

# 25 Militants Killed in Helmand Clearing Operation

LASHKARGAH - At least 25 Taliban insurgents have been killed during security forces searching operations in four districts of southern Helmand province, an official said on Tuesday. Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kintouz, told a press conference on Tuesday that the operations were launched in Marja, Garam Sir, Nawa and Nadali districts of the province. He said that only Nawa district was still with the Taliban but the centers and parts of other districts operated were with Afghan forces. Kintouz said 25 militants were killed during an operation of Afghan ground and air forces in Bashran locality of



Lashkargah, the provincial capital on Monday night. The militants supported by Pakistan intelligence agency planned to capture Lashkargah city, but the group failed to achieve such goals, he added. "Taliban wanted to shift the Quetta Shura to Helmand province but the militants could not do so," he said, adding the Afghan forces were recently equipped with new American weapons to help them defeat militants in their operations. Taliban did not comment about their casualties in recent operations in Helmand. Helmand is one the most unstable provinces... (More on P4)...(13)

## Two Women Killed in Herat



Officials at the Herat regional hospital said that the bodies of two women were brought to the hospital on Monday - both of whom had been shot. The officials said the body of a 27-year-old woman was found by police in Zubaida Garden area of PD5 in Herat city. The second victim was a 60-year-old woman who was shot dead by her son in Kart-e-Shahr of Herat city. Police have started investigations into both incidents, officials said. (Tolonews)

## Girl Killed, 2 Wounded as Insurgents Attack Bus



FAIZABAD - Local security officials on Tuesday said a 10 years old girl has been killed and two other people wounded during an insurgent attack in northeastern Badakhshan province. Crime branch chief, Col. Sakhi Dad Haideri, told Pajhwok Afghan News a bus heading from Sheghnan district to Faizabad, the capital of Badakhshan, came under attack last night. He said years old Sebra was killed and her brother injured along with another passenger in the attack. The injured were evacuated to hospital, he said, adding police were investigating the incident. (Pajhwok)

## Basketball Tournament Underway in Kabul

KABUL - A basketball tournament kicked off in Kabul on Tuesday aimed at selecting the country's top players for the national squad. The event will continue for five days. More than 160 basketball players from Kabul, Bamian, Kandahar, Ghazni, Herat, Samangan, Balkh, Kunduz and Nangarhar provinces will compete for a place in the team. Officials from the Basketball Federation said they will select new talent for the national A and B teams. "The competition is important for



us, because we continue our efforts to own a powerful and professional national team with members from all over the country," said Abdul Saboor Azizi, acting head of the federation. "The tournament is effective for us and will help us display our talent and exchange our techniques with our co-players," said Amanullah Arghandiwal, a basketball athlete. A total of 36 new players will be selected for the national A and B teams. (Tolonews)

## 2 Smugglers Held, 510kgs of Hashish Seized in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Two drug traffickers have been detained and 510 kilograms of hashish seized during separate operations in eastern Nangarhar province, police said on Tuesday. Police spokesman Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal told a press conference police personnel seized 510 kilograms of hashish concealed in a truck in the Shinwari Kala of Batikot district. He said the drugs were to be smuggled to Ghanikhel district. The drug traffickers managed to escape, leaving behind the truck. Elsewhere, 27 packets of precious stones were recovered and two men were detained in Behsud district, he added. Meanwhile, an active Taliban member was arrested in Momand Dara district during a police patrol, Mashriqiwal said. (Pajhwok)

## Border Police Commander Dead in Kunar Blast

ASADABAD - A commander of the border police and his bodyguard have been killed in a roadside explosion in eastern Kunar province, an official said on Tuesday. Police Chief Maj. Gen. Jumah Gul Himmat told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place on Monday night at around 11:59pm in Dangam district. He said Lt. Col. Wali Jan, commander of the border police 3rd battalion, was on his way to visit a check-post when a roadside explosion struck his vehicle. (Pajhwok)

## 35 Criminals Arrested in Herat

HERAT CITY - Police forces have detained 35 people in connection with different crimes in western Herat province, an official said Tuesday. The provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Ayub Ansari, told a press conference here that the detainees included kidnapers, militants, murderers, armed robbers and those who illegally kept weapons. He said the criminals were arrested during security forces operations in the capital of the province and Gozar and Injel districts.



