

# 7 Samangan Villages Cleared of Militants, Police Claim

AIBAK - The security forces recaptured seven villages from the Taliban militants during an ongoing operation in the Dara-i-Sauf Payeen district of northern Samangan province, officials claimed on Saturday.

The district police chief, Abdullah Zafari, told Pajhwok Afghan News the offensive launched late Friday and was still ongoing. Dadak, Daghak, Bayanan, Baba Nazari, Tiwa Tash, Ahangaran and Damsti villages have been cleared.

He said the rebels were on the run, with one killed and two others wounded in overnight clashes with the security personnel. A policeman was also wounded during the firefight, the official added. The security forces were advancing on Jamalak area and



clashes with militants were underway. The governor's spokesman, Mohammad Seddiq Azizi, recalled 70 villages of the district had been purged of Taliban in September 2016, but the militants reappeared after the offensive came to an end. He said the forces would retake all villages and would not let insurgents return.

Abdur Raouf, a resident of the district, confirmed a policeman was wounded and seven villages were cleared of militants. But he was unaware of rebels' casualties. Samangan is one of the relatively stable provinces of the country.

Over the past eight months, at least eight people have been killed and three others wounded in five clashes in Samangan. (Pajhwok)

## One of Taliban's Head of Suicide Attack Missions Killed in Kandahar



KABUL - A key Taliban group member who was involved in organizing suicide attacks has been killed in southern Kandahar province of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the Taliban leader has been identified as Mohammad and was killed in Maiwand district.

MoD further added that Mohammad was involved in the transportation of the suicide bombers to the area of their target.

According to MoD, the insurgent was killed as a result of an airstrike conducted in Maiwand. Kandahar is among the relatively calm provinces where the security situation had improved during the recent years but the anti-government armed militant groups have increased their insurgency activities in some of its districts during the recent months.

The killing of Taliban's head of suicide attack missions comes as the Afghan forces are busy conducting counter-terrorism operations in some of the restive southern provinces including Kandahar.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said Friday that 18 Taliban insurgents were killed during the clearance ... (More on P4)...(16)

## Cricket Team Returns Home to Hero's Welcome

KABUL - the National Cricket Team on Saturday returned home to a hero's welcome after winning five consecutive cups at international events.

Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah was at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul to welcome the team home.

"We are here to encourage the national team and to let them know that the National Unity Government leaders and the people of Afghanistan are happy about their victories," Abdullah said.

"We are committed to leaving no stone unturned in our efforts to develop the national cricket team and to cooperate with them," said Shukrullah Atif Mashal, chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board.

Meanwhile, a number of national team members said their consecutive wins against Zimbabwe and Ireland in One Internationals and Twenty20 matches, as well as this week's victory over Ireland in the 4-day ICC Intercontinental Cup is a huge achievement and of historical importance to Afghanistan's cricket.

"Afghanistan's victory in the Intercontinental Cup was important. It was due to the efforts of the national team and the prayers of Afghan people which led us to victory," the national team's captain Asghar Stanikzai said.

"Our goal is to continue our efforts and make Afghanistan a winner in every event," national team member Shahzad Mohammadi said.

"This time, everyone played well and there was a balance among the team members. I hope it continues in the future," said another national cricketer, Nabi Esakhail. ... (More on P4)...(13)

## Over 200 Taliban Members Join Balkh Peace Process

KABUL - Local officials from northern Balkh province on Saturday said two Taliban commanders and about 200 of their men joined the peace process as a result of efforts by tribal elders, parliament members and security forces.

According to the officials, this move will help maintain security in three districts of Balkh province as well as in parts of Sar-e-Pul and Jawzjan provinces.

The two commanders are Khan Mohammad and Dawa Jan.

"Nearly 200 men have



joined the peace process and it will help maintain the security of Balkh and neighboring provinces," said Munir Ahmad Farhad, the Balkh governor's spokesman.

According to a number of men who joined the peace process, they have fought security forces for many years in Chamtal district of the province.

"We should be united and work together to rebuild ... (More on P4)...(14)

## Rice up, Sugar, Flour and Gold down in Kabul



KABUL - The price of rice increased while that of sugar, flour and gold edged down in the capital Kabul during the outgoing week, market sources said on Saturday.

Food Traders' Union head, Fazal Rahman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a 24.5 kilogram bag of Pakistani rice cost 1,700 afghanis, against last week's 1,650 afghanis.

However, he said the price of a 49kg bag of Pakistani sugar decreased from 2,400 to 2,330af and a 50kg sack of Kazakhstani flour from 1,160af to 1,150af. The rates of other food items remain unchanged.

Rahman said a 16 litres tin of Khurshid ghee was priced at 1,100af, the same price as last week's.

