

☐ Taliban capture another district in south

KANDAHAR CITY, June 19 (Pajhwok Afghan News): Days after the fall of a district to Taliban militants in Paktika, another district was captured by the rebels in Kandahar, their former stronghold and spiritual capital.

The militia's purported spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi said their men seized control of the Mianishin district following a few hours clash with the government forces.

Security officials confirmed the fall of the district to the guerillas, but said their retreat was strategic and the district would be recaptured soon.

Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News over the telephone from an undisclosed location, Ahmadi claimed killing 10 policemen and seizing several vehicles and motorcycles besides huge quantity of arms and ammunitions in the fighting.

However, Kandahar police chief Asmatullah Alizai rejected as baseless Taliban's claim regarding the killing of policemen.

None was killed or injured in the clash, said the police chief, who insisted their retreat from the district was strategic.

The district centre was surrounded by small and large mounds, and the policemen had taken positions there as a strategic move, Alizai opined.

He was upbeat about the recapture of the district, saying the militants would not be able to retain it for long.

Two days back, the rebels had captured Yahyakhel district of the southeastern Paktika province. However, the government said it was retaken after a military operation.

Saeed Zabuli