

# Airstrike Kills 4 IS Militants in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - A total of four militants loyal to the Islamic State (IS) group were killed after aircrafts pounded the armed outfit's positions in Achin district of the eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan on Thursday, local media reported Friday. Quoting Nangarhar's provincial government spokesman Attaullah Khogiani, the local media reported two of those killed in the raid were Pakistanis and the remain-



ing two others from Tajikistan. The anti-government IS group which has been operating in parts of the eastern Nangarhar province over the past nearly two years is yet to make comment on the report. Afghan officials usually accused Pakistan of supporting militants fighting in Afghanistan, a claim rejected by Islamabad as groundless. (Xinhua)

## Ghazni Police Detain 9-Man Kidnap Gang

GHAZNI CITY - Police on Thursday claimed busting a nine-man kidnap group and recovered one person from their captivity in southern Ghazni province. Ghazni police chief Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel told reporters here that the group had kidnapped two persons about 10 days ago in Qarah Bagh district. "They kidnapped Akhtar Mohammad along with his father, but they freed the father after 20 minutes and held captive Akhtar Mohammad for 10 days." He said the kidnapers had sought \$150,000 from Akhtar Mohammad's family but the family agreed to 2.5 million afghanis in ransom money. "We were chasing the group from the day one and arrested it while receiving the ransom money." The police chief said the kidnap gang was a largest group and so far its nine members including two leaders Redi Gul ... (More on P4)... (12)

## Parwan Public Health Advisor Kidnapped by Gunmen

CHARIKAR - An advisor to the Public Health Department in central Parwan province has been kidnapped by unidentified gunmen, an official said on Friday. "The doctor, who also ran a private clinic, was seized by unknown armed individuals on Thursday evening," the administrative chief for Jabalus Saraj ... (More on P4)... (13)

## Father Kills Daughter over Alleged Illicit Affair

QALA-I-NAW - A father gunned down his daughter over alleged illicit relationship with a man in the Qadis district of northwestern Badghis province, an official said on Thursday. The girl was killed over the suspicion of having illicit relationship with a local resident, the governor's spokesman, Zahir Bahand, told Pajhwok Afghan News. The father and the paramour had fled, but police were investigating the incident, he said. A member of the provincial council, Mohammad Nasir Nazari, said the lover had been arrested by police and the girl's family wanted to kill him as well. (Pajhwok)

## Afghan Girl Attacks Gender Inequality in Society one Kick at a Time

KABUL - "My prime objective is gender equality between men and women in Afghanistan and that's why I'm calling on all girls to break down the cultural barriers and join me in promoting Wushu to achieve this goal," Wushu martial artist, Seema Azimi, 20, told Xinhua recently. During a practice session on a snow-blanketed hilltop on the western edge of Kabul along with her trainees, Azimi stated that Afghan females have no shortage in talent compared with men but that the "harmful traditions" have suppressed women's wisdom. "In my opinion women like men are free to go outside of home, to practice sport including Wushu and to demonstrate their ability and intelligence," the female athlete asserted. Alongside 10 other practitioners of Wushu on a hilltop where the temperature was minus 2 degrees Celsius, Azimi added that, "Wushu doesn't recognize cold or hot weather" and the players should be ready in all climates. In Afghanistan's con-

servative society where people, especially in the countryside, deeply believe in old traditions and don't allow their female family members to go out of their home except when accompanied by a very close relative, playing sports in the open air is extremely risky for women. Azimi said that her trainees had all experienced problems with their families pertaining to the country's deeply-rooted patriarchal traditions which are still prevalent in a county where militancy claims the lives of countless people almost every day. "Of course, as women, we face a variety of challenges in our daily lives including being teased on the streets, but we have no choice but to persist," the determined coach, Azimi said. Azimi, who learned Wushu in Iran during her life there as a refugee and returned to her home country Afghanistan two years ago, besides teaching the martial art to a group of girls, herself is regularly practicing at the Shaolin Wushu club, a local ... (More on P4)... (14)

## 11 Construction Firm Workers Released in Kandahar

KANDAHAR CITY - Nearly a dozen kidnapped workers of a construction company have been rescued in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Friday. Suspected insurgents kidnapped the workers last month when they were building a school's boundary wall in the Takhta Pul district of the province. Samim Khpalkw, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the 11 construction workers had been freed as a result of mediation by tribal elders.



