

# Drone Strike Kills Two Taliban Commanders

MEHTARLAAM - A U.S. drone strike has killed two Taliban commanders in eastern Afghanistan. Sarhadi Zwak, spokesperson for the governor of Laghman province said the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) targeted Zarjan and Dil Agha in Masboud valley of Alishang District Tuesday afternoon. He said Zarjan originally hailed from Bombai area of Dawlat Shah District and was responsible for several terrorist attacks in the two districts.



The governor's spokesperson added that Zarjan was also under the surveillance of Afghan security forces. Taliban have not yet commented on the report. Laghman is comparatively a restive province in the eastern part of the country where armed militant groups actively operate in its remote areas. They sometimes carry out attacks in provincial capital Mehtarlam and on Kabul-Jalalabad highway as well. (KP)

## Thousands Set to Honor NYPD Detective Killed in Afghanistan

NEW YORK - Thousands of police officers are set to pack St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan on Wednesday morning to pay their final respects to an NYPD detective and Air National Guard sergeant who friends and fellow cops called "Superman." Joseph Lemm, a 15-year NYPD vet and a technical sergeant with the Air National Guard serving his third tour of duty in the Middle East, was one of six Americans killed Dec. 21 when a suicide bomber rammed a motorcycle packed with explosives into Lemm's patrol car in Afghanistan. "He really was Superman," Maj. John Torres, a chaplain with the Air National Guard, said Tuesday, according to The Journal News. "It's hard not to smile when you recall his antics. It's harder still to believe that he's gone." Torres added: "He embodied honor to the end." Timothy Cardinal Dolan is slated to perform the funeral Mass at 10 a.m. and deliver a eulogy. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

### 4 Killed, 22 Injured in Traffic Accident

GHAZNI - About four people were killed and 22 others wounded in a traffic accident along a highway in Ghazni on Wednesday, police said. "A long-distance bus collided with a truck in Kotal-e-Rawza locality of provincial capital Ghazni city, leaving four persons dead and 22 others aboard the bus injured," a provincial traffic police official, Mohammadullah Ahmadi, told Xinhua. The incident took place in the morning and the eight injured who received serious wounds were shifted to national capital of Kabul, the source added. Afghan officials blame reckless driving as the main cause of road accidents in the country. On Dec. 24, some 43 passengers were killed and several others wounded in a similar accident in northern Samangan province. (Xinhua)

### 22 Militants Killed in 24 Hours: MoI

MOSCOW - The Afghan National Police and National Army have killed 22 militants across seven provinces over the past 24 hours, the Afghan Ministry of Interior Affairs said Wednesday. "The operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Parwan, Faryab, Kandahar, Ghazni, Herat and Helmand provinces, as a result 22 armed insurgents were killed," the ministry said. Eleven fighters were wounded and three arrested in the raids, and an



undisclosed amount of light and heavy rounds of ammunition was also seized in the operation. The country's national forces' other achievements disclosed on Wednesday included foiling terrorist and improvised explosive device attacks in three provinces and arresting a key Taliban insurgency commander. The Taliban intensified its offensive ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### Pakistani Flour Losing Market in Afghanistan

KABUL - Pakistani flour has been losing market in Afghanistan and is replaced with the export of Tajikistan. Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce has decided to send a high level delegation comprising officials and businessmen to Afghanistan to address issues that are responsible for Pakistan losing its traditional flour export market in Afghanistan. According to Pakistan's The Express Tribune news, the decision was taken at a high level meeting on Tuesday, which was attended



by officials from Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Ministry of Finance, Federal ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### Security Officials Take Steps to Rid Surobi of Taliban

KABUL - Security officials have said they are in the process of dismantling a Taliban hideout in Surobi district in Kabul province - a hideout from where militants allegedly organize attacks on Kabul city as well as Laghman, Kapisa and Nangarhar provinces. Security sources have said there are more than 300 insurgents hideouts in remote and inaccessible parts of Ozbin in Surobi district. Ozbin is located about 20 kilometers from Surobi's center and only 90 kilometers from Kabul city. Sources say there are a number of villages and valleys that are believed to be safe havens for Taliban fighters. TOLONews reporter Tamim Hamid, ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

### Army Defuses 17 Improvised Bombs

KABUL - Afghan army has found and defused 17 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in two southern provinces, the Defense Ministry said on Wednesday. "The Afghan National Army's 205 Attal Corps personnel launched several cleanup operations in southern Kandahar and neighboring Uruzgan provinces, recovering 17 rounds of landmines and IEDs over the past 24 hours," the ministry



said in a statement. The Taliban militant group has been using homemade IEDs to target security forces, but the lethal weapons also inflict casualties on civilians, ...*(More on P4)...(13)*



Afghan policeman searches a vehicle at a police checkpoint in Herat province, western Afghanistan on Wednesday December 30, 2015. Afghan security forces have assumed the full security charges from NATO and U.S. forces after the NATO-led troops completed their combat mission in Afghanistan by the end of 2014, after 13 years of military presence in the country. (Xinhua/Sardar Karimi)

## Outlook Horoscope

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

There may be danger ahead if everything appears to glitter like gold in the sunlight. Nevertheless, it's still best to imagine the positive possibilities instead of focusing on the negative contingencies. Affirmations are extremely potent today, yet acknowledging what could go wrong enables you to recognize a problem before it becomes critical.

