

91 Militants Killed in Afghanistan: Ministry

KABUL - About 91 militants have been killed during cleanup operations across Afghanistan since early Saturday, the country's Defense Ministry said on Sunday. The ministry said in a statement that Afghan National Security and Defense Forces carried out the operations in Herat, Ghazni, Paktika and Helmand provinces. "Some 22 terrorist were also wounded during the above raids while joint forces also found weapons and ammunition in addition to defusing dozens of roadside bombs and



landmines," said the statement that provides daily operational updates. The statement also confirmed the loss of 11 army personnel during clashes and as a result of separate attacks across the country over the same period. The Afghan security forces has beefed up security operations against militants recently as the Taliban militant group has been attempting to take territory and consolidate its positions ahead of winter in the Central Asian country. (Xinhua)

Afghanistan Should Get to Play Against Top Teams: Inzamam-Ul-Haq

KABUL - The head coach of the Afghanistan national cricket team, Inzamam-ul-Haq, on Sunday said that the Afghan team should get to play against top teams on regular basis, insisting that the Afghan team needs exposure against the big teams. Inzamam is hopeful that the Afghan team will perform well in the upcoming ICC Twenty20 World Cup scheduled for 2016 in India, saying "Everybody in the team are stroke players. They are all very good Twenty20 format players too and I am sure they have the ability to perform well in the Twenty20 World Cup." In an interview with Gulf News, Inzamam pointed towards the areas of improvement the Afghan team requires to meet the international requirements. "We lack in fitness. We know that our fitness is not top level and they don't meet the international requirements. We are working hard on that part and within two to three months we will cover this area." According to Inzamam, some of the Afghan players can go on... (More on P4)... (19)

Afghanistan Vs Zimbabwe International Cricket Series

NOIDA - Greater Noida Sports complex hosted an international cricket series between Afghanistan and Zimbabwe. Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) shifted its base from Sharjah to Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Noida after signing an MoU with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority. With the country ravaged by instability and tensions, the new home ground in Greater Noida provided a good opportunity for ACB to host international matches. The players were also happy with the facilities provided to them, "We are feeling very good here. This is the second time we have come here after Kolkata. The wickets, lawns and the people here are very good. We are enjoying here very much," said Afghanistan team captain Ihsanullah Jاناat. The Afghanistan team will stay in Noida till January 17, 2016, for further warm sessions and will also get to interact with the Indian players. One of the fans supporting Afghanistan team, Abdul Qadeer Mutfi said, "We are happy that India provided home ground to Afghanistan because access to India is very easy for Afghans. Initially, we had home ground in Sharjah and it was a costly city whereas India is better and everyone can join, facilities too are good. Most students are studying here and we are thankful that India provided ground here". This was the fourth and final match in which Afghanistan won the series against Zimbabwe by 159 runs and claimed the series 4-0. Officials from Afghanistan were... (More on P4)... (16)

Unidentified Gunmen Kidnap three Civilians on Kabul-Ghazni Highway

KABUL - A group of unidentified gunmen have kidnapped three civilians on Kabul-Ghazni highway, an official said on Sunday. Khaliqdad Akbari, head of the provincial council of Ghazni province told Khaama Press that the civilians were on their way from Malistan District to the provincial capital when their vehicle was stopped in Mushki area of Qarabagh District on Saturday afternoon.



Akbari said five passengers were taken hostages but later a child and his mother were released. "Three people are still in the custody of the gunmen," he said. Head of the provincial council added that security forces have... (More on P4)... (15)

Medway Marine Surprises Family after Tour in Afghanistan

MEDWAY - U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Benjamin Bauman is on cloud nine. The 21-year-old Medway resident was in Afghanistan for two years, but now he's home for Christmas to surprise his family. "It means everything to me. I miss my family so much and it's amazing to be home," he said. His mother and father had no idea their son was coming home. "I have not hugged him for two years since he got home from Afghanistan," Nancy Bauman said. The emotional homecoming almost didn't happen. Bauman was flown in from California thanks to a generous gift from Erin Vasselian, who runs a non-profit named... (More on P4)... (18)