However, the spokesman did not give further details. The Taliban are yet to comment on the release of the labourers. (Pajhwok)

## 2 Foreigners with Links to Taliban Detained in Sar-I-Pul

SAR-I-PUL - Two foreign fighters with links to the Taliban have been arrested in central Sar-i-Pul province, local security official claimed on Friday. The foreigners were detained during a police raid in the morning, the provincial police chief, Col. Inayatullah Habibi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said: "The militants detained during a police operation in the Qafلاتoon area of Sayyad district. One of them is named Danyal from Uz-



bekistan and the other organs for interrogations. Four Taliban were killed and weapons seized in the predawn operation. (Pajhwok)

## 2 Children Dead in Bomb Attack by Farah Police

FARAH CITY - Two children have been killed and a third wounded in bomb attack in the capital of northwestern Farah province, an official alleged on Friday. Mohammad Naser Mehri, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the attack in Soor Kalay was conducted by policemen, who had been arrested. Abdul Rauf, father of the wounded minor, confirmed to this scribe at the Farah Civil Hospital: "The 11-year-old injured boy is my son. The two dead were my nephews." He said the three children were grazing sheep near their house on Thursday evening when they came under attack from a nearby police post. Rauf asked the government to bring the culprits to justice forthwith. (Pajhwok)

## Afghan Forces Kill 4 Militants, Detain 2 Foreigners

SARIPUL - At least four Taliban fighters have been killed and four others injured as security forces attacked militants' positions in Sayad district of the northern Saripul province on Thursday, provincial governor Mohammad Zahir Wahdat said Friday. "Four Taliban rebels have been killed, four others injured and two foreign nationals have been arrested," Wahdat told reporters here. "One of the arrested foreign nationals is from Turkmenistan and the other from Kazakhstan," the official said, adding, "both of them received terrorist training in Waziristan tribal area of Paki-

stan." Taliban militants who are active in parts of the relatively restive province are yet to make comment on the report. Earlier on the day, local media quoting Attaullah Khogiani, the spokesman for eastern Nangarhar province, reported killing two Pakistanis and two Tajikistani nationals loyal to the Islamic State (IS) group in the eastern region on Thursday. Foreign nationals, according to Afghan security officials, have been fighting alongside anti-government militants including Taliban and the IS groups in Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

Listen carefully to your inner voice, especially when it encourages you to follow your dreams. Fortunately, you're ready to do whatever it takes to reach your professional goals while resourceful Venus in your 12th House of Destiny supports ruthless Pluto in your 10th House of Career. Don't doubt any decisions you make at this time for your logic is sounder than you think.

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

You are quite insistent when it comes to getting your message across and you won't let anything stand in the way of achieving your goals. Pleasure-seeking Venus sextiles obsessive Pluto, intensifying your desires today and making you more likely to express your needs. The strength of your feelings prompts you to search for emotional satisfaction.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are positive vibrations in the air today, elevating you to the top of your game. However, the music of the spheres has a deep bass note that pulls your energy downward and inward. Although you are often attracted to lighter tones, magnetic Venus forms a supportive sextile to regenerative Pluto in your 8th House of Transformation, setting the stage for a profound metamorphosis.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your newfound self-sufficiency allows you to withdraw deeper into your shell today. Fortunately, you are tapping into powerful emotional issues that can teach you something valuable about yourself. People may think you are retreating as an act of rebellion, but it's just your way of forcing them to show their cards. There's no need to explain your motives now.

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

Relationship dynamics grab your attention today, requiring that you put everything else on the back burner. You clearly see the value of one-on-one discussions as passionate Pluto aligns with loving Venus in your 8th House of Regeneration. Thankfully, you can turn an adversary into an ally or revive a faltering relationship while you are channeling this cosmic support.

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

You possess the skills to handle delicate matters gracefully today, especially if a revealing conversation touches sensitive issues. An insightful Venus-Pluto sextile intensifies passions and increases your capacity to heal damaged alliances. However, you can't be effective while you're safely ensconced behind a protective wall. You must be willing to jump in and get your hands dirty in the process.

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

Your judgment is excellent today, especially when it comes to discovering hidden value that others overlook. Your sixth sense is attuned to the best deals you can find as a cooperative Venus-Pluto sextile heightens your perception and deepens your wisdom. Nevertheless, you must be persistent in your analysis if you want to uncover the truth. Expressing your emotions honestly can save a relationship that seems to have lost its way.

