

# 20 Insurgents Killed in Sar-E-Pul Military Operation

KABUL - At least 20 insurgents were killed and 40 other injured in a week-long military operation in northern Sar-e-Pul province, local officials said on Sunday.

The operation was launched in Aqso area of Sayead, Adrang, Balghali, Lati, Qal-e-Sokhta and Dar-e-Sultan areas of the province and ended on Saturday, Provincial Police Chief, Abdul Qayoum Baqizoy said.

Baqizoy said that a number of villages have also been cleared of insurgents.

However, he did not provide details about the security forces casualties.

Meanwhile, officials of the provincial council said that Laghman and Sokhta villages are not yet cleared of the insurgents. (Tolonews)



## Three Civilians Killed in Nangarhar Blast



JALALABAD - At least three civilians were killed in a roadside mine blast in eastern Nangarhar province early Sunday, local officials said. The incident took place in Kama district of the province after a convoy of security forces were driving through the area. However, three civilians on a motorcycle hit the mine and died in the incident, district governor Abdul Wahab said. He said that there is no security forces casualties in the incident. No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the blast. (Tolonews)

### Afghan Taliban Concerned over Killing of Commander near Quetta

PESHAWAR - The assassination of a known Afghan Taliban commander Mulla Mohammad Alam in Balochistan has caused concern among the Taliban and their families. Mulla Alam, who was loyal to the new Afghan Taliban head Mulla Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Kuchlak near Quetta on January 7. The Taliban subsequently confirmed his death. Some Taliban officials blamed the Afghan intelligence agency, NDS, for the murder. Others felt the dissident Taliban group may be involved in the killing. Nobody has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. The deceased had taken part in the fighting against the dissident Taliban commander, Mansoor Dadullah, in Zabol province recently. Mansoor Dadullah and his elder brother Mouladada aka Haji Lala were killed in the fighting. A number of their Uzbek allies from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) who had pledged allegiance to the militant group Islamic State, or Daesh, were also killed or had to surrender during the fighting in Zabol with Mulla Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor's fighters. There was speculation among Taliban circles that Mansoor Dadullah's men could have killed Mulla Mohammad Alam to avenge his death. In the last few years, a number of senior Taliban figures have been assassinated in Balochistan. Taliban routinely blame the Afghan intelligence agency, NDS, for these killings. ... (More on P4)... (16)

## Toll in Russia Raids on Qaeda-Run Syria Jail Rises to 81: Monitor

BEIRUT - At least 81 people, including 23 Al-Qaeda fighters, were killed in Russian strikes on a prison complex run by the jihadist group in Syria's northwest, a monitor said Sunday in a new toll. The strikes on Saturday targeted an Al-Nusra Front building near a popular market in northwestern Idlib province, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The complex in Maarat Al-Numan housed the group's religious court

and a jail. The dead included 23 Al-Nusra fighters and six non-jihadist rebels who were in the building. Another 52 people -- including civilians and prisoners in the complex -- were also killed. At least one child and two women were among the civilians killed in the strikes. Russian warplanes have been conducting air strikes against the Islamic State organisation and "other terrorist groups" in Syria since September 30. Al-

though Al-Nusra and IS are both jihadist organisations, they are fierce rivals and regularly clash in Syria. Al-Nusra also has tense relationships with non-jihadist rebel groups that oppose its extreme interpretation of Islamic law. In Idlib, it heads a coalition of Islamist and rebel groups known as the Army of Conquest which has expelled regime forces from the province. ... (More on P4)... (15)

## MRRD/NSP Completes 8 Development Projects

SHEBERGHAN - National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Sunday said that 8 development projects worth Afs16,242,965 completed in Aqcha, Khanaqa, Khoja Do Koh, Mordyan & Qarqeen districts of Jawzjan province.

