KUNDUZ - Security forces have launched a wide-ranging operation codenamed Shafiq-2 in to dismantle rebel strongholds in northern Kunduz province and eliminate security threats, an official said on Saturday.

Lt. Col. Sher Azeem Kamwaz, commander of the 800th Sprinkle Zone in north, told reporters on Friday night large-scale operations had been conducted this year against militants in various localities.

He said: “We have worked effective strategy and plan to dismantle terrorists and I can say that I have visited Zakhors to check the outcome of Kunduz City.”

He added the Shafiq-2 operation would feature ground troops with heavy weapon support, and the offensive would be conducted in coordination with provincial security forces.

Meanwhile, Governor Ahmadullah Omartaliek said on public call radio three districts - Baghlan, Bagh, and Getips - would be cleared of Taliban soon. “I assure Kunduz residents that Taliban will never capture any part of the province again,” Deputy police chief, Col. Masoom Haibani, said security patrols were conducted in Kunduz City. People should know the security forces had a huge winter op-eration plan. Although the countryside Shafiq-1 operation was ended last month, some districts are still under Taliban control. The government says it is ready to take back all areas from the militants but some security officials claim the Shajiq-1 operation has yielded positive results in terms of eradi-cating insurgent hideouts and inflicting casualties on fighters.” (Pajhwok)

Pakistan Not Doing Enough to Disrupt Haqqani: Pentagon

WASHINGTON - Pakistan has not made sustained efforts to disrupt Haqqani Network, needing to take steps to deny safe havens to terrorist networks, the Pentagon said on Friday.

Sustained Pakistani efforts to disrupt Haqqani Network threats were not seen during the past six months, the Pentagon said in its latest bimonthly report on the war in Afghanistan.

“The US continues to be clear with Pakistan about steps it should take to improve the security environment and deny safe havens to terrorist and extremist groups,” said the report.

Pakistan has made no discernible political settlement efforts with the Taliban and other militant groups, it is argued that the Pentagon said on Friday.

“The US continues to be clear with Pakistan about steps it should take to improve the security environment and deny safe havens to terrorist and extremist groups,” said the report.

On September 22, 2016, Kabul signed a peace agreement with the Hezb-i-Islami led by Gulbadin Hekmatyar, documentating for insurgent groups to partic-i- pate in an Afghan-led peace process. However, the Afghan-owned political dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan cooperation on res-cinding counter-terrorism issues, the Pentagon said.

Despite complications, the US continued to support an Afghan-led process for a negotiated resolution of the conflict, and was working with international partners to set conditions for a peaceful political settlement between the Afghan government and the Taliban and other militant groups, it is argued that the Pentagon said.

DAKKHAN - More than 8,500 children have been engaged in informal labor to earn wages in labor works within works prov-ing, with only five percent of government services reaching children. The number of children pushed into hard labor is increasing with each pass-ing: Selling materials on roads, washing cars, collect-ing plastic materials, metal cans and even doing garbage collection are daily activities of most children in Farah.

Kabul, a seven-year-old is one of these kids. When this clock was ticking closer to 6 o’clock at night, Rabia and two of her brothers (Mirwais 11, Abdullah 9) were busy collecting... (More on P4).

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US Praises Azerbaijan’s Important Role in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The in-ternational community is in need of concrete action from Azerbaijan to support the newly-established Carter Center, Commander of the US Transportation Com-mand, Air Force General Darro McIvor told report-ers on a visit to Saturday.

He said Azerbaijan is a peaceful, secure and con-stantly developing country. He noted that it is his first visit to Azerbaijan and he thanked the Azerbaijan pro-ject office for hospitality.

General McIvor also noted that he (McIvor) was reassured that things are moving forward. General McIvor also noted that he (McIvor) was reassured that things are moving forward.

US Embassy

Allegations Against Dostum Should be Probed

KABUL - The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) will soon start the rebuilding process of the historic site in capital, Kabul, including the sites along Kabul River.

The AKTC officials informed regarding the plans during a meeting with the Minister of Urban Development and Housing, 3rd Sadat Mans-ur, said.

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