

**(1) 45,000 ...**

sanctions against al-Qaeda and the Taliban, said in the report to the U.N Security Council that Daesh has lost territory and fighters.

At the high point of its influence in 2015, Daesh fighters controlled nine districts in Nangarhar Province but currently their influence has been reduced, at most, to three and a half districts, the experts said. They said the number of fighters fell as a result of Afghan military action and international airstrikes.

"The group's ability to take and hold territory was also affected by clashes with Taliban fighters competing for local influence and particularly for resources, funding and manpower," they said.

The experts said several countries reported to the team that the number of Daesh fighters in eastern Afghanistan had dropped from an estimate of fewer than 3,500 to about 1,600, of whom 700 are foreigners.

Nonetheless, it said, Daesh has maintained "an active propaganda campaign inside Afghanistan," with a key tool being a mobile radio station that remains in operation despite Afghan and international efforts to target it.

As for foreign fighters, the report said the largest proportion - approximately 7,500 to 7,600 - fled Pakistan as a result of military operations and were fighting alongside the Afghan Taliban.

A second group reportedly comprises fighters from China, Russia and Central Asia fighting with Daesh including the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, while the third group comprises Daesh fighters and the fourth al-Qaeda and its affiliates, the report said. (Tolonews)

**(2) US Military...**

least 30 Afghan civilians were killed and 25 others injured in an air-and-ground operation launched in an area known as Bohd Qandahari, said Sayed Mahmood Danish, a Kunduz provincial spokesman.

Four members of Afghan special forces were also killed and six others injured, Danish said. Twenty-six insurgents were killed and 10 others were wounded, he added.

The Pentagon identified the dead US service members as Capt. Andrew D. Byers, 30, of Roanoke, North Carolina, and Sgt. 1st Class Ryan A. Gloyer, 34, of Greenville, Pennsylvania. They were assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Carson, Colorado.

The troops came under fire during what the US military said this week was a mission to train, advise and assist its Afghan partners in clearing a Taliban position and disrupting the organization's operations in Kunduz district.

"On behalf of all of US Forces-Afghanistan ... today's loss is heart-breaking and we offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends of our service members who lost their lives today," Nicholson said in a statement Thursday. US Defense Secretary Ash Carter said he was saddened by the casualties.

"Our service members were doing their part to help the Afghans secure their own country while protecting our homeland from those who would do us harm," he said in a statement. "We will honor their sacrifice by finishing our important mission in Afghanistan."

The deaths occurred on the same day that a Taliban mortar attack killed at least seven people attending a wedding party in Faryab province in northern Afghanistan, provincial police spokesman Kareem Youresh said. At least 13 people were injured. In April, the Pentagon announced that 16 military personnel would be disciplined over a deadly US strike on a Kunduz hospital in October 2015. But the military maintained the strike was not a war crime because it resulted from unintentional human error and equipment failure. The Pentagon said some personnel involved in the bombing of the Doctors Without Borders hospital "failed to comply with the rules of engagement and the law of armed conflict." (CNN)

**(3) Daesh Rebels...**

Kasi area of Ferozkoh, said: "Daesh fighters kidnapped the seven farmers on Friday when President Ghani met people."

He added the victims -- five from Kasi area and two from Band-i-Amir -- had been transferred to an unknown place. The men's fate is yet to be known. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Amu River...**

government had carried out some works to consolidate the river's banks on this side over the past one

decade.

But the works by the Afghan government did not bear results because construction works by neighbouring countries were still underway, he added.

He said if the river's banks had been consolidated on the Afghan side, the damage would have been curtailed. However, he said President Ashraf Ghani and the Ministry of Water and Energy had initiated a serious work at preventing further destruction by the river.

He said dams worth \$200 million would be constructed on the river in the five northern provinces from Samangan to Faryab.

He said the dams would produce electricity, irrigate farms and prevent agriculture land from being flooded.

The governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, said the Amu River had damaged the most Shortipa and Kaldar districts of Balkh.

He said the river annually washed away hundreds of acres of land and if action was not taken on emergency footing, the river would threaten Hairatan port.

