

# 24 Militants, 1 Soldier Killed in Fresh Military Operations: MoD

KABUL - A total of 24 militants have been killed within one day during military operations in Afghanistan, Defense Ministry said on Friday. "Within the past 24 hours, in efforts to ensure security for our countrymen and their properties, the national army in close coordination with other Afghan security force members carried out several military and cleanup operations, killing 24 armed oppositions," the ministry said in a statement. About 20 militants were also wounded during the above raids



conducted in Nangarhar, Helmand, Uruzgan, Kunduz and Ghazni provinces, said the statement that provides daily operational updates. "The joint forces also seized weapons and ammunition and defused several rounds of roadside bombs and landmines. One Afghan army personnel was also martyred over the same period," the statement added. The Taliban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

## Sugar Price Up, Flour down in Kabul Markets

KABUL - The price of sugar increased and that of flour edged down during the outgoing week in capital Kabul, market sources said on Thursday. Food Traders Union head, Fazal Rahman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the price of 49 kilograms of Kazakhstani flour decreased from 1,200 afghanis to 1,190afis. And the price of 49kg of sugar increased from 1,830afis to 1,850afis. However, the rates of other commodities remained unchanged. Fazal Rahman said 25kg of Pakistani rice cost 1,650afis. A wholesaler in Kabul Market, Fazl Ahmad, sold a kilogram of African black tea for 240afis and the same amount of Madina green tea for 220afis. But a retailer in Dahan-i-Bagh area, Ahmad Javid, sold a 49-kg bag of flour for 1,300afis, a 49-kg sack of sugar for 1,950afis and a 24-kg bag of rice for 1,800afis. He sold a 16-litre tin of Momin ghee for 1,000afis, a kilo of African black tea for 260afis and the same quantity of Madina green tea for 250afis - higher than wholesale prices. Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahineigh ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## 5 Militants Killed, 10 Injured in Badakhshan Clash

FAIZABAD - Five Taliban militants were killed and 10 others wounded during clashes with security forces in Baharak district of northeastern Badakhshan province, while the rebels claimed killing 17 Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel. The governor's spokesman, Ahmad NavidFrotan, told Pajhwok Afghan News another four militants were captured alive after they attacked security posts in Yardar area of Baharak district late on Wednesday. Some weapons



and ammunition of the militants were also seized by the Afghan forces, he said, adding that airstrikes by the Afghan Air Force also targeted the militants and inflicted heavy casualties to them. Frotan con ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Remote-Controlled Bomb Wounds 24 Civilians

MAZAR-E-SHARIF - A bomb blast hit a bazaar in Dawlatabad district of the northern Balkh province with Mazar-e-Sharif as its capital 305 km north of Kabul on Thursday injuring two dozen civilians, a local official said. "The terrorists planted explosive device in the cavities of a rickshaw and detonated it among people in the bazaar of Dawlatabad district at around noon, injuring 24 innocent civilians, some in critical condition," district governor, Amir Shah told Xinhua. Some women and children are also among the victims, the official added. The official, however, earlier, confirmed that some civilians had lost their lives in the blast. Shah also ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Afghan Soldier Jailed for 15 Years over Defection

KABUL - A military court in eastern Nangarhar province has fined and sentenced to 15 years in jail an Afghan National Army (ANA) service member for defecting to the Taliban, the Ministry of Defence said on Thursday. A MoD statement said the 201 Selab Military Corps member Zaibullah, son of Habibullah, had deserted his duty post in KhasUruzgan district of central Uruzgan province in June last year and defected to the Taliban along with his weapon and other military equip-



ment. A resident of Behsud district of Nangarhar, Zai-bullah was serving in the Selab Military Corps fourth bridge's third battalion. He was arrested from the Behsud bridge square area based on an intelligence operation, the statement said. However, the MoD statement said the verdict was not final and the convict reserved the right to file an appeal. (Pajhwok)

