

# 26 Militants Killed in Past 24 Hrs: Gov't

KABUL - A total of 26 militants were killed and eight others injured after Afghan army, police and intelligence agency personnel launched wide-scale operations within the past 24 hours, said the Afghan Defense Ministry on Wednesday. "During the past 24 hours, Afghan National Defense and Security Forces conducted joint operations against the insurgents in different parts of the country. As a result, 26 insurgents were killed and eight others wounded," the ministry said in a statement. Among the killed were 22 militants



of Islamic State (IS) militant group, the statement said, adding that the joint forces also discovered and confiscated rounds of light and heavy ammunition during the raids launched in 11 of the country's 34 provinces. The joint forces also detained nine persons during the above raids. The Afghan security forces had beefed up security operations recently as militants were attempting to take territory and consolidate their positions during the winter in the mountainous country. (Xinhua)

## Ex-Soviet Soldier Who Stayed Behind Talks about Life in Herat

KABUL - Former Soviet soldier, Bakhredtin Khakimov, who lives in Herat province, said after the withdrawal of the Soviets in 1989 he stayed on and has never returned to his country. Khakimov, who now goes by the name of Sheikh Abdullah, said he was badly wounded in Shindand district of Herat province in 1980 and captured by the Herat Mujahideen. Khakimov, who married an Afghan woman and has one daughter, said he loves Afghanistan more than his own country and loves the Afghan people. According to him he arrived in the country as a 22-year-old soldier and worked for the former Soviet Union's intelligence department. Three years after the invasion he was badly wounded and captured. Once he recovered, he converted to Islam and changed his name to Sheikh Abdullah. "I was wounded in the head and collapsed. I don't remember much about that time," he said. *... (More on P4)... (15)*

## Belarus Commemorates Afghan War's Fallen Soldiers

MINSK - The soldiers killed in the Afghan war were commemorated in a ceremony on the Island of Courage and Sorrow in Minsk on Wednesday, BelTA has learned. Representatives of the government bodies, public and veterans' organizations, members of the Armed Forces, cadets of the military schools, and veterans of the Afghan war, mothers and widows of the soldiers came to pay tribute to the memory of the fallen soldiers and mark the 28th anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Af-



ghanistan. Vasily Panasyuk, Chairman of the Minsk Council of Deputies, said that the Minsk investment program for 2017 envisages Br2 million for the reconstruction of the area along the Svisloch River near the Island of Courage and Sorrow. He noted that *... (More on P4)... (13)*

## Fire Sweeps Through Balkh Prison

KABUL - A fire incident has been reported in northern Balkh province of Afghanistan amid reports suggesting that the fire has swept through the central prison. The incident has taken place in Mazar-e-Sharif city, the provincial capital of northern Balkh province. Provincial police chief Abdul Razaq Qaderi confirmed the incident and said the fire swept through the second floor of the prison. Qaderi further added that the fire extinguishing team was deployed to the area immediately after the incident. He said no one was hurt in the incident and the fire was brought under the control. *... (More on P4)... (14)*

## Farah Residents Concerned Over Lack of Courts, Attorneys

KABUL - The absence of courts and attorney offices in all districts of Farah province is of major concern to its residents. A number of residents and civil society activists of Farah said on Wednesday they feared that their province was descending into a governance crisis as some inhabitants were turning to Taliban kangaroo courts to address their judicial problems. "The Government's control is limited to areas less than one kilometer from gov-



ernment buildings. There is no court or attorney office in Farah's districts. As a result, people faced with legal issues, go to the Taliban to have their problems resolved. There are no state courts in the districts," said Habibullah, a resident of Farah. "No one hears our voice. *... (More on P4)... (16)*

## 9 Drug Traffickers Arrested

KABUL - Afghan law enforcement agencies have detained nine drug traffickers within a week, as the war-hit country struggled to fight the narcotics, authorities said on Wednesday. "The Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) in collaboration with Afghan security forces have captured nine drug traffickers in Kabul, Nangarhar, Ghor and Nimroz provinces within the last one week," the Counter-Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force of Afghanistan (CJTF) said in a statement. They also seized some 29



kg of heroin, over 220 kg of opium, and 810 kg of hashish over the period, according to the statement. Among the arrestees was one woman, the statement said, adding the CNPA also confiscated

## School Girl Gunned Down in Bamyan

BAMYAN CITY - A school girls has been shot dead in central Bamyan province, an official said on Wednesday. Abdul Rahman Ahmadi, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident happened Tuesday night in the Goruna locality in Bamyan City, the provincial capital. He added family violence could be behind the incident. *... (More on P4)... (18)*

