

8 Daesh, 7 Taliban Join Peace Process in Nangarhar



JALALABAD - Fifteen insurgents, more than half of them Daesh affiliates, have joined the peace process in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Wednesday/

The former fighters included eight Daesh or so-called Islamic State (IS) including one commander and seven Taliban militants including one commander, said Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's

spokesman. He told Pajhwok Afghan News the reconciling militants also handed over their arms to National Directorate of security ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

New Findings Reveal Taliban Collecting Tax in Ghazni

An investigation by TOLONews has found that the Taliban have been collecting taxes from the business community in Ghazni province over the past six months. Reports indicate that Taliban officials even take tax from businessmen in the provincial capital.



Meanwhile a Taliban spokesman has said that the group successfully collected over three million AFs from Ghazni alone this year.

In addition local officials have said that the Taliban has arrested dozens of locals after they refused to pay tax to the militants.

Ahmad Farid Omari is a local businessmen in Ghazni who was forced by the Taliban to pay 200,000 Pakistani rupees in illegal tax. Omari was initially asked for 400,000 Pakistani rupees in tax. But he managed to convince the Taliban to accept 200,000 rupees.

"Taliban operate just five kilometers from the city which belongs to the capital of Ghazni, Taliban told us to pay the money in that place and said we will receive a slip for the amount paid, but we did not go there to pay the money; Taliban's men came in from the city who we did not recognize and we paid the money," said Omari.

The business community is outraged over the issue, saying they are paying tax both to government and the Taliban.

But the Taliban have said the group collected the tax to ensure security of trade convoys on the highway.

"No businessmen are left in Ghazni who have not paid the tax, even there are claims that members of the provincial council have also paid the money," said Hassan Reza Yusufi, secretary of Ghazni provincial council.

"The majority of members of Taliban's Quetta Shura (council) which is the biggest council in the Taliban leadership are from Ghazni," said Abdul Karim Mateen, governor of Ghazni province.

Local officials say that from the total of eighteen districts in ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Religious Scholar Gunned Down in Helmand



LASHKARGAH - Unidentified gunmen shot dead a religious scholar

in southern Helmand province on Wednesday, an official said.

Police spokesman Abdul Salaam Afghan told Pajhwok Afghan News the armed men killed Maulvi Mukhtar Ahmad Haqqani in Lashkargah.

He said: "The scholar came under attack on his way to mosque in Mukhtar locality." No one has been detained in connection with the incident so far.

Hajj and Religious Affairs Director Dawood Madaqiq confirmed the killing, saying Mukhtar Ahmad Radio and Television Director Hayatullah Dawari said the scholar regularly took part in programmes on Islamic issues and highlighted the need for peace. *(Pajhwok)*

Women among 16 Held on Drug Smuggling Charges

KABUL - Counter-narcotics police have detained 16 people including two women in connection with drug trafficking, an official said on Wednesday. Ahmad Khalid Muahid, crime justice task force department spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the suspected drug smugglers had been detained in Kabul, Herat, Baghlan and Kandahar while smuggling drugs.

He said 11 cases of the detainees had been referred to judicial organs for investigation.

Of the smugglers, nine of them arrested at the Hamid Karzai International Airport while smuggling 7,439 kilograms of heroin to India.

More than nine kilograms of heroin, 18 kilograms morphine, 25 opium, 69 kilograms hashish, 3,105 US dollars,



28,150 afghanis, 59,800 Indian rupees, 9,500 Pakistani rupees, 17 mobile phone sets and three various vehicles were seized. *(Pajhwok)*

Pushtkoh Police Accused of Killing Class 8th Student

FARAH CITY - One civilian has been shot dead and another injured by police in the Pushtkoh district of western Farah province, residents alleged on Wednesday.

Abdul Jabbar, an inhabitant of the area, told Pajhwok Afghan News policemen opened fire at the civilians at 7:30pm when they were coming out of mosque.

He said the gunfire resulted in the death of a 14-year-old boy -- a student of 8th class -- and injuries to another young man. Locals urged the government to investigate the incident.

