization said the soybean harvest was estimated to exceed 6,000 MT - a record for the country. The soybean harvest is considered primarily by farmers and their families. The excess crop is sold to soy processors who represent a key component of Afghanistan’s soy value chain. Over the past decade, NEI has contributed high-quality soybean seeds, fertilizer, tractors and threshers to support over 85,000 farmers, grow the crop with improved yields each year (Palookab).

Pakita Farmers Bear Losses Due to Strained Afghan-Pak Ties

SHARANA - Some orchard owners in southeastern Pakita province complained about the lack of proper market for their fruits and said most of the time their products were sold by chance. They said the Afghan-Pak border crossing with Pakistan has been closed over the past six months, preventing their fruits from being exported to Pakistan. Ahmad Shah, who owns an orchard in Shinana, the provincial capital, told Pajhwok Afghan News his orchard had 3,000 grape trees. (More on P.29)

Security in Tirinkot Improves after Taliban’s Retreat

TERINKOT - Governor of central Uruzgan province on Saturday said the security situation improved after Afghan forces operations against Taliban militants and local residents of the area. Governor Mohammad Nazir Kharoti said the Taliban had forced to leave the area. He said no action had been taken to get back Dehna Ghori. He said prompt actions were taken whenever a district in other provinces was captured by militants. He said Neer Mohammad, another tribal elder, accused the provincial authorities of being incapable to protect the territorial integrity of the province.

He said no action had been taken to get back the strategic district from the Taliban and no assistance had so far been extended to the displaced families. He warned of more protests if the situation persisted, saying residents and the displaced families would part of future protests.

Governor Abdel-Satar Barz, however, said a massive military action had been planned. (More on P.17)

Kabul, Islamabad Urged to Defuse Tension for Peace Sake

PESHAWAR - Peace in the region is threatened by lingering mistrust between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) minister has warned. Shikander Hayat Sheraps, provincial chairman of the Quami Watan Party, expressed serious concern over escalating tensions between the neighbors. In a statement on Friday, Sherap urged Kabul and Islamabad to quickly resolve their issues as strained ties would negatively contribute toward peace and stability in both countries. Pakistanis had enormously suffered on both sides of the border for many decades and had rendered unforfeitable sacrifices in the war against terrorism, he noted. Sherap said the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan should realize the situation and they had rendered unforfeitable sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

CAIRO - Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Pakistani counterpart, Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, have discussed the security situation in Afghanistan and the war against terrorism in the region, state-run media reported. Xi’s top aide, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, delivered the message to his Pakistani counterpart, Mohammad Sadiq, in a phone conversation. The two leaders agreed to strengthen counterterrorism cooperation and ensure regional peace and security. (More on P.12)

100 Badakhshan Women Complete Vocational Training

FAIZABAD - A hundred women and girls have completed a short-term vocational training course in northern Badakhshan province, an official said on Wednesday. Zofnoon Hassan Nazat, women affairs director, said 100 women received vocational training in processing dairies, vegetables and tailoring and 70 others learnt computer and English language skills. At the certificate distribution ceremony, she hoped participants of the course, sponsored by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), would work to improve their lives. (More on P.12)

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Weather Forecast

Jalalabad: Clear, 29°C to 19°C
Ghazni: Clear, 30°C to 14°C
Kandahar: Clear, 30°C to 25°C
Mazar-i-Sharif: Clear, 31°C to 19°C
Herat: Clear, 31°C to 18°C
Bamyan: Clear, 27°C to 9°C
Kabul: Clear, 32°C to 14°C

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