

# Clash Erupts in Jurm District

FAIZABAD - Heavy clash flared up in Jurm district of Badakhshan province with Faizabad as its capital 315 km northeast of Kabul as Taliban militants launched offensive against security forces Monday morning, a local official said. "Taliban outfit launched massive offensive against security forces in Jurm district with the objective to capture the district headquarters. Security forces returned fire, and clash has been continuing," district police chief, Mohammad Amin told Xinhua. However, he didn't comment on possible casualties of both sides. Taliban militants who are active in parts of Badakhshan province haven't commented. (Xinhua)



## ANA Defuses 6 Landmines in Southern Provinces



KABUL - Afghan National Army (ANA) has found and defused six Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in two southern provinces, the country's Defense Ministry said on Monday. "The personnel of Afghan National Army's 205 Attal Corps conducted cleanup operations in southern Uruzgan and neighboring Zabul provinces, recovering six rounds of landmines and IEDs over the past 24 hours," the ministry said in a statement. The timely defusing of the explosive devices has foiled several terror attacks and saved the people from expected disasters, the statement noted. The Taliban militant group has been using homemade IEDs to target security forces but the lethal weapons also inflict casualties on civilians. On Sunday, one civilian was killed and his vehicle was completely destroyed in an IED explosion in the country's eastern Nangarhar province. Afghan security forces have assumed the full security charges from NATO and U.S. forces after the NATO-led troops have switched from combat to support role since Jan. 1. (Xinhua)

## Afghan Police woman Makes Her Mark in Fighting Crime

BAGHLAN - A police-woman in northern Baghlan province on Monday said that she has been able to identify and detain 35 men suspected of various crimes during her four years of service. Afghan Gul believes the presence of women in police ranks helps to easily identify criminals. She said women are as capable as men and urged the government to work to help promote women within the ranks. According to her, she has undergone a number of training courses over the years, specifically in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province. This includes a three-month weapons training course, self-defense classes and driving lessons. Gul said that she has had many successes over the past four years. "I have taken part in 30 to 35 important missions and I have detained 35 men," she said. "The work of our male counterparts gets difficult when there is no female police officer." The northern police training center launched four ... (More on P4)... (15)

## Teenager Claims Policeman 'Raped' Her in Kabul Prison

KABUL - An 18-year-old girl, who says she ran away from home due to family problems, was allegedly raped by a policeman while being held in prison Kabul. The victim said she left home after her parents stopped her from going to school. According to her she stayed on the streets where she was allegedly raped by a group of men. After the incident she claims she went to lay a complaint with police but instead of getting the necessary assistance she was jailed. She claims it was during this time that she was again raped - this time by a policeman. After speaking out about the rape, prison officials and other female inmates turned against her, she said. However, the victim is now living in a safe house for teenaged girls. The victim said: "When I saw girls going to school (and I couldn't) I got really upset about it." She then said: "When I told my lawyer about this incident the other women in the prison wanted to beat me and swore at me. Therefore I was removed." However, Kabul prison officials strongly reject her claims as baseless. Kabul police's criminal investigation department (CID) chief Faridon Obaidi said: "I strongly reject these allegations. Despite knowing it was not possible we conducted our investigation and found no evidence to prove the policeman raped her." However, Obaidi said police also investigated the first rape claim and have arrested four men in connection with the incident and the case has been referred to the Attorney General's Office. (Tolonews)

## Thousands in Dir Attend Funerals of Militants Killed in US Drone Strike

PESHAWAR - Thousands in Upper Dir attended the weekend funerals of seven Pakistani militants killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan, a local official confirmed Monday. The funerals were offered at the Dir Stadium in Upper Dir, said an official, adding that at least 1,000 people had gathered there. The strike that killed the militants was carried out on Wednesday on a training camp in the eastern province of Khost near the border



with Pakistan, local authorities said. They added that it was launched by the United States. There was no immediate confirmation from the US-dominated Nato force which is combating Taliban and other militants in Afghanistan. It is unclear how many people were killed in the strike. The Khost provin ... (More on P4)... (13)

## Afghan Migrants Clash with Macedonia Border Guards

KABUL - Hundreds of Afghan migrants, braving cold nights on the border between Greece and Macedonia, clashed with Macedonian Border Force members on Sunday after the government stepped up security measures along its border with Greece. The migrants, whose numbers are in the hundreds, starting hurling stones at Macedonian forces in protest over new restrictions imposed on them at the border. The refugees also claimed that they have no access



to food and have to cope with harsh winter conditions. Amid the unprecedented influx of refugees to European Union nations, the EU now appar- ently seems reluctant to welcome new arrivals. An EU source on Monday said that the union was considering new meas- ... (More on P4)... (14)



KABUL - Afghan boys play football in front of the Darul Aman Palace, which had been destroyed during the civil war in 1990s, in Kabul, Afghanistan. (Xinhua/Rahmat Alizadah)

### Outlook Horoscope

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



It's not unusual for you to react quickly in an emotionally volatile situation. Unfortunately, your goals may not be fully clear yet, so giving them time to develop works to your advantage. You have an opportunity to open your horizons and move in an entirely new direction if you don't rush the process. Although you might be eager to run the race.

