

Civilians Among 10 Killed in Helmand Operations



LASHKARGAH - At least eight Taliban and two civilians, including a woman, have been killed during nighttime operations in southern Helmand province, an official said on Sunday. Hajji Abdullah, a resident of Nawzad district, told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces had

conducted an overnight operation in the area. A woman and a man were killed and third civilian wounded. On the other hand, an Emergency Hospital official in Lashkargah, the provincial capital, said an employee of the medical facility was also killed in

the offensive. He said: "The man named Samiullah was returning from a relative's wedding ceremony when he was shot dead by the security personnel." But the 215th Maiwand Corps had no information regarding the operation, saying it was carried out by the Kandahar-based ... (More on P4)...(14)

Imam Sahib Offensive Suspended for Unknown Reasons

KUNDUZ CITY - Security forces in the Imam Sahib district of northern Kunduz province say they are not allowed to launch an operation against the Taliban for unknown reason. Imam Sahib, one of the insecure districts of



Kunduz, where an offensive was conducted by security forces 20 days back. Several areas of the district were cleared of Taliban. Second Lieutenant Najmuddin Hakimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the Qarghaz area of the district was the frontline but they were not allowed to crack down on the militants there.

Hakimi said: "We are awaiting orders from the police headquarters; we can recapture many areas currently under insurgents' control."

Mohammad Saber, another official, claimed the Taliban had lost their ability of face-to-face fighting with the security forces. "We should prevent their attacks."

"About 20 days ago, we conducted an operation and retook Qarghaz area. We are still there but cannot continue our offensive for reasons unknown to us," he complained.

Other security officials in the area hold a similar view.

A resident of the locality, Haji Gul Mohammad, confirmed several areas that had been under Taliban control for three years had been retaken by the security forces.

Civilians had suffered casualties and homes had been destroyed during the conflict, he said, stressing the need for the security of residents during operations.

For his part, provincial police chief Abdul Hameed Hamidi said they had suspended the Imam Sahib operation on the basis of a proper plan, and it would resume soon. (Pajhwok)

Boy Kidnapped from Kabul Rescued in Wardak: Police



KABUL - A boy kidnapped by insurgents from Kabul has been safely recovered by security forces in the Jalrez district of Maidan Wardak province, police said on Sunday. The militants wanted to use Mohammad Muslim, 12, who was abducted from the Company neigh-

bourhood of Kabul some days back, for conducting a suicide attack. Naqib Amini, Wardak police spokesman: "The armed opposition wanted to use the boy in a terrorist attack on people. Luckily, police have foiled the plan." (Pajhwok)

3 Killed, 8 Injured in Daesh Attack on ALP Checkpoint

ASADABAD - Three people were killed and eight others wounded on Sunday when Daesh militants stormed a security checkpoint in eastern Kunar province, an official said on Sunday. The casualties resulting from the Islamic State attacks in Sawakai district included Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel and public uprising members.

Abdul Ghani Musamam, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants conducted a coordinated attack on ALP checkpoints in Dewa Gul area at around 6am. He said reinforcements had been dispatched to the site, where a clash was still ongoing. However, the gubernatorial spokesman had no information about casualties.



Dr. Farooq Sahak, the Asadabad Civil Hospital director, said they had received three bodies and eight injured men from the scene. ALP and uprising members were among the casualties, he added. (Pajhwok)

UN Security Council Condemns Kabul Suicide Attack

KABUL - The United Nations Security Council has denounced the latest terrorist attack in Kabul as heinous and cowardly. At least 15 people were killed and 27 policemen wounded in the bombing in the ninth police district near the Shinozada Private Hospital on Thursday. In a statement, Security Council

members expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Afghan government. They also wished a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured in the bombing, for which the Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility. The UNSC called terrorism in

all its forms and manifestations one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice. The 15-member body went on ... (More on P4)...(15)

Two Young Men Shot Dead By Armed Men in Herat City

HERAT - Unknown armed men while riding motorcycles have shot dead two young men today in the western Herat City, the local officials confirmed the incident. The incident took place few moments earlier today, January 07, in Shaidaie neigh-

borhood of the city. "The bodies of the young men were taken to the forensic medicine department of the hospital," said Rafiq Sherzai, spokesman of Herat provincial hospital. Herat police also confirming the news said that it has

