

Afghan Military Kills 35 Insurgents

KABUL - The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have killed 35 suspected Taliban insurgents since early Friday, the Defense Ministry said on Saturday. "In past 24 hours, the ANSF carried out cleanup operations in Paktika, Wardak, Faryab, Takhar and Helmand provinces, killing 35 armed insurgents and injuring five others," the ministry said in a statement.

The joint forces also discovered and confiscated rounds of light and heavy ammunition, the statement said.

The ministry also confirmed the loss of five army personnel during clashes in the operations and as a result of separate attacks across the country over the same period.

The Taliban militant group has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)



Afghan Interpreters Flee Hamilton Amid 'Security Concerns'

KABUL - A group of Afghans who put their lives at risk helping Kiwi soldiers take on the Taliban has met its match in Hamilton. An unspecified number of interpreters, who were relocated to New Zealand with their families, have requested assistance to leave the city after becoming concerned for their safety.

A briefing prepared by the Defence Force for Minister Gerry Brownlee and released under the Official Information Act reveals the group has expressed their "potential dissatisfaction" about their situation. Having served with the Kiwi SAS and soldiers of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamiyan, the group of immigrants requested financial assistance to move to Auckland. Two other immigrants who arrived in New Zealand with the same group were happy to remain in Hamilton. (Agencies)

Bomb Blast Kills Community Elder in Nangarhar



JALALABAD - A roadside bomb explosion has killed a community elder in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said Saturday.

Spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province said the incident took place in Daman area of Behsood District on Friday afternoon. Attaullah Khogyani added that the community elder had been driving in vehicle on which a roadside bomb exploded.

According to Khogyani, the community elder who hailed from Dara-e-Noor District died on the spot and another person driving with him in the same vehicle sustained injuries.

The community elder had reportedly visited Behsood District to mediate a dispute.

Motive behind the attack is unknown. However, security agencies have launched investigation into the case. This comes about two weeks after an entire family was killed in the same district. The killer who is now in police custody has told investigators that he killed his step-uncle and his family due to family dispute. (KP)

Strong Earthquake Jolts Northeastern Afghanistan, 37 Injured

KABUL - An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale jolted northeast Afghanistan Friday night, leaving at least 37 people injured, with tremors felt in the Pakistani capital Islamabad and Indian capital New Delhi. The quake, with a depth of 203.52 km, struck northeast Afghanistan's Ashkasham, close to its border areas with Pakistan and Tajikistan at 19:14:47 GMT on Friday,



the U.S. Geological Survey said on its website. Though there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, at least 37 people were injured as a result of the quake in northwestern... (More on P4)... (10)

Taliban Blown Up the Mosque: Mol

BAGHLAN - Ministry of Interior (Mol) on Saturday said that the explosion in a mosque in northern Baghlan province that left at least 10 worshippers wounded was the work of Taliban. "Taliban once again planted bomb in a mosque. Explosion of Taliban-bomb left a number of worshippers wounded in a mosque in Baghlan," said Sediq Sediqi, spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior in a tweet on Saturday morning. Taliban have not commented on the report but they have carried out several attacks of this type in the past. The blast took place as people had gathered to offer prayers in the mosque of Ghorbandi village in Baghlan-e-Markazi District on Friday. The victims include Mullah of the mosque. (KP)

7 Killed in Clash in Paktika

SHARAN - Two police and five militants were killed in a clash in Paktika province on Saturday, deputy provincial governor said. "Militants attacked security checkpoints in Urgun district at wee hours of the day. The clash left five at-tackers and two Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel killed," Attaullah Fazli told Xinhua. The government established the ALP, or community police, in 2010 to protect villages and districts where army and police have... (More on P4)... (12)

Afghan Army Defuses Anti-Vehicle Mines Near Kabul

KABUL - Afghan army found and defused three landmines near the capital city of Kabul, the Defense Ministry said on Saturday. "The personnel of Afghan National Army's Kabul 111 Division recovered and defused three anti-vehicle mines in two villages of Qara Bagh district in Kabul province," it said in a statement. The discovery of the mines has foiled possible explosions... (More on P4)... (13)

India Arrests 3 Students on Way to Join IS in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI - India has arrested three people who were on their way to join the terrorist group of the Islamic State (IS) or Daesh in Afghanistan, Indian media reported Saturday. According to reports three aspiring jihadists from Hyderabad, all final year students, were nabbed on their way to join Islamic state (IS) terrorist group in Afghanistan in an early-dawn operation jointly conducted by the Telangana police and Maharashtra Anti-



terrorist squad (ATS) at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar international airport in Nagpur. According to the report, the suspects who are in their 20s, were supposed to board an Indigo flight to Srinagar from Nagpur airport after arriving here from Hyderabad a day before by road. Out of three, two were intercepted... (More on P4)... (11)



