**IS Territory Shrinks in Iraq and Syria: US-Led Coalition**

**GÊNÈVÈ - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Tuesday said in a year-end summary that 3,771 deaths were reported for 2015 across the Mediterranean crossing the Mediterranean to reach Europe in 2015, marking it the deadliest year on record. By comparison, 3,297 deaths were recorded in the Mediterranean in 2014. Globally, IOM estimated that over 13,700 migrants died in 2015, IOM said total sea arrivals to Europe in 2015 at 1,004,356 or almost five times the previous year's total by 216,078. The deadliest month in 2015 was April when nearly 1,250 migrants died, mainly from scuffle on record on migrant moving across the Mediterranean from North Africa, in which an estimated 800 migrants died. IOM said 77 percent of the deaths occurred over the Central Mediterranean route mostly by smugglers at sea and on Libyan shores. Meanwhile, 21 percent of deaths occurred in the vicinity of Baghdad. Taking together Iraq and Syria, they lost 91 percent of the territory they controlled, he said. Israeli State swept through a third of Iraq in 2014, seizing Mosul, the largest city in the north, and reaching the vicinity of Baghdad. Counter-offensives by Iraqi forces and Kurdish armed forces supported by the US-led coalition have forced them out of several cities since, including Tikrit. In central Iraq, the fighting in the region of Anbar has escalated in violence and suicide bombings have increased in recent months.**

**Kabul Ready to Import 1m Tons of Diesel per Annun: Zanganeh**

**KABUL - Oil and Gas Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said Afghanistan has expressed readiness to import one million tons of diesel annually from Iran and both countries are to continue talks to determine the needed size and its import from Iran.**

**Taliban Captures IS Bases in Afghanistan**

**KABUL - Fierce clashes have reportedly emerged between Taliban fighters in eastern Afghanistan and security forces killed at least 20 militants in a battle that killed two Afghan police officers and two shopkeepers. According to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in Kabul, security forces killed at least 20 militants in a battle that killed two Afghan police officers and two shopkeepers. According to the MoI spokesman Sediq Sedidi they have arrested 31 foreign and local nationals in all the agreements signed be tween the two countries. The notified officials in a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Afghan CEO Abdullah Abdullah in Tehran on Tuesday. During the meeting, the two officials also consulted on the latest developments in bilateral relations and the region, and undertook the necessity for more effective cooperation.**

**ISRO Reports 3,771 Migrant Deaths in Mediterranean Last Year**

**NEW YORK - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday raised the attack on the Indian Consulate in Karachi on Wednesday and said diplomatic posts need to be protected, reported The Times of India. The attack on the Indian Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif obviously is an attack which we condemn, especially an attack on a diplomatic outpost that needs to be protected," Ban’s spokesperson Stephanie Dujarric said. A UN-battle against Security Forces (TSF) and terrorists outside the Indian Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif came to end night with the killing of those attacking (Agencies).**

**Spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in Kabul said that night’s explosion in Kabul left two dead and 36 wounded; several protesters were also injured. Police and hospital sources have confirmed those were shot with wounded more than 20 others.**

**Police Arrest Suspected Killer of Qari Sadat**

**JALALABAD - Counter-military operations and bomb blast have claimed 15 lives of militants to the loyalists of Islamic State (IS) or IS group in the eastern Nangarhar province with Jalal abad as its capital 120 km east of Kabul on Tuesday, police officials said. The Clark, which took place in Batikat district of Nangarhar province, have left 15 IS fighters dead and several others were injured, according to local officials. The crackdown against IS fighters would continue elsewhere in the relatively peaceful province to ensure lasting peace for the officials added.**

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**Gunnin Kill Samangan HPC Head**

**KABUL - Blast killed the head of the High Peace Council (HPC) in northern Samangan province on Monday night, said a local official. The blast, which took place in a local mosque in the Khoja Karam Sharif area, said that the incident took place when Samangan’s HPC Head, Qari Sadat, was addressing a gathering of local officials. The US military and IS fighters are the most dangerous enemies facing Afghan security forces in the country. In Afghanistan, the IS has been very active in the last few years, and the government has been working hard to combat the threat. The Taliban, on the other hand, has been active in the south and east of the country, where they have been able to establish strongholds.**

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**The issue was raised in a meeting between Afghan and Iranian officials in a talk on fight against terrorism and extremism. Zalil also stressed how to identify the role of the Afghan government’s efforts to establish a more secure, stable, and peaceful society in the framework of all-inclusive talks among all Afghan groups. He also underscored the necessity for the implementation of all the agreements signed between the two countries in the past. Abdullah arrived in Tehran on Monday night with the head of high-ranking delegation on Monday evening to discuss the possibility of establishment of more cooperation agreements (FNA).**

**Roadmap for Future of Ties**

**BAGHDAD - Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and his Iranian counterpart in a telephone conversation Monday night with the killing of three attackers. The incident took place when Sa'id Seddiqi said they have arrested 31 foreign and local nationals in all the agreements signed between the two countries. The notified officials in a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Afghan CEO Abdullah Abdullah in Tehran on Tuesday. During the meeting, the two officials also consulted on the latest developments in bilateral relations and the region, and undertook the necessity for more effective cooperation.**

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**Ban Ki-moon**

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**The explosion occurred between an IS group and the Afghan forces in the Surkh Rod district of Nangarhar province. Police arrived in the area late on Monday.**

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