

25 Daesh Militants Eliminated, 6 Held in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - At least 25 Daesh -- Islamic State (IS) -- rebels have been killed during an air-and-ground operation in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, official said on Sunday.

Provincial police spokesman Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces carried out the operation codenamed Hamza in Pekha and Button areas of the district.

He said 24 Daesh members were killed and six others detained by security forces. The bodies of three slain fighters were still lying at the site. He added one machinegun, two



Kalashnikovs and ammunition were seized.

Commandoes, police, regular, local and border police, as well as Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers, had been conducting Operation Hamza in Achin district for the past two weeks, he said.

Separately, one Daesh militant was killed during a US drone strike in the Morchal area of Nazyan district, the police spokesman said.

A media release from the Nangarhar governor's house said a car full of explosives was seized during the search of a house by intelligence agents in Ghanikhel district. (Pajhwok)

Nabi Says Afghanistan is Ready for Test Cricket

KABUL - Afghanistan's IPL export Mohammad Nabi, who is currently playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), said in a recent interview that the national cricket team is ready to play Test cricket.

He also believes that cricket can be the binding force for peace in Afghanistan given its popularity as the number one sport.

"Conditions were very difficult when we started playing. But they are a lot better now. There are very good facilities in some centres like Kabul, Kandahar, and Jalalabad. The future really looks bright," Nabi told the Hindu newspaper.

"A lot of youngsters are taking up the game in a big way. There is plenty of talent and this is a good augury for the sport and for the country too," he said.

"Afghanistan is ready for Test cricket especially after beating Zimbabwe at home and away. You can't do that unless you play quality cricket," he said.

Rashid Khan Arman and Nabi are the first Afghans to play... (More on P4)... (17)

Uprising Group Commander, Bodyguard Killed in Jawzjan Clash

SHABARGHAN - An uprising group commander and one of his bodyguards were killed by Taliban militants who overran four security posts in Darzab district of northwestern Jawzjan province, officials said on Sunday.

Provincial Police Chief Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Turkistani told Pajhwok Afghan News uprising group commander, Mohammad Zahir along with his bodyguard were killed in Taliban ambush in Moghol village of the district late on Saturday night.

"Mohammad Zahir supporters were unable to enter the village and push the militants back as fierce fight was ongoing between Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces and the insurgents, the local police forces retreated from one security post following hours long gun battle," he said. ... (More on P4)... (14)

Analysts Warn of Fallout Amid Rise in Ethnic Issues

KABUL - A number of political commentators on Sunday said that ethnic issues in the country could end up being worse than the security problems unless a solution is found to tackle the issue from a national platform.

Referring to the controversial case of President Ashraf Ghani's Second Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum's bodyguards and the recent corruption case involving Kamran Alizai, the chairman of the Herat provincial council, critics said that dealing with such issues from an ethnic perspective could have repercussions for the country.

According to analysts, ethnic issues in the country have been on the rise since the establishment of the National Unity Government (NUG) under Ghani



and CEO Abdullah Abdullah.

"Provoking the sentiments and ethnic feelings have been used as a beneficial approach during political games, it has been used as a protective wall for the safety of interests of powerful people," said political analyst Hadi Meeran.

It is believed that it would be difficult to tackle the

problem as long as legislative bodies neglect the issue.

"The issue of ethnicity should be addressed in a legal framework as it is a major factor in the politics in Afghanistan," said journalist Kawa Jibran.

Analysts say that the equal implementation of the law can help to prevent ethnic ... (More on P4)... (16)

NATO Blitz Hits Taliban Meeting in Paktia, 15 Killed

GARDEZ - At least 15 Taliban militants have been killed in NATO airstrikes in the Janikhel district of southeastern Paktia province, officials said on Sunday.

The governor's spokesperson, Abdullah Hasrat, told Pajhwok Afghan News NATO forces carried out the airstrikes in Kotki locality last night, targeting a Taliban meeting. At least 15 rebels were killed and several others were wounded in the bombardment, he added.

The Taliban also confirmed the airstrikes, with their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid acknowledging the killing of only three fighters.

In response to a question, Mujahid said there was no meeting of Taliban in the area and the three fighters were attacked while they were on the way.

Janikhil district, 80km north of Gardez, the provincial capital, shares a long border with neighboring country Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

Rashid Scoops Man of the Match in 2nd IPL Match

KABUL - Afghanistan's Rashid Khan was awarded Man of the Match on Sunday night after his sterling performance in the IPL Sunrisers Hyderabad match against Gujarat Lions.

Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Gujarat Lions by nine wickets in their 2017 Indian Premier League match with 27 balls remaining.

SRH won the toss and opted to bowl. Gujarat Lions could only score 135/7 after Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan took 3/19.

SRH captain David Warner (76*) and Moises Henriques (52*) scored fifties in an unbeaten 108-run partnership.

Speaking after he was named Man of the Match, Rashid said: "It is a wonderful and a positive message for Afghanistan. They love their players out there. I have been getting a lot of support from the people of Hyderabad as well."

"The coach asked me where I was comfortable bowling but I... (More on P4)... (18)

12 Taliban Insurgents Killed in Kunduz Drone Strike

KABUL - At least 12 Taliban insurgents were killed in a foreign troops drone strike in northern Kunduz province on Saturday afternoon, local official said on Sunday.

The operation was launched in Dasht-e-Archi district of the province after a foreign troops drone targeted the insurgents who were gathered in their compound, a commander of Pami's 20 Corps, Gen. Sayed Qurban Musawi said. "Six foreign fighters and Asadullah Mazloomiyar, a deputy shadow governor of Taliban, were among those killed," he said. However, he did not provide more details about the airstrike.

The Taliban has not yet commented on the strike. (Tolonews)

US Soldier Killed in Fighting Against Daesh

KABUL - A U.S. soldier was killed during an operation against Daesh in Nangarhar province on Saturday, Resolute Support officials confirmed.

"The soldier was mortally wounded late Saturday during an operation in Nangarhar Province" in eastern Afghanistan, said Navy Captain Bill Salvin in a message on the official Twitter account of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

The soldier was a Special Forces operator and was killed in the Achin district of Nangarhar province, Salvin told Reuters separately. However, he did not provide further ... (More on P4)... (15)

9 Security Personnel Killed in Balkh Bombing

KABUL - Nine security personnel have been killed in a roadside bombing during an ongoing operation in northern Balkh province, a local official said on Sunday.

Several members of the security forces were wounded in the overnight explosion in Chamtal district, Munir Ahmad Farhad, spokesman for the governor, was quoted as saying.

The security forces are conducting an offensive Taliban in the district. The gubernatorial spokesman said five militants had also been killed and dozens wounded. (Pajhwok)



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Your values are changing; what was once important to you is not nearly as significant now. But it's not about your perceptions as much as it's about communication. Unfortunately, there are so many thoughts buzzing around in your head that you can't decide where to jump in today. Nevertheless, you must regain your bearings before bringing someone else into the picture.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Hanging out with others today is good for your heart, but it comes with an emotional cost. People might not understand your intentions, even if you slow down to explain your plans. Mercury's back-stepping in your sign over the next three weeks sets up delays and fosters miscommunication. There's no reason to convince anyone to take your side.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Your thoughts shift inward now, beginning a journey to the center of your soul. There are buried treasures hidden in the recesses of your imagination waiting to be discovered. But you can't choose a direct route today, since there are no established paths to your preferred destination. Everything takes longer when logical Mercury turns retrograde in your 12th House of Destiny. Problems arise if you think that your current realizations must be put into action right away.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Finding peace and quiet at home might not be as fulfilling as you wish today. You need to connect with people outside your immediate environment when interactive Mercury stands still in your 11th House of Groups. Nevertheless, satisfaction remains elusive if you burn more energy than you have available. Nothing is gained by trying to experience all the fun in one day since your desire for social contact will only continue to grow.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Ironically, your confidence about your path in life may be waning as your horizon widens. It's increasingly difficult to reconcile previous decisions with your newly expanding perspective. Nevertheless, you're determined to follow through on your current trajectory today, even if it creates additional stress in your world.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Gathering the most pertinent information enables you to make the best decisions throughout your life. You already have plenty of data at your disposal now, but you want more facts so you can select the best route to your future. However, logic falls short as you try to sift through the noise while rational Mercury begins its retrograde cycle in your 9th House of Big Ideas. Don't let anyone pressure you into making a commitment today.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You might prefer to withdraw into seclusion today but your attempts to hide won't likely work. After all, it's nearly impossible to disappear once the responsive Moon returns to your sign. Fighting the distractions may seem like a hopeless cause, especially when people draw you into such fascinating conversations. Fortunately, there's no reason to panic.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Lively conversations with friends and family dominate your day. But others might misinterpret your quick wit and your eagerness to continue a dialogue as an attempt to avoid more serious responsibilities. However, you are simultaneously sorting through all your options as you refine a strategy to fulfill your commitments.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



