

45 Taliban Commanders Killed in Four Months: MoI

LASHKARGAH - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Monday 45 Taliban commanders have been killed in air and ground operations by Afghan security forces over the past four months.

According to the ministry, Mullah Muzammil, designated governor of Taliban in Helmand, was among the key figures of Taliban killed recently in a military operation in Marjah district, Helmand.

Mullah Hayat, also known as Haji Lala, the Taliban's designated gover-



nor for Kandahar was also targeted in a military operation by Afghan troops, the ministry said. In addition, Mullah Qasim, Taliban's designated governor for Ghazni was killed in an air raid in Payenda Khail village in Ab Band district in Ghazni.

Mullah Ghani, designated deputy governor for Farah and Mawlawi Mumtaz Miakhail, designated deputy governor of Taliban for Kabul was killed in Hesarak district in Nangarhar ... (More on P4)... (14)

Militant Shot Dead before Attacking Afghan Intelligence Forces

KANDAHAR CITY - A militant was shot dead before he managed to carry out an attack on the convoy of the Afghan intelligence, National Directorate of Security (NDS) operatives in southern Kandahar.

The provincial government media office said the militant was shot dead in the 9th police district of Kandahar city today.

The militant was identified by the NDS operatives and shot dead before he carried out the attack, the provincial government media office said, adding that another militant managed to flee the area. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the

incident so far.

Taliban militants and insurgents belonging to the other militant groups are actively operating in Kandahar province despite the security situation has improved during the recent months. The militants are attempting to destabilize the province as they try to expand their insurgency activities across the country, specifically since they launched their spring offensive in April this year.

In the meantime, the Afghan security officials are saying that the spring offensive led by the Taliban group has been successfully repulsed with the launch of the annual counter-terrorism operations. (KP)

Cricket All-Rounder Rashid Puts Afghanistan Ahead of Ireland

KABUL - A superb all-round effort from Rashid Khan and half-century score from Mohammad Nabi gave Afghanistan a 2-1 lead in the fourth game of its five-match One-Day International series against Ireland.



With the series tied at one apiece after the first game was washed out, Afghanistan, who chose to bat after winning the toss, wasn't in the best of positions early on but recovered courtesy an eighth-wicket partnership between Rashid and Nabi to ride to 229 for 7 from 50 overs at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Belfast on Sunday (July 17).

Ireland's response got off to a shaky start, with four wickets down for 67 runs, but a healthy middle order stand between Kevin O'Brien and Paul Stirling kept the home team in the game. However, once the 63-run fifth-wicket alliance was broken, the bowlers

took control as Ireland was bowled out for 150, handing Afghanistan a 79-run win. The Afghanistan bowlers did a good job in holding an explosive Ireland batting unit down with Rashid picking up 4 wickets for 21 runs from 8 ... (More on P4)... (15)

Major Taliban Attack Repulsed in Kunduz Province

KUNDUZ CITY - A major Taliban attack was repulsed in northern Kunduz province of Afghanistan following hours of heavy clashes between the Afghan security forces and the Taliban insurgents.

Provincial police chief Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangal Bagh said the Taliban militants launched a coordinated attack in the early hours of Monday morning.

He said the attack was launched from four angles in Qala Zal district but the Afghan forces effectively responded to the Taliban fire. According to Jangal



Bagh, at least 6 Taliban insurgents were killed and 3 others were wounded during the gun battle.

Meanwhile, the district administrative chief Mahboobullah Sayedi said the Taliban insurgents also attacked the district admin-

istrative compound and some check posts of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces. He said at least 5 Taliban insurgents were killed during the clashes. The Taliban militants group has not commented ... (More on P4)... (16)

2 Dead in Logar Bombing; Attacker Shot Dead in Kandahar

PUL-I-ALAM/KANDAHAR - Two civilians have been killed in a roadside bombing in central Logar province and an unidentified gunman shot dead by intelligence agents in southern Kandahar, officials said on Monday.

Salim Saleh, the Logar governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News two civilians were killed on Sunday evening when a roadside bomb went off in the Kharot area Charkh district.

