

# Gun Battle Left Dozens Militants Dead, Injured

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Up to two dozen militants have been killed and injured as clash erupted between security forces and Taliban fighters in Baghlan-Markazi district of the northern Baghlan province on Saturday, district governor Gohar Khan Babiri said Sunday.

The clash, according to the official, flared up Saturday night when the militants attacked some checkpoints in Charshanba Tapa locality during which several houses nearby have also been damaged.



Police spokesman in the province, Zabihullah Shija also confirmed the fighting and told reporters that more than 20 insurgents had been killed and injured in the fighting which is still going on.

Baghlan province with Pul-e-Khumri as its capital 160 km east of Kabul has been the scene of Taliban-led insurgency over the past several years.

Taliban militants have not commented on the situation. (Xinhua)

## Daesh Hostage Freed, Speaks of Group's Brutality



JALALABAD - Bismillah, a 75-year-old man who was freed by Daesh after being kidnapped by the group's fighters along with 17 others, in Kot district of Nangarhar province has spoken out about the group's brutality.

The hostages, including nine women, who were kept for 50 days. According to Bismillah, Daesh militants beheaded all the men, except him and the nine women. They were all eventually ... (More on P4)... (14)

## Female Herat Prisoners Upbeat about Post-Jail Life

HERAT CITY - Female prisoners, who underwent different vocational trainings at the female prison in western Herat province, say they will be able to fulfill their economic needs after their releases. Nafas, who has spent five years in the jail, told Pajhwok Afghan News she had learnt tailoring during her jail term and was currently busy on embroidery.

She called the jail a good place for learning and said: "If we decide, we can learn many skills in the jail and I learnt tailoring, now I am busy embroidering clothes."

Sharifa, another female prison-



er, said some female inmates after their release were rejected by their families. But the rejected females could independently live and meet their needs and support children by using their skills they learned in the jail, ... (More on P4)... (15)

## 8 Daesh Insurgents Dead in Nangarhar Clash, Drone Strike

JALALABAD - Eight Daesh or Islamic State (IS) and one civilian have been killed and one policeman wounded in a clash and airstrike in the Kot and Achin districts of eastern Nangarhar province, officials said.

Two IS rebels were killed in an overnight clash in Asobyar locality when a newly constructed check-post of Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel was attacked by Daesh rebels, said Syed Rahman Momand, administrative chief of Kot district.

He said 15 ALP personnel defended and pushed back the IS rebels attack effectively. Separately, six Daesh rebels, including four foreigners, have been killed in a US drone strike in Achin district, said Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman. There was no comment from the rebel group on latest incidents of violence. (Pajhwok)

## Stray Dogs to be Registered, Vaccinated in Kabul

KABUL - Municipality officials said about more than 150 people annually lost their lives to dog bites in capital Kabul and stray dogs would be registered and vaccinated as part of a contract signed on Sunday.

Acting mayor Abdullah Habibzai and Mayhew Animal Home, a charity in England, signed the contract on Sunday here.

The mayor said the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the Kabul municipality would manage the registration, vaccination and neutering of stray dogs.

He said all dogs in capital Kabul would be registered and vaccinated to prevent transfer of diseases from them to humans.



Deputy Kabul mayor, Masihullah Mahbob, expressed concern over the large number of stray dogs in Kabul and said that around 160 people lost their ... (More on P4)... (16)

## New Hospital for Drug Addicts Opens

CHARIKAR - Construction work on a 50-bed rehabilitation hospital for drug addicts was completed on Sunday in central Parwan province, home to some 15,000 addicts.

Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz, who attended the hospital's inauguration ceremony here, said besides treatment of addicts, they would be provided counseling services as well to help them quit the addiction habit.

He said like other provinces drug mafia groups were active in Parwan as well and the number of addicts would increase if the issue of drugs was not addressed.

Doctors at the new hospital said treatment of an addict would take six months to fully recover. Governor Mohammad Asim Asim urged people to help addicts quit consuming drugs. He vowed to harshly punish drug peddlers, who he said used children in their business. (Pajhwok)

## Huge Quantity of Drug, 44 Smugglers Held Countrywide

KABUL CITY - Forty-four people have been arrested in connection with narcotics and alcoholic drinks smuggling in the past one month in different parts of the country, an official said on Sunday.

Ahmad Khalid Moahid, spokesman for the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF), told Pajhwok Afghan News the smugglers have been captured by police personnel from Nangarhar, Kabul, Nimroz, Parwan, Paktia and Balkh provinces. He said 201 Kilograms of heroin, 351 kilograms of morpheme, more than six tonnes of opium, two tonnes of hashish, over one tonne of



Solid chemical, 180 Liters of liquid chemical and 311 liters of alcohol drinks sized were seized from the detainees.

