

A Dozen Rebels Eliminated in Helmand Clash: Governor

LASHKARGAH - At least 12 militants have been killed and seven others wounded during a clash in the Greshk district of southern Helmand province, an senior official claimed on Tuesday. Governor Mirza Khan Rahimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents suffered the casualties on Monday night when they stormed security checkpoints in the province. Afghan forces also seized three Kalashnikovs and a walkie-talkie from the rebels, he said. "The security personnel have stepped up operations and several areas have been cleared," he added. Col. Abdul Sat-



tarNoorzai, police commander for the Helmand-Kandahar highway, confirmed clashes between the Taliban and security forces in Greshk. The security forces suffered no casualties. However, Mohammad Naeem, a resident of Greshk district, said both sides had suffered casualties in the overnight clash. He had no more details about the incident. The Taliban, without commenting on the firefights, claimed inflicting casualties on several Afghan forces in the provincial capital and Nad Ali and Marja districts. (Pajhwok)

Ceremony Held for Mariam Ibrahimi in Kabul

KABUL - A mourning and prayer recitation ceremony was held on Tuesday for one of last week's suicide bombing victims Mariam Ibrahimi. Ibrahimi was one of seven TOLO TV staff members killed in a suicide bombing last Wednesday. Mourners at Tuesday's ceremony called such attacks on civilians and media institutions as an un-Islamic act and said it was inhumane. Ibrahimi's relatives and friends asked government to prevent such attacks and put more effort into ensuring the security of civilians. Sarwar Danish, the second vice president to Ashraf Ghani, and second deputy CEO Mohammad Mohaqiq also participated at the ceremony. "Our message to insurgents is to stop the killing of innocent people and stop such actions," said Najibullah one of Ibrahimi's relatives. "If the opposition really wants to defend Islam then it is not the right way, this action is against Islam and they must stop such attacks," said Abdul Rashid another relative. "Such attacks cannot stop the people's voice, if Mariam's... (More on P4)... (15)

Taliban Shoot, Injured 7 Civilians in Parwan

CHARIKAR - Local residents on Tuesday said Taliban militants shot and injured seven civilians after pulling them off passenger vehicles in Shinwari district of central Parwan province. They claimed the Taliban shot injured the civilians in Sar Dara AshtarShehr area because local residents defied their orders to pick up guns against the government. The injured people have been brought to the civil hospital in Charikar, the provincial capital, where hundreds of residents of the Shinwari district have arrived. The residents said the government had failed to provide them security. One of them, Mira Jan, told Pajhwok Afghan News



that the Taliban had asked local residents of the Shinwari district to wage an uprising against the government. But the residents did not comply with the orders and the Taliban in reaction on Tuesday morning seized a number of people, including him, from vehicles en route to a wedding ceremony, he said, adding that seven of them were shot and injured by the insurgents. Mira Jan said the government had failed to provide security to local residents. "If the situation persists, we have no option but... (More on P4)... (14)

20 Suspects Rounded up in Kabul

KABUL - Police have arrested 20 suspects on different charges including murder, robbery, selling drugs and illegally carrying weapons in Kabul, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced on Tuesday. A statement released by the ministry states that the suspects were arrested during separate raids from 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 13th police districts and areas related to ChaharAsyab and Khak-e-Jabbar districts in past 24 hours. According to the statement, police have been conducting counter-terrorism operations days and nights and won't spare any effort in security. Security measures increased in the capital following the deadly Taliban attack on a bus carrying journalists. Seven media staff lost lives and over 20 others sustained injuries in the suicide attack last week. (KP)

10 Taliban Militants Killed in Afghan Forces' Operation in Baghlan

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Ten militants have been killed as Afghan security forces launched massive operations against Taliban bastion in the northern Baghlan province on Tuesday, a local official said. "Up to 10 Taliban rebels have been killed and several villages have been liberated from Taliban clutch since launching the operations early Tuesday," provincial government



spokesman Mahmoud Dand-e-Ghori during the operation in Haqmal told Xinhua. Three Taliban militants and a soldier of national army have been injured. Local... (More on P4)... (16)