"The two men on a motorcycle were on their way to the district bazaar when blown up by the bomb," he said, accusing the Taliban of planting bombs on roads. Ajmal, a resident of Dasht village, said: "The victims were a man and his son, heading to ... (More on P4)... (17)

ALP Official Among 4 Dead in Kunduz Clash

KABUL CITY - One Afghan Local Police (ALP) official and three militants were killed in the rebels attack on Aq Tapa Bazaar of Qala-i-Zal district in northern Kunduz province, an official said.

District Administrative Chief Mahboobullah Sayedi told Pajhwok Afghan News the assault began at 4:00am and was still underway. He confirmed one ALP official and three rebels had been killed.

A Local Police Commander, Mohammad Nabi said militants controlled half of the Bazaar and security forces tried to beat the militants and clear the area.

Taliban insurgents have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

4 Drug Smugglers Killed in Helmand Airstrike

PESHAWAR - Thirty alleged drug smugglers, including four Pakistanis, have been killed in a NATO air strike in southern Afghanistan, a news report said on Monday.

The fatalities occurred on Friday night when the smugglers were crossing a desert north of Band-i-Timor in Helmand province, Dawn reported.

It said a large quantity of drugs was being smuggled to Iran through the



Chagai district of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province. Qadir Parkani, administrative head of Chagai,

confirmed the NATO strike on the convoy of drug smugglers had left four Pakistani citizens dead. (Pajhwok)

3 Afghans Arrested for Killing 16-Year-Old Fellow Refugee in Greece

ATHENS - At least three Afghan refugees have been arrested in connection to the murder of a 16-year-old fellow refugee in France, it has been reported.

The incident reportedly took place at an open hospitality center in Elliniko, a suburb Athens, the capital city of Greece. The suspects have been identified as 18, 23, and 37-year-old Afghan refugees and are due to face charges for attempted murder against two other Afghans, aged 19 and 31 respectively.

The police is also searching for accomplices, local newspaper, TO BHMA

reported, citing police reports.

The report further added that the 18-year-old suspect and his 23-year-old brother lead a group who harassed and assaulted other refugees at the camp with knives and bats, in order to gain the 'upper hand'.

The 16-year-old refugee was killed after being stabbed during an altercation at the Elliniko camp last week on Thursday, after rushing to protect the 19-year-old Afghan who was being assaulted by the three suspects and their gang. ... (More on P4)... (18)

Nine Taliban Killed in Badghis Clash

JAWAND - Roughly nine Taliban insurgents were killed in a clash with security forces in western Badghis province on Sunday, local officials said Monday.

The clash started in Jawand district in the province after the insur-

gents attacked a police outpost in the area, Badghis Police Chief, Abdul Raouf Taj said.

"The battle continued for nearly 10 hours and all the militants fled the area after a strong response by police force members," he said. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You believe you can accomplish anything once you set your mind to it today. Although your imagination may run amok, you're able to harness the power of your ideas as the clarity of your thoughts increases throughout the day. If you feel hyperactive, consciously slowing down your thinking process adds to your productivity.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You are inspired to work hard today in order to reach your dreams. In fact, you may become singularly focused on proving how serious you can be when it comes to achieving your goals. Mercury's easy trine to steadfast Saturn encourages you to communicate in a very matter-of-fact manner, helping you to regain any credibility that you recently lost.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You can discuss delicate matters skillfully today thanks to a winning combination of compassion and tact. An emotionally sensitive Sun-Neptune alignment softens your heart, enabling you to empathize with others. Mental Mercury forms a favorable trine to steady Saturn, helping you bring a vague hope or dream down to earth with a perfect balance between inspiration and practicality.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Channeling your artistic creativity into something tangible isn't easy as the moody Cancer Sun conspires with imaginative Neptune. Fortunately, you can rely on strategic thinking and your well-honed skills to capitalize on even your most whimsical thoughts. But don't expect your visions to materialize on their own.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