Most of smugglers had been detained from Nangarhar, Nimroz and in center Kabul, he added. Moahid said the cases of detained individuals were being investigated at the CJTF. It is pertinent to mention that In November, 51 people were arrested in 48 cases of drugs and narcotics from different provinces of the country. (Pajhwok)

## Suicide Attack Target Taliban Leader in Kunduz Leaving 4 Dead

KUNDUZ CITY - A suicide attack targeted a top Taliban leader in Kunduz province, leaving at least four people dead.

According to the security officials, the incident took place on Saturday night in Dashti Archi district after a suicide bomber detonated himself among the Taliban fighters. Commander of the 808 Spinzar Zone, Sher Aziz Kamawal, told VOA's Afghanistan service that four Taliban insurgents were killed in the attack. He said Taliban's shadow governor for Kunduz Mullah Abdul Salam



Akhund was wounded in the attack. According to Kamawal, the suicide bomber had come from the restive Achin district of Nangarhar for the suicide attack. Local residents have said Mullah Abdul Salam was invited in a party in Tark village where he was targeted by the bomber. No group has so far claimed responsibility behind the attack which comes as the infighting among the Taliban group has been rise ... (More on P4)... (17)

### Outlook Horoscope

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



Unforeseen changes can force you to loosen your grip on your schedule. Go ahead and seek solace in your imagination, but if you choose to postpone fulfilling a promise, don't confuse your impractical fantasies with your mundane obligations. Logical Mercury in your 6th House of Logistics is influenced by otherworldly Neptune today, so manage your time as effectively as possible.

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



What you lose in mental clarity today is made up in artistic potential. Your rationality is diffused while cerebral Mercury opposes nebulous Neptune, so writing technical manuals or detailed emails is challenging. Make time to enrich your soul by listening to music or relaxing in nature. Keeping your options open can be a viable strategy.

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



It seems like a perfect day to kick back and let your mind wander wherever it wants to go. Mischievous Mercury's opposition to surreal Neptune sets the stage for storytelling, daydreaming and other forms of mental escape. Avoid concrete planning or initiating conversations if logic is required. Minor irritations at home can surface now, but practicing compassion and forgiveness is a better use of your time.

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



Although you can see a domestic issue from all angles today, a sticky dispute conflict could still sidetrack your day. After putting in quite a bit of effort to sort it all out, you might discover that most of the disagreement originated from a simple misunderstanding. But an in-depth discussion only makes the situation worse if everyone is operating off of different assumptions.

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



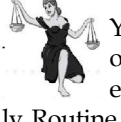
You're finally ready to tackle a longstanding financial issue today, only to realize the problem isn't as bad as you thought. Unfortunately, trickster Mercury's opposition to fuzzy Neptune can delude you into believing nearly anything that resonates with your fantasies. You could even mislead yourself into imagining an improved fiscal situation.

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



Ironically, facts range from fuzzy to fantastic now, which can lead you to erroneous conclusions. Paradoxically, analytical Mercury empowers you to focus your logic like a laser beam. However, the Winged Messenger is in a tug-of-war with delusional Neptune today, making it impossible to discern useful data from an incoming deluge of unverifiable information. Rather than making yourself crazy with frustration, grab this opportunity to explore your imagination.

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



You may be confused by your lack of priorities today as thoughtful Mercury opposes ephemeral Neptune in your 6th House of Daily Routine. Retreating from the public spotlight seems like your most sensible option while several planets congregate in your 12th House of Privacy. Nevertheless, the future is pulling at you from several different directions now, obscuring your final destination.

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



Your dreams must be placed on the back burner today so you can direct your energy toward the outside world. Pressure to renew a commitment or change direction is likely as the illuminating Sun's presence in your 10th House of Career is intensified by powerful Pluto.

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



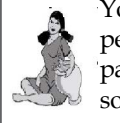
You long to take spiritual refuge from the demands of life today. Messenger Mercury's opposition to metaphysical Neptune in your 4th House of Roots tempts you to escape into your imagination. However, it's nearly impossible to remain objective when every word is so loaded with illusions and emotions. While this planetary combination is wonderful for creative expression and compassionate conversation, it tends to dissipate facts in the presence of dreams.

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



You want everyone to see your fair and balanced approach to resolving interpersonal differences. Unfortunately, the power of your beliefs distorts your objectivity now as relentless Pluto in your 1st House of Self is bent out of shape by the dramatic Leo Sun. But it's easier to bury your agenda than to acknowledge it. Nevertheless, what's left unsaid can tilt a conversation in the wrong direction.

