

Military Operation Launched to Clear Faizabad City of Militants

FAIZABAD - The military operation is launched following the clearance of Tagab district from Taliban where some members of group joined the peace process.

A large-scale military operation was launched to clear the outskirts of Faizabad City - in the northeastern Badakhshan province - of Taliban, local officials said on Friday.

The operation is focused on Faizabad's three police districts - PD6, PD8 and PD9. Two weeks ago, Taliban attacked a police outpost in the outskirts of Faizabad City.

"After clearing the Tagab district, we decided to launch a military operation in PD8 and PD9 with the help of forces stationed in Badakhshan. But we will need additional troops to clear Warduj and Yumgan districts," Badakhshan governor Ahmad Faisal Begzad said.

Badakhshan Provincial Council welcomed the move, ...*(More on P4)...(17)*



Dostum Welcomes Announcement of New US Strategy for Afghanistan

KABUL - The First Vice President of Afghanistan General Abdul Rashid Dostum welcomed the announcement of the new strategy by the United States for Afghanistan and South Asia.

Dostum, who is currently in Turkey for the treatment purposes, welcomed the announcement of the new strategy through a short statement posted on his official Twitter account.

"I welcome President Trump's new strategy. Now it is time for real reform within the NUG and constitution to guarantee our success," the First Vice President said. The US President Donald Trump on Tuesday unveiled the new US strategy outlining the approaches for Afghanistan and South Asia as he harshly criticized Pakistan for harboring the terrorist groups besides he vowed continued support to Afghanistan and war against terrorism. ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Thousands Gather in Kabul to Seek Justice for Momand

KABUL - Thousands of people on Thursday held a gathering in capital Kabul to voice their support for Balkh provincial council member Mohammad Asif Momand in his tussle with Governor Atta Mohammad Noor.

Momand had accused Noor of massive corruption in Balkh. In reply, Noor captured Momand as he landed at the Mazar-i-Sharif Airport in a violent manner and kept him hostage for hours. During his captivity, Momand was tortured and his one ear partially chopped off.

Participants of the gathering in Kabul condemned Noor's torture on Momand in strongest words and asked the government to put the influential governor on trial.

They chanted: "we want social justice, end to Iran's empire in Balkh, we strongly condemn the inhuman acts of Noor, we want the Balkh governor prosecuted."

Ajmal Umar, a provincial council member from Nangarhar province, said: "We are gathered here to condemn the torture on Momand and want the perpetrators of this cruelty to be tried and punished." He warned if their demands were not considered, they would hold massive protests. (Pajhwok)

Janikhail Back in Control of Security Forces

KABUL - Paktia forces said they will strengthen local security outposts in Janikhail and that they will not allow militants to infiltrate the district once again. Army officials said on Friday that they have retaken the control of Janikhail district in Paktia province in a military operation by the Army's Special Unit and police force members on Thursday evening.

Major Gen. Abdul Wase Milad, commander of Afghan National Army's Thunder Corps said the military operation conducted by Commando and police force members continued for few hours where they retook the control of Janikhail's center - which fallen to the Taliban two weeks ago.

The Janikhail district is located 150 kilometers to the west of the provincial capital Gardez City. It shares a border with Kurram Agency and Parachinar regions across the Durand Line - the disputed border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The district was first collapsed to the Taliban in July 25 when a group of militants launched a coordinated attack on security outposts in this part of Paktia. However, the district was retaken by security forces in a days-long military operation on August 04. (Tolonews)

Insecurity: Closure of 2 Logar Schools Affects 1,600 Students

PUL-I-ALAM - Deteriorating security in Pul-i-Alam, the capital of central Logar province, and Mohammad Agha district has forced two schools to be closed, depriving nearly 1,600 students of education.

Mohammad Shahpur Arab, Education Department spokesman, said on Thursday the Porak and Mohammad Agha High Schools had been closed over the past one week due to security concerns.

Ajmal, a resident of Porak, said the girls' school had



been shut for the past week. "Security forces have set up check-points on the route to the schools and people have stopped sending their children to school."

