

Countrywide Operations Kill 36 Insurgents

KABUL - At least 36 insurgents were killed in the anti-insurgent military operations across the country in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said in a statement on Tuesday. 13 other insurgents were arrested during these operations, the statement declared. The operations were conducted in Helmand, Kandahar, Kapisa, Nuristan, Kunar, Nangarhar and Kabul provinces aimed at clearing the areas from insurgents, MoD statement explained.



A so-called governor of the Taliban and several other commanders were also among these killed militants, it said, adding that eight Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were also killed in these operations. The statement detailed that 28 Improvised Explosive ... (More on P4)...(17)

Uruzgan Gunmen Kidnap 3 Health NGO Workers

TARINKOT - Unidentified gunmen abducted three workers of health sector NGO in central Uruzgan province, the governor's spokesman said Tuesday. Dost Muhammad Nayal told Pajhwok Afghan News the employees of the Afghan Health Development Services (AHDS), an NGO had been kidnapped two days back from Shalai, a locality in Khas Uruzgan district. The NGO was working in health sector, he added, adding that two doctors, a vaccinator and their driver were abducted when they

visited the area to treat patients there. He said officials received the news 26 hours after their kidnapping and police had started investigation to ensure early release of the men.

Mullah Niamatullah, police chief, said he was unaware of the incident because no one had filed report into the incident. Another worker of the NGO wishing not to be named told Pajhwok Afghan ... (More on P4)...(18)



Policemen Among 11 Dead in Fresh Violence



L A S H K A R G A H / KHOST - Five policemen and six militants have been killed during separate security incidents in southern Helmand, southeastern Khost and central Parwan provinces, officials said Tuesday. Helmand police chief Col. Pacha Gul Bakhtyar told Pajhwok Afghan News that five policemen and four rebels were killed during a clash in Sangin district Monday night.

He said that the clash erupted in northern region of the district after militants stormed police posts. Elsewhere, a bomb maker was killed and three members of a family wounded in a house in southern region of Khost city.

Governor's spokesman Mubariz Zadran said that the rebel killed in the incident was expertise in bombs making.

A security official wishing anonymity said that a little son of the rebel was also killed in the incident. According to another report, a militant was killed and three others arrested during a clash in central Parwan province.

Provincial crime branch chief Lutf Rahman Rashad said a convoy of foreign forces came under militants attack last night in which one militant was killed and three others detained in the ensuing battle. He said that Afghan security forces and foreign forces suffered no casualties during the clash. But a Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed killing a number of foreign forces and damaging two tanks during the overnight clash in Parwan province. (Pajhwok)

Siraj Happy with Boots Leaving Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - The US led NATO troops had absolutely no right to land in Afghanistan and the forces supposedly on peace mission had only promoted terrorism and lawlessness in the region, said Jamaate-Islami (JI) Ameer Sirajul Haq Monday while commenting on the withdrawal of the NATO forces from Afghanistan. The JI chief said that the saner elements within the US, Europe and all over the world had strongly opposed the invasion of Afghanistan while the responsible military and civil officers- both serving and retired- in the US administration had in their writings and articles, openly admitted the blunder committed by their country in this respect. Welcoming the withdrawal of the NATO forces according to the plan as a positive move, Haq said impressed upon the US and the world institutions not to interfere in the affairs of Afghanistan any-

more and instead leave it up to the Afghans to plan for their future. He warned that if the foreign powers tried to thrust a government of their choice in Kabul or set up military basis for political gains, peace in Afghanistan and the region would be disturbed.

The JI chief also urged the Pakistan government not to miss the opportunity and take ef-

fective measures for ensuring a durable peace in the brotherly country with the support of the Afghan people through effective efforts at diplomatic level involving Russia, China, Iran and Turkey. He stressed that full support should be extended to the Afghan people for the preservation of their Islamic identity and tribal traditions. (Agencies)

Uprising Leader Killed in Maqur District

GHAZNI - Four persons, including the uprising leader, were killed during a roadside bombing in Maqur district of southern Ghazni province on Tuesday, an official said. Shafiq Nang, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place when Faizullah was patrolling in the locality and his car struck by a roadside bomb in Zarkashan area of the district this morning. He said Faizullah and his three associates

were killed and another wounded in the incident. Another member of the group Habibullah confirmed the incident and said their leader was killed when he was returning after patrol. He added militants could not achieve their goals by killing people because hundreds of local residents were resisting against them. Faizullah was appointed as the leader of uprising group after his brother was killed during a suicide attack in Maqur last year. (Pajhwok)

Deforestation Goes Unchecked in Takhar

TALOQAN - Forests in most districts of northern Takhar province are being cut down and meadows turned into agriculture fields, threatening the environment, officials say. Syed Nasir Mahjob, the provincial Environment Protection Department head, told Pajhwok Afghan News the high rate of timber-cutting had raised concerns about environmental sustainability.