Afghan women attend a driving class in Jowzjan province, northern Afghanistan on Saturday December 26, 2015. The status of the Afghan women has been improving over the past one decade. There is no restriction by the government for the women drivers but still it is rare to see women drivers in the country. (Xinhua/Mohammad Aria jan)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Jumpstarting a project may be a bigger challenge than you expected today, especially if you previously postponed similar creative tasks. You might even feel as if you hesitated too long, however, there is nothing to be gained by beating yourself up. Be satisfied with whatever you accomplish now, even if it is less than you promised. You can make up for lost time tomorrow once your key planet.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Previous obligations to loved ones may have impeded your progress on personal projects in recent months, and once again they consume a large share of your energy. Naturally, you want to do what is expected of you and make everyone happy, but not at the expense of your own wellbeing. Don't panic and overreact today, even if you can't see an obvious resolution in sight.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's often difficult for you speedy Geminis to slow down long enough to follow big plans through to their completion. Unfortunately, a simple project may have morphed into more than you expected. Now it's time for you to get closure on anything you might still have simmering on the back burner. Stick with your original goals for another few days and then reevaluate your recent progress before moving on.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You may feel disheartened today if too many responsibilities prevent you from participating in social activities. But there's no reason to throw a pity party for yourself; you can either whine about your current dilemma or do something about it. Instead of trying to change things that are beyond your control, consider where your efforts will have the most immediate impact.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your efforts to make progress at home may be thwarted now, no matter how hard you apply yourself. It could seem as if creating change is as impossible as rolling bowling balls up a hill. In fact, you might hit rock bottom and wonder if it's really worth the trouble. Regardless of your lack of forward movement today, it's crucial to keep working.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You might have to shelve that big remodel or the plans to restructure a budget -- at least for a while. If you feel the tendrils of stress sneaking up on you, it's advisable to close your windows and lock your doors. Less action and more understanding is your mantra now. Place your big expectations a few months into the distance and your budding anxiety will vanish. No one is asking you to surrender your dreams.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your friends and relatives are not supporting you in the way that you wish today. However, appearances can be deceiving, especially if you are feeling insecure. Thankfully, no one is conspiring against you or judging your every move. In fact, you're all on the same team, even if it doesn't seem that way now. Instead of trying to guilt anyone into joining your cause, release everyone from any favors.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

There's no time like the present to take a long hard look at the most persistent patterns of resistance in your life. In particular, search for an authority figure (Saturn) who is stirring up trouble, possibly eliciting feelings of anger and resentment (Mars). Reexamine your intentions with an objective eye, but don't push the issues now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

A steady hand might be required today as you pursue artsy or crafty activities since your energy is skipping all over the place. Naturally, you prefer to be playing on a tropical island or embarking on a spiritual quest, but there will be plenty of time for adventure at a later date. Continue to place one foot ahead of the other for now. Start a small project you can finish instead of a giant one that is left undone.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

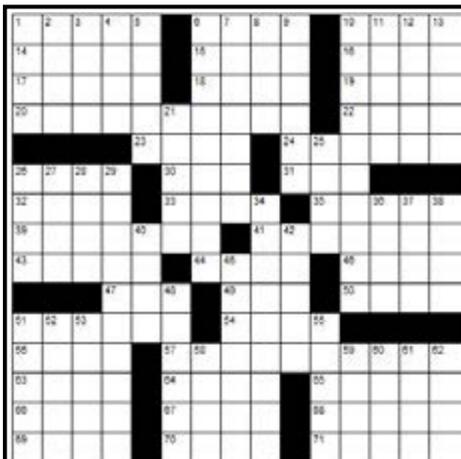
Normally you possess the good sense to be aware of the motives behind your actions, and sometimes you even know the results before anyone else. However, you may be feeling a bit lost today without your moral compass navigating the way. Your recent goals might have been so far out of line that you are receiving an overdue reality check. It's one thing to reflect back on all the ground you've covered.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Making choices between your personal life and your career is growing more stressful as time wears on. There is another factor in the mix now that confuses your decision-making process even more. Someone may be resisting your efforts while someone else is encouraging you to fight back. Unfortunately, outright conflict doesn't help you reach your goals any faster.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your schedule has grown so complex that it feels like you are losing control of the details. You might even believe that you can't honor all your commitments in the limited amount of time allotted. If you somehow managed to over-extended your resources, it's better to explain yourself and cut back now than to wait until it's too late. Setting priorities and establishing boundaries today create a healthier balance in your life tomorrow.



Across
1. Browned bread, 6. Fraud, 10. Outbuilding, 14. Not lower, 15. Container weight, 16. Game on horseback, 17. Cantankerous, 18. Killer whale, 19. Wreckage, 20. Feelings of anxiety, 22. Within, 23. Tall woody plant, 24. Not the borrower, 26. Envelop, 30. Barley bristle, 31. Long-haired wild ox, 32. Emanation, 33. Chore, 35. Chunks, 39. Business executive, 41. Bottle up, 43. Little, 44. Sea eagle, 46. Exploded star, 47. New Zealand parrot, 49. Barely manage, 50. Equipment, 51. Negligent, 54. Adriatic resort, 56. A Freudian stage, 57. A written record, 63. Bucolic, 64. Expect and wish, 65. Dining room furniture, 66. Lubricate, 67. A young lady, 68. Negatively charged particle, 69. Clairvoyant, 70. Beers.

Down
1. Ballet attire, 2. Not closed, 3. Church alcove, 4. Bristle, 5. Secret meeting, 6. Ceramic ware, 7. Lurches, 8. Circle fragments, 9. Paltry, 10. A light shower, 11. Hunting dog, 12. High society, 13. Giver, 21. Angry, 25. Every single one, 26. Pause, 27. Graphic symbol, 28. Backside, 29. Analgesic, 34. State of being quirky or bizarre, 36. Double-reed woodwind, 37. Opera star, 38. Celebrity, 40. Colors, 42. Requires, 45. Get worse, 48. A breathing disorder, 51. Train tracks, 52. Provide, 53. Perhaps, 55. In base 8, 58. Agitate, 59. Hindu princess, 60. Nile bird, 61. Raindrop sound, 62. 10 10 10 10.

Yesterday's Solution

agree, attack, belt, blanks, bottle, bright, brush, bunch, cads, closet, coral, cycle, deal, deem, drapes, easel, excitement, freckle, fudge, gent, glee, guilt, hound, incite, jelly, joys, lineage, meat, paste, pause, requirement, respect, seer, shirt, skimp.