Haji Rahmatullah, a tea dealer in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Madina green tea cost 240af and the same amount of African black tea 260af, the same rates as last week's.

Ahmad Sharif who owns a grocery store in Taimani neighborhood, said a 49kg bag of Kazakhstani flour sold for 1,250af and the same quantity of Pakistani sugar for 2,400af.

He sold a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,180af, a 24.5kg sack of Pakistani rice for ... (More on P4)...(15)

## Kapisa Provincial Council Secretary Dies in Explosion

MAHMOOD RAQI - Kapisa Provincial Council Secretary Mohammad Zaman Mubarez was killed in an explosion in Kohistan-1 district on Saturday. Abdul Fatah Shafiq, the district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the public representative came under attack in his native village of Pul-i-Ishq village in Kham Zargar area. Mubarez was killed in the blast that resulted from a war-era explosive device, which



slightly wounded two of his security guards, according to the district chief. Provincial Council Chairman Mohammad Sanjani confirmed the incident, saying the bomb exploded when Mubarez went into sajdah (prostration) during the prayers. (Pajhwok)

## 2 Killed, 1 Injured in Clash Over Land in Parwan

CHARIKAR - Two people were killed and a third was injured in a clash between two families over a land dispute in the Bagram district of central Parwan province on Saturday.

Parwan crime department head, Col. Abdul Samad Zalmai, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident occurred in Jafarkhelo locality. A man prevented his nephew from planting trees on their ancestral land, sparking a verbal clash between the two.

It followed a brief armed clash between the two families, in which the uncle, who claimed the land was his property, and a son of his nephew were killed and a second son of the nephew was injured, Col. Zalmai said.

He said police had reached the area and had initiated their investigation but no one had been so far arrested. He said the injured person was in stable condition.

Haji Shamsul Haq Shikhani, secretary of the Parwan provincial council, confirmed the incident that he said resulted from an old animosity between the cousins. (Pajhwok)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

A sense of panic hangs right at the edge of your awareness. You're curious about the source but don't want to feed it any energy. You might feel as if an opportunity for personal growth is passing you by and you could miss your chance if you don't take action now. Nevertheless, you know better than to strike before the iron is hot. Don't let your impulsive reaction spoil your chances of finding lasting happiness.

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

You might have trouble expressing your feelings today, but no one will realize it because kind platitudes seem to roll off your tongue. Your words have heightened impact while the glib Gemini Moon harmonizes with propitious Jupiter. But all this cheerful energy prevents you from being in touch with your real emotions, especially if they are pulling you into deeper and darker spaces.

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

It's hard to sit still and do nothing today, making it extremely easy to start a project or two. Unfortunately, sticking with a task until it's finished is much more challenging now that the Moon is in your fickle sign. In fact, whatever happens in your immediate environment seems like another excuse to ignore your work and explore something new. But leaving loose ends everywhere you go only leads to a feeling of frustration by the end of the day.

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

Everyone thinks you're being overly efficient today, but you know better. Although your thoughts may be running amok, you can keep them contained enough so they don't negatively impact your activities. But appearing calm on the surface requires psychic energy and your emotional defenses could flag as the day wears on.

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

You long to be the center of attention, but you can take your extroverted behavior too far today. Your big ideas drive you to share them with others, but your plans don't sound as feasible once they are spoken aloud. Part of the problem may stem from the fact that more details are needed and you might come across as if your head is in the clouds.

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

You may try to assert your authority by reclaiming your power, but you're more productive today being part of a team than its leader. Although you have a viable plan, the more you try to impose it on those around you, the more they will resist. Nevertheless, when you temporarily set your agenda aside and cheerfully cooperate with your friends or coworkers, others will naturally look to you for guidance.

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

Everyone seems to have things to do and places to go. Meanwhile, you're content to aimlessly dream about your future without necessarily expending much energy today. Although you may be looking forward to some downtime, it's all too easy to get caught up in someone's excitement only to find yourself busier than you intended. Offering to help is one thing, but sacrificing your entire day is something else.

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

Your to-do list is extensive today as you optimistically attempt to finish several projects that are near completion. Unfortunately, there might not be enough time to complete everything on your plate. Luckily, there's no reason to panic over a self-imposed deadline. Scaling back your intentions makes sense if you understand that it actually helps you accomplish more.

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

Your optimism sets the tone for a spectacular day, and you may not even be all that surprised when your fantasies start turning into reality. But don't push your luck too far today, or you might not be able to find your way home. Fortunately, observing the fine line between just enough and too much is your ticket to satisfaction now. Pursue your dreams, for they are the guiding hands of your heart, but bring along your common sense just in case.

