

Afghan Forces Kill 17 Militants

SARI PUL (Xinhua) – Seventeen militants including two of their senior commanders have been killed and five others injured during Afghan forces operations to reclaim Mirza Olang district of northern Sari Pul province from insurgents, an official said Sunday.

Launched Saturday night to evict militants and recapture the strategically important Mirza Olang, according to police spokesman Sayed Sarwar Hussaini, some villages have been liberated and the militants are in the run.

Terrorists loyal to the hardliner Daesh and Taliban outfits launched joint operations in Mirza Olang area last week, killing at least 50 civilians including women and children and forcing hundreds others to flee their houses.

Taliban outfit has refused its involvement in the massacre. However, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has vowed to avenge the killing of civilians by militants in Mirza Olang and assured to restore law and order in the conflict-affected area.

Meanwhile, the displaced families said they won't return to their houses in Mirza Olang unless and until the area is completely safe and secure from militants threats.



Afghan security force members take part in a military operation in Mirza Olang district of Sari Pul province, Afghanistan, Aug. 12, 2017.

'Senior Daesh Terrorists Killed'

In another development, several senior members of the Daesh terrorist group have been killed in a U.S. airstrike in eastern Afghanistan.

General John Nicholson, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said on Sunday that the air raid had been carried out against hideouts of the terrorists in the northeastern province of Kunar on Thursday.

The strike also killed Abdul Rahman, claimed to have been a provincial leader of Daesh in Afghanistan, which is known as ISIS-Khorasan Province.

Nicholson identified Rahman as the so-called provincial emir of Daesh in Kunar and said he had been a "primary candidate" to succeed Abu Sayed following his death. Abu Sayed was reportedly killed in a strike on his base in Kunar in July.

"The death of Abdul Rahman deals yet another blow to the senior leadership of ISIS-K," Nicholson said in a statement, adding, "He found out just like those before him that there are no safe havens in Afghanistan. We will hunt them down until they are no longer a threat to the Afghan people and the region."

According to the statement, three other Daesh terrorists were among those killed in the strike in Darah-Ye Pech district.

In April, the U.S. military dropped the largest non-nuclear bomb in the American arsenal on an area of eastern Afghanistan's

Nangarhar province, known to be populated by Daesh terrorists, according to the U.S. Defense Department.

Afghanistan is still suffering from insecurity and violence years after the United States and its allies invaded the country as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The military invasion removed the Taliban from power, but militancy continues to this day.

The war in Afghanistan is the longest in U.S. history with a cost of about \$1 trillion. More than 2,400 Americans have died and another 20,000 have been wounded in the country since the invasion in 2001.

U.S. President Donald Trump has been skeptical about the campaign in Afghanistan. U.S. officials have said that Trump's doubts about the war have led to a delay in completing a new strategy in the war-torn country.

MPs... (Continued From Page One)

cooperation with world countries, especially Iran's neighbors and friends as well as countries which have likewise been subject to Washington's embargoes.

The government must also use all available international capacities, including the United Nations Human Rights Council, to take action against the U.S. over its human rights violations, "like its crimes against humanity in Yemen."

Syrian... (Continued From Page One)

Daesh terrorists also hold the majority of the vast desert province of Dayr al-Zawr including most of its provincial capital.

More than 330,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict erupted in March 2011 with foreign-backed terrorists.

A Syrian official said an international chemical weapons delegation will visit Damascus in the coming days vowing to facilitate its mission to uncover who used chemical weapons in the country earlier this year.

Deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Mekdad said the delegation of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and UN Joint Investigative Mechanism is scheduled to arrive in Syria within 10 days.

Mekdad reiterated in an interview with The Associated Press his government's denial of being behind the April 4 attack in the northwestern town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed nearly 100 people.

The United States blamed the Syrian military for the attack and used it as a pretext to launch a strike days later on the Shayrat air base from where it said the attack was launched just as the Arab army was advancing against terrorists.

Saudis... (Continued From Page One)

figures from individual countries whose nationals had been among the victims of the crush.

Iran said about 4,700 people, including over 465 of its nationals, lost their lives in the incident.

Earlier that same month, a massive construction crane had collapsed into Mecca's Grand Mosque, killing more than 100 pilgrims, including 11 Iranians, and injuring over 200 others, among them 32 Iranian nationals.

Mutual ties deteriorated further when Riyadh executed prominent Saudi Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr in January 2016. Saudi Arabia unilaterally severed its diplomatic ties with Iran after protests outside its diplomatic premises in the cities of Tehran and Mashhad against Nimr's execution.

Tehran and Riyadh are seriously on a collision course over the Saudi military involvement in neighboring Yemen and its support of militants fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

In July, Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said he hoped Yemen's war would not spark direct confrontation between Iran and Saudi Arabia and that they could work together to end the conflict in the country and Syria.

