

MoD Plans to Launch Dand-E-Ghori Operation

The defense ministry said an operation to eliminate Taliban safe havens in the district will be launched in the near future.

KABUL - The Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD) said Wednesday that Dand-e-Ghori area of Pul-e-Khumri city was the central command and control point of the Taliban in Baghlan Province. Deputy minister of defense Major General Shaor Gul said a military operation will soon be launched to destroy Taliban safe havens in Dand-e-Ghori, which has been a key region for the Taliban over the past four years. "It is planned that in the near future an operation will be conducted to destroy terrorist safe havens (in Dand-e-Ghori)," Gul said. However, tribal elders have complained about government's negligence in roping them in to help. "The relationship between the tribal elders ... (More on P4)...(16)



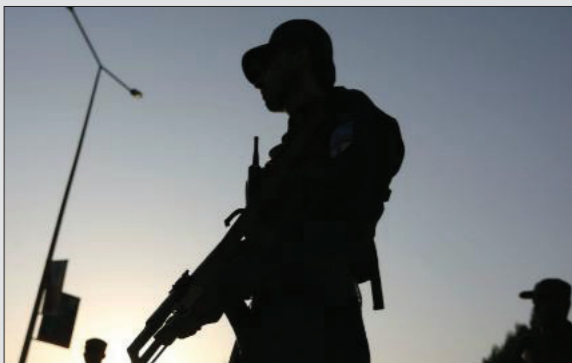
84 Insurgents Killed in Afghanistan within Day: Gov't

KABUL - About 84 militants have been killed and 74 others injured amid military operations in different Afghan provinces, said the Defense Ministry on Wednesday. The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces launched 21 cleanup operations, 22 special operations and three night raid operations in 15 of 34 Afghan provinces over the past 24 hours, the ministry said in a statement, adding among those killed militants were three local Taliban commanders and 10 members of Haqqani militant group. Taliban militants have yet to make comments. Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants recently as the security situation is getting worse across the country, but the militants responded by armed attacks and bombings. Earlier on Wednesday, a suicide car bombing struck a NATO military convoy in southern province of Kandahar, leaving casualties, the collision forces confirmed. (Xinhua)

Six Policemen Killed in Taliban Attack in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - A security source said three policemen were also wounded in the attack that happened in Nawa district on Tuesday night. At least six policemen were killed in a Taliban attack on a check post in Nawa district of southern Helmand on Tuesday night, a security source confirmed on Wednesday. In addition, three other policemen were wounded. In the meantime, Omar Zwak, a spokesman for the provincial governor, also confirmed the attack and said that "we have casualties in the attack but so far there is no exact information."

5 Police, 2 Civilians among 22 Killed in Uruzgan, Nengharhar Unrest



TERINKOT/JALALABAD - Five policemen and 15 Taliban militants have been killed in central Uruzgan province, while two civilians were stabbed to death in eastern Nengharhar province, officials said on Wednesday. Uruzgan police Chief Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Sediqi told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban stormed security check posts in Kotwal area on the outskirts of Tarinkot, the provincial capital on Tuesday night. He said five police ... (More on P4)...(17)

Taliban Militants Suffer Casualties in a Premature Explosion in Kunduz Province

KUNDUZ - The Taliban insurgents suffered casualties in a premature bomb explosion in northern Kunduz province of Afghanistan. The 209th Shaheen Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces in the north said the incident took place in the vicinity of Dasht-e-Archi district. According to the Shaheen Corps, a vehicle packed with explosives went off prematurely leaving at least two Taliban insurgents dead and another militant wounded. It is yet not clear the explosives were fitted inside the vehicle to use as a Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) or the militants were attempting to transport the explosives for the other purposes. Kunduz is among the volatile provinces in the north where terrorist related incidents are occasionally taking place. The Taliban insurgents frequently use explosives materials for the roadside bombings and car bombings to target the government staff and security personnel. However, in majority of such incidents the ordinary civilians are targeted besides such bombings incur casualties to the security ... (More on P4)...(18)