NDS Arrests Alleged Daesh Radio Journalist

KABUL - Amid a growing outcry over the recent emergence in Nangarhar of a Daesh radio station, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Sunday arrested a journalist who allegedly worked for the station. This comes after reports emerged last week that Daesh had launched an FM radio station that broadcasts through Jalalabad and districts in the province in a bid to promote the group and recruit new fighters. According to Nangarhar residents, the radio station known as "Caliphate Radio" promotes radicalism in support of Daesh by broadcasting anti-government rhetoric. The residents have appealed to government to take immediate action against the station in order to stop the militant group from influencing the local youth. Locals say the government has still not managed to track down the exact location from where Daesh is broadcasting. But the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology said that the radio station is operating from a mobile studio and moves around the province. This comes amid a rapidly deteriorating... (More on P4)... (20)

30 Public Utility Projects Completed in Balkh Province

MAZAR - National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Sunday said that 30 public utility projects worth AFN 74,276,000 including 10% community contribution in Dolatabad district of Balkh province. According to NSP Provincial Manager in Balkh province, these projects include the construction of seven school buildings, 390 meters of a school building's surrounding



walls, 19 social centers and 156 irrigation water dividers. Approximately, 9,871 families in various communities have been able to get access to basic human needs upon completion of these projects. Since its inception in Balkh province, the NSP has been able to execute 2,104 development projects in different sectors such... (More on P4)... (17)



Afghan displaced children walk out of their tents on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan on Sunday December 20, 2015. More than one million people have to flee their homes due to conflicts in the country, according to official. (Xinhua/Omid)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Sharing the details of your busy calendar with family and friends may be necessary to keep everything running smoothly today, but you don't have to over-explain your every move. Others are already experiencing information overload and they don't need you to add more noise to the existing mix. Instead of justifying your plans to everyone else now.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You're overdue for some respite from the hectic pace of your daily life, but you might not experience any relief today. It's tempting to blame the high intensity on the holiday season, but it's really more about the breakneck speed at which your mind is operating now. Unfortunately, you may feel slightly isolated if you can't connect your thoughts to everything happening around you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your social life may be causing you anguish today because everything seems to be more complicated than you expected. Although mischievous Mercury might be wreaking havoc on your life now, it probably feels worse than it actually is. In fact, it's likely that something awesome will come of a breakdown in communication or if your plans fall apart. Don't tenaciously cling to your previous expectations when life has so many surprises in store for you.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You plan on keeping your opinions to yourself today, but things that you wouldn't normally say might suddenly slip off your tongue with ease. Although your disclosure could create static in the present moment by upsetting a friend, it may be useful in the long run to clear the air of unexpressed feelings. Believe it or not.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You have certain ideas about how things should be done today and you may feel the urge to tell everyone to back off and leave you alone. But it's not that you want to be isolated from your loved ones; it's just you need to be your own boss now. Remember, your strength of conviction is a double-edged sword; it's admirable to be so passionate about your beliefs.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're pulled in opposite directions today and struggle to find middle ground. On one hand, your ruling planet Mercury is yelling fire, filling your head with one brilliant thought after another. On the other hand, quicksilver Mercury's alignment with shocking Uranus makes it nearly impossible to focus. Trying to narrow your choices is an exercise in futility now, so just let your ideas flow naturally.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

It takes every ounce of your concentration to see both sides of an important issue today. Your opinions may be uncharacteristically intense now, but there's no reason to express your thoughts unless they add something constructive to the conversation. Nevertheless, you feel so strongly that you're sure your words will make an immediate difference.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

It's easy to mistake a clever-but-shallow idea for a life-changing deep thought today, but the two are wildly different. Trickster Mercury may nudge you into thinking that a radical new idea is amazing enough to save the world or, at least, to save yourself. But innovative solutions that sound wonderful at first might not stand up to the test of time.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You might grow annoyed today because everyone seems to be moving so quickly that you can't establish an even pace. Just as you sink into a meaningful conversation with someone, there's a new topic on the table or a knock at the door. Unfortunately, your attempts to alter the energetic flow only generate more frustration. Instead of trying to control reality to your liking.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