Deputy provincial council head of Jawzjan province, Abdul Qadir, said the river water had destroyed land and properties in Khamab and Qarqin districts of the province.

He said 80 percent of agriculture land had been washed away by the river in the two districts, forcing hundreds of families into migration. He urged the government to take practical measures at preventing further damage. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Mujadidi Wants ...**

called it a huge crime.

He said civilian casualties showed non-coordination among Afghan and US security forces and it was a hideous conspiracy against Afghan people and the world shouldn't be silent.

"NATO and America's such arbitrary air raids resulting in civilian casualties are in fact hurdles to peace process and widen the gap and distrust between the government and the people."

He also blamed the rift between unity government leaders for a weakened government and a reason behind failure to prevent such tragedies.

The politician asked the UN Security Council and the unity government to comprehensively investigate the Kunduz's incident and move the International Criminal Court (ICC). Mujadidi said it wasn't for the first time that NATO forces using the pretext of mistake had inflicted casualties on civilians in different parts of Afghanistan despite having developed technology and facilities. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Over 150 ...**

vocational training courses for them. The ministry of education has also plans to provide them with training programs," said Justice Ministry spokesman Aman Riyazat.

A number of prosecutors meanwhile criticized government for a lack of training centers for children who have violated the law.

"I have seen cases of children that have been sent to reform and training centers for children but they have committed serious crimes after being freed from these centers," said Lina, a prosecutor. (Tolonews)

**(7) Deportation...**

I announce that Sharbat Gula is now free from the legal troubles she endured over the past couple of weeks. She soon will also be free from an uncertain life of a refugee as she will be on her way back to her own country as soon as next Monday where she still is a beloved image and a national icon."

Pakistani officials told the media that Gula was arrested by Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) after a two-year probe in Peshawar, near the border of Afghanistan. Pakistani authorities claim the arrest was due to her having had a fake ID. A court in Peshawar on Wednesday rejected her bail application and she was sentenced to 15 days in prison, a fine and deportation.

Gula was 12 when photographer Steve McCurry captured his iconic image of her living in a refugee camp for Afghan nationals in Peshawar, Pakistan. Her image was first used on the cover of National Geographic. (Tolonews)

**(8) Taliban Used...**

the Taliban commanders had been plotting yet another attack on Kunduz city.

Waziri said that during the operation, troops faced strong resistance from the Taliban.

Cleveland also said "during the course of the operation troops came under fire and defended themselves

with ground and air engagement." Cleveland said: "Several Taliban leaders and Taliban members were killed in the engagement."

He went on to say the presence of Taliban in Kunduz continues to present a threat to the province and NATO will continue to support Afghan troops.

Both Waziri and Cleveland stated the killing of civilians was a tragedy - even if they were family members of Taliban leaders.

Waziri confirmed Taliban commanders had gathered at the time of the operation to plan another attack on Kunduz city.

He said however that the Afghan government and its security agencies are obeying international laws in war against insurgents to protect civilians.

According to him, only Afghan special forces and NATO advisers were involved in the operation on Wednesday night and that three Afghan commandos and two US advisers were killed.

He also said Taliban decision-makers had been holding a meeting when the operation was launched and that during the mission, troops confiscated Pakistani-made weapons.

The operation was launched on Wednesday night and involved Afghan commandos along with NATO advisers on the ground as well as foreign forces' air support.

Over 30 civilians were killed in the operation. (Tolonews)

**(9) Sugar, ...**

But a retailer in Karta-i-Naw area of Kabul, Abdul Manan, sold a 49kg bag of flour for 1,300af, a 59-kg sack of sugar for 2,450af and a 24.5-kg bag of rice for 1,800af.

He sold a 16-liter tin of Shahista ghee for 1,150af, a kilo of African black tea for 280af and the same quantity of Indonesian green tea for 260af - higher than wholesale prices.