Haqqani Network Leader Among 9 Killed in Logar Raids

PUL-I-ALAM - At least nine insurgents, including a Haqqani network suicide attack organizer, have been killed in airstrikes in central Logar province, an official said on Wednesday. The Afghan Air Force (AAF) carried out the airstrikes in Shah Mazar, Rustomkhel and Yousafkhel areas of Pul-i-Alam -- the provincial capital -- late on Tuesday night. Police spokesman Shapoor Ahmadzai told Pajhwok Afghan News Asadullah, organiser of suicide attacks, was the dead. Three other key figures of the Haqqani network, Qari Salhuddin, Qari Matiullah and Qari Kochai, and five Taliban



were also killed. "The killing of these rebels is a great achievement for us. Their elimination will help improve security in the country," the police spokesman hoped. Taj Mohammad, a resident of Shah Mazar area, said the security forces conducted raids on militant positions. "I know the Taliban were killed but don't have exact figures," he added. Taliban have not yet commented on the airstrikes. Earlier, the security forces claimed killing 25 Taliban in Logar province. (Pajhwok)

70 Taliban, 2 Police Killed in Ongoing Paktika Clash



SHARANA - At least 70 Taliban insurgents were claimed killed during a gun-battle still ongoing in Gomal district of southeastern Paktika province on Wednesday. Acting Paktika police chief, Dadullah Khan Hotak, told Pajhwok Afghan News the pre-dawn

clash erupted after the rebels staged attacks on the Gomal district center and security posts at about 2am. The attack sparked a gun-battle that was still ongoing, he said, adding 40 insurgents were killed in airstrikes and another 30 in face-to-face clashes. He admitted the killing of two policemen and injuries to five others. A resident of Zangi Ada area, Sayed Noor, told Pajhwok that more than 20 police suffered casualties after the district was besieged and the insurgents captured several security check points. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah ... (More on P4)...(19)

Life Returns to Normal in War-Hit Baghlan-E-Markazi

KABUL - Residents are returning to their homes in Baghlan-E-Markazi district which witnessed at least two weeks of war between government forces and the Taliban. Locals are slowly trying to get back to some form of normality in the Baghlan-E-Markazi district of northern Baghlan province after government forces managed to retake the strategic district from the Taliban. Meanwhile, a number of residents in the war-hit region have pushed the Afghan government to take steps to ensure the safety and security of the people on a permanent basis. In this report, TOLONews reporter ... (More on P4)...(20)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Aries It seems as if you've been putting your ducks in a row forever and now you're ready to make your move. In fact, you might believe that you'll lose your chance if you don't do something drastic today. You are partly right; it is time to initiate action, but you must persist with determination rather than enthusiasm.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Taurus You might believe reality is conspiring to hold you in place, but it's actually nudging you closer to your point of no return. Examine those areas of your life that seem stagnant now and consider what you could do to break through the restrictive dynamics. Although there may be obstacles in your path.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini Your attitude about a significant relationship may be in flux now. In fact, your vacillations can be exhausting; one minute you're unhappy about the lack of potential and the next minute everything seems wonderful. Don't trust your optimism or your pessimism today because these wide mood swings are only reflecting the extreme possibilities. President Dwight Eisenhower said, "The middle of the road is all of the usable surface."

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Cancer You might think your agenda is bulletproof, but it is not. In fact, shifting circumstances at work may shoot holes through your plans today, forcing you to reassess your assumptions. But all is not lost; thankfully, the cosmos is offering you a chance to proceed with greater certainty than ever before. Just don't let self-doubt tempt you to quit before you reach your goal.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Leo Sometimes creativity is the result of an exciting storm of mental activity, yet other times it's more methodical and exacting. Your current inspiration comes from a blend of both, but you must be willing to freely move back and forth between these two modalities if you want to produce a masterpiece.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Virgo You may step outside your normal comfort zone today, but chances are you won't wander too far. Like Hansel and Gretel, you carefully mark your progress so you can find your way home. Nevertheless, answers to your questions are not found in the same old places where you typically look. Be cautious as you explore new territory, yet remain open to what you might discover.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Libra If someone at work is hot under the collar today, your friendly attitude is your ultimate weapon. It's as if you can step into the middle of an emotional firestorm now, say a few choice words, and the extreme weather begins to settle down. Although you're not a miracle worker, your ability to remain neutral in the midst of strong opinions acts as a salve to those who are upset.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Scorpio A coworker may walk away with all the recognition today. You honestly don't mind the spotlight beaming brightly on someone else as long as your contribution is acknowledged, too. Unfortunately, you might be left standing in the dark now, but hopefully, you understand that this isn't a popularity contest. Nevertheless, being told you're appreciated is one of the simplest and most uplifting things.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Sagittarius You might head out in one direction today only to find yourself going the opposite way a little while later. Although you have no clue how you could get so lost, you're adaptable enough to respond right away and reset your bearings. Unfortunately, this exact scenario may repeat again, leaving you a bit frustrated and confused. Nevertheless, your reaction is critical to your success.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