## Approaching Snowstorm to Hit Hard Salang Highway

CHARIKAR - The Salang highway maintenance department on Thursday said a heavy snowstorm was expected in coming 15 days in areas along the highway and stringent measures have been taken to protect the lives of commuters. Gen. Abdul Rajab Ali, the maintenance department head, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Metrological Department had predicted heavy snowfall and strong winds in areas along the highway. "The situation will persist for 10 to 15 days and the snowfall will sometimes intensify and sometimes decrease." Rajab Ali said though they had taken precautionary measures



and had deployed snowplows and personnel, the passengers should be careful and avoid non-essential travel until conditions improved. He said it was possible the highway that connects Kabul with northern provinces could be closed if snowfall continued or snow avalanches occurred in order to protect commuters from threats to their lives and vehicles. "If we felt a danger, we will close the highway," he said, asking passengers to carry warm clothes with them while travelling on the highway. (Pajhwok)

## Ringleader among 12 Kidnappers Held in Kabul, Parwan

KABUL - A ringleader was among a dozen kidnappers arrested in separate raids in Kabul and central Parwan province, the spy service said on Thursday. A statement from the

National Directorate of Security identified the alleged kidnappers arrested in Kabul as Parwaiz, Zamarai, Asadullah, Tooryalai (a gas seller), Kamil and Khalil. The six persons were de-

## Police Rescue Two Kidnapped Children in Kabul

KABUL - Kabul Police rescued two kidnapped children during a special operation on Thursday in Kabul. The operation was carried out in Kotal-e-Khairkhana area of Kabul city to rescue Bahram and Baktash, two children who were kidnapped around one month ago. Two men and a woman were arrested in connection with the kidnappings. Kabul Police Chief, Abdul Rahman Rahimi, said that they will arrest all the kidnappers. "When we were rescuing the child, we saw another child named Baktash was also there. Baktash says that he was brought from Mazar-e-Sharif. We are now trying to find the child's relatives," he added. Telling of how he was grabbed, Bahram said: "They put potatoes on the ground in front of our house. My brother went to get a plastic bag to put the potatoes in. They [the kidnappers] came and ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## Taliban Prisoner Disguised in Women's Dress in Failed Bid to Break Jail

KABUL - A Taliban prisoner disguised in women's dress and burqa in a bid to break jail in northern Jawzjan province was arrested by the security forces before he

manage to pass through the final exit gate of the jail. According to the local security officials, the failed attempt by the prisoner was made in Sherbarghan city, the provincial capital of Jawzjan province. The prisoner was identified as Mohammad Nader who was serving in ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

### Outlook Horoscope

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

You may hear something in the tone of a friend's voice that leads you to believe they are not on your side while mischievous Mercury short circuits your cerebral wiring today. Luckily, you can avoid overreacting by staying aware of your current tendency to make everything more dramatic than it actually is. Ultimately, your decisions should work out for the best as long as you don't jump to conclusions.

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

Your intention to be fair-minded with everyone doesn't overcome your lack of objectivity today. It's not easy to express your irritation with someone close to you, because you don't want to waste energy on emotions that detract from the work you need to do. Unfortunately, pretending like everything is okay only adds to your annoyance.

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

It seems as if your professional status is at stake, but you're probably so suspicious now that you make a mountain out of a molehill. Unfortunately, warrior Mars forms a conflictive aspect to your key planet Mercury, luring you into an unpleasant exchange of words. Step back before reacting; it's more important that you understand what's currently happening before you try to fix it. The first step toward change is awareness.

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

Someone could unexpectedly accuse you of being negative today while you believe you're acting more like a Pollyanna. However, others might demand that you explain your behavior and your denial won't do much to change anyone's mind. There's no reason to let yourself get sucked into peripheral dramas, but it will feel better to get your frustration out into the open.

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

You might not be willing to devote enough time now to explain your current actions or, possibly, your rationale for doing nothing at all. You think it's your inarguable right to keep your feelings to yourself. Nevertheless, you could inadvertently add more confusion to the situation if you don't share your motives when given the opportunity. Even if you believe there are better things to do today.

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

People may encourage you to discuss a topic you usually prefer to avoid. But once you start talking, it may be difficult to know when to stop because expressive Mars antagonizes interactive Mercury today. Even if you know better, you could lose your temper now and give someone a piece of your mind. However, angry words won't make anyone happier, so think twice before you escalate a minor difference of opinion into an open conflict.

