

Int'l forces to establish military base in Helmand

Akram Nawrozi - May 6, 2008 - 18:34

LASHAKARGAH (PAN): Tribal elders and government officials held a big gathering after two years delay in Garamsaer district of restive Helmand province on Tuesday. Garamsaer district is located in southeast of Lashakargah city and most of its territory was in hand of Taliban for last two years.

US and British coalition forces have launched operations in the district for last one week and claim they have cleared the district from Taliban.

Helmand deputy governor Abdul Satar Mirzakwal told Pajhwok Afghan News the gathering was held at district headquarter and over 450 tribal elders, influential and officials attended.

He said government officials and tribal elders talked about the security and reconstruction of the district.

Mirzakwal said the district is in hand of government, however international and Afghan forces still continued clearance operations.

He added UNAMA and Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) provided emergency aid to 4000 families and will be distributed very soon.

Mirzakwal said the foreign forces promised to establish a big military base in the district and will construct bordering security post in the district.

Haji Muhammad Shah, a tribal elder from the district told Pajhwok Afghan News in telephonic chat most areas of the districts have been seized by Afghan and coalition forces.

He added there were Taliban in some areas and clearance operations are still in progress.

He added civilians have been hurt in operations

Coalition and Afghan forces claimed they have seized most areas of the district, however a Taliban commander Mula Raz Muhammad told Pajhwok Afghan News on telephone that they still have most areas of Garamsaer district.

A week back tribal elders of the district said thousands of families left their homes

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