20 Taliban Killed, 19 Wounded in Zabul Offensive

KABUL - Twenty militants have been killed and 19 others wounded during an ongoing military operation in southern Zabul province, an official said on Wednesday.

Another 17 suspects were detained during the offensive codenamed "Nijat" (salvation), said Brig. Gen. Syed Waqif Shah, the 205th Atal Military Corps commander in the south.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News the army soldiers had also seized 20 home-made bombs and heavy weapons during the operation aimed at dismantling Taliban hideouts and rescuing the 31 abducted passengers.

Separately, two policemen were killed in an insurgent attack on the outskirts of Qalat City, the provincial capital, said Gul Islam Syal, the acting governor's spokesman. Two attackers were also killed when the police reciprocated fire.

The Taliban confirmed the attack on police as one of several the fighters mounted on security forces in different areas. (Pajhwok)

Gunmen Release Three Abductees in Laghman

MEHTARLAAM - Three passengers who were kidnapped about five days before on Kabul-Jalalabad high way in the jurisdiction of eastern Laghman province have been released.

Sarhadi Zwak, spokesman for the governor of Laghman province says that the three civilians were returned to their families in Surkh Road District of neighboring Nangarhar province yesterday. Zwak said the release was secured through the efforts made by the provincial administration and local elders.

The militants who are not identified stopped passenger vehicles in the Zangori area of Laghman on Friday night and according to reports kidnapped 10 people. Seven of them were released later but three were still in the custody of the kidnappers. (KP)

Abducted Health Worker Released

FEROZKOH - A health worker was on Wednesday freed after spending six days in Taliban's captivity in western Ghor province, officials said.

Acting governor Syed Anwar Rahmati told Pajhwok Afghan News Dr. Ghulam Hussain, hailing from Ghazni province, had been abducted by militants on Thursday last from north of Ferozkoh, the capital of Ghor.

He said fighters loyal to Maulvi Nek Mohammad, a Taliban commander in the Charsada district, had kidnapped the doctor. Security forces and local elders had been able to secure his safe and unconditional release, he added.

Dr. Ghulam Hussain has been associated a World Health Organisation (WHO) polio vaccination campaign for the past six years.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Yagana, Ghor health director, said health workers were not affiliated with any political party and should not be targeted by any of the warring factions. He insisted health workers should be allowed to perform duty without any fears.

Yagana said four health clinics had been shut within 20 days in Teora and Pasaband districts following Taliban warnings.

Efforts, he said, were underway to reopen these clinics. (Pajhwok)

8 Rebels Killed as Forces Recapture Faryab Villages

MAIMANA - Security forces killed eight rebels, regained control of eight villages and reopened a major highway in northwestern Faryab province, officials said on Wednesday.

Police chief Abdul Nabi Elham told Pajhwok Afghan News another 10 insurgents were wounded during an ongoing operation involving Afghan National Army (ANA) and police personnel backed by air support from the Afghan Air Force in the Qaisar district.

Meanwhile, Gen. Sherin Shah Kohabandi, the spokesman for the 1st brigade of 209th Shahin Military Corps, said Du Abi, Kunjuk, Chaharshanba, Bashalmast, Buland Ghor and some other villages had been cleared of insurgents as a result of the operation codenamed as "Khanjar." He said the ongoing offensive would continue until militants were completely eliminated in the district. He said security forces had so far suffered no casualties.

A resident of Qaiser district, wishing to go unnamed, said Taliban fighters fled the area as the air strikes began, but the ground forces did not

...(More on P4)...(13)

38-Km Roads Rehabilitated, Graveled in Wardak

MAIDAN SHAHR - Reconstruction work on a 6.1-kilometer road has been launched in the Chak district of central Maidan Wardak province, officials said on Wednesday.

The acting governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khugyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News the project would be completed in three months at a cost of 22 million afghanis, which had been provided by the Ministry Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).

He said the road would be reconstructed from Spina Khawra area to Kharyan village.

Separately, a 32-kilometre road has been rehabilitated in the Markazi Bihsud district at a cost of 2.1 million afghanis.

Acting Governor Abdul Hameed *...(More on P4)...(14)*

3 Police Killed, 4 Troops Injured in Nimroz

ZARANJ - Three policemen were killed and four Afghan National Army (ANA) troops were injured in two separate incidents of violence in southwestern Nimroz province, officials said on Tuesday.

