10 Afghan Journalists Killed in 1st Half Of 2017

KABUL - A media watchdog on Tuesday said at least 10 journalists were killed in Afghanistan in the first half of 2017, showing a 33 percent surge over last year.

The Afghan Journalists’ Safety Committee (AFJC), an independent watchdog, issued a new report at a press conference here, saying the Taliban and the Islamic State (IS) extremist group were responsible for most of the “direct and indirect” attacks on media workers in Afghanistan.

The report said 75 cases of violence against journalists were recorded in the first six months of 2017, including 10 cases of kidnap, 19 beatings, and 12 injured. The report said the violence included “direct” attacks, which involved shooting, stabbing, and burning, and “indirect” attacks, involving intimidation and threats.

Issue of Ghost Soldiers in Helmand Resolved: Official

LASHKAR GAI - The issue of ghost soldiers in Afghan National Army (ANA) ranks in southern Helmand province has been finally resolved, military officials claimed on Tuesday.

The 215th Maiwand Military Corps commander, Brig. Gen. Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai, said that all challenges and issues of ghost soldiers had been resolved, military officials claimed on Tuesday.

He said the newly graduated cadets had undergone training in artillery, ammunition, communications, and engineering and other fields. He added that the training and reorganization and most of the ghost soldier had been resolved.

“We want to professionally train our officers,” Ahmadzai said.

Hezb-e-Islami Says No Agreement Reached for Political Role in the Government

KABUL - The Hezb-e-Islami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has rejected that the parties has reached to an agreement or negotiations are underway for political role in the government of national unity.

A statement from Hezb-e-Islami said that the party has reached a “commitment” to seek political role in the government.

The statement further added that Hekmatyar is prepared to support the government unconditionally for bring peace and stability and ending the ongoing violence in the country.

Killing of Civilians, Civil Servants a War Crime: UN

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has condemned Monday’s suicide attack in Kabul, amid intensifying nationwide violence impacting civilians.

The UNAMA said that the attack in which at least 24 people were killed and injured, was an act of war.

The UNAMA said that the attack was carried out by militants linked to the Taliban and was an act of war.

The UNAMA also called for a comprehensive approach to prevent such attacks.

Ghani Introduces Nominees for Cabinet Positions

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has nominated Deputy Interior Minister Haz...