Over 300 Insurgents Killed, Including Foreigners, in Kunduz Battle

KARUL - More than 300 insurgents, including foreign fighters, have been killed in a major battle between government forces and Taliban fighters in northern Kunduz province on Saturday, the Afghan Interior Ministry said.

The operation was mounted to protect the provincial government offices in Kunduz from a coordinated attack by the Taliban, according to the interior ministry.

A police operation in Kunduz province on Friday, an official said. Intense fighting was ongoing as of 09:00am on Saturday.

Fierce Battle Underway for Zar Ab District of Jawzjan

SHIBERGHAN - Heavy fighting is underway after Taliban stormed the Zar Ab district of northern Jawzjan province from four sides on Friday, an official said. A local official said that the security forces were in full control of the district.

The police operation in the area was mounted to protect the district’s government offices and an international hospital. Intense fighting was ongoing as of 02:30pm on Friday.

Security Dialogue Opens in Herat

FAIZABAD - After fierce fighting with security forces, Taliban insurgents took control of Wardak district of northern Badakhshan province.

Afghan security officials confirmed, stating that Afghan security forces were in full control of the district.

Meanwhile, Badakhshan provincial security forces have launched a major operation in the district.

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The operation was mounted to protect the provincial government offices in Kunduz from a coordinated attack by the Taliban, according to the interior ministry.

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Unemployment Rate Spikes in Spike

KABUL - The unemployment rate in Afghanistan, showing a 1.5 percent increase last year, jumped to about 26.7 percent in the same time last year, officials confirmed.

According to Central Statistics Organization (CSO), the unemployment rate in Afghanistan for March 2015 was about 22 percent. According to CSO, the unemployment rate for government and the private sector workers and the informal workers in the Informal Industry sector is about 26.7 percent.

Those who are not in work and those who are unemployed and at the same time are not looking for job are counted as unemployed.

In addition, the Afghans have a high rate of unemployment because of the strong job market and the high rate of growth in the private sector.

According to the CSO, the employment rate was about 38 percent in 2013.

The government announced that the unemployment rate in Afghanistan was about 26.7 percent in the same time last year.

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