According to NSP Provincial Manager in Jawzjan province, these projects comprise the construction of Tow community center buildings,



Electricity power network in length of 1430 meters with installation of one transformer, extension of a 4,281-meter water supply network in-

cluding of one water reservoir and excavation of one deep well, excavation of 19 deep and shallow wells with ... (More on P4)... (17)

## US Drone Attack Kills 3 Militants in Kunar

ASADABAD - About three militants have been killed after a U.S. unmanned plane fired missiles on a militants' hide-out in Kunar province, sources said on Sunday. "The attack took place in Chogam locality of Shegal district late on Saturday, killing three militants on the spot," a provincial security source told Xinhua anonymously. The killed were foreign militants fighting government alongside the Taliban militant group, the source



said, without revealing the nationalities of the victims. The mountainous province with Asadabad as its capital, some

180 km east of Kabul, has been the scene of clashes between security forces and militants over the past months. (Xinhua)

### Afghan Youth inclined towards Indian Classical Music

NEW DELHI - Music has no boundaries and the inclination of the Afghan youth towards the Indian classical music is a testimony to this fact. Mohsin Ahmed Khan Naizi of the famous Agra Gharana is giving lessons in Indian classical music to a group of young Afghan musicians. Curiosity towards the Indian classical vocal began when an Afghan refugee started 'Salam Music School' and invited Naizi as their teacher. He said the roots of classical music in India and Afghanistan are strongly bound. "From classical point of view, the music in India and Afghanistan are similar. The way of singing and melody is same. However, the Afghani music in Pashto and Dari are very different. These students make very good compositions of the traditional music. I have heard them singing," said ... (More on P4)... (18)

## Traffic Accident Leaves 18 People Wounded on Herat-Farah Highway



KABUL - 18 people have been wounded in a traffic accident on Herat-Farah highway, officials said Sunday. The incident took place in Durahi Farah Road area of Farah province last night. Naimatullah Khalil who is an officer of the

Afghan National Army (ANA) in the area said that a military vehicle collided with a civilian bus leaving eighteen people wounded. He further said that all of the victims are passengers of the bus and there is no harm to the commandos. (KP)

## Outlook Horoscope

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

You're so sure you must be practical today that you're likely to put your dreams on hold and channel all your energy into producing tangible results. It isn't that you're incapable of acting sensibly; it's just your irreplaceable need for independence comes out when the Moon enters unconventional Aquarius this afternoon.

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

You could feel as if you're out of the loop today, especially if others don't bend over backwards to include you in their plans. Thankfully, you are patient enough to wait for your turn, even if you are quietly frustrated with the process. Oddly enough, losing your temper might not be the worst thing you can do now because it releases all your pent-up negativity.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're intent on getting all your chores done today, even if it seems like you have too much to do. You could reach a point of no return, when you're tempted to throw your hands up in the air and just walk away from your world of never-ending commitments. However, you can't escape from your obligations that easily. Instead of trying to sidestep reality, demonstrate your persistence by sticking with your agenda.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You are less likely to play nicely just to get others to like you today. You are clear about your needs and are willing to take personal responsibility to achieve satisfaction. You typically might not be this assertive, but it seems natural now to chase your dreams. Even if you believe you are justified to feel so certain that you'll reach your goals, don't shrug off the concerns of your friends and colleagues.

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

You're taking your promises to heart today and you're committed to delivering on your word. Even if there are too many repetitive tasks on your plate now, concentrate on them one at a time until they are done. However, you're just as likely to jump into something totally new if given the chance. Either way, it's tempting to test to see how far you can push the energy.

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

You might want to schedule your day backwards by having your fun first and then getting serious about your chores later on. It may be nearly impossible to narrow your focus in the morning while the Moon is still camped out in your 5th House of Play. But you won't have the time to partake in any distracting activities once Luna enters your 6th House of Work this afternoon.

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

Pressing family obligations may require your attention during the morning, but you're eager to shift gears later on so you can let loose and enjoy yourself. Scheming about your escape might be more fun than you expect, especially if you attack it as if it were a competitive game. Don't impulsively rush ahead; wait until you feel the time is right before doing your disappearing act.

