Drug Commerce Threat to Helmand Security: Police

LAMBARGAH CITY - The police chief for southern Helmand province on Sunday acknowledged that a boom in poppy cultivation and its trafficking was a major threat to security.

Mir Gzar Nazareen, the newly-appointed police chief, told a press conference that both international narcotics and local armed groups were involved in cultivating the illicit crop and smuggling opium.

He said that there had been an increase in the cultivation of poppy crop in the province with the help of local elders. However, he did not give any timeframe for the anti-drug drive.

Earlier, Governor Mohammad Naseem had also called poppy cultivation a stumbling-block to security in the province.

Nads, a farmer of the area, told Pajhwok Afghan News poppy cultivation had been going on in parts of Helmand this year. He added that the government provide them alternative to the crop!

Abdul Jalal, another grower, also confessed. “I live in Nad Ali district and have cultivated poppy on any land in Khashm Chin town, whereas the government has no work.”

According to reports, last year poppy was cultivated on around 1000 acres... (More on P11)

Ex-Governor Accused of Spurning Presidential Order

FARAH CITY - The Khwaja Said district chief in western Farah province, who was appointed by the former president, has not been allowed by the ex-governor to start his duty.

An investigation by Pajhwok Afghan News revealed that Khwaja Dad, the acting district chief, has been receiving only 4,700 afghans as monthly salary.

An amount of 4,000 afghan (7000), which a district chief is supposed to draw as monthly pay, has been still going to the former... (More on P11)

Closing Gap with Public, Police FM Radio Goes on KABUL - As an effort to bridge the gap between police and the public, the long-awaited police FM radio has started broadcasting programmes.

Nasiruddin, an Afghan programme director and host of on-air show, said that he and the other employees of the station, who work on a little space, are working hard to make the radio more accessible.

He added that more and more people are listening to the radio now. “We are gaining popularity with every passing day.”

KUNDuz City - As many as 52 security personnel and 56 civilians have been killed and 65 others wounded in a clearance operation that ended on Sunday in the Sistan-Balochistan province, an official said.

The offensive was carried out by the Afghan National Army (ANA), police, Public Order Police (POP) and Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel, police officials said.

He added some of the rebel commanders were among the dead insurgents. At least 35 villages were purged of the rebels. (More on P11)

Dozens of Rebels Eliminated

University Entry Test Process Kicks Off

JALALABAD - As many as 12,750 high school graduates, including 1,254 females, have started appearing in the university entry test in the capital city.

Chairman of the University Entrance Committee, Mohammad Sajid, said the university entrance test is an important part of the education system.

He added that the process is being conducted without any cause for complaints.

Meanwhile, candidates expressed deep concern over transparency of the process and some of them appeared in the test and got admission to faculties of other universities... (More on P11)

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