A filling station worker in Wazirabad locality, Abdul Hadi said that the price of one liter diesel was jumped from 47af to 49af while the same quantity of petrol cost 48af. He linked the hike in diesel price to its value in world markets. Hussain Ali, a liquefied gas seller in Taimani neighborhood, said the rate of one kg of gas was 65af, the same rate of last week.

But Ahmad Salim, a gas seller in Pul Padshah area said that a kilogram of the commodity cost 70af.

Mohammad Fawad, a jeweler in Timor Shahi area of Kabul, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold stood at 2,300af while the same amount of Russian variety increased from 1,800af to 1,900af.

According to Ahmad Shah, a money changer in Sara-I-Shahzada, buying rate of one US dollar stood at 66.16af, while 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 624af. Last week's exchange value of the dollar stood at 65.90af and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 622af. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Civilians, Taliban...**

eight civilians injured in the operation.

Afghan Special Forces conducted the raid to destroy drug labs, but Taliban feared they were the target. As a result, they opened fire on security forces, he said.

Israrullah, a resident of the area, said 15 civilians were injured and five Taliban militants killed in the clash.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said all the people killed and wounded in the operation were civilians.

A week back, several civilians suffered casualties in a similar operation in the Sherzad district of Nangarhar province. (Pajhwok)

**(11) 2009 Baghlan ...**

country's development by killing teachers, students and lawmakers. He said the MPs had gone to Baghlan to assess the economic situation and present their suggestions.

Farhad Sakhi, 1st deputy chairman of the Senate, lashed out at the government and security institutions for their failure to arrest the individuals behind the Baghlan massacre over the past nine year.

He asked the government to investigate the killings of lawmakers and pay proper attention to the families of martyrs and wounded security forces.

Syed Ali Kazimi, brother of Mustafa Kazimi, slammed security agencies for ignoring the tragedy and said: "We demand every year the disclosure of findings, but no hope for investigation emerged during the Karzai presidency and the first two years of the unity government."

"Being relatives of martyrs, we know the people behind the incident. But we don't know why the government did not want to dis-

close their names," he asked. Kazimi warned if the government continued to ignore the tragedy, someone would be forced to break his silence and disclose everything. (Pajhwok)

**(12) FMIC Celebrates ...**

and built a reputation as the country's foremost children's hospital.

"It's the spirit of innovation and collaboration - the relentless drive to push the boundaries of what's possible - that has made FMIC one of the leading hospitals in Afghanistan," said Chief Guest Dr Ferozuddin Feroz, Minister of Public Health, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

During the ceremony, Dr Habiba Sarabi, Senior Advisor to the Chief Executive on Women and Youth Affairs read special congratulatory message from Dr Abdullah Abdullah Chief Executive, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Ms Zohra Yousuf on behalf of First Lady Mrs Rula Ghani congratulated FMIC staff on their tenth anniversary.

FMIC is the product of an innovative public-private partnership between the Governments of Afghanistan and France, the French NGO La Chaîne de L'Espoir/Enfants Afghans and the Aga Khan Development Network. It is managed by the Aga Khan University.

"FMIC's 10th anniversary gives the four partners an opportunity to pause and reflect on the significant impact the hospital has had on the country's healthcare system," said the Chair of FMIC's Provisional Operating Committee Lee Hilling, who recently published a book on FMIC, A Place of Miracles: The Story of a Children's Hospital in Kabul and the People Whose Lives Have Been Changed by It. "It appears in the way we care for patients, the way we treat illnesses, the community we serve, and the future leaders we train."

"Since it opened its doors in 2006, FMIC has offered new hope to children by providing treatment previously only available abroad, achieving a number of firsts in the process," said Mr François Richier, Ambassador of France to Afghanistan. To date more than 2,300 children have undergone cardiac surgery at the hospital, and in 2015 FMIC began to perform adult heart surgery. Last year, FMIC became the first hospital in the country to successfully operate on and separate conjoined twins with an all-Afghan team.

The high quality of care at the hospital was recognised in 2009, when it became the first ISO-certified hospital in Afghanistan. While FMIC's impact over the past decade has been remarkable, it will be even greater in the years ahead. The hospital will soon begin providing obstetrical and gynaecological services with the opening of its new 52-bed, 96,000-square-foot Women's Wing, which also includes a 14-bed neonatal intensive care unit, the first in Afghanistan.