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

Your extrasensory perceptions are attuned to an unpleasant wave of energy still out on the distant horizon of your awareness. Needless to say, your concern makes it difficult to enjoy the good vibrations around you today, but it isn't wise to push your darker emotions away for the sake of harmony. Ironically, avoiding uncomfortable feelings just gives them more power.

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

You need to get some work done today, even if it's normally your day of rest. Chores that piled up in your absence demand your immediate attention. Ironically, establishing manageable limits grants you additional freedom now. But, if you're not good at setting healthy boundaries, you might have to overcompensate later by admitting to your failure. Don't delay the inevitable.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

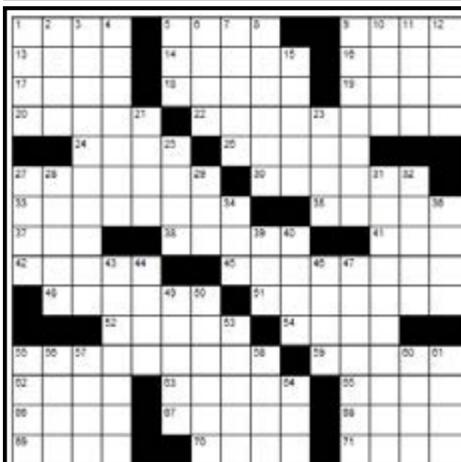
The beginning of your day seems to flow smoothly enough, but someone may unexpectedly question your values later on. You're probably resistant to talking about your goals today because you're still developing your strategy. It doesn't feel right to climb out on a limb in order to defend a position that's still unformed. Unfortunately, your silence is easily misinterpreted now.

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

Sometimes you need a not-so-gentle reminder about the importance of your emotions. You are often satisfied to set them aside for the sake of convenience. However, your life is enriched when you bring your heart into the equation. Fortunately, you don't need to change your behavior today; you only need to adjust your frame of reference.

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

You may be overwhelmed with an unrealistic desire to avoid your current responsibilities. Although you might dream of running away to an exotic locale, you could quickly become disappointed once you realize how impractical it would be to drop everything right now. However, you can't ignore your frustration or it will morph into anger and erupt again in a few short days.



**Across**  
1. Nets, 5. Joke, 9. Drudgery, 13. Incite, 14. Large body of water, 16. Church alcove, 17. Memo, 18. 8th Greek letter, 19. Govern, 20. Go in, 22. Perfects, 24. Sweeping story, 26. Truth, 27. Position of an earl, 30. Unpleasant person (British), 33. Estates, 35. Anagram of "Coast", 37. Fury, 38. Pantywaist, 41. Explosive, 42. Shades, 45. Praise formally, 48. Cultural, 51. Sleeping chamber, 52. Radiolocation, 54. Average, 55. Citadel, 59. Investment, 62. Murres, 63. Energize, 65. Wild goat, 66. Lean, 67. Frighten, 68. Run away, 69. Comply with, 70. Margarine, 71. Cravings.

**Down**  
1. Diminish, 2. Black, in poetry, 3. Improvement, 4. Spire, 5. Scribble, 6. Reflected sound, 7. Oozes, 8. Shred, 9. Xylophone, 10. Creative work, 11. Small island, 12. Dregs, 15. Nigerian monetary unit, 21. Purges, 23. Mongrel, 25. Defrauds, 27. Modify, 28. Eagle's nest, 29. Japanese apricot, 31. Affording grounds to sue, 32. Crazy, 34. South southeast, 36. Flower stalk, 39. A type of large sandwich, 40. Anagram of "Lyme", 43. Low-pitched, 44. Break, 46. Poems, 47. Pander, 49. Graven images, 50. Spotted cat, 53. Challenger, 55. Car, 56. Baby's bed, 57. Anger, 58. Arid, 60. Avid, 61. Former lovers, 64. Prefix meaning "Modern".

**Yesterday's Solution**  
average, certainty, cheery, clinic, cloth, count, deter, escape, fearless, hanger, hint, judge, ledge, linen, lithe, lunch, nature, nourishment, nudist, nutrition, outlive, pate, plunge, point, pray, proven, record, relay, slant, tare, tarry, tent.