Ansari said 15 different types of weapons also seized during the operation. Atiqullah Shams, a resident of Herat city, said "Detention of the criminals would help improve security situation of the province. He asked judiciary organs to be decisive in their decisions against the convicts. (Pajhwok)

## ISIS Commander among 4 Killed in US Airstrike

KABUL - A commander of the loyalists of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group was killed in an airstrike conducted by the US forces in Nangarhar province. According to the local security officials, the airstrike was carried out in the restive Achin district, leaving the ISIS commander dead along with three other militants. The officials further added that the drone strike was carried out in Abdul Khel district. This comes as the local officials



said Monday that seven loyalists of the terror group was killed in a similar airstrike in Haska Mina district. Earlier, a commander of the terror group who was actively recruiting for the terror group was killed during an operation in Khogyani district last week. Both the Afghan and US forces conducted regular strikes against... (More on P4)...(14)

### Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

The holiday bustle is in full swing, which of course means your schedule is completely packed. A mercurial Full Moon in your 3rd House of Communications shines a spotlight on what comes out of your mouth. This chatty Gemini lunation is set straight across from serious-minded Saturn, warning you to not only speak responsibly.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

It's no secret that you enjoy the sweet comforts of life, but it's essential to keep a level head when it comes to your spending habits. The Gemini Full Moon illuminates your 2nd House of Money, prompting you to look at where your cash is coming from and where it is going. It's prudent to reassess your finances, but there could be concerns that go deeper than the surface.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The reflective Full Moon lights up your 1st House of Self, making this the perfect time to splurge on a few upgrades to your image so you can put your best foot forward. But who you associate with is even more important than your hairstyle or clothes. Be honest with yourself about the closest relationships in your life. Scrutinizing Saturn expects you to address your relationship concerns with honesty and respect.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You are overdue for some serious rest and relaxation while the Full Moon casts a soft light on your 12th House of Privacy. During your downtime, reflect on your work obligations and the promises made to those you love. You may want to lighten your load and let a few things fall to the wayside. Remember, it's okay to say no if you can't fit anything else on your plate.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

The busiest season of the year is here and while you're enjoying the festivities, there are some pressing matters that are pulling you away from the fun. The flirty Gemini Full Moon shines a spotlight on your 11th House of Groups, inspiring you to mix and mingle. However, the fickle Moon is set in high contrast to the righteous Sagittarius Sun.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

The pace at work is picking up speed, and you're diligently focused on your goals. The Gemini Full Moon brightens your 10th House of Career, highlighting your stellar performance on the job -- but there are always two sides to one coin. You cannot reach great heights if there's nothing solid to push off from. Domestic concerns may undermine your aspirations at work, so don't neglect one for the other.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Spirited discourse around moral and ethical principles is a familiar activity around the holidays. The inquisitive Gemini Full Moon enlightens your 9th House of Higher Truth, refocusing your attention to what it is you truly think. You might be challenged by those in your immediate environment, as disagreements are likely to arise when everyone feels strongly about their beliefs.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Many people are strapped for cash around the holidays, and your pocketbook may be on your mind today. It's natural to think about money owed and money loaned while the Full Moon illuminates your 8th House of Shared Resources. Scrupulous Saturn looks on from across the zodiac, requiring you to be realistic about how much you can afford.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

The fun and festive season is ramping up, but there are some stressors present which keep you from fully engaging in the excitement. The Gemini Full Moon occupies your 7th House of Relationships, throwing its bright light on the people closest to you. Observe what issues your relationships are reflecting back at you -- because how you respond is the most important part.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