Over the next few days, there will be several events to showcase FMIC's role in advancing quality in healthcare systems and medical education. These include a Quality and Patient Safety conference, and the opening of a separate clinic area for adults in specific much needed specialties, a step towards FMIC's eventual transformation into a tertiary care hospital. La Chaîne de L'Espoir Children's Pavilion, a home for sick children being treated at FMIC and their families, will also be inaugurated.

"The past decade is a testament to the difference we can make through hard work, generosity and vision," said Dr Eric Cheysson, President of La Chaîne de L'Espoir. "Working collaboratively, in a partnership, has helped us increase the pace of innovation in our efforts to improve the health and well-being of children."

FMIC has also introduced leading diagnostic services in the form of a cardiac catheterisation laboratory to manage adults with heart problems and is the first with a 128-slice state-of-the-art CT scanner. It was also the first to offer equipment enabling continuous monitoring of the brain and nervous system, and it is able to perform more than 900 laboratory tests, either at FMIC or through the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan.

Besides having the equipment and experts to care for those in need, FMIC is also training the country's next generation of specialists. In 2012, FMIC launched a programme in postgraduate medical education, which now covers seven disciplines: paediatric medicine, paediatric surgery, anaesthesiology, paediatric orthopaedics, paediatric cardiology, pathology and radiology. To date, it has conducted medical education, training and learning sessions for nearly 13,000 health professionals. The hospital's impact extends far

beyond Kabul. Its e-health system allows hospitals serving Bamyan, Badakhshan and Kandahar provinces to consult with FMIC. So far over 20,000 patients have benefited from these tele-consultations. FMIC is committed to serving the country's poorest through its welfare problem. To date it has provided care worth more than US\$ 25 million without charge to patients who could not afford it.

The celebratory event was attended by ministers, government representatives, diplomats, members of donor agencies and civil society, heads of Aga Khan Development Network agencies and FMIC staff members. (PR)

**(13) US Confirms ...**

abroad," Cook said.

Another al-Qaeda leader in Afghanistan, Bilal al-Utubi, was also targeted in a separate strike. "We are still assessing the results of that strike," the Pentagon Press Secretary said. (Pajhwok)

**(14) 12 Detained...**

Nasari told Pajhwok Afghan News the five thieves had not only robbed the moneychanger but other people as well. The robbers also possessed license for carrying weapons, however it was unknown whether the license was real or fake, he added.

Abdul Rahman, the moneychanger, claimed the detained robbers had deprived him of four million rupees. Some people had noticed the robbers' car number, leading to their arrest. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Badakhshan ...**

chemicals used in making heroin during past one month in Badakhshan. Rasooli said the chemicals had been hidden in salt and washing powder packets on a 303 public transport bus. He said a dozen suspects had been arrested in connection with the drugs. Of the suspects, 10 were sent to Kabul and the remaining two introduced to the appeal court in Badakhshan.

In addition to that 435 hectares of land has been cleared of poppy crop in Kishim, Argo, Darayam and Tishkan districts of Badakhshan province. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Kapisa Police ...**

evacuated to hospital for treatment, Ubaidi said, adding an investigation into the incident was underway. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

**(17) 1 Civilian...**

Sayed Maqsood Pacha told reporters here.

Meantime, Farooq Sahar, the director of Kunar public health department, confirmed to Xinhua that one dead body and three injured persons have been taken to hospital.

The rocket attacks on Assadabad took place amid ongoing fighting between Taliban militants and government forces in Dangam and Manogai districts, Kunar province. (Xinhua)

**(18) Teenage Rape...**

He took her to another house where two other armed men were present and they raped her, recalled Maryam. She said after the incident her father took her to the district police station to register the incident. "My father shared the story with Commander Akram, the district police chief. He forced my father out of his office to talk to me and sexually assaulted me."

The district police chief threatened her against complaining to her parents otherwise he would take her to a women safe house and she would be separated from family.