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

Receiving long-overdue recognition from your coworkers or your boss is a sweet reward today. To add icing to the cake, a delayed raise or promotion could finally come through as you had hoped. Obviously, being appreciated for your contributions is heartwarming, but accepting praise might also be challenging now as your key planet Venus stumbles into suspicious Pluto.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's as easy as pie to start the day off right by conjuring up a fantastic plan, and then keep making it even bigger and better by increments. Unfortunately, your current desire to inflate nearly everything could turn a very sensible idea into a strategy that becomes so grandiose that it's impractical. A healthy helping of self-restraint is your key to satisfaction. Less is more is your mantra now, whether you like it or not.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're so intuitive today that you can accidentally confuse an idealistic fantasy with reality. It requires constant vigilance to remain objective now, even if you have a plethora of facts at your disposal. But don't believe for a moment that you own a corner on the truth; even the most unbiased data can become tinted with subjective emotions.

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

Distinguishing the real world from your subconscious mind is tricky today because the Moon's opposition to magical Neptune means the veil that separates these two worlds is very thin now. You are entering a creative zone, but the spirit realm feels so close that you could bump into a few ghosts of your own. At first, your visions might seem to have little in common with reality.

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

You might not be able to complete everything that you start today, even if you planned to work hard and stay late. Unfortunately, you may underestimate the time and resources necessary to finish your assignments. Managing your own disappointment will be challenging enough if you don't deliver what you promise, but dealing with others now is even harder. Thankfully, you can rely on your intuition while the Moon is in your sign.

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

You are still walking a fine line, trying to juggle serious responsibilities with your optimistic hopes and dreams. However, you might be afraid of exhausting yourself now, since you know there's still more work coming your way. Perhaps you would be wise to squeeze in a bit of downtime while you can. Just remember, denial isn't a useful strategy, so be aware of the consequences of your choices before you land in trouble.

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

Step back from your regular routine today so you can reevaluate your overall fiscal condition. Venus is traveling through your 2nd House of Personal Resources, giving you an opportunity to put your finances in order. But don't procrastinate, for it will take time to see the results of your current actions. At least make sure that your accounts are in order.

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

Others don't know what to make of you when you're socially withdrawn, yet a recent contemplative phase is coming to a close. Vivacious Venus saunters into your sassy fire sign today for a three-week visit, boosting your charisma and emphasizing interpersonal dynamics. But your emotional intensity might be too much for others to handle. Thankfully, your feelings will become more manageable over the next week.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Expecting too much from a coworker or loved one today can set the stage for major disappointment. Nevertheless, you probably won't be the one to drop the ball if you realistically assess what you can do before you begin. Even if you don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, over-committing isn't nice in the long run. Being totally honest is kinder on all involved than having to clean up a mess you make by promising the stars.

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

Others see you as a positive force in their lives while charming Venus sets up camp in your 11th House of Social Networks. Even if you struggle with people's interference in your personal affairs, you can still project a cheerful image. Your friends are happy to see you doing so well now, but they don't know the entire story. Sharing your uncertainties may feel like a risky venture.

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

You might grow uneasy today if you're running into trouble maintaining meaningful boundaries. The Moon is shining her light in your 7th House of Relationships, attracting you to the emotional comfort of a partnership, but you also need your freedom, too. Don't be afraid to reassert your independence as long as you aren't trying to avoid an important issue.



### Across

1. Glove, 5. Ancient Greek marketplace, 10. Marshes, 14. Bright thought, 15. Not rural, 16. Graphic symbol, 17. Mystifying, 19. French for "State", 20. L, 21. Adult females, 22. Sail supports, 23. Bondage, 25. Squash, 27. Genus of macaws, 28. Poor city districts, 31. Pass over, 34. Constructed, 35. Lyric poem, 36. Mongol hut, 37. Dawdle, 38. Anagram of "Ties", 39. Former boxing champ, 40. Adorn, 41. Exams, 42. Goading, 44. Obtain, 45. Some tides, 46. Fix, 50. Not before, 52. Small drum, 54. Arrive (abbrev.), 55. Flutter, 56. Incentive, 58. Liturgy, 59. Wear away, 60. Backside, 61. Not closed, 62. Drive forward, 63. Low in pitch.

### Down

1. Acts out without words, 2. Eclogue, 3. Electrical pioneer, 4. Make lace, 5. Dawn goddess, 6. Dirty, 7. Double-reed woodwind, 8. In a lewd way, 9. Autonomic nervous system, 10. Bosom, 11. Fires more shots than others, 12. Annoying insect, 13. Collections, 18. Decorative jugs, 22. Mongrel, 24. Widespread, 26. Depend, 28. Internment camp, 29. Modify, 30. Views, 31. Greenish blue, 32. Govern, 33. Determine one's position, 34. Appear at county fairs, 37. Trickle, 38. Bristle, 40. Wing-like, 41. Latin name for our planet, 43. Intensify, 44. Cringe, 46. Put up with, 47. Nigerian monetary unit, 48. Twelve dozen, 49. Anagram of "Sneer", 50. Hairdo, 51. Gymnast's feat, 53. At the peak of, 56. Japanese apricot, 57. Bar bill.

### Yesterday's Solution



amateur, august, avert, basket, blaze, building, cabin, chapel, clean, clock, crass, declare, demand, dope, faith, fixed, grand, hence, hoar, inactive, joker, option, paper, phase, position, quick, regal, rental, seen, sees, sound, stand, static, stilt.

