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Fall of Hesarak may impinge on Kabul, Nangarhar security

9/3/2016

Administrative chief of Hesarak district in eastern Nangarhar province warned the town could not be secured until the main road leading to the district was made safe and secured.

During an exclusive chat with Pajhwok Afghan News Abdul Khaliq said the law and order situation in Hesarak were still unstable and there were security threats posed by the insurgents.

He lamented the district centre was under Taliban siege from three sides and there were no government official operating in the area. He said he himself was not present in the district.

“The security situation was not good in the district, police and soldiers have retreated from the area and just commando forces were there. Rebels have surrounded the district from three sides and the commandoes may launch operation to free the district, he said”

According to Khaliq, the district could not be made secure until the 16 kilometres road from Sarobi district of Kabul leading to Hesarak was made secure.

The district chief suggested ways for ensuring security on the road and said, “There is need for the establishment of six joint check-posts with security officials in Sarobi district with each post having 20 security-men,” he suggested.

Abdul Khaliq asked the government to take steps for reopening of the road and said it would positively affect security situation in Nangarhar's Hesarak, Logar's Azra and Kabul's Sarobi districts.

The situation was fragile in the district and no government official could perform his duty there, he said, adding support of the local was mandatory to improve the law and order situation.

Meanwhile, Attaullah Khogyani, the Nangarhar governor's spokesman, confirmed security situation in Hesarak was unstable and said there were reports about clashes and gun battles.

The spokesman did not go into the details of ongoing situation, but said security forces were committed to launch a clearing operation against rebels in Hesarak.

Mohammad Naeem, a tribal elder and civil society activist, said roads leading to the district were blocked and people were running out of food. He warned of looming humanitarian crisis if immediate steps were not taken for the reopening of the road connecting Hesarak with Nangarhar and Kabul.

However, Khogyani said two vehicles loaded with food stuff and necessary commodities had reached the district last week and the problem regarding food shortage has been resolved.

Over the past two weeks fighting was ongoing and forces were unable to drive away militants from the district and secure government buildings and machinery.