

38 Taliban Eliminated in Helmand Operations: Military

LASHKARGAH - At least 38 militants have been killed and 10 others wounded in military operations in parts of southern Helmand province, the 215th Maiwand Military Corps said in a statement on Friday.

Most of the insurgents have been perished in Kajaki and Musa Qala districts of the province, it said.

Six insurgents were killed in Kajaki showdown and five others injured while 32 rebels



dead and five wounded in Musa Qala clashes, he added. However, the statement had not revealed casualties suffered by Afghan security forces but said that civilians remained unhurt in the anti-militants campaigns.

Taliban have not commented on these clashes but the insurgents' group said that a landmine blew up Afghan National Army (ANA) vehicle, leaving all onboard soldiers dead. (Pajhwok)

Sar-I-Pul Gang-Rape Case: Police Detain Fifth Fugitive



SAR-I-PUL - Officials in northern Sar-i-Pul province on Friday claimed detaining one person allegedly involved in sexual assault case and a notorious Taliban commander, provincial police chief said. Maj. Ge. Mohammad Asif Jabbarkhel told Pajhwok Afghan News: "The National Directorate of Security (NDS) has arrested Amaruddin, a dreaded militant

commander, who is the resident of Alaf Sufaid village. The detained insurgent is involved in killing of a number of people."

Amaruddin has confessed to committing crimes, including killing of several persons, and working with Taliban against state interests, he added. He said police had detained Zainullah from his home in Asyabad village, close to the provincial capital. Five persons gang raped a girl in Asyabad village two years back but police nabbed four of them while Zainullah fled to Iran. After returning from Iran, police on a tip-off conducted raid on his home and arrested the criminal, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

6 Passengers Die, 23 Injured in Zabul Collision

QALAT - Six passengers were killed and 23 others wounded on Thursday when their vehicle crashed into an oil tanker on the Kabul-Kandahar highway in southern Zabul province, an official said.

The collision took place near Qayum Qala area of the Shah Joy district at about 7:30am, the district chief, Wazir Jawadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Mohammadullah, the district police chief, said police immediately rushed to the scene to evacuate the wounded to a local hospital.

He said 17 of the injured were stated to be in critical condition.

The passenger vehicle was heading to Kandahar from Kabul. Sayed Mohammad, giving an eyewitness account, said children and women were among the fatalities. (Pajhwok)

8 Insurgents Dead in Nangarhar Airstrike



JALALABAD - Eight Taliban were killed in airstrike in Momindara district in eastern Nangarhar province on Friday, a statement released by provincial police said. Some militants were travelling in two cars when they came under air assault but the statement did not say the airstrike was carried out by Afghan security or foreign forces. The attack destroyed weapons of the rebels with four corpses were still lying on the scene. Police had evacuated four dead bodies of the militants but they could not be identified. The bodies of four of the militants were completely burnt beyond recognition, it concluded. (Pajhwok)

Prices Stable but Economic Crunch Hurts Public this Ramazan

KABUL - Food prices appear to have remained static this Ramazan compared to past years but the public's spending power is down on last year, report retailers in the capital. Kabul shopkeepers and other retail sales people say food prices have not increased ahead of Ramazan but they report that markets have fewer customers due to less disposable cash among the people. Sadly numerous

families in Kabul started the first day of Ramazan with only a slice of bread. "Job's are reduced; people are not able to buy goods. But prices are stable compared with the past year. Last year, the prices increased by at least Afs100 for every product but this year it is much lower. But people don't have the money to buy goods," said Mohammad Kazim, a retailer. Another shopkeeper, Mirza

Mohammad told TOLOnews that their customers are struggling this Ramazan compared to previous years because the public's spending power is less. It is believed that the unemployment rate and dwindling cash resources among families has forced people not to spend; rather they prefer to buy only the essential food-stuffs and forgo buying luxuries... (More on P4)...(23)

Pakistan's Claim of Rescuing Afghan Soldier Baseless: MoI

KABUL - Following Pakistan's claim that its security forces crossed into Afghanistan and evacuated a wounded Afghan soldier, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Wednesday rejected that claim as baseless and concocted. A statement from the Afghanistan Ministry of Interior said that the Pakistani



claim was untrue. A day earlier, Pakistani media reports that the country's crossed

into Afghanistan on Tuesday evacuating a wounded Afghan soldier. The soldier, it said was injured in gun battle with terrorists.