However, deputy police chief, Col. Gul Bahar, rejected the claim of residents and said unidentified gunmen had attacked worshippers.

A provincial hospital official, who wished to go unnamed, confirmed receiving one injured and a body from the scene. The injured is said to be in stable condition.

Earlier, a 65-year-old retired officer was killed by unknown gunmen in front of his family in the Tukeen village of the district. *(Pajhwok)*

Youth-Run Company a Model Concept

KABUL - Asara, a Kabul service provider and consultation company, founded last year and run by a number of local youths, is already making a name for itself. The company provides business services and advice to small and medium sized businesses and also provides technical and professional training to businessmen and women, especially to start up

companies. Asara's staff said they want to provide necessary training to 420 youths in the near future - with the focus on those who want to establish small and medium sized businesses.

"We also provide services such as internet, furniture and a venue for those companies and entrepreneurs that start their own

businesses," Tamim Jawadi, operational manager, said.

Murtaza Idres is one entrepreneur who turned to Asara for help. He said he tried to get a magazine cover designed by many companies but was not happy with what they produced. He then went to Asara which designed his cover. "They ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Aries No matter what your professional responsibilities require of you now, communication is the key to your success. But you can't get away with unsubstantiated claims or hollow promises when tangible results are expected. You may temporarily lose your sense of freedom because you won't have the luxury of allowing your mind to wander.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Taurus Someone may offer you the opportunity of a lifetime, but don't jump at the chance until you do your due diligence. Unfortunately, a false sense of urgency today could lead you to discover that the seafront property you bought was a mosquito-infested swamp.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini You have no interest in participating in the same lighthearted conversations that recently filled your idle time. In fact, you may believe there's a small window of opportunity to work out the details of a financial relationship. You might even worry that your chance to close a deal will disappear before you can finalize it. Whether you are refinancing your home, buying a car or simply consolidating loans, ferret out all the facts before signing on the dotted line.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Cancer Although you are quite comfortable with your position today, your feelings may undermine your argument in an ongoing debate. It's crucial to confront your opposition with hard data rather than soft opinions. Of course, it's not wise to ignore your emotions; just don't use them when presenting your case.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Leo Yesterday's optimism has morphed into today's realism. You're less interested in the potential of a situation than in the practicality of it. Rather than imagining all the letters in the alphabet, you're executing your plan to get from A to B. But don't let your growing concern about efficiency shut down your dreams.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Virgo You can harness the power of your creativity today through all forms of communication and interpersonal interactions. Ironically, you are most productive now when you're having fun, but you're so driven to accomplish something tangible that you don't want to take the time to play. The solution to this dilemma comes through understanding the relationship between lighthearted wit and profound proclamations.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Libra Sometimes you must withdraw from the social noise to attend to your own needs. But this apparent retreat is not about avoiding responsibilities; instead, you're interested in clarifying your domestic obligations. One reason to reevaluate your commitments to family members is so you can head back into the world, knowing that you have a strong foundation at home.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Scorpio It's nearly impossible to rest your weary head today because you're so busy thinking important thoughts. Your complex mental process is motivated by your desire to make connections between all the different things you've learned. Although others may grow annoyed with your probing questions, they don't necessarily understand how driven you are to collect more information.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Sagittarius You may be wrapped up in the facts and figures of financial transactions now. Whether you are determining your budget for a home improvement project, reassessing your daily expenditures, or evaluating the feasibility of a business investment, it all comes down to what resources you possess and how you wish to utilize them for maximum benefit.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

