UNICEF Concerned About ‘Child Soldiers’ in Afghanistan

KARUL - The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has voiced concerns about the use of child soldiers by insurgent groups in Afghanistan.

The UN office has called on all parties to the conflict to avoid using children in their battles.

These statements come after TOLOnews reported sightings of alleged child soldiers arrested by security forces in northern Badakhshan recently.

“Serving children in the conflict, no matter by any group, is cause for concern,” UNICEF press officer Seyed Maroof Hambard said.

The acting governor of Badakhshan, Shah Waliullah Atteh, confirmed that child soldiers are being used by Taliban in the province.

“Unfortunately, Taliban use children as their soldiers and bring them to fight,” Atteh said. The Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoI) meanwhile admitted to the existence of child soldiers, saying Taliban bring these children from Madinah to the battle field.

“Taliban are recruiting children in Kunar, Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces,” MoI spokesman Sediq Seddiqu said, adding that these children are being deceived by the Taliban in Madinah.

The use... (More on Pg. 9)

Dunford Plays down Chances of Russia Joining Air Campaign in Iraq

ERBIL - U.S. Marine General Joseph Dunford played down the chances of Russia joining the U.S.-led campaign against Islamic State in Iraq in the near future as he made his first trip to Iraq as top U.S. military official.

Russia’s military intervention in Syria and its participation in a new Baghdad-based intelligence-sharing cell with Iran, Syria and Iraq has raised concerns in Washington that the country is helping the predominantly Sunni insurgency that rules the country.

“...General Dunford took over as chairman of the Joint Chiefs... (More on Pg. 12)

MADANA - The Police Chief of Ghormach district of northern Faryab province and 10 of his officers have been captured by the Taliban, local officials said Tuesday.

Abdul Baqi Hashemi, head of the provincial council said the incident happened late Monday and that so far more than 20 Afghan security force members have been killed in Ghormach clashes.

Numerous local security officials have not yet commented.

Meanwhile, Naghulullah Baryaq, MP from Faryab has also confirmed that the police chief... (More on Pg. 12)

Number of Refugee, Migrant Arrivals to Greece Hits Half Million: UNHCR

GENEVA - The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) on Tuesday said the number of refugee and migrant arrivals to Greece hit a half million, reasoning of continued chaos across border reception points in the country.

Greece is strengthened and reinforced an official...

Pakistan Welcomes Afghan Traders and Businesses

KARUL - The Embassy of Pakistan on Monday in response to the media reports that, Pakistan has blocked the entry of Afghan traders into its territory, said that the process of issuance of Visas for 20,000 Afghan traders has been issued.

Trump Still Leads CNN Poll, Reverses View of Afghan War

WASHINGTON - Another poll shows Donald Trump and Ben Carson well ahead of the Republican presidential field, while Trump reversed his earlier criticisms of the war in Afghanistan facing an interview... (More on Pg. 6)

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