KABUL - The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Monday said some 700 insurgents were either killed or wounded over the past one week during operations under way in 33 provinces.

Major Gen. Mohammad Haseeb Hayri, MoD's operations head, told a press conference here that 19 government forces-planned operations were underway in Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Pakhtika, Khost, Kandahar, Herat, Helmand, Farah, Faryab, and Kunduz provinces.

As a result of these operations, he said at least 153 rebels were killed and another 388 wounded during the past one week in various areas of the country.

He said most of the casualties inflicted in insurgent attacks were in Nangarhar, Helmand and Kunduz provinces and 43 insurgents were also detained during these operations.

Without providing specific figures, Husayn said a minimal number of security personnel also suffered casualties during the past one week.

The security situation of the country wasn't as much worse as some people considered it, he added. He said only Helmand's security situation was a bit worrying, but fresh reinforcements had been sent to the province.

The Creshi-Lakhi road in Helmand, which was earlier blocked to traffic, had been reopened and the Chaj Chiraj area of Lashkargah, Helmand's capital, had recently come under control (More on P5).