## 2 Afghans Detained; Stolen Excavator Recovered

PESHAWAR - Two Afghan citizens have been arrested and a stolen excavator worth Rs 6 million recovered from them in Pakistan's garrison town of Rawalpindi. A police spokesman said Abdullah Khan had lodged a complaint that his excavator had been stolen from a filling station. Policed filed a case under Section 381-A. A special team subsequently detained two *... (More on P4)... (19)*

## Paramilitary Troops Among 5 Dead in Mohmand Suicide Attack

PESHAWAR - Five people were killed in a suicide attack in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region of Mohmand near the Afghanistan border on Wednesday, the military said. Three para-

military troops and two civilians were killed and several others wounded when one suicide bomber riding a motor bike attacked the political agent's office in Ghalanai sub-district. A second bomber was shot dead by security guards posted there, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. Eight people were injured in the explosion that caused panic in the *... (More on P4)... (20)*

## Large Cache of Ammunition, Rockets, Explosives Seized in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - A large cache of ammunition, rockets, and explosives was discovered and seized in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. Provincial police spokesman Gen. Hazrat Hussain

Mashriqwal said the cache was discovered during an operation in Behsud district. He said the cache included 15 rounds of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and 250 rounds of various types of heavy and light ammunition, including rockets. Mashriqwal further added that RPG rockets, BM-1 rocket, Dshk machine gun and various other types of *... (More on P4)... (21)*

### Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Underlying tension may have you tiptoeing around the feelings of others, unsure how to proceed. Delicate conversations are not necessarily your forte, but trying to avoid obvious strain between you and another person will only aggravate the issue. Instead of sidestepping accountability, own your words and deeds.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Sometimes you get more done when you start with the easiest tasks and leave the most challenging ones until later. However, this clever technique only works if you're not using it as an excuse to put off hard work indefinitely. It could feel as if circumstances are impeding your progress today, regardless of your determination. Fortunately, your efforts will eventually produce results if you maintain a positive outlook.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



The ride is a little bumpy today as you try to adapt to the shifting moods around you. You can take both sides of any discussion, but it's difficult for even you adaptable Geminis to keep up as the push and pull requires you to continuously alter your message. The sociable Libra Moon highlights your 5th House of Self-Expression, prompting you to put on a happy face even in the midst of stress.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Coming home is like hitting the reset button for you most days, allowing you to gather your feelings and return to your comfort zone. However, a complicated domestic life could change the energy overnight. You might even be inclined to go out in order to avoid the uncomfortable atmosphere. However, the sooner you clear the air, the sooner you can relax in an environment that soothes your soul.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're trying to steer conversations in a positive direction, but new information keeps being added to the equation and you're not sure how to respond. At one moment, it seems like one person is telling you to stop goofing off, and then the next instant someone else is persuading you to play hooky.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



The moment you think your mind is made up, something else comes along to change it. Deciding what you really want isn't very straightforward today, but you feel you must make a choice. You don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but it seems like you end up stepping on someone else's toes no matter how hard you try to be nice. Putting your logical mind to work reminds you to stay true to your agenda, even if making everyone happy seems to be the quickest route to satisfaction.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



It's thoughtful to try to consider everyone's feelings, but keeping up with them is more of a stretch than usual today. You may be overdoing it when the people-pleasing Libra Moon joins forces with excessive Jupiter in your sign, fooling you into believing you can accommodate every emotion that shadows your heart. Happily, objectivity comes to the rescue later when Luna harmonizes with the cerebral Aquarius Sun.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



It seems like information is going in one ear and out the other. In reality, whatever you hear is internalized and you play it over again in your head, even if it doesn't show on your face. Although shoving conflict to the back of your mind is easier than having to deal with it, you're more capable of handling stress as it arises than you think.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Last-minute changes to plans keep happening one after the other, and the annoyance factor is on the rise. Typically you're willing to go with the flow, but it's challenging to remain patient when no one can make a simple decision. Letting things sort themselves out isn't in anyone's best interests today. Fortunately, you can successfully navigate through a complex obstacle course if you're willing to adjust your attitude.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You just want to get your work done, but it seems like you must keep switching between tasks before you're finished with the first one. Putting blinders on is effective sometimes, but they may block out other people's feelings today as well as the distractions you were hoping to avoid. If there's contention among your peers, it's best to handle it with patience and maturity rather than playing the avoidance game.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

