

# Key ISIS Figures Involved in Recent Kabul Attacks Arrested

KABUL - Several key figures of the loyalists of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group involved in plotting and executing a number of deadly attacks in Kabul city, were arrested by the Afghan intelligence operatives.

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) said at a group of at least 10 people were arrested in connection to the previous attacks and a number of other attack plots in the capital.

A statement by NDS said the militants were involved in plotting and executing the deadly attack on Sakhi shrine in Kabul and another deadly attack on the VIP protection unit in



Kabul city.

The statement further added that the group was looking to carry out more attacks on Shi'ite sites in Kabul city, including an attack on Karte Se mosque and a number of televisions, including Tolo tv, Shamshad, and Ar-ian television network.

NDS said the group was also tasked to spark religious and ethnic tensions among the city residents, specifically the Shi'ite and Sunni followers of the capital by equipping them with the necessary equipment to spread their propaganda.

The anti-government armed militant groups have ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Germany Condemned for Deporting Afghan Hindu

WASHINGTON - An influential US-based organisation on Thursday condemned Germany for deporting an Afghan asylum seeker named Samir Narang.

Despite efforts by the Central Council of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs in Germany to stop the deportation based on hardship and humanitarian grounds, Narang was put on a plane from Frankfurt airport on December 14.

"We're extremely disappointed that the German government failed to recognise the legitimate asylum claim of Samir Narang, who fled to Germany to escape religious persecution in Afghanistan," said Samir Kalra, director and human rights fellow at the Hindu American Foundation (HAF).

"We urge the German government to approve the asylum claims of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs, who would face extreme risk to their life and liberty if forced to return to Afghanistan," Kalra said.

Narang was being held at a detention center in Buren prior to his deportation. He fled Afghanistan four years ago and sought refuge in Germany, where he had fully integrated into German life.

His entire ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## UK Soldier Convicted of Killing Afghan Fighter Seeks Bail

KABUL - A British soldier convicted of killing an injured Afghan fighter is all poised to seek release on bail, pending a new appeal against his conviction, a newspaper reported on Friday.

Sergeant Alexander Blackman's lawyer would pray Lord Chief Justice Lord Thomas and Justice Openshaw in London to grant his client bail, the Belfast Telegraph said.

Earlier, the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) decided to refer Blackman's conviction and sentence to the Court Martial Appeal Court for review.

In November 2013, a court martial in Bulford convicted Blackman and sentenced him to life with a minimum term of 10 years.

The Court Martial Appeal Court turned down his conviction challenge in May 2014, but cut the minimum term to eight years because of the combat stress disorder he was suffering from at the time of the incident.

Blackman killed the wounded insurgent in southern Helmand province in 2011. The fighter had been seriously injured in an attack by an Apache. The shooting was captured on a camera mounted on another Royal Marine's helmet. *(Pajhwok)*

## 2 Suicide Bombers Detained

JALALABAD - Intelligence agents have arrested two would-be suicide bombers before they could reach their targets in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Thursday.

Attuallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told a press conference here that the detainees belonged to Bara sub-district of Khyber tribal region in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

He said the alleged suicide bombers had to receive suicide vests in the Khogyani district of Nangarhar.

He said the two were to strike key government departments in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, but did not name any organ.

National Directorate Security personnel played a video to reporters, in which the arrested men are confessing to their intention. The detainees say they have come from Pakistan's Bara locality. *(Pajhwok)*

## Airstrikes Leave 6 Daesh Militants Dead

JALALABAD - Six Daesh (Islamic State) rebels have been killed in foreign forces' airstrikes in Haska Mina and Achin districts of eastern Nangarhar province, police said on Thursday.

Police spokesman Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal told Pajhwok Afghan News two IS militants were killed in Achin and four in Haska Mina in drone raids by the US military.

Civilians and security forces suffered no casualties. Daesh has not yet commented on the attacks. *(Pajhwok)*



## Taliban Attacks Baghlan-Kunduz Highway, Kills Civilian

KABUL - Local officials said the Taliban took away a Surf vehicle with its passengers following the attack.