10 Police Personnel Killed in Uruzgan

TRINKOT - Ten police personnel were killed as a result of insider attack in Chinarto district of the southern Uruzgan province on Tuesday, a local official said. "Ten police personnel in a checkpoint in Chinarto district after being poisoned and falling unconscious were shot dead early today," district governor, Faiz Mohammad Hanafi told Xinhua. The official didn't rule out Taliban involvement in the incident, saying the attacker fled away with assault rifles. Meanwhile, ZabihullahMujahid who claims to speak for the Taliban



outfit, in contact with media claimed that a Taliban loyalist after killing police personnel joined the Taliban rank in Chinarto district of Uruzgan province. (Xinhua)

Stepson Shoots Pregnant Mother to Death

MAIMANA - A 30-year-old pregnant woman has been shot dead by her stepson in Maimana, the capital of northwestern Faryab province, an official

said on Tuesday. Dr. Samir Inayat, head of the forensic department, confirmed receiving the woman's bullet-hit body at the hospital. The woman was found

ISIS Bolsters War of Words Against Taliban

KABUL - ISIS supporters have launched a social media war against the Afghan Taliban, defaming them as a "national" movement that "cooperates with the infidels and Crusaders." "The national Taliban reaches out to the world and embraces tyrants," an ISIS supporter wrote in a series of tweets. Others on Twitter called the Taliban a product of the CIA, while some on the messaging app Telegram slammed Taliban militants as Western agents. Other ISIS loyalists accused the group's leader, Mullah Akhtar, of being "an agent of Iran and a servant for the Pakistani intelligence." Since Monday, they've shared the accusations with Taliban, TheNationalTaliban—the campaign's hashtag, Vocativ deep web analysts discovered. (Agencies)

US Drone Attack Kills 6 IS Militants in Afghanistan

KABUL - About six Islamic State (IS) militants had been killed in U.S. drone strikes in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar, the Defense Ministry said on Tuesday. "The coalition force pilotless aircraft carried

out airstrikes against IS militants' hideouts in surrounding areas of Baandar and Baro Kali villages of Achin district, killing six IS members," the ministry said in a statement. The mountainous Achin district bordering Paki-

stan has been the scene of heavy clashes between IS militants and Afghan security forces backed by the pro-government militias over the past couple of months. The IS group has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You have been trying to manage career-related issues based on old information while Mercury did its retrograde dance in your 10th House of Profession. Although you made valiant efforts to move forward, your thinking was stuck in the past. However, it's now time to let go of recent events and get serious about executing your plans. Although you may temporarily lack confidence.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You are finally ready to share your opinions on a delicate matter. You wisely kept your feelings to yourself as you developed your ideas because you didn't want to rock the boat until you were sure your position could be defended. Although you have the certainty of facts and the power of conviction on your side, the dynamics are trickier than you might think.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You can tell that a power shift is in the air now that messenger Mercury has turned direct in your 8th House of Deep Sharing. You might feel as if you're a kite at the whim of the changing winds. Although it's always a temptation for you adaptable Twins to pursue the next intriguing curiosity, it makes more sense to anchor yourself to the ground, stick around and dig beneath the surface. Paradoxically.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You could receive a visit from an old friend or acquaintance tied to your past as mischievous Mercury spins around in your 7th House of Companions. Meanwhile, issues at work grow more complicated now as a topic that was discussed weeks ago returns to the forefront. Whatever surfaces today may prove to become more important over the next week or so.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You may not want to say everything you are thinking today, but you know exactly what's going on and you know what you need to do about it. However, you're emotionally sensitive now, but your inner stress isn't apparent to others. You're uncharacteristically cautious because you intuitively understand how significant these days are to your success.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your emotional reactions are strong today while the moody Moon is howling in your sign, yet it may be tricky to express what's going on within your heart. If you reveal your feelings to others, you could inadvertently change the game and things might intensify too quickly. Keeping your thoughts quiet isn't a bad strategy now if you don't want to upset the applecart. Nevertheless, you can't predict the future.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your ideas continue to be innovative and bold, but you can scatter your precious energy today instead of using it wisely. Even if your mental game is in top form now, sloppy thinking could prevent you from reaching your final destination. Take a few deep breaths and then get back to work; your current confidence will help you achieve your goals on time. Your mantra for the day is "pushing the river won't make it go faster."

