

25 Killed in Separate Drone Strikes

KABUL - At least 25 suspected militants and drug smugglers were reported killed in separate drone strikes in South of Afghanistan, local officials said Sunday.

Provincial police spokesman for southern Kandahar province Zia Durani said the airstrikes were carried out by coalition forces two nights ago in Kandahar and Helmand provinces. Durani further added that the suspected militants and drug smugglers were targeted in Maiwand district of Kandahar and in the bordering regions of Helmand with Kandahar province. He said the suspected militants and drug smugglers were travelling in three different vehicles when they were targeted by Unmanned



Aerial Vehicle (UAV). The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the airstrikes so far. Helmand is among the volatile provinces in South of Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating and frequently carry out insurgency activities. Kandahar is the birth place of the Taliban insurgents however the Afghan security forces have managed to maintain security and stability in this province during the past several months. The anti-government armed militants have been trying to expand their insurgency activities in this province lately amid deteriorating security situation in the south. (KP)

26 Militants, 11 Soldiers Killed in Latest Wave of Violence



KABUL - At least 26 militants were killed in the latest counter-terrorism operations conducted by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the past 24 hours.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said at least 8 militants were also wounded during the same operations conducted in Khost, Takhar, and Kapisa provinces.

A statement by MoD said at least 11 of the militants were killed in Alisher district of Khost province and 4 others were killed in Darqad district of Takhar province.

The statement further added that 3 militants were killed during a separate operation in Kohband and

Nejrab districts of Kapisa province.

According to MoD, at least 11 soldiers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) lost their lives during the same operations.

"The Afghan National Army (ANA) forces are prepared for all kinds of devotion and with all force to maintain security and comfort for the people of Afghanistan," the statement by MoD said, adding that 11 Afghan soldiers were martyred during counter-terrorism operations against the internal and foreign terrorists.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the reports so far. (KP)

Farmers Concern as Rains Damage Wheat Crop in Logar

PUL-I-ALAM - Continued rains have damaged hundreds of farmlands, particularly wheat fields, in central Logar province, but officials promised helping the affected growers.



Abdul Jabbar, a resident of the Sharafgan area of Mohammad Agha district, told Pajhwok Afghan News the water level in Logar River had unprecedentedly increased. "Water from the flooded river is flowing to farmlands and has destroyed all wheat fields," he said, adding he and his relatives had lost 30 acres of wheat farms to the floods.

Sabir Jan, a resident of the Tangi Waghjan area of the same district, confirmed the Logar River had damaged hundreds of acres of farmlands.

"I personally cultivated my six acres land with wheat to feed my family,

but the fields been inundated. I am worried about my loss. We will suffer if the government does not help us," he said.

A resident of the Niazi village of Pul-I-Alam, the capital of the province, ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Second-Hand Shops Mushroom in Kabul City

KABUL - With tens of thousands of Afghans leaving the country, second-hand shops have mushroomed around Kabul city, as would-be migrants sell up their possessions. But many people say that a lot of household goods being sold in these shops are also a result of the economic recession.



They say that ordinary Afghans who have fallen on hard times are being forced to sell off possessions for money. "Unemployment has also forced people to sell their household goods," said Abdul Khaliq, the owner of one shop that sells used house-

hold items. Ahmad Shah, another shopkeeper, said: "Around four to five months ago there was a rush and different items were being sold at different prices and the prices were fixed." The dream of going to Europe compelled many to sell their

household items but as many return, they revisit the shops in the hope of buying back their possessions. "Many people have returned from abroad and they come to these shops to collect the goods they sold," said Farooq, another shop keeper. *(Tolonews)*

3 Afghans Gunned Down, 2 Wounded by Iranian Border Guards

HERAT CITY - Iranian border security forces have killed three Afghans and wounded two others who wanted to sneak into the neighboring country on their way to Europe, an official said on Sunday.



Dr. Mehdi Hadid, head of the provincial council's security committee, told Pajhwok Afghan News the five individuals were part of a 12-member group trying to go abroad illegally. The remaining seven people have been missing. Gen. Juma Khan Adil, commander of the

705th boarder police zone, confirmed the incident, saying the victims' bodies had been handed over to their families. Last year, he recalled, more than 200 Afghans had been arrested and referred to courts.