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

Take every opportunity to make deeper emotional connections today, for a heart-to-heart conversation possesses enough substance to withstand the tests of time. You can experience love that truly matters while romantic Venus is supported by passionate Pluto. Whether it's personal or business affairs you must manage, you are extremely effective as long as you're willing to accept.

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

Powerful passions motivate you to express your beliefs and to pursue them with calculated concentration. A sensual Venus-Pluto sextile adds a delicious dose of pleasure and savvy social skills to the mix today. You're driven to achieve your aims, but you are also tempted to take the easy way out and amuse yourself by entertaining friends and colleagues. Instead of seeking greener pastures,

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You may need to dig deep to find true meaning today. Loving Venus forms a supportive sextile with relentless Pluto, enabling you to cut to the chase in a relationship. Fortunately, you can also reduce waste in your financial dealings if you are willing to reexamine the bottom line. Small but solid steps will take you as far as you want to go, but giant leaps forward will only leave you hanging out on a limb.

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

Carefully examine the professional opportunities around you now since you might just have the proverbial pick of the litter. A favorable Venus-Pluto aspect clarifies your needs, empowers you to eliminate wasteful distractions and urges you to focus on activities that bring you the greatest rewards. Fortunately, you're capable of looking beyond short-term issues and seeing the long-range potential that's still waiting in the distance.

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

You are busy cleverly exploring new ways to find the resources you need to make your dreams come true. You are blessed with a magical diplomatic touch now that the planet of love is moving through your sign. Additionally, you are empowered to seize the day when gracious Venus receives assistance from fierce Pluto. Take advantage of your current ability to maximize an opportunity and stick with your commitment until you reach your goals.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across: 1. Alumni, 6. Lacking intellectual acuity, 10. Outlay, 14. Audio communications, 15. Pearly-shelled mussel, 16. Savvy about, 17. Hades, 19. Bearing, 20. Casual eatery, 21. Barely manage, 22. Smut, 23. Affirmatives, 25. Sesame seed, 26. Stinging remark, 30. Slob, 32. Imitate, 35. A way through, 39. Figure out, 40. Charred, 41. Smiled contemptuously, 43. Obtaining, 44. Lament, 46. Not difficult, 47. Community spirit, 50. Pasted, 53. A song for 2, 54. American Sign Language, 55. Relinquish, 60. French for "State", 61. Having a deformed foot, 63. Gangster's gal, 64. Not there, 65. Awaken, 66. Backside, 67. Biblical garden, 68. Sketches.

Down: 1. Food, 2. Hindu princess, 3. Contributes, 4. Weight loss plan, 5. Apologetic, 6. Twosome, 7. Unwind, 8. Coward, 9. Portend, 10. Make amends for, 11. Scallion, 12. Strict, 13. 1000 kilograms, 18. Suffering, 24. South southeast, 25. Assail, 26. What we sleep on, 27. So be it, 28. Boorish, 29. Bachelor's button, 31. Flower holder, 33. Units of land, 34. Abound, 36. Operatic solo, 37. Family lines, 38. Jittery, 42. Dog sleigh, 43. African antelope, 45. Tempt, 47. Swelling under the skin, 48. Coach, 49. Makes well, 51. F, 52. Thresholds, 54. Dull pain, 56. A chess piece, 57. Decorative case, 58. A feat, 59. Poems, 62. Tall hill.

Yesterday's Solution

ESSE	PHONE	ECRIB	CHOL
LILT	RAGES	CRIB	
UNEASINESS	ZONE		
DUDE	INSIST	MESSY	
SIS	ENG	LOAMS	
WEE	CINNABAR		
THREW	WANLY	FIRE	
HOUR	SOGGY	FLEA	
TISM	APREIS	MALAR	
SEIGNOR	BEAR		
ERASE	WORSE	ONE	
TONS	DAMOTISSE	ELLE	
CUTE	ARTINE	TIER	
WREST	OTTIER	GOTTS	

available, bane, built, butt, clean, clearance, country, curt, damage, devastate, doctor, draft, event, ingredient, laugh, liquid, monitor, music, night, perfect, picture, , reds, repeat, resent, series, steeve, store, struck, tare, thrust, tough, treat.

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