At least one civilian was killed when a group of Taliban fighters attacked part of Baghlan-Kunduz Highway and opened fire on passengers' vehicles, local officials said on Friday.

According to the officials, the incident took place in Shash Sarak area in Baghlan-Markazi district of the province on Friday morning.

The victim was ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## 2 Traffickers Held, 700kgs of Narcotics Seized

GARDEZ - Nearly 500 kilograms of opium and 200 kilograms of hashish have been seized in the capital of southeastern Paktia province, an official said on Thursday.

Governor Zalmai Weesa told Pajhwok Afghan News the drugs were recovered from a truck by 2nd police district personnel in the Nistikut locality of Gardez, the provincial capital, on Wednesday evening.

Two traffickers were also



arrested in connection with the drug seizure. The detainees wanted to smuggle the drugs to Zazai Ary-oub district of Paktia and then to Ghazni province after successfully crossing Nangarhar. *(Pajhwok)*

## Father of Man Who Forcibly Married 2 Sisters Detained

KABUL - Father and another relative of a man who forcibly married two sisters have been arrested but he himself remains at large, officials in eastern Nangarhar province said on Thursday.

Family of the victim girls has accused 15 people of their involvement in the case that happened in Shewa district of Nangarhar.

On November 29, one of the two sisters, with nickname Saima, told media at the Women's Affairs Department that her



husband on the very first night of their marriage accused her of losing virginity before marriage. She said her husband on the same night went to her father's ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

### Outlook Horoscope

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

After confronting some rather major emotional challenges, you step out your door ready to crank up the volume on life today. The Moon proudly marches into lively Leo, setting a boisterous tone for the day. However, there might be a cosmic noise complaint coming from strict Saturn's direction, reminding you to not go overboard when it comes to indulging in pleasurable pursuits or outrageous behavior.

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

Happily, the insecurity of yesterday fades away as the Sun rises to create a bright new day. The bold Leo Moon grounds you in the quiet certainty that you are doing everything it takes to achieve your dreams. Be wary of your pride in your work turning into haughtiness while sobering Saturn is on guard to check your ego at the slightest provocation. Humility is the balloon.

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

You're excited to jump back on the proverbial track again after an unexpected emotional detour yesterday. In fact, you can't wait to tell people about your fascinating new idea, and everyone is eager to gather around and listen. However, speak responsibly and without hyperbole today, because your enthusiasm is under the watchful eye of stern Saturn. Methodically pace yourself and modify your trajectory.

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

The mood has lightened immensely today, allowing you to breathe a sigh of relief and let down your guard. The passionate Leo Moon inspires you to feel generous in all directions, but make sure you don't completely ignore the clock or your wallet. Although you have more energy to put into the things that really matter to you now.

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

The King of the Jungle is proud to make his presence known, and you Leos are no different when you are ready to roar. The Moon returns to your expressive sign today, pumping up your passionate exuberance. This cosmic ego boost could blast you with such a shot of confidence that you might sound cocky if you exaggerate your abilities.

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

You might have hit a rough patch yesterday, but today you're feeling more like your calm-and-collected self. Your sense of humor is back in action, and any problems you encounter now don't seem quite as dire as they would have just a few days ago. Although you may believe you're capable of accomplishing all you set out to do, make sure not to overextend yourself or bossy Saturn will punish your mistakes.

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

You may have been questioning the motives of your heart yesterday, but now it's time to lighten up and have some fun. The generous Leo Moon inspires you to feel sanguine and social; creating special memories with your friends hits the spot. However, you could experience some friction from pragmatic Saturn, requiring you to enjoy responsibly because your to-do list still has plenty of items which need to be crossed off.

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

Thankfully, your doubts and fears dissolve into the past as you approach the day with renewed fervor. You feel a reinvigorated sense of purpose and are anxious to pursue your goals as the audacious Leo Moon strides into your 10th House of Career. Luna fuels your bold ambitious and colorful dreams, but utilitarian Saturn tempers any excessive zealotry with a quick burst of karma.