"This afternoon an Afghan soldier was severely injured in an exchange of fire with terrorists 600 metres inside Afghan territory... (More on P4)...(24)

Spike in Abductions Raises Concerns in Herat

HERAT - The recent abduction of three women in Guzrah district of western Herat province prompted Provincial Council head Kamran Alizai on Friday to criticize the government policy toward kidnapers, which he suggested is so lenient and inconsistent that it has enabled abductions to proliferate.



"The government showed a soft policy after insurgents resorted to a number of abduc-

tions in various parts of the country, and this is one of the reasons that they have resorted to more abductions," Mr. Alizai told TOLOnews. "We demand that the government take necessary measures to combat such events." Meanwhile, the Herat Police Department has done... (More on P4)...(25)

22 Insurgents Eliminated in Paktia Operation

GARDEZ - At least 22 insurgents have been killed and an unconfirmed number wounded in Afghan security forces joint operations in Zurmat and Dandpatan districts of southeastern Paktia province, provincial police chief said on Thursday. Maj. Gen. Zalmay Oryakhel told Pajhwok Afghan News Afghan forces conducted offensive in Dandpatan district on Wednesday night, killing 16 rebels. Eight of the slain militants were Pakistani and the dead militants' lead was Hafiz Rashid who also belonged to Pakistan, he added. He said Afghan security forces remained unhurt in the offensive. Six insurgents have been eliminated in Zurmat district of the province. (Pajhwok)

Grishk District Chief Survives Taliban Attack

LASHKARGAH - The Grishk district chief escaped unhurt in an attack by armed militants in southern Helmand province on Thursday but his two guards were killed in the ambush, the governor's spokesman said.

Umar Zwak told Pajhwok Afghan News that Mohammad Fahim Musazai, the district chief, was going in his car in the bazaar when masked motorcyclists fired on him late Wednesday night.

After the grisly attack, the attackers fled the scene and police had started raids to nab the culprits, he added.

Taliban haven't yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

2 Ghazni University Teachers Briefly Held on Graft Charges

GHAZNI CITY - The appellate attorney has detained and released two university teachers in cooperation with intelligence officials in southern Ghazni province on corruption charges. The attorney's office head, Abdul Rashid Abid, told Pajhwok Afghan News the two teachers had been released after their arrest and charges against them were being investigated. The teachers have been accused of de-

priving some students from taking exam and preparing fake attendance for absent students. The intelligence officials had shaved heads of the university teachers during interrogation. One of them, Nasir Ahmad Oryen, said they had been insulted and demanded an investigation into their detention. He told Pajhwok Afghan News they were innocent and had committed no crime... (More on P4)...(26)

Taliban Torch Musa Qala Health Clinic, Ambulances

LASHKARGAH - Taliban militants set a health clinic and an ambulance on fire after attacking the Musa Qala district in southern Helmand province, the governor's spokesman said on Thursday.

Umar Zwak told Pajhwok Afghan News a group of militants mounted attack on the district headquarters from a nearby market on Wednesday night.

He said police and militants suf-

fered an unconfirmed number of casualties in the firefight.

Dr. Inayatullah Ghaffari, the public health director, said insurgents torched the district health clinic and two ambulances and also burned down the entire equipment and medicines inside the facility.