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

Your rational logic isn't enough to keep the peace today as chatty Mercury squares combative Mars. Unfortunately, your colleagues might not play fairly when they refuse to engage in a discussion, even if all you want is a bit of honest feedback. Paradoxically, communication may work backwards now; if you try too hard to start a conversation, people will just retreat even further.

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

Another layer of frustration is unpeeled today as you try to manage an already tricky situation. Thankfully, you possess the stamina to follow through on whatever you start now. But your hopes are larger than your follow-through, tempting you to bite off more than you can chew. Taking a few steps backward to reconsider what makes the most sense is currently the most viable strategy.

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

You may become entangled in lengthy philosophical discussions today. Although words roll off your tongue, they won't likely lead to anything useful. You might grow annoyed if others are less than forthcoming with their true intentions now that cranky Mercury is at cross purposes with contentious Mars in your 12th House of Secrets. You can't understand why people don't just come right out and say what they're thinking.

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

An interaction may not be what it appears if friends are rude and belligerent now. Unfortunately, your self-composure can be quite irritating to someone whose emotions burn hotter than yours. A solution to the current imbalance isn't necessarily the obvious one. Rather than telling others to back off today, you might need to reveal your vulnerability.

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

You wish to be left alone today so you can finish your work before the weekend, but everyone continues to bother you with their ideas. Instead of overreacting, adjust your attitude about what's happening in the present moment. If you try to prevent others from speaking their minds now, they might angrily grow even more vocal. But if you take their suggestions in stride.

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

You experience everything with greater intensity today and your emotional sensitivity can be draining on those around you. But turning off your feelings is not the solution, since all forms of avoidance or denial just charge the atmosphere with even more tension. However, you don't need to express every thought or share every passion that stirs your soul. Discretion is being able to raise your eyebrow instead of your voice.

Across 1. Killer whales, 6. A pouch in some birds, 10. Salt Lake state, 14. Get out of bed, 15. Sit for a photo, 16. Not, 17. Promising, 19. Remain, 20. Renter, 21. Explosive, 22. Nameless, 23. Anagram of "Doles", 25. Extreme, 26. Exhausts, 30. Black Sea port, 32. Disquiet, 35. Brusquely, 39. Excite, 40. A type of beauty treatment, 41. A flavorful addition, 43. The combining power of atoms, 44. Whole, 46. Consider, 47. What a bee might do, 50. Area of South Africa, 53. Frigid, 54. S, 55. Extreme cruelty, 60. Pearly-shelled mussel, 61. Container, 63. Boyfriend, 64. Annoying insect, 65. Shoe stud, 66. Contributes, 67. Leer at, 68. Row of shrubs.

Down 1. By mouth, 2. Debauchee, 3. Swear, 4. Vipers, 5. Piggens, 6. Consumer Price Index, 7. Absolutely still, 8. Apart, 9. Toward sunset, 10. Deranged, 11. Corrupt, 12. Zeal, 13. Doglike nocturnal mammal, 18. Chief Executive Officer, 24. Toss, 25. Normal, 26. Petty quarrel, 27. Relating to aircraft, 28. Brace, 29. Prodigious, 31. Couch, 33. Utilizing, 34. Lease, 36. Eat, 37. Shoestring, 38. Anagram of "Lyme", 42. A Chinese herb, 43. Animal doctor, 45. Mischievous one, 47. Aqualung, 48. In shape, 49. Homeric epic, 51. Venomous snake, 52. Lock, 54. Therefore, 56. Broad valley, 57. Chilled, 58. Smelting waste, 59. Distribute, 62. French for "Summer".

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Yesterday's Solution

adore, advice, always, aura, bankroll, bull, clock, contest, craft, crave, create, crock, crowd, dainty, debit, dream, grass, hatch, hoot, hunger, image, introduce, manage, neuralgia, plate, poker, process, queen, rile, sleepy, spasm, stall, throw, world, years.

S L E E P Y D S T A L L D  
C R A F T I R S Z W A W E  
L N O X K N E P H O O T B  
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