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

You've spent more time than you wanted coming to grips with some emotional revelations recently, but today you're ready to put your heart into something productive again. The vibrant Leo Moon energizes your 9th House of Higher Truths, harmonizing with your natural big-picture mindset and encouraging you to reach for your dreams. However, stable Saturn solidifies the energy and demands that you speak with integrity.

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

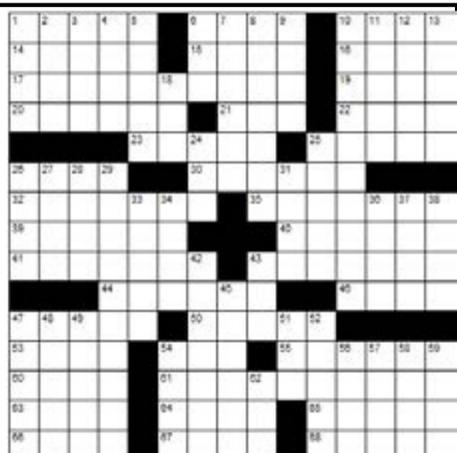
It's a welcome relief to get back to business after a brief stop to attend to some worrisome matters of the heart. The self-directed Leo Moon adds subjectivity to issues pertaining to shared resources, which may have you feeling possessive about certain assets or insecure about the longevity of the partnership. A tense aspect from imposing Saturn can prompt you to overreact.

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

The unwavering power of love outshines the emotional rollercoaster ride of yesterday. The ardent Leo Moon heats up your 7th House of Relationships, infusing your personal interactions with an enticing magnetism. As wrapped up as you might be in adoring your partner and being adored right back, don't get carried away by romantic illusions.

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

Yesterday's emotional turbulence fades in the dawn of a new day and the icy waters of doubt recede to be replaced with hope and warmth. There's an optimistic filter over everything now, and you approach your duties and obligations with extra enthusiasm. Stoic Saturn still lurks in the shadows to remind you that while dedication is important, attaching your ego to your work can turn passion into fanaticism.



#### Across

- Sleighs, 6. Warmth, 10. Utilized, 14. Aromatic seeds, 15. Chocolate cookie, 16. What person is called, 17. Nutritious, 19. Black, in poetry, 20. Agency, 21. May-day, 22. Collections, 23. Leg joints, 25. A sloping mass of loose rocks, 26. Dad, 30. Cave, 32. One sank the Titanic, 35. Acquired the knowledge, 39. Empower, 40. Clothing, 41. Withdraw, 43. Insecticide, 44. Exit, 46. Writing table, 47. Sauce, 50. Some tides, 53. Hindu princess, 54. Delivery vehicle, 55. Deepest part of the self, 60. Bright thought, 61. Impossible to satisfy, 63. Sodium chloride, 64. Goulash, 65. Devout, 66. Tall woody plant, 67. Being, 68. Mixture of rain and snow.

#### Down

- Anagram of "Cabs", 2. Humdinger, 3. Arab chieftain, 4. 10 cent coin, 5. Move stealthily, 6. Not cold, 7. Found at the end of a pencil, 8. Spray can, 9. Playthings, 10. Unsupervised outside, 11. Cavalry weapon, 12. Overact, 13. Compacted, 18. Religious sister, 24. It comes from a hen, 25. Statistics, 26. Jetty, 27. Skin disease, 28. Kind of moss, 29. Shorten, 31. Rip, 33. Mourful poem, 34. Back, 36. 3 times 3, 37. Goddess of discord, 38. A pack of playing cards, 42. Renters, 43. An Old Testament king, 45. Detects, 47. Grain to be ground, 48. Radiolocation, 49. Anoint (archaic), 51. A sizeable hole, 52. Trims, 54. Workbench attachment, 56. Letters, etc., 57. Double-reed woodwind, 58. Swing around, 59. Exam.

#### Yesterday's Solution



afternoon, avoid, cancel, cement, center, clinic, emergence, every, exceed, factor, famine, feel, forgetful, funny, glint, guess, humor, marketplace, menial, mouse, movie, nourishment, piece, prince, reruns, roll, still, teach, today, tonic, twitch, view.