Jamila, a 9th class student, said fear of clashes has kept many pupils from going to school. Establishment of new check-posts had added to ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Dozens of Insurgents Dead in Kandahar Airstrike

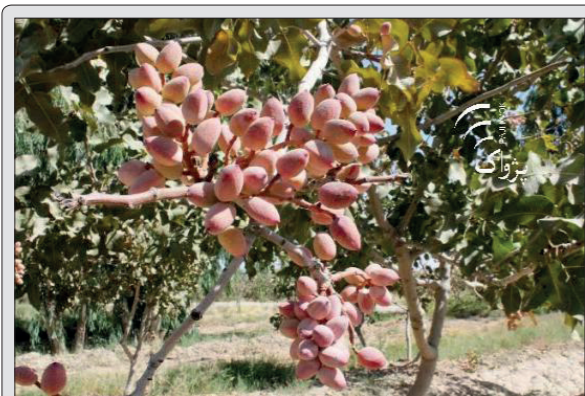
KABUL - Forty-two militants have been killed and 17 others injured others injured in foreign forces airstrikes in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Friday.

It was the second heaviest airstrike after the US announced its new strategy on Afghanistan.

Police spokesman Gen. Abdul Razaq told Pajhwok Afghan News NATO airstrikes in the Shah Waliot district on Thursday night targeted rebels who



stormed security forces check-posts. He said the rebels shifted their injured but the bodies of dead fighters laid in the battle ground. Four security personnel have been killed in the overnight fire fight. Earlier, scores of rebels ...*(More on P4)...(20)*



Nimroz Residents' Interest Grows in Pistachio Farm-

ZARANJ - The residents of southwestern Nimroz province have been increasingly taking interest in plantation of pistachio farms, an official says. Mohammad Akbar Sharifi, Nimroz's agriculture director, told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview that newly-planted pistachio saplings in Kang, Chakhansur districts and Zaranj City, the provincial capital, were growing at a great pace.

He added a large number of farmers planted pistachio saplings in these areas last year. "Nimroz suits the growing of pistachio trees because the plant needs little water and a salty soil which Nimroz has," he added.

Sharifi said pistachio farms owners had been provided necessary guidance on how to cultivate the plant, how much water and what type of environment it needed.

He said the people of Nimroz had recently shown more interest in cultivation of pistachio trees.

Mohammad Qayum, a farmer in Kang district, said he cultivated pistachio seedlings last year and the plants grew well with the passage of time. He added: "After repatriation, I decided to grow some pistachio trees because farming is my profession and the climate of Nimroz is suitable for pistachio plantation." (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries It's as if summer is starting all over again and all you want to do is play. Although innocent Venus dances into your 5th House of Fun and Games, the Scorpio Moon's square to Venus tints the color of romance with darker shades of gray. You are drawn to the transformational power of love, but wish to keep the energy light and easy.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus Someone's words or mannerisms can trigger memories that take you on a sentimental journey today. Although you're not necessarily feeling lazy, you prefer to hang out at home with your family now rather than running off to chase an elusive fantasy into the sunset.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini You need to be busy today, possibly running errands, conversing with friends or shopping for beautiful things. Honestly, what you do doesn't matter all that much as long as you honor the presence of sensual Venus in your 3rd House of Distractions by surrounding yourself with art and music. Pursuing pleasure close to home makes sense, especially if you can add more beauty to your world.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Your senses are particularly sharp today, enabling you to tell the difference between acceptable and extraordinary. For example, some people might not notice, but you can discern the nuances between food that tastes good and an epicurean delight. You're willing to spend more time or money to create the most memorable experience possible now.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You attract the loveliest people you can imagine today because you are so disarmingly friendly to everyone you meet. Broaching a difficult topic now is no more difficult than chatting about the weather. In fact, you prefer to compromise or help others smooth over their disagreements because peace is more pleasant than conflict.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo Your idea of love is entangled with service, and you may put everyone else's needs ahead of yours now. Of course, caring for others might have a negative impact on a romantic connection, but delaying personal gratification can lead to longer-term spiritual satisfaction. In any event, the presence of resourceful Venus in your 12th House of Destiny raises the ante in personal relationships.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra You are in your happy place when spending time with your friends or family. You thrive in social situations where conversations flow freely and affections are shared generously. Fortunately, you're more enamored than ever with dancing, chatting and even flirting when appropriate. Don't go looking for complications now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio Regardless of what you do for work, and no matter what your role within the community, it's time to bring more creativity into your public life. Although your feelings might be quite extreme now that the Moon is back in your passionate sign, you want to show everyone what a beautiful world people can create if they believe in themselves.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius All too often you get bit by the travel bug and the only known cure is to pull out your passport and board a plane to distant lands. Unfortunately, a lunar square may not support your penchant for journeying to exotic places while pleasure-seeking Venus is moving through your 9th House of Big Ideas. You are not interested in accumulating awesome experiences like notches on your belt unless you can also connect with the meaning of life at the same time.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You must be careful or you could misinterpret someone's actions today, thinking deeper yet unspoken emotions are attached to them. You are less interested in casual friendships now that loving Venus has taken up residence in your 8th House of Intimacy and Transformation. But self-awareness is key so that you don't mix up your feelings with those of anyone else.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius All types of relationships have a chance to grow sweeter now as you make your feelings known without leaving any room for complications. A romance can deepen if you're willing to expose your vulnerability by sharing your heart. Honestly, you're less inclined to try to get your own way while gracious Venus is traveling through your 7th House of Others.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You are more comfortable showering your affection on someone today than you are receiving the sweet offerings of love. Oddly enough for you psychic Fish, it's easier to participate in an intellectual conversation than an emotional one now. You might be less than romantically inclined while valuable Venus moves through your 6th House of Logistics.