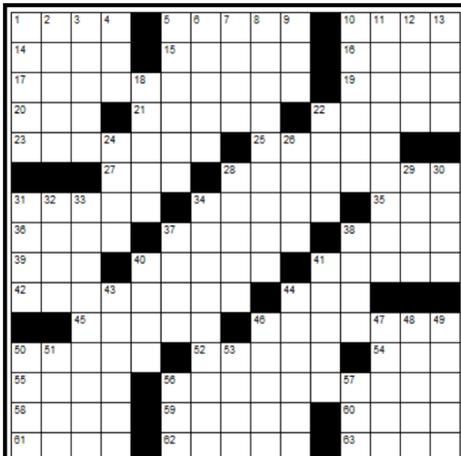


Although it may be clear to others that your undertakings are far-fetched, you're desperate to cling to your optimism for their success. You find that people are quick to doubt your enthusiasm today, and you might even begin to harbor your own secret misgivings. However, the cosmos is offering you a rare opportunity to prove everyone wrong now.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You wish you could turn a blind eye to what's really on your mind, but your current obsessions won't leave you alone. Signs of your own inner discord pop up in the world around you, urging you to manage the relationship issues that are begging for your attention. You have more power than you think, so acknowledge your fears as soon as they make themselves known rather than trying to bury them out of sight.



**Across**  
1. Ends a prayer, 5. Steeple, 10. Get-out-of-jail money, 14. Numbskull, 15. Anagram of "Paste", 16. If not, 17. Sleepiness, 19. Broad valley, 20. Directed, 21. Japanese cartoon art, 22. Peels, 23. Melancholy, 25. A watery discharge, 27. Entire, 28. Malocclusion, 31. Anagram of "Smite", 34. Fast, 35. Weep, 36. Acquire deservedly, 37. Applied to a wall or canvas, 38. Counterfoil, 39. South southeast, 40. Threw, 41. Throws away, 42. Headfirst, 44. Children's game, 45. Crawled, 46. Rabble-rouser, 50. An inferior black tea, 52. French school, 54. Card with one symbol, 55. Region, 56. Cave dweller, 58. School session, 59. Eagle's nest, 60. Beers, 61. Playthings, 62. Mammary gland of bovids, 63. 8 bits of data.

**Down**  
1. Mire, 2. Type of mushroom, 3. Lyric poem, 4. Not used, 5. Anagram of "Plains", 6. Terror, 7. Bit of gossip, 8. Setting aside, 9. S, 10. Smear, 11. Scaremongers, 12. Small island, 13. Dregs, 18. Travels on water, 22. Flippant, 24. Acquire, 26. Significance, 28. Unpaid, 29. Brag, 30. Wanes, 31. Netting, 32. Alleviate, 33. Betrayal, 34. Strolled, 37. Raindrop sound, 38. Epic, 40. Parasitic insect, 41. Anaglyph, 43. Aspirations, 44. Bank employee, 46. Motherless calf, 47. Blithely, 48. Group of 8, 49. Ganders, 50. Insulation, 51. Chocolate cookie, 53. Unit of cut wood, 56. Letter after sigma, 57. Apply gently.

**Yesterday's Solution**  
SAIGA SPOT CESS  
LUNAR AERO OMIT  
ATTIC BREE MALL  
TOOTHBRUSH PIKE  
WOE OVALS  
DISMAY SPLIT  
UNLAW SPTORWES  
SCAR SKINS TOWA  
THWARTING SORES  
GORSE UTTERS  
ISUIDE ERE  
ANTE SIAR GRIME  
FILM UNMANNEREID  
TERN EVIL INDIE  
SWAT LADY LEERS

action, additional, ascot, beach, bright, class, cloudy, clutch, cover, death, defeat, demand, dinner, drat, entail, fight, focus, grant, grasp, laugh, mammoth, month, nerve, online, organ, patient, same, sari, scene, scrag, serf, shawl, short, smoke, snout.

C L U T C H B R I G H T L  
L L D I N N E R S C R A G  
A U O L G M A M M O T H D  
S Y N U A S C O T I Q N E  
S G L S D U H N V S A S A  
Z R I N D Y G T T M R W T  
V A N O I A H H E O C O H  
A S E U T G C D W K O R Z  
G P A T I E N T N E V L S  
U H K F O C U S I E E D C  
E G R A N T Z S H O R T E  
D E F E A T O R G A N V N  
S H A W L K E N T A I L E