

15 Militants Eliminated in Barmal Operation: Police



SHARANA - At least 15 rebels have been killed during an operation in Barmal district of southeastern Paktika province, officials said on Saturday. A statement from the Paktika Police Headquarters

received by Pajhwok Afghan News said an offensive was launched on militants' hideouts in Lamana area of the district late on Friday night. As a result, at least 15 insurgents were killed and another eight

suffered injuries. Five suspected individuals were also detained during the operation, it said, adding they were currently under interrogation. ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Salang Highway Reopens after 2 Days of Closure



CHRIKAR - The Salang Highway -- linking the capital Kabul with northern Afghanistan -- was reopened for traffic on Saturday after two days of closure, an official said.

Lt. Gen. Mohammad Rajab, the highway maintenance commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News both sides of the tunnel had been cleared of heavy snow after hectic efforts by the maintenance team. He said the highway had reopened both for light and heavy vehicles. The commander urged drivers and passengers to observe all security precautions and comply with traffic regulations. In the winter, travelling the highway is dangerous due to heavy snow and harsh cold weather. Several fatal incidents have occurred in the tunnel in recent years. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan reacts to Tillerson's Remarks Regarding Haqqani Network Threats



KABUL - The government of Pakistan has reacted to the remarks of the US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson regarding the threats posed to Pakistani government by Haqqani terrorist network and other terror groups. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Dr. Mohammad Faisal said "We do not agree with the comments and perception of Secretary Tillerson. Pakistan has undertaken large scale operations against terrorists and their safe havens across the length and breadth of the country with notable success."

He said "These operations are being carried out in our own national interest and Pakistan is determined to rid its soil of the scourge of terrorism and extremism." Secretary Tillerson has reportedly said Pakistan could lose control of its territory if it does not sever ties with the Haqqanis and other terrorists, according to the local Dawn News.

"Pakistan has allowed so many terrorist organisations to find safe haven within its territories, and these organisations are growing in size and influence, that at some point I have said to the leadership of Pakistan, you may be the target, and they turn their attention from Kabul and decide they like Islamabad as a target better," he has warned.

The Afghan and US officials have long been insisting that the leadership councils of the Taliban and the notorious ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

9 Daesh, Taliban Insurgents Perish in Nangarhar Raids

JALALABAD - Some nine insurgents have been killed and another four injured separately during special operations on the outskirts of Khoyani district in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Saturday.

The Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News special air forces conducted an airstrike on Taliban militants' hideouts in Tatang area of the district.

He said four rebels were perished in the pounding and one of their key commanders detained.

According to him, the special unit personnel had also arrested seven other suspected individuals during the operation.



In the meantime, joint security forces have also carried out an operation in the same district, leaving five Daesh fighters killed and another four injured, he said.

Khogyani added the dead bodies of the militants were still lying at the scene. About four anti-tank mines were also discovered and diffused during the operation.

There has been so far no word from Daesh militant group in this regard. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Gold Prices Down, Rice up in Kabul this Week

KABUL - The price of rice edged up while that of gold dropped during the outgoing week in Kabul, market sources said on Saturday. Food Traders Union head Fazal Rahman told Pajhwok Afghan News the rate of a 24-kg bag of Pakistani rice increased to 1,850afis from 1,900 afis. He linked the increased rice price in Kabul to hike in Pakistan.

However, he said, other food items prices remained unchanged as a 49-kg Pakistani sugar sack was priced at 1,860afis, a 16-kg tin of Khurshid ghee at 1,070 afis and a 50-kg Kazakhstani flour at 1,200 afis. Meanwhile, Noor Ahmad Khairkwa, a tea seller at Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afis and the same amount of African black tea 300afis, the same prices as of past seven days.

Sometimes a slight difference is observed in retail and wholesale prices, but in some areas, the difference is

huge. Ahmad Wali Panjshiri, who owns a grocery store in Dahn-i-Bagh area, sold a 50-kg of Kazakhstani flour for 1,300afis, 49-kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 1,900 afis, 16-litre tin of Khurshid ghee for 1,200afis, 24.5kg sack of Pakistani rice for 2,200afis, a kilo of Indonesian green tea for 300 afis and the same quantity of African black tea for 350afis.

Gold prices went down. Haji Fawad Ahmad Saleh, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold dropped from 2,350 afis to 2,300afis and the same amount of Russian variety from 1,900 afis to 1,850 afis. He linked the decreased price to global market trends.

However, fuel prices remained steady. Abdul Hadi, a worker at Wazir Abad Pump Station, told Pajhwok the price of a litre of diesel was 46afis and the same amount of petrol also 45afis. Gas ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

6 Children Including 4 Girls Injured in Kandahar Explosion

TIRINKOT - Six children have been wounded as a result of a bomb explosion in the Shah Walikot district of southern Kandahar province, a source said on Saturday.

Samsullah, a relative of the victims, told Pajhwok Afghan

News the unexploded landmine went off in the Tabcha area of the district late on Friday when the children were playing with it.