"The main problem before the Takhar environment is deforestation. Forests spread over thousands of acres of land have been cut down in districts across the Kokcha River. In addition, land-gabbers and powerful individuals have turned meadows into agriculture fields," he lamented. Mahjob said the situation not only threatened climate and the life support of people depending on grazing lands and forests but also forced animals and birds into migration elsewhere. "Floods have recently increased and the reason is soil degradation.

The soil erodes with little downpours which easily turn into flooding and as a result, residents are inflicted life and property losses." Rains each year cause the Kokcha and Amu rivers to burst their banks, inundating thousands of acres of agriculture land, fruit orchards and residential homes and the reason behind this devastation is seen the large-scale timber-cutting along the banks. Residents living across the Kokcha River say deforestation there goes unchecked and it has created many problems

for them. The river has so far caused huge financial losses to residents, they say. Mohammad Zahid, a resident of the Khwaja Bahauddin district, told Pajhwok Afghan News forests in Dardad, Khwaja Bahauddin and Yangi Kala districts disappeared with each passing year. He said if the government did not take action to prevent the fast deforestation, not a single tree could be seen on the beaches of Amu and Kokcha rivers. "The forests control the river... (More on P4)...(19)

ANA Base Attacked in Maidan Wardak

KABUL - At least two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were injured as a result of a car suicide bombing in central Maidan Wardak province, security sources said. The incident took place around 9 a.m. Tuesday when a suicide bomber hit his explosive-laden vehicle into ANA base, according to officials. The Taliban in a statement have claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban attack came two days after the NATO troops formally ended their combat mission in Afghanistan. The security responsibility of the entire country is now on the shoulder of Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) with citizens believing that the national forces are capable more to ensure the safety of citizens. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Sticking to a proven method brings better results today than trying a whole new approach. You may grow restless if everything seems too familiar; however, it's much smarter now to manage your anxiety by gradually modifying your attitude instead of randomly messing with your environment. Thankfully, once you settle into a routine, most everything should get easier to handle all around.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You may grow so concerned with executing your own agenda today that you could end up obsessing over something you want. Problems arise if other people's schedules conflict with yours. But you're not likely to take no for an answer since the Moon's return to your determined sign heightens your attachment to your preferred version of the outcome.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might not be overly loquacious today because you don't trust your ability to know when to stop talking. Thankfully, practicing self-restraint is an intelligent strategy since there are pressing issues that require your attention and it can be problematic if you wear yourself out too early in the game. Although pursuing random social activities is fun, don't let them distract you from the real work at hand.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

This may be a perfect day to hang out with friends, but don't worry about figuring out too many of the details beforehand. You prefer to know your schedule in advance, but ultimately, it will be more enjoyable if you leave things unstructured for now. Oddly enough, everyone else seems to have specific plans even if you don't.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You have a very specific picture of what you want to accomplish at work today, but you could seriously miscalculate the amount of support you receive. In fact, you are relying on everyone to stick close to your agenda, as promised. But the universe might have a slightly different notion about what's next and you're better off now if you don't fight the inevitable.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

This could turn out to be a rather mellow day if you don't fill up your schedule with too much unnecessary work. Instead of shifting into automatic gear and plowing through your long list of chores, consider which tasks are non-essential and leave those for another day. Even if you're typically a hard worker, take some well-deserved time off just to relax.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your outlook on life is changing radically now, but you might not be able to set your ideas into motion. This puzzling dilemma isn't just about your efforts being blocked; your current lack of confidence makes you wonder if you will reach your goals if you are opposed to the prevailing currents. Actually, it's smarter to wait for the storm to pass; enjoy yourself today by being creative, instead of productive.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

It's irritating if someone quickly agrees with you in word, yet continues to resist your actions. It's as if there's a split between the mental and physical universe, which can be quite frustrating to you strong-willed Scorpions. Keep in mind that you won't be able to solve this dilemma today. Instead of trying to control all the variables, simply be an objective witness to the current events.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You might not be able to accomplish all your goals today, but a large part of the problem comes from extending your reach too far. You can visualize the big picture so well that it motivates you to dream beyond your immediate environment. Unfortunately, there isn't a fast way to get to your destination. Nevertheless, concentrating on the most practical things on your plate makes the most sense, even if that means success is delayed another day.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