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Focusing your fierce intensity on your goals heightens your senses in the present moment. Your fixed purpose allows you to see straight into the eye of the hurricane. Thankfully, you have nothing to fear now and might even gain strength from experiencing the stillness of the center. The time for contemplation is over; fortunately.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You might forget about your chores today as you wistfully replay childhood fantasies. Perhaps you are dreaming about possessing super-hero powers, imagining what you would accomplish if you could defy gravity, stop time or eliminate evil. Although your most human characteristics are all too obvious, you still can perform magic in everything you do. Don't fritter away your time.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

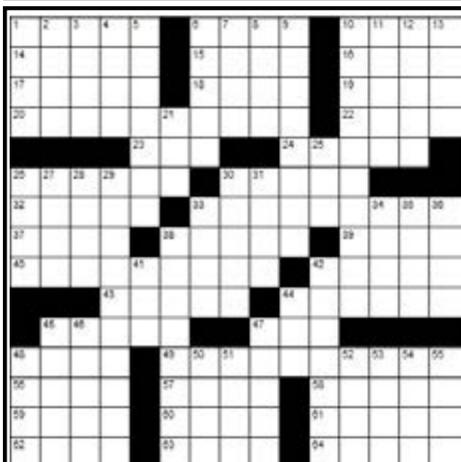
Although you are quite clear about the road ahead, it feels as if something is wrong with the picture today. You can't put your finger on your uncertainty, but an inner voice is telling you not to trust your desires now. Normally, you're an expert at compartmentalizing your emotions if they interfere with your progress; however, shutting down your feelings is not a smart plan while Venus is casting her spell in your sign.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You might be concerned that something is lurking on the outskirts of your awareness today. Unfortunately, you could waste valuable resources in pursuit of the unknown keys to your life. Sometimes a mature attitude is required to let go of a goal that can't be reached, instead of setting yourself up for further disappointment. Review the past few weeks and make up your mind to push past.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

It's as if the entire world has temporarily stopped spinning, just to give you extra time to think through a pesky problem. However, Mercury's direct turn in your 11th House of Long-Term Goals indicates a change of direction. If you recently made a decision that greatly impacts your future, take one more look at the alternatives before heading down the new path. Reconsidering your options one last time is wise now.



Across

1. A Biblical measure, 6. Smack, 10. Low in pitch, 14. Rink, 15. Falafel bread, 16. Sexual assault, 17. Respond, 18. Smell, 19. Diva's solo, 20. A type of infantry, 22. Charged particles, 23. Snake-like fish, 24. Nursemaid, 26. Surpassingly good, 30. Front parts of human legs, 32. Unlocks, 33. Basketball players, 37. Not short, 38. Noblemen, 39. Curved molding, 40. Entwined, 42. and groom, 43. 60s dancers, 44. Dark purple plum, 45. Dweeb, 47. Dip lightly, 48. Froth, 49. Deplorable, 56. Wash, 57. Again, 58. Eskimo, 59. Biblical garden, 60. Nothing (British), 61. Stripes, 62. A covered garden walk, 63. Bronzes, 64. Excellence.

Down

1. Grumble, 2. Component of urine, 3. Grizzly, 4. Ancient Peruvian, 5. Shreds, 6. Thread holder, 7. Adriatic resort, 8. At the peak of, 9. Whitish edible roots, 10. Cogitate, 11. Moses' brother, 12. Barbed, 13. Oceans, 21. Confederate soldier, 25. Autonomic nervous system, 26. Only, 27. Atop, 28. Confined, 29. Betrothal, 30. Open skin infections, 31. Grasp, 33. Angel's headwear, 34. Auspices, 35. Start over, 36. Observed, 38. Egg-shaped vegetable, 41. Neither , 42. Christening, 44. One of the tribes of Israel, 45. Sycophant, 46. Beckons, 47. Dings, 48. Bend, 50. Dwarf buffalo, 51. Cut, 52. Initial wager, 53. Prickle, 54. 53 in Roman numerals, 55. French for "State".

Yesterday's Solution



annex, assume, badge, begin, beware, cant, clash, confer, crate, creek, discussion, drain, fate, forge, genius, glory, grass, knack, leak, luge, nail, nimble, occupy, occurs, parade, participate, recant, receive, relaxation, scatter, silly, skim, skull.