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



You can imagine a wide variety of potential pleasures today, although you might not be able to manifest what you see in your mind's eye. Your intuition may unexpectedly distract you from your chosen course of action, leaving you slightly apprehensive and uncertain about what to do next. However, making a choice is only difficult if you believe you must decide now.

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



Lightning is striking everywhere you look and everything seems to be in transition now. Luckily, you're more than ready for change, but the grip that relationship commitments have on your life isn't loosening as fast as you prefer. You are itching to go somewhere today, but your feet seem to be stuck in mud. However, there's no need to panic since you're about to be set free.

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



Increased freedom of movement comes with a price now, for it might not sit right with your idea of emotional security. Circumstances seem out of whack as relationship tension drives you close to the edge of your tolerance. Trust your sense of self-restraint even if others are encouraging you to take initiative today. You're the only one who truly knows what will serve your heart best.

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



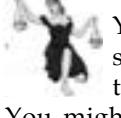
Maintaining your position amongst your peers can be tricky business today, even if it feels like resistance to change is a good idea. Although you might try to remain quiet as long as possible, something must give because the pressure continues to build. Nothing will be gained by slipping into denial, so let your heart do the talking now. Instead of resorting to blame or threats.

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



You may be at the end of your rope with little left to try that you haven't already done. The good news is that you carry a bit of metaphysical magic up your sleeve today, if only you can trust the unknown enough to take a risk. You could happily surprise yourself once you stop struggling. Relax and you might just escape in the nick of time. Believing in your own power completely changes the rules of the game.

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



Your destination appears to slip out of sight but you still may feel so close that the anticipation drives you crazy today. You might have to wait on pins and needles, yet you understand you're part of a bigger picture that you can't control. Rest assured you are being asked to slow down for a significant reason now -- even if you don't yet know what it is.

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



You might worry that your plans are being thwarted by someone who means well, yet doesn't understand your dreams for the future. But don't lose faith now because something big is about to happen. An unexpected shift could blast you into a new universe, but you must initiate the change by realizing your own power.

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



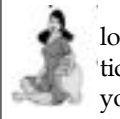
Your confidence is on the rebound, but you still may struggle regulating how much energy you spend. You could vacillate between unbridled enthusiasm and cautious pessimism today. Your mood swings might make people nervous unless you can temper your extreme feelings. Thankfully, your emotional reactions are neither as negative nor as positive as it seems in the moment.

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



You feel like an Olympic sprinter at the starting gate before the big race. You have completed so many practice runs that you know every inch of the track and you could do it with your eyes closed today. But your impatience can get the best of you before the contest even begins, throwing you off stride. Take a few deep breaths and visualize crossing the finish line with the cheers of the crowd ringing in your ears.

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



Your plans for the future grow more nebulous now, and no matter how clever your tactics, your path won't clear for a while. Allow yourself to step beyond logic, even if you're not totally comfortable in the subjective realm of feelings. Remember that the emotional world is safer than you might think and can even be nurturing if you have the courage to let down your guard.

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



You don't know which way the shifting tides will ultimately carry you, since their current direction is misleading. Your relationships may not be changing as you thought they would and you're unsure where to turn. However, your inner world is transforming now while your imagination grows richer with new ideas. Let your thoughts flow and enjoy the fruits of your fantasies instead of worrying about the restrictions of reality.



#### Across

1. Chunk, 5. Chaff, 10. At one time (archaic), 14. Component of mammalian urine, 15. New Zealand native, 16. Mentally irregular (slang), 17. Fluff, 18. Person, 20. Honors, 22. Estate, 23. Fury, 24. Iron, 25. Underling, 32. Nautical miles, 33. Christmas song, 34. Animal doctor, 37. Haughtiness, 38. Exploded stars, 39. Sheltered nook, 40. 2,000 pounds, 41. Pertaining to the moon, 42. Bottoms of shoes, 43. Captivity, 45. Sporting venue, 49. Santa's helper, 50. Goddess of divine retribution, 53. Implement, 57. Beyond belief, 59. Street, 60. Sow, 61. Delete, 62. Lawn mower brand, 63. Female sheep (plural), 64. Daisylike bloom, 65. Flower stalk.

#### Down

1. Quiet time, 2. Murres, 3. List of options, 4. Nationalists, 5. Grinned, 6. Bronzes, 7. 16 1/2 feet, 8. Dry, 9. Marry, 10. Church officer, 11. Awaken, 12. Skims, 13. Met-alwares, 19. Drive forward, 21. Makes a mistake, 25. Three-handed card game, 26. Pearly-shelled mussel, 27. Brought into existence, 28. Graphic symbols, 29. Pertaining to the oceans, 30. A kind of macaw, 31. Foot digit, 34. Mouselike animal, 35. Not odd, 36. Exam, 38. Religious sister, 39. Pleasures, 41. Rental agreement, 42. Consciousness, 44. Superficiality, 45. Licorice-like flavor, 46. Regenerate, 47. Master of ceremonies, 48. Geeks, 51. Bright thought, 52. Knights, 53. If not, 54. Part of a plant, 55. Concern, 56. Biblical kingdom, 58. Louisville Slugger.

#### Yesterday's Solution



across, boards, brand, buddy, center, class, coast, corner, court, enjoy, feast, final, jiffy, later, level, living night, player, pulse, raise, ranger, rebound, record, rely, seduction, seed, select, short, south, story, tiger, tough, upper, wean.