started investigations regarding the murder case. Criminal acts such as; kidnappings, murder and target killings have significantly increased in the province and the residents have repeatedly expressed concerns over the issue. (ATN)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries The cosmos hands you a "Get Out of Jail Free" card today. Assuming you're not in jail, you have permission to go nearly anywhere. You are being encouraged to push beyond your normal boundaries, stretch your wings and fly. Although your career might be on the launchpad, you won't gain escape velocity unless you're willing to also plumb to the depths of your feelings.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You can choose to look at the year ahead with trepidation because you know how much work lies in front of you. Or, you can see a road that heads into unknown territory, stirring excitement in your soul about all the wondrous adventures waiting to be discovered.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Although you may have an impressive workload today, you possess an unrelenting belief that you are of capable of moving mountains. Of course, there are natural constraints on your productivity since you are still a mere mortal. Nevertheless, you could surprise yourself and shock others with what you accomplish now if you fuel your hard work with the strength of your convictions.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Capture the wave of optimism that ripples through your world this morning by envisioning the best possible outcome from the current situation. Although you're likely to run into problems later in the day, don't focus on them or you might talk yourself out of taking positive action in the present moment.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You are passionate about getting things done today and you don't want anyone to slow you down. Oddly enough, consciously keeping your opinions to yourself may be a part of your strategy for success. You're afraid that if others become aware of your inner intensity, they will try to moderate your emotions.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo You're looking forward to a fulfilled 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 Although you usually are working with a practical plan while you keep one eye on a chosen goal, your future appears less definite today. You probably have a general idea of a preferred direction, but it's tricky to set out when you lack a specific destination. Rather than starting something new.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

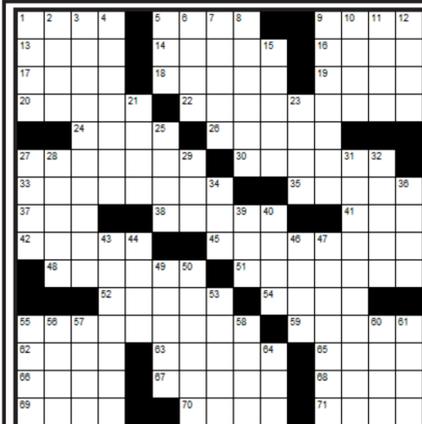


Aquarius Nearly anything you begin today is blessed by the current cosmic energy, setting you on your way with a smile on your face. However, your enthusiasm can backfire on you, leading you on a wild goose chase as you pursue one mirage after another. Thankfully, combining cautious analysis with self-restraint places you back in the driver's seat and you appear to be the only car on the wide-open road.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces The dynamics of a relationship can be complicated by the presence of power politics today, so it's wise to delicately step around any emotional quicksand. Fortunately, there won't likely be negative ramifications from avoiding confrontation for a while longer. In the meantime, explore your future by playing out different scenarios in your mind's eye.



Across

1. Brownish purple, 5. Iridescent gem, 9. Applications, 13. Shortly, 14. King, 16. Schnozzola 17. Hue, 18. Salt water, 19. Accomplished, 20. Inn, 22. Anagram of "Chattered", 24. Again 26. Indian instrument, 27. Version, 30. A roofed arcade, 33. Sporting officials, 35. Melodies 37. 61 in Roman numerals, 38. Toots, 41. Cry of disgust, 42. Egyptian peninsula, 45. Stacks of firewood, 48. Christmas drink, 51. Inhabitant, 52. Convulsion, 54. Thin strip, 55. Flattering, 59. Stagger, 62. Sandwich shop, 63. Ancient Roman magistrate, 65. Have the nerve 66. Fender blemish, 67. Fend off, 68. Bit of gossip, 69. Neuter, 70. Accomplishment, 71. T TTT,,

Down

1. Trail, 2. Pearly-shelled mussel, 3. Incorporating, 4. Accord, 5. Sphere, 6. Happy cat sound, 7. Pseudonym, 8. A Eurasian annual herb, 9. Experience, 10. Lampblack, 11. Feudal worker, 12. Sow, 15. Odd-numbered page 21. Wreaths, 23. Croncs., 25. Uterus, 27. L L L L, 28. Confederate States, 29. Born as, 31. Penetrate, 32. Keen, 34. Not used, 36. Clairvoyant, 39. Detachable container, 40. Scatters seeds, 43. Nimbleness 44. Ancient Peruvian, 46. A small wooded hollow, 47. Acclaim, 49. Aquatic mammal 50. Directed, 53. Sharpshoot, 55. Contributes, 56. Very intense, 57. Forearm bone, 58. Delight, 60. Algonquian Indian, 61. Skirt lines, 64. A late time of life,



ccess, again, cage, cliff coast, corner, crazy, dance drive every, grand guess, guitar, hued, information lane, light, little lover, mete, nice, nothing often party, price, rant, render, safety, saga saturate, sent, sheet silo, since, sodium