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65 66 67 68

Across
1. An exchange, 6. At a distance, 10. French for "State", 14. Heavenly hunter, 15. Brand of credit card, 16. Daughter of Zeus and Demeter, 17. African antelope, 19. Beasts of burden, 20. Highly seasoned fatty sausage, 21. Female sib, 22. Pesky insects, 23. Assists, 25. Product of bees, 26. Killer whale, 30. Six feet of depth, 32. Chevrotain, 35. Alike, 39. Anagram of "Rioted", 40. A statistical interval, 41. Accost, 43. Perturb, 44. Gambling house, 46. Foliage, 47. Dreadful, 50. Big, 53. A crumbling earthy deposit, 54. Altitude (abbrev.), 55. Not the youngest, 60. Urine component, 61. A variety show, 63. Smudge, 64. Monster, 65. Shoemaker's awl, 66. Feudal worker, 67. To fancy (archaic), 68. Napped

Down
1. Fronts of ships, 2. Murres, 3. Small brook, 4. Fizzy drink, 5. Colonic, 6. Avenue (abbrev.), 7. An elaborate party, 8. Helps, 9. Rodents, 10. Frugal, 11. Poison, 12. Mountain crest, 13. A Eurasian aromatic herb, 18. Top part of an apron, 24. Eastern newt, 25. Four-bagger (baseball), 26. Poems, 27. Start over, 28. Cover with plaster, 29. Eloquent, 31. Conceal, 33. Neighborhood, 34. Anagram of "Sire", 36. Connects two points, 37. Aquatic plant, 38. Coral barrier, 42. Cultivated land, 43. To make a fool of (archaic), 45. Creation, 47. Regale, 48. Distorts, 49. Common refrigerant, 51. G, 52. Santa's helpers, 54. Affirm, 56. Pickle flavoring, 57. If not, 58. Faux pas, 59. Canvas dwelling, 62. Lair,

Yesterday's Solution
ALIAS ADEPT VIETTO
REBO GURITO OMEN
EMASCULATE YULLE
TUG HISSY SELLS
EREMITE TLEUS
ANT OMERINO
CLERK BEGUN GILL
RINK WIELD ANTE
ORE BALMY FUSEE
PARABOLIS GA
GRUFF BURDICO
GREET OGHRE LAM
LATE BLOODSTONE
URIC ADORE ANON
TECH ASTER DIES

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