Haji Abdul Hakim, a tribal elder and resident of Kahsan district, said Iranian security officials knew the Afghans crossing the border were looking for work. They, ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

NDS Operatives Seize Weapons Catches

BAMYAN CITY - National Directorate Security (NDS) officials on Sunday recovered and confiscated two huge caches of weapons and explosives in the Kahmard district of central Bamyan province, an official said.

Brig. Gen Hayatullah Hayat Rostazada, the provincial NDS chief, told reporters the depots were seized near the border with northern Baghlan province. The caches contained 82 RPGs, 37 mortar launchers, 4 mortar shells, 27 hand-grenades and some other explosives.

Rostazada said: "The Taliban had transferred the ammunition from Samangan and Sar-i-Pul provinces for using them in terrorist activities." No arrests were made in connection with the weapons. *(Pajhwok)*

Rocket Hits Kabul after Kerry's Surprise Visit

KABUL - A rocket landed in the capital Kabul but caused no casualties or damage, Security officials said on Sunday.

Crime branch chief for 101st Asmayee Zone, Brig. Gen. Faridoun Obaidi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the rocket was fired from a non-residential area in the eighth police district.

He said the rocket landed in Pul-i-Bagh Omomi area of the city on Saturday night but caused no casualties or damage. No group has so far claimed responsibility. The incident came as US Secretary of State John Kerry prepared to leave the high-security capital after meeting senior Afghan leaders. *(Pajhwok)*

Injured in Blast, Boy Worried About a Child Dead, 6 Wounded in Nangarhar Explosions & Recovery

JALALABAD - One child was killed and six people including women were injured in separate explosions in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Sunday.

Two women were injured at 8am when a civilian car hit a roadside bomb in Dand-i-Ragha village of Khogyani district, the governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

A resident of the area, Sabawoon, said two other people in the vehicle escaped unhurt in the bombing, for which there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Separately, a child was killed along with the cow he was grazing on Saturday evening when a landmine exploded in Lukhi area of the district, the governor's spokesman said.

In the same town, four members of a family were injured as a result of a gas cylinder blast in Wazir area, said a doctor at the district hospital. Two of the injured were in critical condition, he added.

A resident of the area, Abdullah Sahar, said a woman, a child and two men were wounded in the cylinder explosion. *(Pajhwok)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



There is an uncomfortable tension between what you say you will do and what you're actually able to finish today. If your goals are too ambitious now, you may grow annoyed with yourself and everyone in your life. It's no fun at all to realize you have fallen short of your own expectations. Nevertheless, adopting a more realistic approach could bring success.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You can make measurable progress today if you remain true to your values instead of reaching for arbitrary milestones throughout the day. You are more likely to overcome your own inertia if you're passionate about your goals. It's much easier to complete the tasks on your list -- one after another -- if they are part of a holistic plan instead of just isolated chores.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Every little thing seems to magically fit into place today, but so much is happening that you can't assimilate all your experiences. You might feel that something isn't quite right, but assume it's just the ebb and flow of your emotions while the evocative Moon is back in your changeable sign. Allow your shifting moods to determine when to push ahead and when to withdraw.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Your confidence grows by leaps and bounds now if you feel accepted by your peers. Thankfully, your high self-esteem currently enables you to expand your horizons because you're not afraid to participate in a debate about something you believe in. Just remember that you can disagree with others without feeling as if they are attacking you personally.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're eager to laugh off an uncomfortable situation today because you assume your lighthearted attitude will advance your cause more than taking things too seriously. In fact, your best strategy is to adopt a more balanced approach now. Although there's no point in worrying about a previous mistake, assuming responsibility is more productive than pretending everything.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You may be so flooded with incoming information now that you are a bit dazed and confused. You're drawn toward wanting lots of good data at your fingertips, but it's difficult to separate all the noise from what's valid. The more you attempt to get a handle on the facts, the less you seem to know. Save your analytical thinking for another day; instead, just take it all in and make your assessment tomorrow when your clarity returns.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Your plans seem to be unfolding on schedule today, but you run into trouble when you assume everything will continue to go your way. Although a relationship may be the source of an unexpected surprise, you're able to artfully roll with the incoming waves, even if they are disruptive. Just don't cling to an agenda that no longer makes sense; your emotional flexibility can transform a sudden change of plans.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Your life seems more convoluted when you try to follow through on previous plans. Luckily, you have plenty of energy to respond to whatever pops up today. Your can-do-it attitude might be annoying to others, but they are quick to trust you with a difficult task. Don't allow your confidence run amok or you could end up spreading your resources too thin.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You're currently able to keep up with people who were previously running circles around you. However, you may question if this chase is a wise use of your time and energy. However, someone's judgments shouldn't prevent you from following your bliss now; it's fully acceptable to pursue pleasure even if you aren't very productive. Ultimately, the secret of being happy is accepting your place in life while also making the most out of every single day.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You might naturally assume that relinquishing control could hinder your success, instead of helping you reach your goals. But demonstrating sensitivity to someone else's position works in your favor today, even if it means keeping some of your best ideas quiet for a while longer. Luckily, you can perform reliably once you get started, so set aside your concerns long enough to take a calculated risk.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