The three policemen were ambushed and *...(More on P4)...(15)*

4 Injured as Bomb Goes off in Lashkargah

LASHKARGAH - A bomb-rigged motorcycle went off in front of a mosque where a memorial service was being offered in the capital of southern Helmand province on Wednesday, injuring four people, an official said.

A security official, who declined to be identified, told Pajhwok Afghan News the injured persons included a brother of Lashkargah's 4th district police chief.

Basher, giving an eyewitness account, told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosives had been planted on a motorcycle parked between two cars in front of the mosque. An official at the Emergency-run hospital said they had been delivered four wounded persons from the scene. Two of them were in critical condition, he said. There was no immediate word of responsibility for the blast. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Execute Man for Killing Wife in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - Taliban militants publically executed a man accused of killing his wife in the Nad Ali district of southern Helmand district, an official said on Wednesday.

The district chief, Fathullah Khan, told Pajhwok Afghan News a Taliban jury found the man guilty of intentionally killing his wife and issued a fitwa ordering his execution.

The man was shot dead in front of a crowd by his father-in-law, Khan said. A local resident, Mohammad Sadiq, said Taliban leaders and judges discussed the matter before ordering the man's execution.

Qari Yousaf Ahmedi, a Taliban spokesman, confirmed the execution, saying the man had killed his wife few months back. He was executed in compliance with a decree issued by the Taliban judges in accordance with Islamic Law.

The local resident, Sadiq, said Taliban enforced Islamic Law on criminals, but police often released such people against bribes.

The incident comes two weeks after the Taliban executed two persons on charges of kidnappings for ransom in the Kajaki district. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You are distracted by one unexpected event after another today, but you handle the apparent chaos well. Although you are comfortable hanging out on the edge of the unknown, you should tread carefully now; you're not as invincible as you might think. Ironically, even if your adrenaline is pumping, you still have a positive effect on others because the current uncertainty is more exciting than being stuck in a rut.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might feel ready to give up today, tired from doggedly chasing material goals. You have more on your plate than anyone realizes yet you're still being asked to spread your energy even thinner. Instead of agreeing to someone else's agenda, set priorities and focus on the most important tasks first. Panic is unnecessary even if you run into unanticipated problems.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's all too easy to wear your heart on your sleeve with sweet Venus bringing her special charms to your 1st House of Personality these days. But there's an awkward tension in the air and you can lose your patience if you don't take time to honor your feelings. You may even find yourself swept up in the heat of an argument now, wondering how things went so wrong.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

People may assume that you're satisfied with your personal relationships, but they don't have a clue because you're keeping your true feelings under wraps. Your heart is drawing you out into deeper waters today where the emotional currents can carry you off course. However, you could reach a breaking point if it requires too much energy to hide your inner world from those you love.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You don't understand why people seem to expect more from you now, but you're not happy with the extra pressure and you could spend much of the day attempting to alleviate the tension. Unfortunately, even the cleverest of tactics won't hide the edge in your voice. Examine your underlying emotions if you notice that your words sound sarcastic or mean.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Concentrating on your job is more complicated now than anyone realizes. Sometimes it's relaxing to let your thoughts meander for a while, but today your fantasies may activate memories that are not all that pleasurable. Worrying about meeting someone's expectations leads you around in endless circles. Fortunately, you can halt a temporary emotional tailspin by doing something useful in the present moment, rather than wasting time stressing about the past.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Behaving in a practical manner can be tricky business while romantic Venus aligns in an otherworldly configuration with jovial Jupiter and surreal Neptune. Nevertheless, a lighthearted attitude seems inappropriate if you think you should be more concerned with serious issues. You may be too conscientious to even entertain the notion of escaping from your responsibilities today.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You're not happy about having to maintain such a high level of productivity today, especially with so many intriguing distractions knocking on your door. However, your strength of purpose is non-negotiable when it comes to your work. You really don't want to get angry at anyone, but enforcing your limits could be an effective way to quickly let others know that you mean business.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You are especially intrigued by the mysteries of life and love today. However, you may be frustrated by your unsuccessful attempts to put your feelings into words. You're tempted to sidestep the entire issue by telling a humorous story so you don't have to expose your vulnerability. However, skimming the surface won't reveal the hidden meaning of life or deepen a relationship.

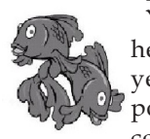
Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Although you're listening to the beat of a distant drummer today, you won't likely be caught off guard by an unexpected event. In fact, you appear to be more emotionally stable than ever, drawing people to you as they try to manage the stressful situations in their lives. However, you have your own worries now, and everyone else's demands just add extra layers of anxiety.