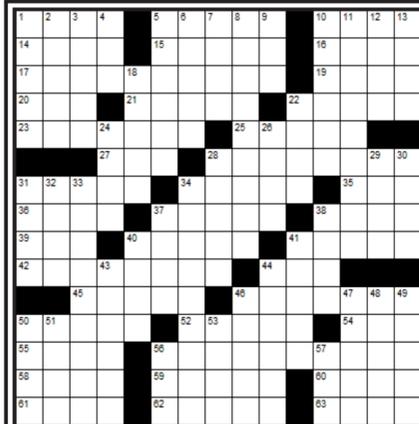
Capricorn You are in a power zone and it's crucial to make the most of it while it lasts. Although you may be overwhelmed by all the serious issues that are coming to a head, you are fully equipped to handle this complicated moment in your life. You will emerge from this cosmic pressure cooker with flying colors if you utilize your secret weapon of time management.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Aquarius Your private communication channel to other dimensions is open for business today, allowing your spirit guides, angels and ancestors to speak directly to you. However you frame these dialogues with non-physical beings, you're the beneficiary of the imparted wisdom.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Pisces So much of your life is intertwined around your social relationships. Your friends and coworkers mean a lot to you, as do their thoughts and opinions. However, you must establish new boundaries if you wish to pursue your personal goals. This is not about withdrawing into a shell; rather, it's about separating your needs from everyone else's, so you can discern what's most important to you.



Across

1. Nil, 5. Established, 10. Slender, 14. Footnote note, 15. French for "Queen", 16. Prospector's find, 17. Remarkable, 19. Air force heroes, 20. Protrude, 21. Licorice-like flavor, 22. Andean animal, 23. Spray very finely, 25. Underway, 27. Beer, 28. Shocks, 31. Rise rapidly, 34. Malodorous, 35. Top part of an apron, 36. Brownish purple, 37. Lost cause, 38. Run away, 39. Frozen water, 40. Moses' brother, 41. Mission, 42. A suspenseful adventure story, 44. Small rounded bread, 45. Highly favored, 46. Causing erosion, 50. Sedimentary rock, 52. Panache, 54. Female deer, 55. A Maori club, 56. Portion, 58. Throat-clearing sound, 59. Incline, 60. Plus, 61. Fabricated, 62. Daisy-like bloom, 63. Existed,

Down

1. Martial arts expert, 2. Around, 3. Repeat, 4. Citrus drink, 5. Alloy of copper and tin, 6. Eagle's nest, 7. Seats oneself, 8. Encourage, 9. Former North African ruler, 10. Ski race, 11. Capable of being pinpointed, 12. As just mentioned, 13. Plateau, 18. Howls, 22. Blaring, 24. Filly's mother, 26. Reasonable, 28. Adult male singing voice, 29. Fastens, 30. Foment, 31. Expectoration, 32. Owl, 33. Embittered, 34. Forebodes, 37. Not guys, 38. A reserve of money, 40. Away from the wind, 41. A proportional share, 43. Light up, 44. Stimulating drink, 46. Run away to wed, 47. Ancient Roman magistrate, 48. Hangman's knot, 49. Mortise and _____, 50. Unwanted email, 51. Laugh, 53. Coagulate, 56. An Old Testament king, 57. Bar bill,

Yesterday's Solution

Across: 1. AWARE, 2. REAP, 3. UPDO, 4. AWAKE, 5. EMIR, 6. NEAR, 7. DEWAN, 8. LIDO, 9. DEME, 10. ADDLE, 11. PATED, 12. EVEN, 13. FOX, 14. BARE, 15. APRIL, 16. GRINS, 17. DAUNT, 18. RAIN, 19. STORM, 20. DINT, 21. SUTING, 22. OGGIE, 23. SLEIGHT, 24. HING, 25. GOLLAS, 26. CORNS, 27. WADERS, 28. ALIBI, 29. NIET, 30. SLAP, 31. VEGETARIAN, 32. ULNA, 33. ESNE, 34. LARGO, 35. BOAT, 36. LAUD, 37. OGGIES, 38. STILE, 39. SUSIS, 40. GLASSY

R M E T T L E N I F E D I
A R T I S A N E R O N G I
W E R E H W Y N A Q W M S
N W E R O U T E C F O O T
L O D E L W O R H T N O E
A P L A I L U G O M K D A
C C U L D U H E F E D Y K
I H O I A N S T N L R P N
M E H T Y C O I S T O R E
O E S Y A H H C N E W I E
C S S P A W N I A E S M R
Y E E F F E C T L B Y E G
P O L I C E O U T L E T N