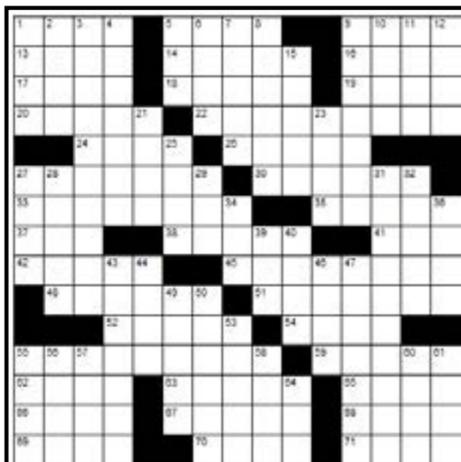


Allowing your friends to take the lead today could turn into a great relief for you. Your first reaction might be to challenge those who try to assume authority, but you will finally be able to relax if you let someone else be in charge. Happily, more playtime increases your self-esteem. A renewed sense of confidence brings fresh waves of energy and inspires you to expend the additional effort.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You're like a fish that is stranded on dry land today. Although there's a lot of mental activity to feed your brain, you long for the emotionally nutritious waters of the sea. But there's no need to waste any time complaining as long as your intentions are clear. Be sincere as you assert yourself to get what you want. If your actions are consistent with your message, others will be more than willing to support you in your quest.



Across

1. Faux pas, 5. Concern, 9. Ale, 13. Gambling game, 14. Alarm, 16. Sexual assault, 17. Within, 18. Forbidden, 19. Component of urine, 20. Cubic meter, 22. Taught new skills, 24. Obtains, 26. Prevaricators, 27. Hairy, 30. Shouts of approval, 33. Speeches, 35. Mountain crest, 37. Louisville Slugger, 38. "Hogwash!", 41. Muck, 42. Shorthand, 45. Conceding, 48. Anagram of "Rioted", 51. Kit for a baby, 52. Prongs, 54. In order to prevent, 55. Practices, 59. Sudden burst, 62. Former Italian currency, 63. Sea, 65. Dwarf buffalo, 66. Enumerate, 67. Medical professional, 68. Frosts, 69. Location, 70. Being, 71. A musical pause.

Down

1. Slaloms, 2. Gave temporarily, 3. Not segregated, 4. Most destitute, 5. Feline, 6. Winglike, 7. Renegade, 8. Arousing, 9. A strong and heavyset man, 10. Acquire deservedly, 11. Type of sword, 12. Absorb written material, 15. Synagogue scroll, 21. Decorative case, 23. District, 25. "Cut that out!", 27. Imps, 28. Angry, 29. N N N N, 31. A payment of money, 32. An attention-getting feat, 34. Timid, 36. Border, 39. Be unwell, 40. Welt, 43. Nitrify, 44. Ear-related, 46. Caustics, 47. Hopelessness, 49. Scallion, 50. Save, 53. Clairvoyants, 55. L L L L, 56. 13 in Roman numerals, 57. At one time (archaic), 58. Back talk, 60. Foot digits, 61. Where the sun rises, 64. Born as.

Yesterday's Solution



anchovy, annoy, batch, beast, birthright, breach, cloak, cute, dance, darling, depend, ears, eczema, found, garden, gate, grass, greet, grit, halt, hereafter, heresy, innate, legacy, literature, meal, near, obscure, plastic, sates, secret, shirr, shrub, stammer, stash.

