

9 Taliban Killed, their Vehicles, Bikes, Arms Destroyed



KABUL - Nine Taliban insurgents were killed in a nighttime operation by the Afghan Special Forces in southern Helmand province, the spy service said on Saturday. Another 18 militants were captured alive, including three notorious commanders Qari Saifullah, Qari Jan

Alam and Fazel in the Special Forces unit operation, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said in a statement. The statement said the offensive targeted a militant hideout in Garamser district, but provided no exact date and timing.

The statement claimed 12 pick-up vehicles, 14 Humvee, five other vehicles and 26 motorbikes were destroyed in the operation. Six weapons, 500 kilograms of explosives, five walkie-talkies, 40 landmines and thousands of bullets and other ammunition were also destroyed. (Pajhwok)

In Nuristan, Cases of Violence Against Women Addressed by Jirgas

JALALABAD - The Women's Affairs Department in eastern Nuristan province says many incidents of violence against women are being resolved by tribal elders instead of courts. Some 45 cases of violence against women have been recorded during the ongoing solar year. None of the cases referred to the judicial organs has been resolved so far. The delays have prompted people to present such cases before tribal elders for immediate resolution. Women's Affairs Director Zahida Faizan said 18 of the cases registered this year were resolved through mediation by elders. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, she said currently five cases of violence were being dealt with tribal elders. Some cases have also been sent to the court for investigation. Faizan added 57 incidents of violence against women were registered last year in the province. Of them, 27 were resolved through mediation. Among the cases, one is of Alina (an assumed name) that has been ... (More on P4)... (13)

Taliban Commander Among 4 Killed by Own Explosives



ASADABAD - A notorious Taliban commander has been killed along with three associates in a landmine explosion in eastern Kunar province, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Saturday. A statement from the ministry said the militants were killed inside a house in Narai district late on Friday night when an improvised explosive device (IED) they were making went off prematurely. The provincial police spokesman, Farid Dehqan, confirmed the incident, saying it took place in Batas village. He identified the slain commander as Jahan. A child also suffered injuries in the blast. There has been no word so far from the insurgents in this regard. (Pajhwok)

Militants Kidnap 7 Passengers on Farah-Herat Highway



FARAH CITY - Seven passengers were kidnapped by militants on the Farah-Herat highway in western Farah province on Saturday, an official

said. Esmatullah, a passenger and eyewitness, said the Taliban stopped a passenger vehicle and took hostage seven people in the Kenisk area of Bala Baluk district. He told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban, who had blocked the road, stopped the passenger bus and took the abductees to an unknown location. Meanwhile, Col. Gulbahar Mujahid, provincial deputy police chief, confirmed the road was blocked. However, he was unaware of the passengers' abduction. Militants occasionally block Kabul-Farah and Farah-Herat highway in Kenisk and Shamalgah areas of Farah and ... (More on P4)... (14)

Security Forces Retake 'Strategic' Area from Taliban

TIRINKOT - A strategic area in the capital of central Uruzgan province has been wrested back from the Taliban, claimed police on Saturday. The Landa Kosa locality recently gained popularity due to its strategic location that remained under Taliban control over the past two years. Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Sidiqi, the Uruzgan police chief who visited the area, told Pajhwok Afghan News it was retaken as a result of an operation. He said the Afghan National Army (ANA) also took part in the offensive that led to the recapture Landa Kosa from insurgents late on Friday night. He added the security personnel were engaged in detecting and defusing landmines planted by Taliban in the area to make it fully secure for the peo-

ple. A commander of the 205th Atal Military Corps, Col. Rahmat Shah Qimati, said the joint offensive had been ongoing for the past few days, with many areas cleared of rebels. Qimati claimed at least 40 militants had suffered casualties during the operation so far and many weapons belonging to them destroyed. He said the security forces had captured an insurgents base, from where they used to fire missiles into Tirinkot. However, the Taliban claimed pushing back the government forces. Three tanks were destroyed and many soldiers killed, the group said. The insurgents admitted the loss of only one fighter and injuries to another. The ongoing ... (More on P4)... (15)

Faryab Woman Commits Suicide, Husband Detained

MAIMANA - A 27-year-old woman has committed suicide by hanging herself in the capital of northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Saturday. Police spokesman Abdul Karim Yourish, who identified the woman as Zahra, said domestic violence was the reason behind

her suicide. He said her husband had been detained in connection with the incident. Dr. Enayat Samir, a hospital official, said beating marks were also visible on her body in addition to the rope marks on her neck. Syed Hafiz Fitrat, provincial hu-

man rights director, said Zahra left behind three children and the motive behind her suicide could not be ascertained immediately. Fitrat added at least four suicide and murder cases involving women had been registered during the ongoing year, compared with 28 last year. (Pajhwok)

NDS Arrests Group of Kidnappers in Kabul



KABUL - During in an operation, NDS arrested a group of kidnappers in Kabul city PD13; two hostages were freed. Four members of a group of kidnappers have been arrested in capital Kabul city, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said in a statement released on Saturday.

