

OPIUM



▲ **CROP** Poppy farmer

Taliban's drug haul hits £50m

By **MARK ELLIS**

TALIBAN terrorists made £50million last year from the opium trade in Afghanistan to fund its war against the West.

Militants levied a 10 per cent tax on poppy farmers, who reaped a harvest worth £500million, the UN said yesterday.

Spokesman Antonio Maria de Costa said the Taliban made even more money from drugs-related activities.

He added: "One is protection to laboratories and the other is that the insurgents offer protection moving opium across the border."

"Last year Afghanistan produced about 8,000 tons of opium. The world in the past few years has consumed about 4,000 tons of the drug.

"This leaves a surplus. It is stored somewhere - and not with the farmers."

Britain is spending a quarter of a billion pounds over three years fighting Afghanistan's drugs trade.



Rays that simply amaze..

A WAVE of golden stingrays glides through the sea in a spectacular mass migration off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Schools of as many as 10,000 cow nose rays, each spanning up to 7ft, move to warmer climes in spring and autumn.

US tourist Sandra Critelli, 41, who took the snap last July, said: "It was unforgettable."

BOY JUMPS TO DEATH UNDER



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