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

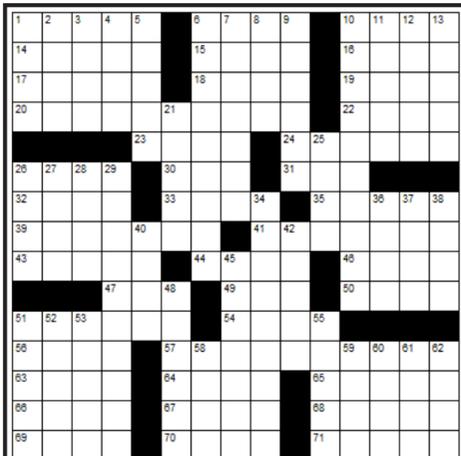
Although you often excel at choosing a destination and sticking with a specific course until you arrive, today's cosmic energy presents you with a dilemma. You have multiple goals in your sites yet might be unable to focus on any one of them for very long. Unfortunately, this uncharacteristic ambivalence could temporarily put your dreams out of reach. Instead of working yourself into a frenzy of frustration now.

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

You might be gleefully anticipating a day off, only to be confronted by one interruption after another. People are speaking with a sense of urgency about their problems today, and you may feel obliged to drop your agenda of rest and relaxation in order to help a friend in need. Your kindness is admirable and won't go unnoticed. Nevertheless, your heart won't be happy until you find time to nurture your inner child.

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

There are lots of things to do around the house and you can't decide where to jump in. Oddly enough, you're not overwhelmed by the choices as it is nice to have all these options available today. But there is a potential danger in having so many alternatives that you end up wasting your time trying to pick the right one to pursue. Shifting your frame of reference empowers you with the knowledge that your path is created by the priorities you establish now.



**Across**

1. Mops, 6. Early 20th-century art movement, 10. Unwakeupable state, 14. He flies a plane, 15. Burden, 16. Not under, 17. An edict of the Russian tsar, 18. Dispatched, 19. Naked, 20. Disavowal, 22. Flutter, 23. Ammunition, 24. Per, 26. Not up, 30. Tall hill, 31. Directed, 32. Diva's solo, 33. Bit of gossip, 35. Fellows, 39. Having toothlike projections, 41. Disentangle, 43. French for "Sister", 44. Start over, 46. Algonquian Indian, 47. Record (abbrev.), 49. Donkey, 50. Gave the once-over, 51. A street of small shops, 54. Killed, 56. Absent Without Leave, 57. Disinfectant, 63. Hindu princess, 64. Competed, 65. Betel palm, 66. Mining finds, 67. Unit of land, 68. Turbine part, 69. Where a bird lives, 70. Anagram of "Nets".

**Down**

1. Potato, 2. A collaborative website, 3. "Oh my!", 4. Pear variety, 5. Grave marker, 6. Radioactivity measuring device, 7. Windflower, 8. A ridge of sand, 9. Stellar, 10. Self-assurance, 11. Small egg, 12. Army doctor, 13. Mountain crest, 21. Extent, 25. Pins, 26. Fathers, 27. Chocolate cookie, 28. Fermented grape juice, 29. A type of biologist, 34. Landslides, 36. Not, 37. Tall woody plant, 38. Sleigh, 40. District, 42. Snouts, 45. Not western, 48. Tie, 51. Nobleman, 52. Cognizant, 53. Districts, 55. Dons, 58. Agreeable, 59. Brace, 60. French for "Head", 61. Computer symbol, 62. Credit or playing.

**Yesterday's Solution**

OPTIC SPAD UNIT  
RAZOR RIFT NOTE  
ERATO READ OVEN  
STRAWBERRY RAMS  
BED MITES  
THROAT SLOSH  
SOEUR PNEUMONIA  
ABET REGIONS DACE  
ROLLOVERS HOMER  
AFIRE TUXEDO  
JUNTA BARICAL  
LITTLE TAMB TIAHO  
ACTS OLTIO ELVES  
MESH NERO DEEMS

accomplice, antic, apes, beer, caper, coal, confetti, cruel, deceive, elaborate, escapades, funny, hoaxes, hotfoot, impish, intrigue, jester, mislead, mute, paper, post, prank, remember, revenge, sabotage, scamp, signal, song, spoof, spree, taunt, toilet.

S I G N A L A N T I C D R  
T A U N T U A H S P R E E  
A O B H O T F O O T S C C  
J J I O E S C A P A D E S  
I E H L T N B X A N E I P  
M I S L E A D E P Q L V O  
P T B T P T G S E P A E O  
I R E M E M B E R R B T F  
S I A B C R U E L A O C F  
H C O N F E T T I N R A U  
S K R E V E N G E K A P N  
I N T R I G U E F R T E N  
A C C O M P L I C E E R Y