A tribal elder, wishing not to be named, the lone health centre had been turned to ashes. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Unsettled career questions make it tough to relax today, but at least the rush of adrenaline lets you know you are alive. Relationship dramas may weigh on your heart now, but openly expressing your intentions brings temporary relief. Unfortunately, the underlying issues won't be resolved so easily. Don't bother trying to tie up every feeling into a tidy package.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Friends or family members may be overly critical of your plans while relentless Pluto leans on strict Saturn in your 7th House of Others. Your confidence is rattled today because you believe it's your fault if you fall short of someone's expectations. Although you might not receive the approval you want now, recognition could come later if you're willing to face your fears.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Your inner turmoil could go unnoticed today because your current business keeps you distracted from the real issues at hand. Although you feel quite productive in your own way, you may still have trouble maintaining your focus for long. You can consciously concentrate on achieving the results you want or you can just fritter your time away by doing one trivial thing after another.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You're ready to swing into motion today, but you might be feeling a little lazy and don't want to move too quickly. Spending the morning in contemplation could be just what you need now so you can analyze the possible outcomes to each of your ambitious strategies. However, constructing a careful plan won't propel you to your desired destination by itself.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Keeping your emotions secret is prudent from time to time, but now it's time to follow your instincts and share your desires with others. However, you can't indiscriminately express every single whim that pops into awareness, regardless of whom you happen to be talking to at the moment. Your personal life is your business, unless you choose to divulge your feelings to someone you trust.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Discussing your plans with a close friend provides a welcome sense of relief, but it's not wise to endlessly ramble on. The Moon's presence in your 12th House of Privacy raises issues about the conflict between discretion and honesty as you vacillate between telling others your true feelings and saying nothing at all. In the final analysis, all you can do is stay conscious of your words and stop talking before you diffuse your message.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Your growing desire to be a part of a larger community motivates you to step out of your comfort zone to mix and mingle with the crowd. The Moon's trek through your 11th House of Social Networking invites you to be a more active participant in your group of friends and associates. However, you must establish clear limits or you could be dragged into an unnecessary drama before you know it.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You might be expected to set aside your weekend plans to help a friend in need. Even if you're committed to doing your part, you don't like it when others just assume that you will say yes. Instead of immediately offering to rearrange your schedule to jump into the project of the moment, share your concerns first.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You're even more outspoken than normal, espousing opinions on everything for everyone to hear. But people may be confused by your behavior because you're uplifting and inspirational one moment and overly resistant to new ideas the next. Instead of blurting out the first thing that crosses your mind, take a deep breath and let others know you need to clarify your thoughts before you share any conclusions.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Deciding whether or not to disclose your intentions to someone you admire may be a real struggle. Naturally, you want your feelings to be acknowledged, but you're also afraid of losing the support you count on. Push through your fears and express your thoughts without expecting any particular response. The wisest way to prevent potential emotional distress is to remain unattached to the outcome.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Slipping into a familiar relationship pattern is all-too tempting while the emotional Moon canoodles with benevolent Jupiter in your 7th House of Companions. Although Luna connects you with all that's gone by, there's no guarantee that a tried-and-true method will succeed while unpredictable Uranus is in the picture, too.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



There's a small window of opportunity to upgrade your daily regimen if you're willing to use it. The Moon's current hook-up with propitious Jupiter in your 6th House of Health reminds you of the inarguable relationship between diet, exercise and your overall well-being. Even if you already eat organically and practice yoga, it's time to raise the ante and make minor improvements to your personal routine.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68.

Across: 1. Thick slices of something, 6. Widespread, 10. Carve in stone, 14. Woolen hat, 15. Within, 16. Big party, 17. Nonsectarian, 19. Creative work, 20. Unhealthy vapors, 21. Color, 22. 1/100th of a dollar, 23. Not a fork, 25. Twilled fabric, 26. Knife, 30. Mischievous city child, 32. Vacationist, 35. Captive, 39. A type of mental disorder, 40. Exploit successfully, 41. Adulteress, 43. Remedy, 44. Smooth, in music, 47. Caps, 50. A watery discharge, 53. Component of mammalian urine, 54. Consumed food, 55. Experience again, 60. "Phooey!", 61. Instigator, 63. Ear-related, 64. A ceremonial staff, 65. Not quite a teenager, 66. Only, 67. Anagram of "Lyme", 68. Trap.

Down: 1. Flower stalk, 2. Hubs, 3. Shade of blue, 4. Vagrants, 5. Appears, 6. 7 in Roman numerals, 7. Moor, 8. Unswerving, 9. Lacquered metalware, 10. Self-centered, 11. Become narrower, 12. Held on tightly, 13. Urgency, 18. Short sleep, 24. Not in, 25. Rope fiber, 26. Immediately, 27. See the sights, 28. Car, 29. Genius, 31. Expect and wish, 33. Small islands, 34. Dirty air, 36. Away from the wind, 37. Donated, 38. Visual organs, 42. Incomplete, 43. Caviar, 45. Therefrom, 47. Praise, 48. Muse of love poetry, 49. Risk, 51. Website address, 52. Encounters, 54. Legion, 56. A field of grass, 57. Bright thought, 58. Swerve, 59. Sea eagle, 62. Precious stone.

Yesterday's Solution: appear, apse, area, aria, author, berry, bland, care, castle, cause, chase, cheap, combination, crown, drink, enter, focus, frame, grease, great, guest, hamper, hater, hinders, leer, lose, mile, mire, mouse, music, novel, offer, perform, pies, puns, raise, record, speculate, stare, trill, waver, white, worth.

RECORDAPPEARH
OFFERGGUESTZI
NOVELRCRINKA
CASTLEHRFOCUS
WHITEAEGOTQQP
BERRYSSARRWBHE
BLANDEPEMXNIC
BCOMBINATIONU
MOUSEAUTHORDL
UVZSENCAUSEEA
STAREWTRILLRT
IHAMPERERAISE
CCWORTHFRAMEP