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

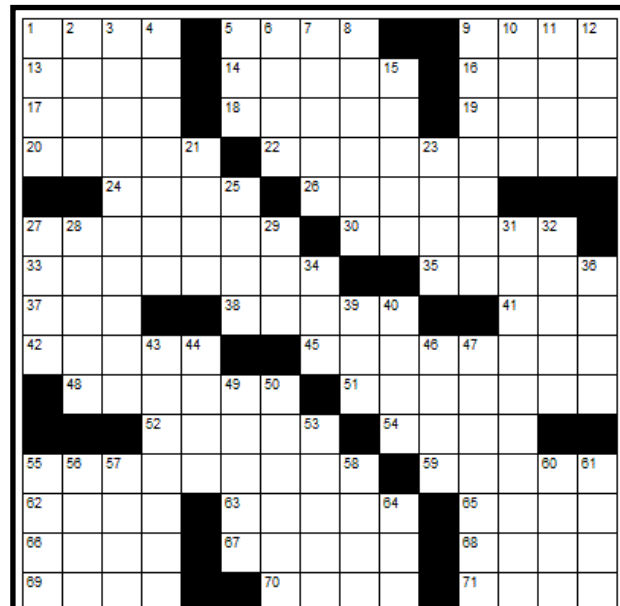


Your defenses soften in the presence of other people's weaknesses because you have compassion for their plight today. Wanting to help someone in need is admirable, but the sharp analytical lens of cerebral Mercury in precise Virgo is diffused by its opposition to surreal Neptune. This confusing yet imaginative aspect challenges you to discern the truth from fiction.

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



Delving into the details of relationships can be a tedious process, yet it's essential work for cultivating your compassion. While it's true that love sometimes flows along with the magic of silent understanding, words are ultimately the best means for establishing deep connections. Pillow talk is the upside of chatty Mercury's opposition to dreamy Neptune today.



#### Across

- Sweeping story, 5. Baby's bed, 9. Handout, 13. Gambling game, 14. Cover girl, 16. Goddess of discord, 17. Every single one, 18. Foreword, 19. Half-moon tide, 20. An elongated leather strip, 22. Purposeless, 24. River of Spain, 26. Relative magnitudes, 27. Glowing, 30. Words to a song, 33. Excluders, 35. Adjust, 37. Unruly crowd, 38. Sysadmin, 41. 52 in Roman numerals, 42. Inexpensive magazines, 45. Some time ago, 48. A change for the better, 51. Angered, 52. Birch relative, 54. Indian dress, 55. Stockmen, 59. Kind of bean, 62. Adjoin, 63. Frenzied, 65. Masterstroke, 66. Distribute, 67. Winged, 68. Dethrone, 69. Disparage, 70. If not, 71. Sounds of disapproval.

#### Down

- Anagram of "Seek", 2. Kind of moss, 3. Beyond belief, 4. Live together, 5. Consumer Price Index, 6. Peel, 7. \_\_\_ alia, 8. Fiscal, 9. Resembling a tooth, 10. Chocolate cookie, 11. Teller of untruths, 12. Catch a glimpse of, 15. Petulant, 21. Buttocks, 23. Former Italian currency, 25. 1 1 1 1, 27. Cavort, 28. French for "Love", 29. Attempt, 31. Gloomy, 32. Column of wood, 34. South southeast, 36. Fastened, 39. Mineral rock, 40. Writing implements, 43. Phonograph record, 44. Window ledge, 46. Envelop, 47. Green bean, 49. Swelling under the skin, 50. Pertaining to women, 53. Kidney-related, 55. Cogs, 56. Cain's brother, 57. Ballet attire, 58. Pesky insects, 60. Ivory colored dentine, 61. Chooses, 64. C.

#### Yesterday's Solution

BLURS CEDES ULNA  
EOSTIN APES NIOOB  
ARECA TILIT OIYVA  
UNDERWATER ERAS  
LIRA AFRESH  
SCAN ZAP YOW  
LOGO ECHOWREST  
DAMANT DELIVER  
MERIT SHOD TETE  
NOM AMI ESSE  
SALAMIT YELP  
TROT MASTERMIND  
RIANT GIGIE AERIE  
OREO SEER TWICE  
WARN ADDS ESSSES

abroad, arcane, archery, assume, aster, barb, basis, basket, beast, bleak, bode, bonus, bread, cordial, cramp, crisis, devil, unny, gable, gallop, horse, ideal, joint, murky, orphan, perceive, period, phone, raid, rant, satisfaction, since, spear, storage.

