

# Taliban-Daesh Clashes Leave 15 Killed, 38 Wounded

JALALABAD - Heavy clashes erupted on Wednesday between two militant groups in eastern Nangarhar province resulting in the deaths and injuries of dozens of insurgents. Spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province said that the sporadic clashes have erupted between Daesh and Taliban in Dago, Sangina, Sulaimankhil, Gratak and Mano villages of Chaparhar District in past two days. "15 armed opponents have been



killed and 36 others wounded in these clashes," Attaullah Khogyani said. The governor's spokesman further said that out of the 15 killed, four of them were members of Daesh and

11 others belonged to Taliban. "Out of the 36 wounded, 11 of them belong to Daesh and 25 others were members of Taliban," he said. Khogyani confirmed that two civilians have also sustained injuries in these clashes. "Commanders of armed forces went to Chaparhar District yesterday to see the area and take proper measures for the security of locals," he said. "We are committed to take all measures to respond to security threats." (KP)

## Rescue Operation off Greece for Migrants

COPENHAGEN - Greek and European border authorities have launched a search and rescue operation in the eastern Aegean Sea after reports that a boat carrying dozens of migrants sank off the island of Lesbos leaving two dead. The Greek coastguard says a helicopter, patrol boats and fishing boats are combing an area north of Lesbos for survivors, but no reliable information is yet available on how many people were on the boat and if anybody drowned. Boats from the European Frontex border agency were assisting. Greek state ERT TV said two people have been reported dead from Wednesday's incident, and about 70 have been rescued. Lesbos is the main destination for migrants seeking a better life in Europe who cross over from nearby Turkey in flimsy boats provided by Turkish smuggling gangs. Norway has created a new immigration and integration ministry in response to a large influx of asylum-seekers and migrants.(AP)

### Daesh Militants Launch Radio Station in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Daesh militants have launched an anti-government radio station called "Voice of the Caliphate" through which they promote themselves and attract new recruits. Nangarhar provincial council members and MPs, along with Jalalabad residents, said on Wednesday that the radio station broadcasts throughout Jalalabad city, the provincial capital, as well as through the districts. Content includes anti-government messages and calls on the youth to join their ranks. According to Nasir Kamawal a Nangarhar provincial council member: "It is clear they have their own radio and I think it is broadcasting on 90FM and doing too much anti-government propaganda." "This radio will have a negative impact on us Muslims and the new generation and youth," said Fridon Khan Momand a member of parliament. Officials also said the radio broadcasts on a 90FM frequency adding that the broadcasting location was unknown. Numerous residents who have tuned in to the station say Daesh broadcasts a Fatwa of Jihad against government and are encouraging youths to fight the administration. "Most of the publicity is that we must fight against the government," said one of the residents. "The government must shut the radio station down because the radio really has an effect on the youth," said another resident. "Daesh militants are recruiting youth for their war and they are mostly calling on unemployed youths," said another resident. While Nangarhar Information and ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## 33 Militants Killed in 24 Hours

KABUL - Some 33 insurgents have been killed during cleanup operations launched by Afghan security forces in eight of the country's 34 provinces, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday. "In past 24 hours, Afghan National Police conducted several anti-terrorism joint operations with Afghan National Army and NDS (National Directorate of Security) to clear some of the areas from terrorists and enemies of peace and stability of Afghanistan," the ministry said in a statement. As a result, 33 armed in-



surgers were killed and 41 others wounded, the statement said. They also found and seized weapons, the statement said, without adding if there were any casualties on the side of security forces. The raids were carried out in Kunduz, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Khost, Paktika, Herat and Helmand provinces, according to the statement. The Taliban-led violence continues in Afghanistan. Afghan security forces have pressed on clearing the militants in restive provinces. The Taliban militant group has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