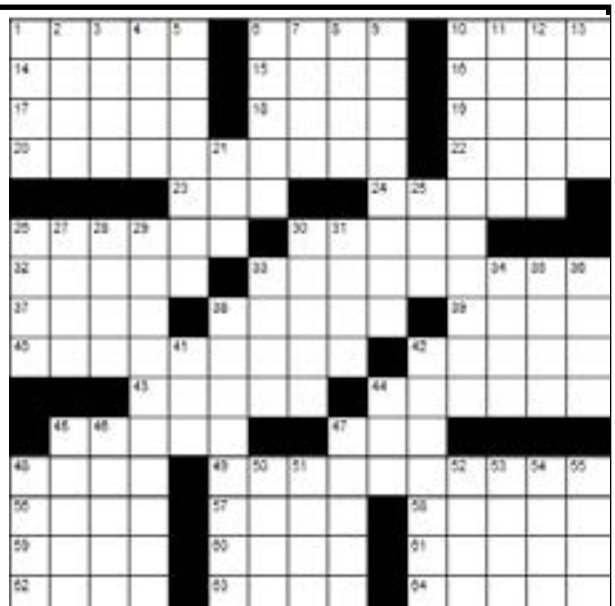
Some days it can be difficult to persevere when you wonder if what you're doing even makes a difference. The Full Moon's presence in your 6th House of Habits accentuates your duties and obligations, allowing you to evaluate if giving your all is worth it or a waste of your time and talent. Reexamine your motives and realign your priorities if necessary. Your greatest strength can also be your greatest weakness.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You may be in the thick of the workweek, but you find your thoughts turning to fun and fantasy today. A flirtatious Gemini Full Moon heats up your 5th House of Romance, but responsible Saturn warns you to not take things too far or too fast. There are personal and professional ramifications to consider, and you want to do the right thing by everyone.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your nerves are jumpy as restlessness plagues you today, but potent realizations offer an unexpected wake-up call. The Gemini Full Moon in your 4th House of Roots exposes the extra baggage you bring home with you at the end of the day. It's perfectly acceptable to ambitiously strive for your goals, but when your work starts negatively affecting your personal life, it might be time for a realignment of your priorities.



**Across**  
 1. Fragrant oil, 6. Impulse, 10. A hemispherical roof, 14. Salt water, 15. Unusual, 16. Frosts, 17. Deposits of ore, 18. Murres, 19. Glance over, 20. Spectator, 22. Adorable, 23. Excavated, 24. Unlawful rate of interest, 26. Chinch, 30. City in France, 32. Fall color, 33. Formal separation, 37. Sneaker or pump, 38. African antelope, 39. Hawkeye State, 40. The trait of lacking courage, 42. Showered with love, 43. Hotel offering, 44. 2nd largest country, 45. Sacred song, 47. To make a fool of (archaic), 48. Stinging remark, 49. Unable to read, 56. Style of hairdo, 57. Baking appliance, 58. Submarine detector, 59. Secluded valley, 60. 3 times 3, 61. San Antonio fort, 62. Arid, 63. Seats oneself, 64. Yaps.

**Down**  
 1. Competent, 2. "Iliad" city, 3. It ebbs and flows, 4. Again, 5. Ash, 6. Twisted, 7. Rabbit, 8. Colored part of an eye, 9. Carefully thought out in advance, 10. Discourse, 11. Come to pass, 12. Substantial, 13. Feudal worker, 21. Pull, 25. Female sib, 26. Pear variety, 27. Reflected sound, 28. Sailing ship, 29. Sternum, 30. Tranquility, 31. Skin disease, 33. Narrow opening, 34. Greek letter, 35. Was indebted, 36. Zero, 38. Versions, 41. Regret, 42. Venture to say, 44. Small portable bed, 45. Official tree of Canada, 46. Law and, 47. Eats, 48. Insects, 50. 57 in Roman numerals, 51. Gave temporarily, 52. Part in a play, 53. A Freudian stage, 54. Pack down, 55. God of love.

**Yesterday's Solution**

abject, administer, airship, bees, century, crisis, degree, deride, flood, height, highway, interest, measurement, plain, recent, rest, rigor, said, savor, season, shortage, slide, stable, storm, style, taste, tight, tomato, track, transfer, waggle, within.