The police chief of Zari district and other high provincial officials could not be reached for comment. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Journalist...**

Abdul Qaioum, Zaheer's father.

"Zaheer was a very nice and patient person. He was the most patient person in the family," said Abdul Halim, his brother.

This year has proven to be the deadliest year in decades for journalists in Afghanistan. Institutions supporting open media condemned the attack and expressed their condolences to Zaheer's family. They said in the past 11 months, nearly 380 cases of violence against journalists have been recorded.

"He is the 14th journalist to have been killed in the country (this year). This is unprecedented against the previous years," said Seddiqullah Tawhidi, head of NAI, an organization supporting open media in Afghanistan. "He knew the reasons behind wars in Helmand province and the people who create chaos," said Ahmad Farshad Salih, a journalist.

Meanwhile, in response to accusations of negligence in protecting journalists, government has said they are

trying to protect the media in the country.

"This incident proved that Taliban and other insurgents groups are enemies of freedom of expression and do not believe in it," said Dawa Khan Menapal, deputy spokesman for the president.

"It is our job and we feel responsible to address the entire incident that takes place in the country. Especially, the incidents that relate to journalists and media staff," said Najib Danish, deputy spokesman of the ministry of interior.

Zaheer was 38 years old and had worked as a journalist for 10 years. His friends said government should support his wife and three children. (Tolonews)

**(20) UN Chief...**

listened as the representatives listed their major concerns in meeting the primary objective of the voluntary accord, to keep the world's temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial era levels. One of the more common problems voiced was the perennial challenge of financing the phase-out of fossil fuels.

"You showed the climate challenge stakes and the solutions," the UN chief said. You mobilized hundreds of millions of people for the cause." (Xinhua)

**(21) EU Should...**

The Article 15 of the Protocol on China's accession to the WTO in 2001 has clearly dictated that China will automatically switch over to market economy status when the surrogate country approach expires in 15 years, which means, by that day, the legal foundation for treating China as a non-market economy is gone.

Facing the pressure of the expiry, however, the European Commission has decided to do the bait and switch trick and have it both ways after six months of mulling -- it proposed in July to abolish its "non-market economy" list, and set up a new "country-neutral" method to strengthen its trade defense instruments. (Xinhua)

**(22) FBI Examining ...**

suspicious incident will be immediately reported to your assistants so that a recount of votes could be timely organized. You will not lose the election because of some compromised electronic voting systems." The fake Carper letter is one of several documents presented to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Justice for review in recent weeks, the sources said.

Carper spokeswoman Meghan Pennington confirmed on Friday that the senator had sent a copy of the letter to the FBI and the Senate's chief law enforcement officer. (Reuters)

**(23) Iraqi Forces ...**

toward the southern edges of Mosul, he said.

The fall of Hammam al-Alil, the last town in south of Mosul, is expected to speed up the advance of the security forces, who have to recapture a few villages on their way toward Mosul, he added. (Xinhua)

**(24) British PM ...**

next March which would mean Britain leaving the EU in March 2019.

The decision in the court Thursday could throw May's timetable into chaos, with some politicians already indicating delays when the issue comes before the Houses of Parliament. (Xinhua)

**(25) Cohabiting...**

around 7.7 million people live alone in Britain, most of them women, while the number of lone parent families has grown by 18.6 percent over the two decades, a statistically significant increase.

Of the 2.9 million lone parent families in Britain in 2016, 86 percent are headed by a female lone parent, the remaining 14 percent as headed by a male lone parent. These percentages have changed little over the 20 years since 1996.

ONS said this could be associated with women being more likely to take the main caring responsibilities for any children when a relationship breaks down and therefore becoming lone parents. (Xinhua)

**(26) Kurdish Women...**

a larger armed unit of 600 fighters aligned with the Kurdistan Freedom Party, known by its Kurdish acronym PAK.

This group has joined an array of Iraqi and Kurdish forces who are backed by a U.S.-led coalition in an offensive designed to push Islamic State out of their stronghold of Mosul. (AOA)