An unexpected social opportunity can disrupt your regular routine today. Although your first reaction might be to adhere to your set schedule, recreating your day on the fly opens doors to new possibilities. Sticking to your previous agenda will only bring frustration while trickster Mercury turns retrograde in your 6th House of Logistics. Magically, stress dissipates once you decide to soar with the prevailing winds.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Maintaining a sense of purpose can be complicated when you finally have a bit of free time on your hands. There is a pet project you wish to revisit now, only to discover something standing in your way. Applying creative ingenuity might compensate for a lack of materials, but don't push your agenda if circumstances continue to block your progress.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

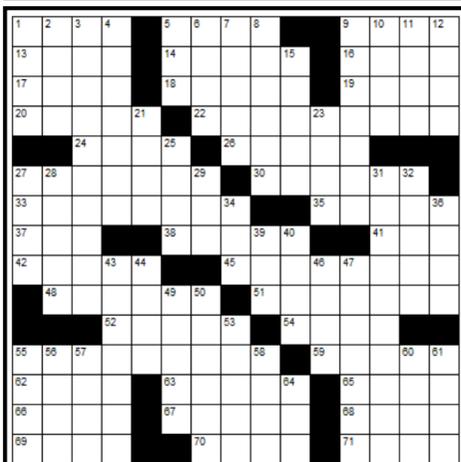


It's not fun when you're backed into a corner, wondering whether or not it's wise to resist or give in. You might still be integrating recent changes while hoping the pace slows down soon. Actually, the current instability isn't quite over, but a reprieve is likely today. Step off the merry-go-round long enough to catch your breath.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



There's no way you can deny that you're dancing on the edge of a cliff today. Keeping up the illusion of competence is exhausting when you feel as if you're running out of energy. Your smartest strategy may include scheduling time to collect your thoughts without firing up another distracting activity. Gathering your strength now means it will be available when you need it down the road. Thomas Carlyle wrote, "Endurance is patience concentrated."



Across

- Wicked, 5. Demands, 9. Large bottles, 13. Former Italian currency, 14. Directly (archaic), 16. Murres, 17. Forsaken, 18. Pontifical, 19. Large brown seaweed, 20. Splines, 22. Malcontents, 24. Blue-green, 26. Souvlaki, 27. Roiled, 30. Gobble up, 33. Humorously sarcastic, 35. Kick out, 37. Container, 38. Doglike nocturnal mammal, 41. Hasten, 42. Tiny, 45. Medieval prisons, 48. Detective, 51. Pastas, 52. City in France, 54. Rectum, 55. Drafted, 59. Toward the outside, 62. Reflected sound, 63. Courtyards, 65. Relating to aircraft, 66. Cards with 1 symbol, 67. Even, 68. Trigonometry (abbrev.), 69. Resist, 70. A musical pause, 71. Nestling hawk.

Down

- L L L L, 2. Six-stringed instrument, 3. Illogical, 4. Type of lamp, 5. Venomous snake, 6. Resorts, 7. Silk-cotton tree, 8. Caught, 9. Nickelodeon, 10. Component of urine, 11. Decorate with gold leaf, 12. Exhausts, 15. Parish land 21. Indian dress, 23. Possess, 25. Pervert, 27. Brothers and sisters, 28. Clips, 29. 24 hours, 31. Covering on a sofa, 32. French for "Queen", 34. Directed, 36. Not more, 39. Religious sister, 40. Dwarf buffalo, 43. Hansen's disease, 44. Hawaiian feast, 46. Departed, 47. Teach, 49. Courtroom event, 50. Batter, 53. Wait on, 55. Absorb written material, 56. Behold, in old Rome, 57. Cook, 58. Perishes, 60. Diva's solo, 61. Canines, 64. Altitude (abbrev.).

Yesterday's Solution

CRAWS LAST DONA
 LABEL AGES EROS
 ANELLE TREE NITS
 WILDBEEST TORE
 EPIC JOG ELF
 WALL WOMEN ARECA
 ECOLOJIE GMINIBUS
 RESIN RAVE CORK
 SAID BED ENDS
 GROTTIO SLIM
 LAVE RACE COURSE
 EMIR MEET ATOLL
 NINE FIRST NATAL
 SEED ROSE SHEWS

cheer, crush, daring, dash, domes, enter, escape, expanse, fault, fight, flour, fracas, front, grind, intrude, laugh, leaven, livelihood, lose, margarine, muscle, need, neon, nerve, opens, pound, rear, robust, rues, scope, shut, sinew, spread, stomach.

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