

60 Taliban Killed, 80 Wounded in Uruzgan Offensive

TARINKOT - At least 60 Taliban militants have been killed and 80 others wounded, including some notorious commanders, in an ongoing clearing operation on the outskirts of Tirinkot, the capital of the central Uruzgan province, an official said on Thursday.

Acting police chief, Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Sediqi, told a press conference here that clearing operations were ongoing against rebels in different parts of the Tirinkot. So far 60 insurgents have been killed and 80 others wounded.

Some commanders and foreign fighters were among the casualties, he said, con-



firming the killing of seven Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and four policemen. Three ANA personnel and two policemen were wounded.

Civilians supported the security forces during the offensive, which the police chief hailed as a success.

A resident of the Charmagar area said the people, if armed by the government, would flush out the Taliban from their areas. Five months ago, he said, they were displaced from homes due to fighting in the area. But they recently returned home after the insurgents were driven from the locality. (Pajhwok)

Afghan Army Defuses 5 IEDs

KABUL - The Afghan army personnel recovered and defused five Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in three eastern provinces, said a military statement on Friday. "The engineering teams of

Afghan National Army's 201 Selab Corps recovered and neutralized four different types of IEDs in eastern Nangarhar and neighboring Kunar provinces within the last 24 hours," the... (More on P4)... (20)

Snow Leaves 5 Dead, Roads Blocked in Nuristan

ASADABAD - Five people were reported dead following heavy snowfall that clogged several roads in the eastern province of Nuristan, public representatives said on Thursday.

The provincial council chief, Asadullah Nuristani, told Pajhwok Afghan News that snow hit various parts of the province for two days in a row, ... (More on P4)... (21)

Clinic Set Alight in Helmand's Washer District; Taliban Blamed

LASHKARGAH - A healthcare centre has been torched by unidentified gunmen in the Washer district of southern Helmand province, an official said on Thursday.

Public Health Director Mauldad Tobagar told Pajhwok Afghan News that the clinic was set alight in the Pulad area of the district late on Wednesday night.

The medical facility started functioning six months ago in the area, which under Taliban

control, he added. Omar Zwak, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the incident. The clinic had been burnt by the

But a local Taliban commander, who wished to go unnamed, said it was unclear who had conducted the arson attack. Washe is located 90 kilometers north of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, and most of its areas are under Taliban control.

Helmand has 13 districts, with six under Taliban's



sway and only the centres of the rest of districts controlled by Afghan forces. (Pajhwok)

Hekmatyar Condolences Gilani Demise with his Family

KABUL - Head of the Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) Gulbadin Hikmatyar has said the people of Afghanistan lost a truly patriotic and committed leader referring to the former High Peace Council (HPC) chairman Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani. The HIA leader expressed the view in a condolence letter to the family of Pir Gailani who died last week. Hekmatyar said Gilani played effective role in Afghanistan core issues and wanted to

bring an end to the ongoing conflict and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

"I am personally thankful to Gilani for few comments he made about me. He dubbed me as his brother and father of Afghan Jihad and warned if peace talks with HIA failed he would resign as HPC chairman," said Hekmatyar, whose where about is now known to the people of Afghanistan and most of his follower. HPC chief Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani breathed his

last Saturday evening in Kabul. He was 84.

Gilani passed away at a National Directorate of Security hospital in Kabul where he was under treatment, a source in the Gilani-led Mahaz-i-Milli party told Pajhwok Afghan News.

The former HPC chairman was credited for successful conclusion of peace talks with HIA negotiating team.

Afghan government and HIA have been involved in the implementation of peace deal. The govern-

ment had been striving to help remove Hekmatyar's name from the black list, release thousands of HIA prisoners and pave the way for refugees repatriation in the country.

Gilani headed the HPC when the Quadrilateral Coordination Group involving representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China held a series of meetings in Kabul and Islamabad to revive direct peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban. (Pajhwok)

Weapons Seized, 2 Suspects Held in Paktia

GARDEZ - Security forces confiscated a cache of arms and ammunition in southeastern Paktia province and arrested two persons in connection with the seizure, the governor said on Thursday.

Governor Toryalai Weesa told a press conference here that the arms seized in the Lazha Mangal ... (More on P4)... (22)

Youth Escapes 5-Year Captivity in Khost

KHOST CITY - A young man has managed to escape from his captors after spending five years in captivity in southeastern Khost province, an official said on Thursday.