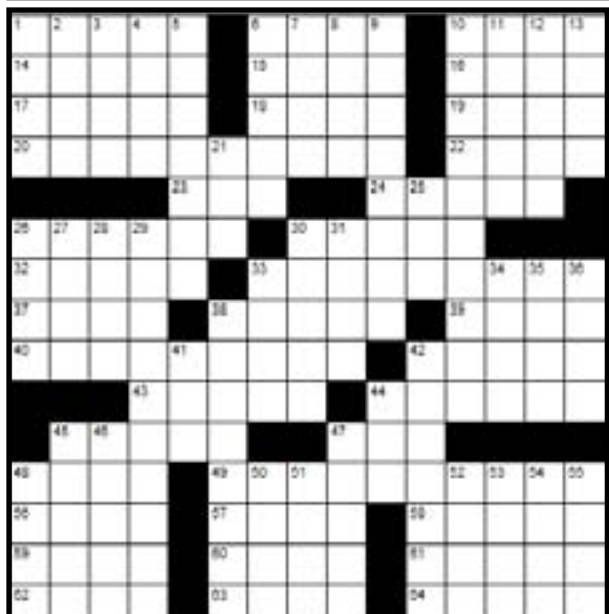
Your friends think you would benefit from some relaxation today but they might secretly believe that you don't know how to have fun. However, you're more than willing to let them follow you around so you can prove them wrong. But don't bother defending your actions if someone doesn't like your plans. Do whatever you want without worrying about anyone else's opinion.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

The same events that would have rattled your cage previously don't seem to have much of an unsettling effect now; nevertheless, they can sidetrack your current progress. Whether you like it or not, you have some work to do because unaddressed issues won't likely vanish on their own. Make a commitment to yourself to get to the bottom of your emotional dilemma while you have such a positive attitude about life.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You are ready to settle into an easy day at work, hoping that you don't have to deal with any major upheavals. However, you may need to climb a few hills that now stand between you and your personal satisfaction. But you won't find any pleasure if you try to force your position on others. It's currently more effective to step back from potential conflicts until you're able to talk about your emotions in a rational manner.



Across
 1. A stringed instrument, 6. Mend (archaic), 10. Bothers, 14. Birdlike, 15. Sore, 16. Ark builder, 17. Fit out again, 18. Sneaker or pump, 19. Medical breakthrough, 20. Perilous, 22. Quaint outburst, 23. Record (abbrev.), 24. Map within a map, 26. Cold, 30. Give birth to, 32. Cowboy sport, 33. Types of restaurants (British), 37. Black, in poetry, 38. Not the most, 39. Iridescent gem, 40. Automatic transmission of data, 42. False front, 43. Tricks, 44. Reposed, 45. Hitches, 47. Family, 48. Petty quarrel, 49. A preacher, 56. 53 in Roman numerals, 57. Agreeable, 58. Subsequently, 59. Relating to aircraft, 60. Feudal worker, 61. Scintillas, 62. Scheme, 63. D D D D

Down
 1. Grumble, 2. Always, 3. Vitality, 4. Nonclerical, 5. One of the Great Lakes, 6. Introductory, 7. Reflected sound, 8. You (archaic), 9. Vision, 10. Resembling incest, 11. French for "Red", 12. Unit of gold purity, 13. Outbuilding, 21. Crimson, 25. Prefix meaning "Modern", 26. Fuss, 27. Gown, 28. False god, 29. A coming into being, 30. Tolerates, 31. Not difficult, 33. French for "Head", 34. Expectoration, 35. Leisure, 36. Toboggan, 38. Diminished, 41. Cup, 42. Beginning, 44. 18-wheeler, 45. Patter, 46. Nigerian monetary unit, 47. Leg joints, 48. Smack, 50. Workbench attachment, 51. Skin disease, 52. King of the jungle, 53. Within, 54. Stigma, 55. Exam

Yesterday's Solution
 arrive, carbon, choose, class, coal, crossword, cruise, deduce, dinner, disease, dollar, doubt, expert, extra, family, fast, favor, final, flora, fresh, fright, fruit, halt, interest, paste, pest, phrase, please, project, relief, roof, rough, shown, soothe, story

