40% of Terrorists Fighting ANSF Freed from Prison

KABUL - Chief of Army Staff General, Qadam Shah Shahim, said at a Special Forces graduation in Kabul that 40 percent of terrorists currently fighting against the ANSF were convicts who have since been freed.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of 2,000 officers and soldiers from the Special Forces Special Operations Command in Bagram Air Base, Kabul, the General said that Afghanistan’s armed forces have strong support of their government.

“At the moment, 40 percent of terrorists who are fighting against us are those who have been released from our prisons,” said Shahim. “Those who have released these terrorists against our prison must apologise to the nation,” he added.

“When the terrorists kill our children and women we will not rest. But we continue our operations to defeat the terrorists,” said President Rabbani, an Army Special Operations Commander. “We will always preserve the people of Afghanistan we will defend the country, property and honor with our blood - as our fathers defended the country,” said Abdul Rashid, a military turnover.

China Ready to Improve Afg-Pak Ties

BEIJING: China is ready to play a constructive role in improving Afghanistan-Pakistan ties and promoting reconciliation in Afghanistan, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday.

China and Afghanistan agreed to hold jointly to promote the Afghan peace process with “regional political actions” and later added against those who refuse to join the peace-building process. The understanding was reached at a meeting between Pakistan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on the sidelines of the Climate Change Conference in Paris.

“We have bilateral relations with Pakistan. The Chinese side has always been ready to play a constructive role in the process,” the spokesperson said.

Officials

22 Villages Cleared of Insurgents in Farah

KHANJAR: At least 22 villages have been cleared of Taliban insurgents during a military operation in northern Farah province, officials said on Wednesday.

Several insurgent have been injured in the operation. General Sayidat, a military commander, said six days ago in Farah the Taliban and 22 villages have been cleared of insurgents.

Migrant Arrivals in Europe Slump Amid Turkish Crackdown

ENKADA: The number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Europe fell by more than a third last month due to poor weather and a Turkish crackdown on migrants, the UN said Friday.

In November, some 150,000 migrants and refugees made the perilous journey across the Mediterranean to Europe, versus 230,000 in October and 423,000 in September.

British Envoy Welcomes Kabul-Islamabad Agreement on Peace Talks

KABUL: British Ambassador to Kabul, Karen Lyons, on Wednesday welcomed President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s agreement to work towards resuming peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The announcement comes after the two leaders signed a joint statement in Islamabad that seeks to ease tensions between the two countries.

Germany Announces €350 Mn for Afghanistan’s Reconstruction in 2016

BERLIN: German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frank Walter Steinmeier, has said that his ministry remains committed to support Afghanistan.

After attending meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in Brussels on Tuesday, Steinmeier announced a fund of 350 million euros for Afghanistan’s reconstruction in 2016.

Indian PM Narendra Modi to Soon Visit Kabul

New Delhi: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will soon visit Afghanistan to strengthen high-level government cooperation, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in a meeting on Tuesday.

According to reports, the PM will visit Afghanistan at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General.

AFGHANISTAN

President, read the latest news about the conflict.

Ukraine: The government has declared a state of emergency in the country.

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