Afghan Refugees in Iran 'Sent to Fight' Syrian War

KARLUK - A number of refugees who recently returned from Iraq claim that Iran's government sends them to Syria to fight for Bashar Assad's regime. The return refugees also said Iran's intelligence ministry provokes Afghan immigrants and promises to send them to Syria to fight. According to returnee refugees, there are hundreds of unclaimed bodies of Afghans in Syria's mortuaries, which they said are those bodies of men who died fighting in Syria. Around three million Afghans fled to Iran over the past two years as refugees. Some of the return refugees however told harrowing tales of Afghans on the battlefield in Syria. One young man who has returned to Afghanistan said that Iranian intelligence officials allegedly tried to recruit him to fight for Bashar Assad. “I worked in a shop in Tehran. An Iranian official came every day to the store and was telling me they want to send me to the Syrian war. They said if I was killed in that war, I will be martyred and if I returned alive I will be given lots of money. Since I don’t want to return to Syria, I didn’t want to go back and I told them if I returned alive I will be given lots of money; said Ahmad Qurban, an Afghan refugee who recently returned to Afghanistan. (More on P4)...(9)

Over Hundred Taliban Dead, Scores Hurt in Jalalabad Attack

KHOST CITY - One hundred and sixty Taliban and their supporters were killed and 13 others wounded during a clash in the capital of southeastern Helmand province, a public representative said on Wednesday. The Taliban might overrun Lashkar Gah a strategic town situated on the border between Karameri Atal, head of the provincial council, told the Associated Press. He said police units had been pushed back from checkpoints to keep the fighters at bay the city, as reinforcements prepared to reach the city later in the day. At least 144 roads leading into Lashkar Gah had been closed due to ongoing gun battles. As a result, prices of food and other essential items have shot up in the city. (Pajhwok)

Afghan Remedies for Delayed Receipt of Afghanistan National ID cards

KABUL - A number of refugees who recently returned from Iraq claim that Iran’s government sends them to Syria to fight for Bashar Assad’s regime. The return refugees also said Iran’s intelligence ministry provokes Afghan immigrants and promises to send them to Syria to fight. According to returnee refugees, there are hundreds of unclaimed bodies of Afghans in Syria’s mortuaries, which they said are those bodies of men who died fighting in Syria. Around three million Afghans fled to Iran over the past two years as refugees. Some of the return refugees however told harrowing tales of Afghans on the battlefield in Syria. One young man who has returned to Afghanistan said that Iranian intelligence officials allegedly tried to recruit him to fight for Bashar Assad. “I worked in a shop in Tehran. An Iranian official came every day to the store and was telling me they want to send me to the Syrian war. They said if I was killed in that war, I will be martyred and if I returned alive I will be given lots of money. Since I don’t want to return to Syria, I didn’t want to go back and I told them if I returned alive I will be given lots of money; said Ahmad Qurban, an Afghan refugee who recently returned to Afghanistan. (More on P4)...(9)

300 ISIS Fighters Killed in U.S.-Afghan Operation in Nangarhar: NATO

NEW DELHI - An estimated 300 ISIS fighters were killed and 10 others were wounded in a joint Afghan-U.S. operation launched on Thursday, NATO’s top commander in Afghanistan said Wednesday. Gen. John Nicholson said the operation involved 140 Afghan National Army personnel and a joint force of 60 U.S. operations to degrade the capabilities of ISIS wherever it raised its head, whether in Iraq or Syria or in Afghanistan. The operation, believed to be conducted against one of the more than 400 districts in Afghanistan, last month claimed responsibility for bombing a demonstration by the Shia Hazara minority in the capital, Kabul, in which at least two people were killed (Agence). (More on P4)...(13)

917 Smugglers, 129 Tonnes of Drugs Captured Since March

KABUL - As many as 917 narcotics drug smugglers, including one globally known, have been arrested and 129 tonnes of drugs have been captured since March this year, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Wednesday. Lt. Col. Ramee Mohamed Amrani, MoI’s counter-narcotics department head, told reporters here that narcotics were a major source behind growing insecurity and corruption and the MoI was trying to prevent cultivation and smuggling of opium and other drugs with available resources. He said since March this year, personnel from his department conducted 50 district security operations and arrested 917 smugglers. (More on P4)...(10)

56 People Fall Ill after Drinking Well Water

MIDABARAK: More than 50 people, including women and children, fell sick after drinking contaminated water from a well in Qajiri district of southern Lashkar Gah province on Wednesday, Lashkar Gah’s governor’s spokesman, Sahabuddin Zad, told Pajhwok. Afghan News the incident took place in farmland area.

He said 56 people fell ill after drinking water from a well in which someone had dropped toxic substance. He said the victims belonged to the same family. They included 28 women, 22 men and six children. Four of the persons who were in critical condition had been transferred to the Lashkar Gah Civil Hospital for treatment. He said Zad said Governor Abdul Jabbar Nabibi had ordered to investigate the incident, he added (Pajhwok).

Afghanistan Veteran Battling for a ‘War on Terror’ Memorial in DC

WASHINGTON - Andrew Brennan’s life changed as he watched the motorcycle racing run ning around him. Brennan, a former Army Airborne soldier, flew Blackhawk helicopters in Afghanistan, spent stints as a master of ceremonies at Rolling Thunder passes by on its annual trek to the Viet nam Veterans’ Memorial. Smiling in the gray sands of the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial, he talked about his memories of the youthful faces, dozens of post- 9/11 vets like him. The young vets were welcomed with open arms, yet to Brennan it was never so apparent that they lacked their own ride – their own shot to get a piece of the Wall. Brennan, who lost several friends in one of the deadliest helicopter crashes of the Afghan war, is a strong supporter of a memorial for post-9/11 vets. “I wanted my generation to have that same healing that the Wall gave to Vietnam Vets,” Brennan said, recalling that day in 2014. Brennan, 31, quickly formed a nonprofit group, the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation, and started assembling a team that includes former military commander and CIA director Gen. David Petreus and Gen. Eric Shinseki, the man who conceived the idea. “A day earlier, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington... He is... (More on P4)...(13)