

23 More Militants Killed in Airstrikes: Khogyani

JALALABAD - Twenty-three Taliban insurgents including their commander have been killed and five others wounded as a result of five drone strikes in Chaparhar district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Friday.

The governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News five attacks were carried out by the drones of foreign troops in different areas of the Chaparhar district. A Taliban commander, Selab, was among the 23 rebels killed and six



others wounded, he said adding civilians have suffered no casualties in the air raid.

A resident of the district, Shakoore confirmed the drone strikes in several parts of the district, but he had no further details about the casualties.

In a similar aerial attack, 15 Daesh or so-called Islamic State (IS) fighters were eliminated on Thursday night when the spy planes targeted the hideouts of Daesh insurgents in the Narai Obah area of Haska Mena district of the province. (Pajhwok)

Teenage Hostage Killed, Family Seeks Justice

KABUL - The family of a teenage boy kidnapped in Kabul a few months ago have called for justice after their son was killed by his captors. Abaseen, who had been his parents' only son, was snatched from Kart-e-Naw in the city earlier this year. On Friday, during a prayer ceremony in his name, his family called for justice.

"The kidnapers first cut his finger off and sent it to us. Nothing like this is seen anywhere in the world," said Abaseen's father. Meanwhile the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said in a statement that five people have been arrested in connection with the boy's kidnapping and murder.

The arrested people confessed to Abaseen's murder during preliminary investigations, the NDS said in a statement. Friends and relatives at Abaseen's prayer ceremony on Friday called on government to put an end to kidnappings. "Unfortunately kidnappings have increased in the capital but kidnapers' punishment has been determined by the law and government must prosecute them," said one of the participants.

Reports indicate that kidnappings have increased in Kabul over the past few months but police have not released exact numbers. (Tolonews)

Annual Poetry Session Held in Kunar

ASADABAD - A poetry session, attended by hundreds of poets, writers and culturists, was held on Thursday in the capital of eastern Kunar province, where the poets asked the officials to construct power dams and irrigation canals along the river.

Poets, culturists, writers, officials and youths from Kabul, Paktia, Khost, Nangarhar, Laghman provinces and other parts of the country, took part in the poetry session of Kunar Seend (Kunar River) held in Asadabad, the provincial capital.

Kunar governor Wahiddullah Kalimzai addressed the event that



written the event that poets to actively take part in the development of the country.

Advisor to president on educational and social affairs, Lal Pacha Azmoon, read out the message of president while the director of information and communication, Mawlawi Hannif, a Taliban shadow district governor for Ishkamish, was among the killed, the source added. One policeman was also killed and five security personnel were wounded during the clashes, the police official confirmed. The province with Taluqan as its capital, 245 km north of Afghan capital of Kabul, has been the scene of clashes between Taliban militants and security forces over the past months. The Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants recently as spring and summer known as fighting season is drawing near in the country. The Taliban has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

20 Militants Killed in Takhar: Police

TALUQAN - Some 20 militants had been killed when Afghan security forces launched a cleanup operation in Northern Province of Takhar, provincial police spokesman said on Friday.

"The one-day operation was ended in Zadran and Nawabad villages of Ishkamish District on late Thursday. The raid was conducted after militants attacked several security checkpoints in the remote district earlier on Thursday, and the raid caused 20 militants killed," Abdul Khalil Aseer told Xinhua.

Mawlawi Hannif, a Taliban shadow district governor for Ishkamish, was among the killed, the source added. One policeman was also killed and five security personnel were wounded during the clashes, the police official confirmed. The province with Taluqan as its capital, 245 km north of Afghan capital of Kabul, has been the scene of clashes between Taliban militants and security forces over the past months. The Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants recently as spring and summer known as fighting season is drawing near in the country. The Taliban has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)



around 10pm when a bomb placed on the road went off, killing three policemen and a civilian, the governor's spokesman, Sarhadi Zawak, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

No one has so far asserted responsibility for the explosion. (Pajhwok)

Blast Claims 4 Lives in Laghman

KABUL - A civilian and three Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel were killed in a bombing in Mehtarlam, the provincial capital of eastern Laghman, an official said on Friday. Local policemen on a foot patrol were passing the Omarzi area of Mehtarlam at

Two Held on Murder Charges of Chief Prosecutor

HERAT CITY - Two people were arrested on charge of murdering the chief prosecutor for western Herat province, police said on Friday. The appellant attorney's office head, Samiuddin Rahin, was attacked on Thursday afternoon in front of his house in the fifth police district of Herat City. Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul

Majid Rozi told Pajhwok Afghan News the two suspected persons were detained on Thursday night at 8pm as a result of an operation launched by police in the city. The detainees confessed to their crime in the presence of a delegation send from the attorney general's office, he said adding police have

A Man Gunned Down in Kapisa

MAHMUD RAQI - A civilian was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the Najrab district of central Kapisa province, an official said on Friday.

The provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim Faiq, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Shin Gul was shot dead by armed men at around 8am in the district bazaar of Najrab.

The man was shot dead due to prior enmities with the killers, he said adding a probe team has been dispatched to the area.

Shin Gul was gunned by his cousins who also killed four of his family members last year due his prior enmity with them, Farhad, a resident of Tapa-i-Ahmad village, said. (Pajhwok)

4 Taliban Killed in Kunar Infighting: Syedkhel

ASADABAD - A commander was among four Taliban militants killed during a gun battle between two groups of Taliban in eastern Kunar province, an official said on Friday.

The provincial police chief, Maj. Gen. Abdul Habib Syedkhel, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash erupted on Thursday night between the Tahrek-i-Taliban group and Emirate group of Taliban in Chinar area of Marawara district. A Taliban commander of Emirate group and his three rebels were killed in the clash, while the Tahrek-i-Taliban fighters suffered no casualties, but after the incident three members of the group laid their arms and

Sugar, Ghee Prices up, Afghani Edges down in Kabul

KABUL - The prices of sugar and ghee increased while other daily-use item rates stayed steady during the outgoing week in Kabul, market sources said on Thursday.

Food Traders' Union headFazal Rahmantold Pajhwok Afghan News the wholesale price of a 49 kilograms bag of sugar increased from 1,920 afghanis to 2,120 afghanis. He said the rate of a 16-litre tin of Momin ghee jumped to 1040afgs from last week's 1,020afgs, due



to the high demand for the commodity and lower imports. There was no change in the rates of other food items, as a 49-kg sack of Kazakh flour cost 1230afgs and a 25-kg bag of Pakistani rice 1,650afgs. Meanwhile, tea seller Ihsanullah said a kilogram of African black tea cost 240afgs and the same amount of Madina green tea 220afgs -- the same prices as last week's.

But wholesale prices varied from retail rates in

8 Suspects Detained for Abduction of Foreign Woman

JALALABAD - Eight men were arrested by police on charge of their involvement in the kidnapping of an Australian female employee of a Non-governmental Organization (NGO), in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Friday.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, had told Pajhwok Afghan News the abducted employee had come from Kabul to Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're quite pleased when you can get along with everyone so easily, but you still must be careful that your self-confidence doesn't turn into arrogance today. You can become so focused on what you are saying that you inadvertently offend someone. People might even believe that you're intentionally pushing their buttons. Hopefully, your best friends understand your motives.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You have a very specific agenda now and you won't likely waste any time when starting your work. Unfortunately, others might interpret your behavior as theatrical rather than practical today, which can be irritating to you. Even if you are disappointed that people don't appreciate your efforts, it's not in your best interest to try to convince anyone of your good intentions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might run into some unexpected opposition today, no matter how self-assured you feel as you look to the future. However, facing resistance head-on isn't your best strategy now because your determination only piles more pressure onto a delicate situation. Thankfully, there's no need to let someone's negativity precipitate a crisis of self-doubt. Lighten up and do whatever is necessary to avoid confrontation.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Behaving in a carefree manner today sounds like the course of least resistance, but you won't likely be flexible enough to make a big enough difference. Acting in an emotionally detached manner is challenging when you can see through someone's facade without even trying. But it isn't helpful to climb onto your soapbox and broadcast the truth as you perceive.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Expressing your emotions in a forthright manner is tricky today, especially if you grow annoyed with a friend. You're tempted to find a scapegoat standing in your path who doesn't really deserve your wrath. Don't take your feelings out on the wrong person; this kind of unconscious behavior sours an otherwise sweet connection. Instead, gently vent your negativity without blaming anyone else.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You might get so carried away with your work today that you exhaust yourself before reaching your objectives. If you start a task that grows into a major project, be sure to set well-defined limits so you know when to call it quits. You don't need to prove anything now, even if you think others may judge you in a negative light. Simply give it your unrestrained best effort and then walk away with a clear conscience.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You could unconsciously carry a chip on your shoulder today, especially if you have grown overconfident about your contributions at work. However, your larger-than-life attitude may stir up negativity from a close friend or partner. You might experience more than your fair share of discord if you hold on to the belief that your approach is superior to all others.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You may be so irritated with people who don't respect your boundaries that it becomes necessary to take a stand today. It doesn't matter that you understand on a logical level that being adaptable is the mature response. Your annoyance could still build until it morphs into anger because you're tired of always assuming that things will improve.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're weary of doing everything the same old way today and yearn for the excitement of change. It's great to be innovative as long as your restlessness doesn't prompt you to add chaos to your life just because you are currently bored. Proceed with caution or you could manufacture a whole new set of problems before you know it. Although it might be contrary to your natural flair for the dramatic.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