According to the NDS statement, the operation was conducted in Kabul's PD13 and two abducted persons were also freed during the operation. The group was responsible for kidnapping businessmen in Kabul city. Recently the group abducted Abdul Qadir and Rahmatullah from Kabul PD13. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries Your biggest concern today is establishing equanimity in a relationship. But sometimes you Rams can be so direct that you push your agenda onto someone else without any awareness of your insensitivity. Today's fair-minded Libra Moon bumps into karmic Saturn, requiring you to assess the current conditions and even the energetic score.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You wish you didn't need to work so hard today, but you have a long list of chores and commitments. You are tempted to let some things slide, but you don't want to let anyone down. Keep in mind that your motivation is strongest in the morning, and whatever isn't completed.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Managing your schedule can be complicated now because you might attempt to pack more into one day than is possible. Although events may unfold at a slower pace today, you're likely to fill the hours with trivial pursuits that leave insufficient time for the important things. In the final analysis, you're probably moving fast enough, and you won't solve anything by working harder.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer You're ready for a day of rest, but reality has a different agenda in store. Although people want you to join them in their activities, you're not interested in adjusting to anyone else's schedule. Unfortunately, turning down an invitation isn't necessarily the solution because another person could appear and make similar demands on your time.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo Your primary goal is to get along with everyone in your immediate environment today. Fortunately, you're more than willing to meet others halfway while the diplomatic Libra Moon highlights your 3rd House of Communication. You might believe everything is under control, only to discover a major problem in the logistics of combining schedules.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept 22)



Virgo You're looking forward to a fun-filled day, but you might be the one who needs to plan the activities. You want to do something that will be enjoyable for everyone, especially if there are children involved. However, you don't want to break the bank just to have a good time. Although you could weigh out all the pros and cons, the final decision is not a logical one.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra You can't seem to make up your mind about anything today. Every little question that demands a yes or no answer pushes you further down the rabbit hole, where certainty becomes a faint memory. Unfortunately, the reflective Moon's return to your ambivalent sign exacerbates the present situation.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio You are quick to defend your right to privacy today, but you might take your argument a step too far. Although the objective Libra Moon settles into your 12th House of Invisibility, this does not give you the right to keep secrets when the information involves someone else. Obviously, you must respect previous confidentiality agreements, but you can't hide behind questionable promises.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius You want to be everyone's friend today and you can easily pull it off by relying on your charm and your smile. Someone else might struggle with this strategy, trying to maintain an upbeat attitude in a variety of circumstances. But getting along with people comes naturally to you, especially while the socially astute Libra Moon visits your 11th House of Community.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You may be focusing on personal matters today, but you can't stop thinking about your career. Regardless of your current employment status, you have ambitions about what you want to accomplish in the future. Setting goals is an important part of any success story, but fate seems to play a stronger role at this time.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

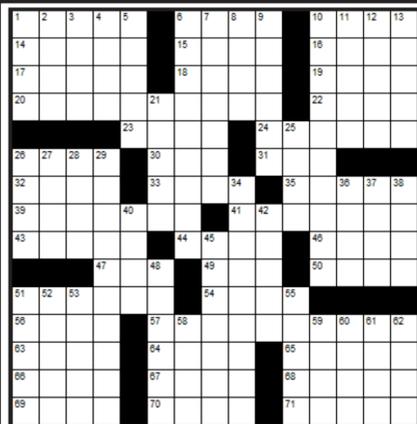


Aquarius Thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of a significant undertaking can be more exhausting than actually embarking on the journey itself. Nevertheless, your potential choice is so important that you want to get it right. Although you can modify your direction later on, you can't ever make it back to this spot again and start anew.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You are lured into the shadows today by promises of finding emotional treasures. Nevertheless, you are too cautious to take a deep dive into your unconscious mind to unlock the mysteries now. You have accrued much experience while exploring the outer limits of your awareness and you do not take psychological transformation lightly.



Across

1. Hemp cords, 6. Stigma, 10. Anagram of "Cabs", 14. Maguey, 15. Vagabond, 16. Jump up and down, 17. Anagram of "Peril", 18. Burden, 19. Shower, 20. Hard unglazed brownish-red earthenware, 22. Small island, 23. Provisions, 24. Leased, 26. Indian dress, 30. Veto, 31. Long-haired wild ox, 32. Baking appliance, 33. Savvy about, 35. Smacks, 39. Barbed wire is one, 41. Lamentable, 43. Fervor, 44. Flower stalk, 46. What a person is called, 47. Hasten, 49. Genus of macaws, 50. Alumnus, 51. Preoccupy, 54. Pleads, 56. Back, 57. Mistress of a château, 63. Grotto, 64. A musical pause, 65. Unpack, 66. Soon, 67. Killer whale, 68. Clamor, 69. Classify, 70. Romances, 71. Oxygen and helium, for example,

Down

1. Awestruck, 2. Leer at, 3. Twosome, 4. Always, 5. A pinnacle of ice, 6. Acts of gun violence, 7. Discourse, 8. Border, 9. Prayer beads, 10. A light shower, 11. Seashore, 12. Fast, 13. Studied intensely, 21. Religious law, 25. Where the sun rises, 26. Couch, 27. Affirm, 28. Cleave, 29. Unable to express yourself, 34. Short amusing operas, 36. Distant, 37. Mountain lion, 38. Toboggan, 40. Colored part of an eye, 42. Picture, 45. Hot sauce, 48. In the trust of a 3rd party, 51. Killer whales, 52. Keno, 53. Enjoy, 55. Catapulted, 58. Protagonist, 59. Dwarf buffalo, 60. Nile bird, 61. Schnozzola, 62. XX XX,