It's confusing when facts and fiction become so entangled that you can't tell which is which. Your dreams are powerfully vivid now as the Sun shines upon otherworldly Neptune. But it's easier to face the truth while interactive Mercury in your sign trines no-nonsense Saturn.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You are more confident of your decisions when you're able to trust your five senses. However, you also receive excellent information directly downloaded from your intuition today. Don't discard the wisdom that comes through images and symbols, even if there's no rhyme or reason to it. Fortunately, savvy Mercury's supportive trine with pragmatic Saturn roots you in reality.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You must act with full transparency today, or you could become lost in your own dream-world. Fortunately, a smoothly flowing trine between clever Mercury and karmic Saturn enables you to navigate the uncertain realms between your imagination and reality. Stretch your perspective to understand how your friends think, but don't lose sight of your own core values.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Call on your persistence and ingenuity today to turn an elusive dream into reality. Your psychic powers are operating at high volume, but it's difficult to know how much your intuitive voice should be trusted. Fortunately, a solid trine between cerebral Mercury and systematic Saturn motivates you to unpack the complexity.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Your logic won't steer you wrong today as long as you start out with valid assumptions. Unfortunately, you could jump to an erroneous conclusion if you let your current desires influence your long-term thinking. Fortunately, clever Mercury's favorable aspect with reliable Saturn strengthens your organizational skills and inspires you to create an ambitious plan that can lead you boldly into the future.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You don't need the recognition for your work today; completing your tasks on time is its own sweet reward. However, you won't be as effective if you try to remain a solo act. You could receive additional support and useful ideas from your friends and coworkers when intelligent Mercury trines constructive Saturn.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



If you're stuck in a jam today, it makes sense to pursue all forms of communication as a ticket to your escape. But don't let the potential of a Mercury-Saturn trine go to waste when you could be reinforcing your plans for the stressful days ahead. Thankfully, others will hear your message loud and clear if you take the risk and share what's on your mind.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Although you might be placed in a leadership position today, you could run the emotional gamut from conflict to contentment. You can state your needs and prove your worth convincingly because others believe what you say while stable Saturn harmoniously trines messenger Mercury. It may be difficult at times to focus on the necessary details.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65.

Across and Down crossword clues. Across: 1. Exhausts, 5. Verse writers, 10. Go to and fro, 14. Buttocks, 15. Hearing-related, 16. Connecting point, 17. Beige, 18. Perilous, 20. On the other hand, 22. Rotate, 23. Cheery, 24. Homes for birds, 25. Changes, 32. Christmas song, 33. Follow as a result, 34. Implore, 37. Not odd, 38. Pamphlet, 39. Sit for a photo, 40. Morning moisture, 41. Bread from Heaven, 42. Thigh armor, 43. Ceremonies, 45. Toward the outside, 49. Evil spirit, 50. Mythical creature, 53. A painkiller, 57. Strictly obeying the law, 59. Rate, 60. Beers, 61. A forehead dot, 62. God of love, 63. Sailors, 64. Filled to excess, 65. Dispatched. Down: 1. Gush, 2. Chief, 3. Trim, 4. Beluga, 5. Melon tree, 6. Not yours, 7. Before, poetically, 8. Diplomacy, 9. Shredded cabbage, 10. Malicious, 11. Forests, 12. Grownup, 13. Affirmatives, 19. Washing machine cycle, 21. Nobleman, 25. Breezed through, 26. Wash, 27. An old spelling of "True", 28. Small slender gulls, 29. Absurd, 30. Academy award, 31. Cashew or almond, 34. Pear variety, 35. Being, 36. GGGG, 38. Bar bill, 39. Primitive wind instruments, 41. One who poses, 42. Pack down, 44. Sticky, 45. Panache, 46. Pincer, 47. Striped feline, 48. Accumulate, 51. Bones on your sides, 52. Largest continent, 53. Assistant, 54. Unusual, 55. Computer symbol, 56. Where a bird lives, 58. Explosive.

Yesterday's Solution: A grid with words like RESISTS, ESCAPE, CALL, ALLOT, FARE, OHIO, NAIRA, ESSIE, MESS, INTERLACED, PALE, SODA, LEADER, SARU, PAID, EAR, APIT, ANON, OREGON, VAPID, GODDESS, IKEBANA, OASIS, FIAN, LINT, CAT, AGO, ELISE, STAT, US, UNTO, PRIAM, ENJOYS, MENT, LURE, TOES, CARES, ICON, STIRE, ALACK, TENT, ELKS, RISKS.

WESTERN AFFORD POND REMERGED WITHOUIASORE MVTSSVLSFPXNF VOEOOEGCTEQAT EWNMRIDGENSDL XESERHEARTH DY ALEWYACHTZAIC TFCHELLSRKCTH IFEEBLECCOKIU ODOORDERARGUOM NBLEAKRIRIGFNS EFFORTLESSESLYD