Sayed Rahman, a resident of Bak district, had been kidnapped five years ago in the middle of a dispute between his father and a villager over a piece of land.

Khost police chief, Brig. Gen. Faizullah Chairat, told ... (More on P4)... (23)

Nangarhar Doctors Conduct Extraordinary Operation Successfully

JALALABAD - Doctors in eastern Nangarhar province after successful surgery removed an extra muscular part attached with the head of a baby girl, an official said on Friday.

Public Health Director Dr. Najibullah Kamawal told Pajhwok Afghan News it was the second medical operation of this nature conducted by the Neurosurgeons of the Zonal Hospital.

Hailing from Kunar province the girl was born two months ago with an extra muscular part attached with her head. She was brought to the hospital for operation which ended successful.



Kamawal said vital nervous vines were attached with the extra part of the body which the doctor had to separate them and it was a tough

operation lasted for about three hours. The extra part was attached at the back side of the girls' head ... (More on P4)... (24)

Ex-Jalalabad Mayor Apologises to VoA Reporter

JALALABAD - Former mayor of Jalalabad City, the provincial capital of eastern Nangarhar, province on Friday sought apology from the Voice of American Radio (VoAR) reporter over his guards' assault on him.

Former Jalalabad mayor Lal Agah Kakar bodyguards beat VoA reporter Zabihullah Gahzi on Thursday evening when he was leaving the Nangarhar University campus in Daranota locality. Ghazi said he had no

personal enmity with Kakar who apologised to him for yesterday incident.

Civil society organizations and media networks in the country condemned the incident in strong words. (Pajhwok)

1 Civilian Killed, 2 as Bomb Rips Through Rickshaw

GHAZNI/JALALABAD - One civilian was killed and two others were injured in a bomb blast in the capital of southern Ghazni province while security forces captured a

Daesh member and four Taliban in eastern Nangarhar, officials said on Thursday.

Ghazni police chief, Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel, told Pajhwok Af-

ghan News that a bomb exploded in Kulah Sabz area of Ghazni City at around 1pm. The bomb was placed in a rickshaw by militants who wanted to ... (More on P4)... (25)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Taking a step back to observe your social life from a new angle produces some mixed feelings. You're questioning whether your community fosters a sense of belonging or a feeling of being lost in the crowd. The global Aquarius New Moon falls in your 11th House of Groups, highlighting not only where you fit into the whole but your need to stand out.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



There appear to be more options in your vocational sphere when you look around today. Prompting an evaluation of your professional direction while the Aquarius New Moon emphasizes your 10th House of Career. But you might feel like you need to put blinders on and ignore your social life to take full advantage of this cosmic momentum.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You're thirsty for knowledge and you're willing to journey far and wide to find it. Fortunately, libraries of information are available online to sate your cravings without having to invest in overseas excursions. This priority shift is thanks to the intellectual Aquarius New Moon taking center stage in your 9th House of Higher Education. You may find yourself willing to allocate precious time to focus on learning.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



A dissonant chord is struck between your head and your heart today, and you're not sure how to make your next move. It often seems like the closer you hold something the safer it is, or the better you can make sense of it. However, the dispassionate Aquarius New Moon occurring in your 8th House of Transformation invites you to step back from what you cling to so tightly to gain a more unbiased perspective.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're reluctant to show your hand just yet, preferring to watch the situation from behind an inscrutable smile. A chilly breeze blows through your 7th House of Relationships where the aloof Aquarius New Moon draws attention to your interpersonal interactions. You may secretly wish to completely surrender to transcendent love.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Affections may fizzle as other matters seem more important today than warm and fuzzy sentiments. There is work to be done and you're anxious to hit the drawing board when the astute Aquarius New Moon shows up in your 6th House of Routine. As you refine your plans for greater efficiency, you start to wonder how much time you're willing to give to other people.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



A new chapter is beginning in which you're called to intellectualize your amorous ideals. The unconventional Aquarius New Moon revitalizes your 5th House of Romance, turning your heart towards autonomy. You want to make the rules yourself so you can fly free and stand out from the crowd, creatively shaping your aesthetic to reflect the newfound self-reliance growing inside you.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You may act tough like a lone wolf, but you're uncertain if you prefer to be part of a pack or a rebellious roamer. The cerebral Aquarius New Moon pulls you back into your 4th House of Home, unpacking psychological boxes that could reveal profound insights. However, sweet Venus and strict Saturn square off now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