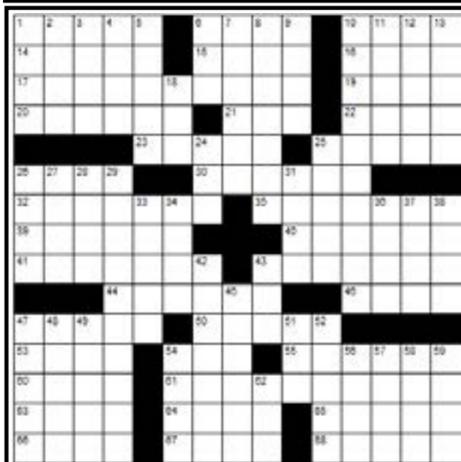
You have your own unique way of deciding what's most valuable now, and your unconventional priorities could generate a bit of static. It doesn't matter how serious you are about improving your life; people still might assume you're just acting eccentrically today. However, you probably sound more argumentative than you actually are, so be sure to temper any extreme opinions with a desire to maintain harmony.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You might not be in total control of your energy today as your awareness swings back and forth between your head and your heart. It's often easier for you brainy Aquarians to be rational than emotional, but the reflective Moon's visit to your sign brings a variety of desires up to the surface now. Your wide mood swings may confuse others.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Although you may believe your logical thinking will steer you in the right direction today, it's likely you will make assumptions based upon unconscious desires rather than solely on the facts. Whether you are right or wrong, stubbornly defending your position could escalate a minor disagreement into a larger conflict now. Listen carefully to the advice you receive instead of trying to win an argument. Once you realign your idealism with the truth.



Across

- Married partners, 6. Wanes, 10. Serene, 14. Panic, 15. An escape of water, 16. Margarine, 17. Light teasing, 19. Satyr, 20. Homestead, 21. Uncooked, 22. Snack, 23. Borders, 25. Sieves, 26. Unit of bread, 30. Imitation, 32. Clothing, 35. Angered, 39. Having a mast, 40. Incumbency, 41. Delighted, 43. A rudimentary inner toe, 44. Straight, 46. Not difficult, 47. Spot, 50. Heretofore (2 words), 53. Canvas dwelling, 54. Commercials, 55. Property, 60. A sharply directional antenna, 61. Make ineffective, 63. Being, 64. Tropical American wildcat, 65. Long-tailed parrot, 66. Collections, 67. To fancy (archaic), 68. Clairvoyants.

Down

- Geographic illustrations, 2. Away from the wind, 3. Sourish, 4. At one time (archaic), 5. Grin, 6. L, 7. Holder, 8. Pulp, 9. Distort, 10. Awareness or notice, 11. Detached, 12. Not the most, 13. Sweater eaters, 18. Nourished, 24. Hair goop, 25. Scatter, 26. Lantern, 27. Iridescent gem, 28. Church alcove, 29. Deaths, 31. Stake, 33. Varnish ingredient, 34. Biblical garden, 36. Babylonian goddess of healing, 37. Historical periods, 38. Wet, as morning grass, 42. Marksman, 43. Not wet, 45. Give confidence to, 47. Infections of the eye, 48. Make fun of, 49. Anxiety, 51. Mistake, 52. League members, 54. Again, 56. Wings, 57. Bloodsucking insects, 58. Russian emperor, 59. Evergreens, 62. Buff.

Yesterday's Solution



annihilate, answer, author, bribe, cheer, clavier, cleat, derivative, destroy, discard, dogs, eager, excite, gland, grain, heart, hike, hover, kernel, lynch, mice, notch, pianos, recognize, relic, sane, seize, sewer, stamp, string, taut, tease, tense, theme, thrill, token.