He said six children including four girls were injured -- all were under eight years of

age. They were evacuated to Uruzgan Civil Hospital for medical treatment. Dr. Aminullah Tokhi, the hospital director, confirmed receiving six wounded children, four of them in critical condition. Security officials have not yet commented on the blast. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You are champing at the bit, waiting for the starting gate to open. But nothing is happening and your frustration is growing faster than your logic can handle. This is a particularly delicate moment because the race will begin soon, and you need to be in top mental form and excellent fighting condition.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You have a lot on your mind today, but aren't sure how much you want to share with anyone else. Your closest friends encourage you to spill the beans, but you don't think they will be happy with your message. The truth is they will likely appreciate what you say, but not how you say it.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini You might feel as if no one really understands you today, even if you're careful about choosing the right words to convey your ideas. You can go over the same points again and again, but to no avail while the rowdy Sagittarius Moon hooks up with retrograde Mercury in your 7th House of Others. Make sure to complete your first thought before jumping to the next one.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Sometimes the tiniest changes made at the right moment in time can ripple outward and create significant consequences. Acknowledging the importance of every little thing you do helps you to remain focused today so your actions are not wasted. But don't be afraid to try something new, even if you're unsure of its efficacy.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You can magically transform a dire message of warning into a sweet love song today. In fact, you're able to use your charm to soften harsh news without whitewashing the truth. However, once you start talking, you might get so carried away by your own enthusiasm that you forget to pull your punches and end up doing damage, even if your intentions are honorable.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo Naturally, you want to do the right thing today, but you might not be capable of meeting your own expectations. Rather than falling short of your high standards, you may decide to let the moment slide without taking any action at all. Although retreating to a safe space could feel good in the moment, it's not productive -- and having something to show for your efforts is crucial to your emotional well-being.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Your schedule is full of people to see, places to go and errands to finish. You love being busy now, even if it keeps you from indulging in a relaxing day of peace and quiet. But there's no rest for the wicked, and you aren't likely to cut back on your commitments when you're having so much fun.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio Although your confidence is growing, lingering caution impedes your progress. You fear that you're like a satellite ready to be launched into orbit, yet there isn't sufficient fuel to achieve escape velocity. Timing is everything. You believe you only have one chance to manifest your dreams, but this false sense of urgency is a trap you must avoid now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius It's all too easy for your thoughts to get so far ahead of your actions that you can't keep up today. In fact, you might feel as if you're stuck in a weird time loop, like you're experiencing your own private Groundhog's Day. However, it's less about learning a lesson now than it is about waiting until next week when Mercury turns direct in your sign. Nevertheless, reconsidering your plans and reassessing your feelings.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You can visualize the light at the end of the tunnel today, yet everything remains entrenched in darkness. You know deep down that your ambitious efforts will eventually be rewarded, and you will reach your mountain peak. However, there doesn't seem to be a clear and direct route from the present moment into the future.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius Hanging out with friends sounds like the perfect way to idle away the day. You're not feeling particularly ambitious now, but the notion of sharing your dreams with like-minded people brings a smile to your face. Unfortunately, a social gathering might not be as lively as you expect, especially if everyone is absorbed in their own personal stories today.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces There are several unknowns lurking in the shadows today and you want to figure out what to do about them. You wish you could map out the workweek ahead so you know what will be expected of you along the way. However, you might be required to wing it now. Flying by the seat of your pants isn't your favorite modus operandi, but it may be the best way to reach your desired destination.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across clues: 1. Chasm, 6. Not stereo, 10. An enclosure, 14. Braid of hair, 15. Not under, 16. Burden, 17. American symbol, 18. Half-moon tide, 19. Module, 20. Spontaneous abortion, 22. Naked, 23. Dines, 24. Anagram of "Rental", 26. Lipids, 30. Furrow maker, 31. Born as, 32. Adjoin, 33. 3, 35. Territories, 39. Protection from harm, 41. Otagia, 43. French for "Storehouse", 44. Platter, 46. Masticate, 47. Comes after Mi and Fah, 49. Greatest possible, 50. Male turkeys, 51. Third sign of the zodiac, 54. Charges, 56. "What a shame!", 57. A peninsula, 63. Pepper, 64. Credit or playing, 65. Englishman, 66. Border, 67. Forearm bone, 68. Less friendly, 69. Clairvoyant, 70. Gambit

Down clues: 1. Mimics, 2. Bleat, 3. A sharply directional antenna, 4. Window ledge, 5. Inscribed pillar, 6. Kept track of, 7. Supervise, 8. Tidy, 9. Parentless child, 10. Neutralize, 11. Erase, 12. Direct the course, 13. Banana oil, e.g., 21. Thai currency units, 25. Close, 26. Disappear gradually, 27. Foment, 28. A soft porous rock, 29. Daughter of a step-parent, 34. The previous day, 36. Reflected sound, 37. Throat-clearing sound, 38. Stitches, 40. A noble gas, 42. Pains, 45. Conflagration, 48. Reflex spasm of the diaphragm, 51. Contests, 52. Leave out, 53. A skin disease, 55. Not fluid, 58. Corridor, 59. Agreeable, 60. Arab chieftain, 61. Appear, 62. Tropical American wildcat,

Yesterday's Solution: A grid with words filled in from a previous puzzle.

Word search grid with words: E U N I T N O C C R O W D, S P E C I A L S P E A K T, M E D E S T R U C T I O N, A T I X S T A T E R T B J, R U N S F C R R Y I E V B, B L E H C T A S V H E I R, I F R L E R D P A S W O A, T N R G E L E V E U S U N, R U N U R P I A H C C S D, A A R O I O H A M A Z E Y, R Q W K R T N A H C R E M, Y C C L E A R I N J U R Y, M E A L S Y M A T T E R W