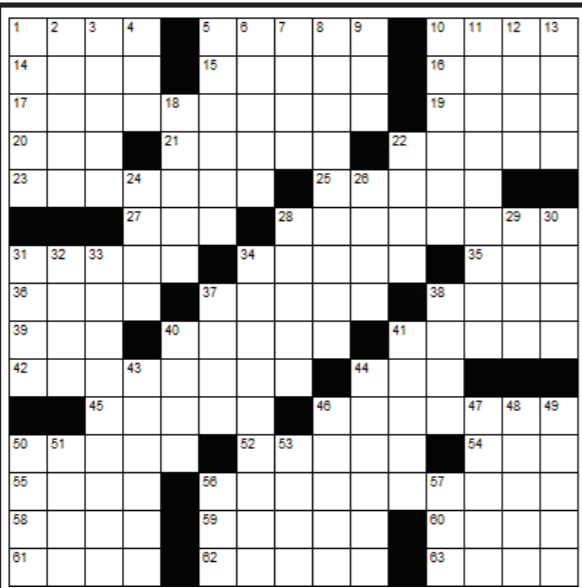
Capricorn Taking a risk at work, however calculated, sets you on edge because you don't like the sense of instability. Thankfully, your recent actions are making an impact and you can probably tell, one way or the other, if things are working out according to your plan. Of course, you want to achieve your goals, but it's a relief to receive feedback now if you need another chance.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Aquarius Making decisions requires little effort on your part today. It's as if you've been temporarily freed from the consequences of anyone else's judgment. It's not that you don't care what others think about your choices; it's just that you know what's in your heart now, and are willing to act on your conviction no matter what kind of criticism you receive.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Pisces Although everything seems very predictable at work, you might not trust your own feelings now. There's a part of you that won't buy in to the comfort of certainty because it's too limiting. Your mind-set is not based on whether or not you like your job; it's more existential than pragmatic today. However, the solution to your current dilemma is probably simpler than you realize.



Across
1. Joke, 5. Stilts, 10. Auspices, 14. Savvy about, 15. Tropical vine, 16. Naked, 17. Fair, 19. Story, 20. Ouch!, 21. Glacial ridge, 22. Rowed, 23. Schemes, 25. Insuperior, 27. Actress Lupino, 28. A member of a panel, 31. Changes in direction, 34. Type of mattress, 35. Beer, 36. 1 1 1 1, 37. Broaden, 38. Dwarf buffalo, 39. Apprehend, 40. Rulers, 41. Clenched hands, 42. Breed of dairy cattle, 44. Knave, 45. Eyelets, 46. Indebtedness, 50. Alit, 52. Periods of discounted prices, 54. Gentle, 55. Pace, 56. Nefarious, 58. Maguey, 59. Metal bar, 60. Chocolate cookie, 61. Cleave, 62. Onyx, 63. Stinging insect, ,
Down
1. Young kangaroos, 2. Emissary, 3. Seethes, 4. 2,000 pounds, 5. A fourth state of matter, 6. Pig sounds, 7. Stow, as cargo, 8. Discomfits, 9. Unhappy, 10. Necessitate, 11. Defenders, 12. Doing nothing, 13. Sow, 18. Pays attention to, 22. Not closed, 24. Cans, 26. Again, 28. Short and plump, 29. Notch, 30. Popular hot beverages, 31. Chinese mafia, 32. Two-toed sloth, 33. Insurrection, 34. Sidestepping, 37. Tuft, 38. Assistant, 40. Be cognizant of, 41. The language of Persia, 43. Absolutely still, 44. Bring into existence, 46. Dole, 47. Ancient Greek marketplace, 48. Debauchees, 49. Sysadmin, 50. Food thickener, 51. Storm, 53. Aquatic plant, 56. By means of, 57. At this time,

Yesterday's Solution
C O D E C B R I E D A S H
A P I S H O A R S F I N I T O
S E N N A U N I T S T I R S
E N T E R P R I S E C O A T
G I L G E B O N Y
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P R O U D L O W E R C A I S E
T I F F L I E N D E L L S
S C U F F L E R S C R O U P
F U C I U S A L L E
M I N I H A R D F I S T I E D
A C H E P I E D B E E R Y
S H I N O R A L E R A S E
K E P T T Y P E R E S T S

L E S P E C I A L E V E L
T I S S U E E S O P S I D
D E N T A L M T M A Y O R
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U A L L T N I U P I D O H
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