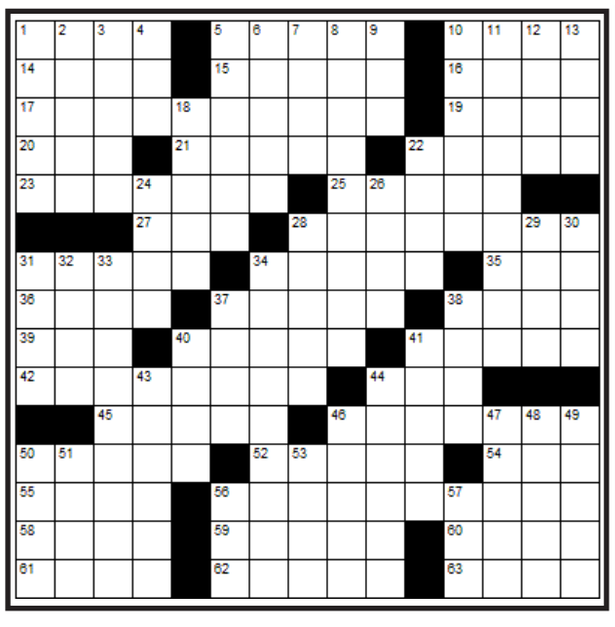
Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Remembering simpler days from the past makes you feel nostalgic today as you secretly wish for their return. You long for the innocence and simplicity lost, and can't help but feel frustrated with how complicated your life has grown. Thankfully, you still have an opportunity to live out your dreams, even if you're balancing on an emotional high wire now.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You have more emotional strength held in reserve than people realize, yet your uncertainty about your own power can get in the way of your success. Don't succumb to any feelings of insecurity by needlessly comparing yourself to anyone else. You are a unique individual with unique capabilities; the key now is your own self-awareness.



Across

1. A measuring instrument, 5. Range, 10. Shove, 14. Not yours, 15. Church offering, 16. Initial wager, 17. Alteration, 19. Back, 20. 54 in Roman numerals, 21. Construct, 22. Repeat, 23. Flight attendant, 25. A religion based on sorcery, 27. Frozen, 28. Clairvoyants, 31. Breadth, 34. Philippine tribal chief, 35. Prompt, 36. Garden tools, 37. Exploded stars, 38. "Phooey!", 39. French for "Summer", 40. Astronomical visitor, 41. Hotel employee, 42. Unconsciousness induced by narcotics, 44. Precious stone, 45. Interlaced, 46. Twister, 50. Cubic meter, 52. Community spirit, 54. Martini ingredient, 55. Kind of school, 56. Stunt flying, 58. Helps, 59. Nonpoetic writing, 60. Away from the wind, 61. Thorny flower, 62. A chemical compound, 63. Exam

Down

1. Objectives, 2. A financial examination, 3. Tomb, 4. Clairvoyant›s gift, 5. Abounding in stars, 6. Quoted, 7. Ear-related, 8. A duplicating machine, 9. Poetic dusk, 10. Outcast, 11. Immoral, 12. Immediately, 13. Protagonist, 18. Instruct, 22. A style of design, 24. Mental keenness, 8 .26 bits of data, 28. Covers with asphalt, 29. Medical breakthrough, 30. Dispatched, 31. At what time, 32. Greek letter, 33. Bush-like herbs 34. Tyrannizes, 37. Schnozzola, 38. An expletive, 40. Sheltered nook, 41. Vice ___, 43. Body, 44. Peanut, 46. Not these, 47. Nimble, 48. Cuts into cubes, 49. Beginning, 50. Box, 51. Threesome, 53. Gait faster than a walk, 56. Gorilla, 57. Make lace,

Yesterday's Solution

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

accident, area, basic, bathe, bland, cedar, class, climax, cross, educate, enable, enter, exact, exist, exploration, favor, golden, great, hale, hallway, hatch hickory, human, instance, invest, learn, people, perhaps, sell, shaft, silos, sleet, snit, stick, suitcase

P	E	R	H	A	P	S	L	E	A	R	N	E		
D	N	C	P	E	O	P	L	E	X	A	C	T		
E	B	B	L	S	L	E	E	T	M	N	E	C		
X	S	A	L	A	U	U	S	U	A	L	J	L		
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O	S	H	A	F	T	X	N	N	A	N	T	E		
N	E	D	U	C	A	T	E	T	U	T	O	R		