The Saudi crown prince said in May that any struggle between the two countries ought to take place "inside Iran, not in Saudi Arabia."

Earlier this year Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt all cut off diplomatic and transport ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing it of allying with Iran - allegations Qatar denies.

"Iran is a serious partner for all these countries in fighting a common enemy because we believe at the end of the day ... these extremist forces are as much a threat against us, but even more a threat against them," Zarif said then.

Missile... (Continued From Page 2)

"Soon, with enormous struggles which are being made, the star of Daesh will be on the wane and their remnants will be purged. However, their harm to Islam has been immense," he said.

On June 7, Daesh gunmen mounted assaults on Iran's Parliament and the Mausoleum of late Founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini, leaving 18 people dead and over 50 others wounded.

The IRGC responded with a missile strike, which pummeled Daesh positions in Syria's eastern Dayr al-Zawr Province, killing more than 170 Takfiri elements and inflicting heavy damage on their weaponry and communication systems.

Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

the hostile plots, he said, addressing a service in commemoration of Moshen Hojaji who was taken captive by Daesh near the Iraqi border last week and beheaded two days later.

The recent attempts of the enemies have been aimed at weakening Iran's defense power, Major General Jafari added, noting that after the nuclear deal, the enemies seek to impose military and missile-related sanctions on Iran.

"The enemies know that the only way to hamper the Islamic Revolution's progress is to impair Iran's defense power," he said.

Yemen Army Hits Saudi Mercenaries' Positions



Yemenis gather at the site of a Saudi airstrike on the outskirts of the city of Sa'ada on August 4, 2017.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Yemen's army, backed by popular committees, launched a major offensive against Saudi-backed mercenaries in the central province of Baida, killing and injuring dozens of them.

During the offensive, the military sites of the militants in the areas of Qiva, Balad al-Dhaher and Thi Naem in Baida were heavily pounded, a military source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told Saba news agency.

A large number of the mercenaries lost the lives during the attack on Sunday.

In a separate development, the Yemeni army's artillery targeted the gathering centers of the pro-Saudi

forces in the districts of al-Syar and Silw in the southwestern province of Taiz.

The attacks were carried out in retaliation for the continued massacre of civilians by the Saudi-led coalition in the Arabian Peninsula country.

Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia and some of its Arab allies have been launching deadly airstrikes against the Houthi Ansarullah movement in an attempt to restore power to the fugitive former President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, a close ally of Riyadh.

Over 10,000 Yemenis, including 4,000 women and children, have lost their lives in the deadly military campaign.

'300 Israelis Desert Military Service in Occupied Lands'

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A report has revealed that hundreds of Israeli troops have abandoned their duties without permission, and are intent not to return in a show of disapproval of the military conscription policies of the Zionist regime.

The Hebrew-language news website Walla reported that 300 troops had left or remained absent from their units over the past week.

The report added that the occupying regime's military officials have leveled charges against 60 soldiers, who have been dropped from their unit rolls and listed as deserters.

The report came as the Israeli military announced earlier this year that

suicide was the main cause of death among Israeli troops, and that 15 troopers - all of them male - had taken their own lives last year.

The army added that four soldiers were killed in the course of military operations, nine in on-base accidents, seven in off-duty car accidents and six died from illness or other medical reasons.

Another 43 troops were seriously hurt during the course of 2016.

Most of the soldiers injured or killed were conscripted troops. A smaller portion were career troops, and a handful were reservists who were in service at the time of their deaths, the Zionist regime's army said.

Seven Syrian Rescue Volunteers Killed in Shooting

BEIRUT (Reuters) – Seven volunteers with the Syrian civil defense rescue service were killed in a shooting by unidentified attackers in terrorist-held Idlib province, the civil defense said on its Twitter feed.

The attackers stole two vehicles and other equipment in the incident targeting a civil defense office in the town of Sarmin at dawn. Idlib province in northwestern Syria is controlled by terrorist groups.

The civil defense, otherwise known as the "White Helmets", operates in terrorist-held areas of Syria.

In another development, implementation of a deal for the return of a group of Syrian refugees and terrorists to Syria from Lebanon was delayed on Saturday, with a military news outlet saying it was due to "a logistical problem".

Some 300 Syrian terrorists from a group called Saraya Ahl al-Sham in addition to 3,000 refugees

were due to be transported back into Syria under the agreement. A Lebanese source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said talks were continuing to resolve the problem, without saying what it was.

The Lebanese security official overseeing the arrangements, General Abbas Ibrahim, said that under the agreement a group of civilians would return to a Syrian government-held area, while the terrorists and their families would go to another area of Syria which he did not identify.