## Pilot of Moldovan Helicopter Downed in Afghanistan Killed by Taliban: Officials

CHISINAU - One of the pilots of the Moldovan helicopter that crashed in Afghanistan in late November was shot dead by Taliban, a spokesman for Moldova's civil aviation administration told TASS on Tuesday. "Pilot Oleg Groza, 55, died of four gunshot wounds in the chest. He was wounded when the helicopter came under Taliban gunfire from the ground. That was the reason for a crash landing," the spokesman said, adding that the pilot's body was taken to a German hospital in Afghanistan where he was identified by representatives of Valan International Charter, a Moldovan company that owned the helicopter. The body will soon be taken to Moldova. Thus, the civil aviation authorities disproved the words of Moldova's acting Prime Minister George Brega who said last week that all of the helicopter's crew members - two pilots and navigator - had been taken hostage and were alive. He pledged Afghanistan's law enforcement bodies were taking measures to have them released. A Moldovan helicopter contracted by the United States government ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## ANSF Seize Two Tonnes of Explosives

KABUL - Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have seized and destroyed two tonnes of ammonium nitrate, an ingredient of improvised explosives, foiling dozens of potential bomb attacks, the intelligence agency said on Wednesday. The discovery in the Budkhak area in the east of Kabul on Monday evening came two days after Taliban insurgents attacked a guest house attached to the Spanish embassy in a heavily pro-



tected neighbourhood in the Afghan capital. "The material is used for car and suicide bombings and this discovery will prevent dozens of bomb attacks," said an intelligence agency official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the press. The National Directorate of Security, the country's main intelligence agency, said ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Afghan Refugees Right to Stay in Pakistan May Expire

PESHAWAR - "We aren't happy here but cannot go back to our country because the situation there was extremely bad," Ghareeb Gul, Afghan refugees told IPS. Gul, 40, arrived in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one of the Pakistan's four provinces, in 1979 when his country was invaded by Russian forces and settled in Kacha Garhi camp near Peshawar. The camp was demolished by local authorities forcing 50,000 refugees to seek shelter somewhere else. For the past few years, he has



lived in a mud-stone hut, selling vegetables but life then got harder after December 2014 when terrorists attacked the Army Public School and College in Peshawar killing about 150 people. This prompted the government to take numerous measures, including ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

### Outlook Horoscope

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

You're eager to hitch your wagon to the nearest star today and simply hope for the best. Although you may grow discouraged, you're not ready to give up on your dreams. You believe good news is just around the next corner just waiting to override your current troubles. However, it's healthier to share your dissatisfaction now, because telling the truth can be the catalyst you need to escape the mundane realms.

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

You may be surprised by the intensity of your negative reactions today, especially if you thought everything was progressing according to your plan. If you're participating in a group decision on a family matter, it might be impossible to keep your emotions hidden from everyone else. Don't bother withholding your feelings.

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

Expressing your personal freedom comes at a price today because you would prefer to pursue pleasure instead of meeting your professional obligations. Keep in mind that whatever you choose to do, the outcome won't be exactly what you expect. More importantly, escaping responsibilities might not be as much fun as it sounds, making it wise to postpone playtime for now.

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

You might as well accept the fact you're going to run into some familiar obstacles today that get in the way of your personal plans. Perhaps you imagined a perfect scenario, only to find that your feelings aren't following the script in your head. Letting go of old expectations enables you to make unanticipated progress on the home front. Sometimes the scenic route.

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

Previously made promises must be acknowledged now, even if there are still too many pieces of the puzzle missing. Nevertheless, it's tough to know how to handle the current situation until you have all the facts at your disposal. Unfortunately, you can't get away with doing nothing today even if you're not ready to respond. The truth is you might know more than you realize.

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

You're anticipating something special today, but the big news might be that nothing very exciting happens. Even if you are lucky enough to partake in pleasurable delights now, your outward response could be somewhat subdued. Unfortunately, you may pay a price for withholding your reactions and displaying an even-keeled front. Although keeping cool sounds like the safest strategy, your emotional detachment creates waves of its own.

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

A change in your daily routine can bring an unexpected sense of exhilaration as you are temporarily released from the drudgery of your work. Unfortunately, you may run into trouble determining your new course of action, tempting you to settle back into your regularly scheduled activities. Don't worry about what you should or shouldn't be doing today.