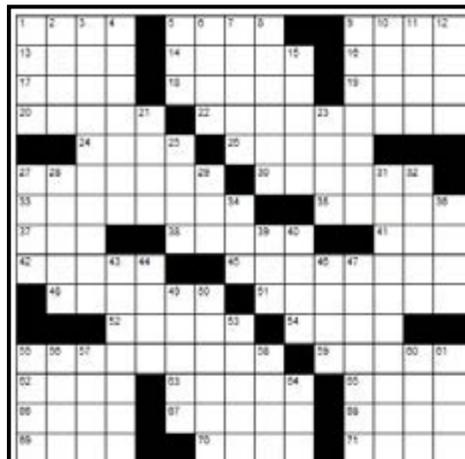
You can tell that your momentum is building, but your excitement could get the best of you today. Obviously, you don't want to miss a significant opportunity, but it may not be fading as quickly as you think. In fact, using your day to get all your ducks in order is smarter than attempting to execute a specific strategy right away. Thankfully, you are blessed with more patience than others.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You may be exhilarated by the buzz of everyone's enthusiasm today, but it's not wise to fall into the trap of hitching your happiness to external events. Rather than making your satisfaction dependent on people's reactions, cut yourself loose from the expectation game. You might not be very productive now, but you can enjoy the freedom that the unsettled energy brings.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You're not sure if it's in your best interest to reveal your thoughts today, especially if you're worried that your dreams are out of sync with everyone else's. Normally, you might respond to this kind of potential conflict by withdrawing to channel your inner hermit. However, something keeps pulling you back toward your friends now. Don't fight your intuition if you are drawn to share your heart.



Across

- 1. Twice-baked bread, 5. A titled peer of the realm, 9. Tosses, 13. Kitty (poker), 14. Agitated, 16. Found in some lotions, 17. Knights, 18. Wavelike design, 19. Tidy, 20. Verse writers, 22. In Britain, they're lifts, 24. Historical periods, 26. Display, 27. Temporary, 30. Foursome, 33. Scumbags, 35. Bring upon oneself, 37. 56 in Roman numerals, 38. Unstable, 41. Consumer Price Index, 42. Impudent, 45. Reflexive form of "you", 48. Not first, 51. A tiny drop, 52. Decorative jugs, 54. Ripped, 55. Exhibited, 59. Merriment, 62. Incite, 63. Anagram of "Peril", 65. Container weight, 66. Liturgy, 67. Lad, 68. Decorative case, 69. Russian emperor, 70. French for "Head" 71. Clairvoyant.

Down

- 1. Coarse file, 2. Pearly-shelled mussel, 3. Urban smarts, 4. Sparrow hawk, 5. Flee, 6. Double-reed woodwind, 7. Churns, 8. Not circuitous, 9. Type of lamp, 10. Margarine, 11. Wild hog, 12. Collections, 15. Embankment, 21. Indian dress, 23. Against, 25. Sieve, 27. Ailments, 28. Exploded stars, 29. Japanese apricot, 31. Hasten, 32. Double, 34. Operative, 36. Break in friendly relations, 39. Detachable container, 40. Mongol hut, 43. A ceremonial staff, 44. Distressed cry, 46. Space, 47. Pixies, 49. Some tides, 50. Livestock pen, 53. A river through Paris, 55. Blowgun missile, 56. Nile bird, 57. Bristle, 58. Fender blemish, 60. Not false, 61. Inheritor, 64. Type of whiskey.

Yesterday's Solution



baker, bleat, build, cancel, correct, cream, deliver, event, fright, future, great, guest joint, manage, mobile, mouth, perfection, permission, pony, phrase, plurality, puzzle, rely, remote, response, reveal, rite, salad, scenic, spray.