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

Your intuition tells you that a creative burst of energy could turn a simple day into something special. Unfortunately, the lightning might not strike at all, leaving you emotionally deflated and confused now. Meanwhile, an unexpected chore may be dropped into your lap and you must spend your spare time working, rather than playing.

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

You might not be your regular cheery self today, making others wonder if they did something to upset you. The truth is you aren't eagerly looking forward to the rest of the workweek. You don't want things to continue in the same old way; you may even wish to turn your routine upside down for the sake of change. However, it's not a good time to push the envelope too aggressively. Hold onto your hat until tomorrow.

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

Your responsibilities are complicated by overlapping promises you made to different people. Although you're often a pro at simplifying chaos, it's not so easy to reduce the current complexity into a viable plan. The first step is acknowledging you can't be everything to everyone. Set new priorities and inform others of your limitations before it's too late. Ultimately, you'll be more appreciated for your honesty.

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

Your impulsive decisions could rattle the cages of your friends or associates today, temporarily turning allies into enemies. But don't act on your fears and fight back now, or things will just become even more convoluted. Thankfully, success can be yours if you sidestep direct confrontation for a while longer. Placing distance between you and the situation provides everyone with a much-needed fresh perspective.

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

You're unclear how to best express yourself within the context of relationships today, especially if someone seems to be withholding his or her true emotions. Although tense situations sometimes require extreme reactions, losing your temper now won't solve anything. Be as diplomatic as possible in your approach; your attempts at making everyone's life a little easier will also improve your own.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-62.

Across: 1. Collections, 5. Radiolocation, 10. Contributes, 14. Threesome, 15. African virus, 16. Kind of bean, 17. Justifiably, 19. Booty, 20. Card with one symbol, 21. Passageway, 22. Curves, 23. A short moral story, 25. Allow, 27. L, 28. Hyperpituitarism, 31. Not here, 34. Schemes, 35. Japanese apricot, 36. Start over, 37. A hard kind of stone, 38. Razz, 39. Large flightless bird, 40. Flora, 41. Annoying, 42. Edible, 44. A box for bricks or mortar, 45. Positive pole, 46. Semiconducting material, 50. Fall guy, 52. Cogitate, 54. 56 in Roman numerals, 55. Dwarf buffalo, 56. Circuitous, 58. Territory, 59. Daughter of a sibling, 60. Small island, 61. Being, 62. Viper, 63. Ale.

Down: 1. An elongated leather strip, 2. Genus of heath, 3. Striped feline, 4. Comes after Mi and Fah, 5. Replenish, 6. Mistreat, 7. A girl's toy, 8. Loyal, 9. Beam, 10. Nod, 11. Periods of forced idleness, 12. Twosome, 13. Droops, 18. Dining room furniture, 22. Prohibits, 24. Relating to aircraft, 26. Deliver a tirade, 28. Gleam, 29. Search, 30. Like a bog, 31. Tall woody plant, 32. Skirt lines, 33. Teachers, 34. Minor planet, 37. Skedaddled, 38. A Star Wars hero, 40. Gambit, 41. A type of dance, 43. Dangerous, 44. Hamper, 46. Subsequently, 47. Near, 48. Small egg, 49. Fertilizer ingredient, 50. Head, 51. Rectum, 53. Tinted, 56. Ribonucleic acid, 57. Top part of an apron.

Yesterday's Solution: advantages, after, alone, along, always, arrangement, bare, brain, brink, camera, cello, crown, cued, cycle, debate, doll, doubt, dress, gall, gear, grout, guide, joint, lead, lies, lore merit, phones, plate, secure, selection, streak, tags, talent, thread.

ADVANTAGESHS D  
TRAI NTA OEEPT E  
PUSE ILLNCLNRB  
LULRLLODAEUEA  
AAEIEHNRMCYAT  
TMRCPEEETWKE  
EHALONGSRIHBI  
TTBRINKSAOEGW  
BHCTAFTERNERC  
RRBRWEARYTLOY  
AERGTIGUIDEUC  
IALWAYSJOINTL  
NDOUBTZTRACE