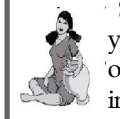
Upbeat mental melodies are replaced by abstract soundscapes as your mind rises into the thin air of the upper atmosphere. Conversations are served on ice not because you're upset or withdrawn today, but because your high-minded hypotheses are more theoretical than tangible. The progressive Aquarius New Moon highlights your 3rd House of Information, heightening your ability to think far outside of the box.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You're likely to make the most practical decision possible on any day, but today you're keenly focusing on your fiscal flow. Monetary matters are at the forefront of your mind, and you're interested in making the most of your income even if it means going without some of your favorite things. Detaching from acquiring more worldly possessions is a healthy step towards moderation.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

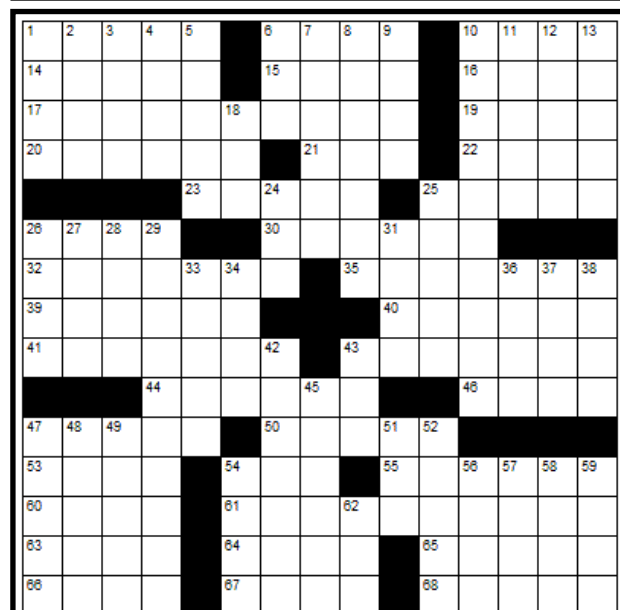


Something is different today - you feel more like yourself than you have in a while. The beginning of your personal new year is demarcated by the individualistic New Moon's presence in your sign. It appears like you're wearing a tailor-made outfit, adorned in all your favorite colors and textures. You are both the drummer and the one marching to the beat; nothing can stand in your way of being totally authentic.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Although you remain cordial on the surface, you can't wait to have some time alone today. A spiritual seed has been planted and quiet contemplation is the water that will help it to grow. The futuristic Aquarius New Moon calls you to the stillness of your 12th House of Meditation, where the noise of the day doesn't disturb your thoughts. Sometimes isolation feels lonely but you have an intuitive hunch that this time apart is for the best.



Across

- Nun's attire, 6. Chores, 10. Spring, 14. Pee, 15. By mouth, 16. Conceal, 17. Profit oriented, 19. Away from the wind, 20. Highly seasoned fatty sausage, 21. Wander aimlessly, 22. Close, 23. Spot, 25. Strangely, 26. Big party, 30. Cut, 32. Recurrence, 35. Embrace, 39. Instant, 40. A ribbed woven fabric, 41. Wrench (British), 43. Anticipate, 44. Third sign of the zodiac, 46. Seating sections, 47. More peculiar, 50. Requires, 53. Froth, 54. It comes from a hen, 55. Loutish, 60. Be furious, 61. Whip, 63. Ends a prayer, 64. Greek cheese, 65. Female demon, 66. Not first, 67. Stair, 68. A common green newt.

Down

- Monotonous sounds, 2. District, 3. Engage in logrolling, 4. Ancient Peruvian, 5. League members, 6. Scribble, 7. Beginning, 8. Equilibrium, 9. Toboggan, 10. Branched lighting fixture, 11. Lubricated, 12. Something to shoot for, 13. Apprehensive, 18. Louse-to-be, 24. Ambition, 25. Academy award, 26. Pinup's legs, 27. At the peak of, 28. Tibetan monk, 29. Vengeful punishment, 31. Data, 33. Not outer, 34. Flower stalk, 36. As well, 37. Killed, 38. P P P P, 42. Curl, 43. Cry of disgust, 45. Cancel, 47. Viscera, 48. A Russian council, 49. Gentlewoman, 51. Female deer, 52. French for "Room", 54. F F F F, 56. Flaccid body fat, 57. Poetic foot, 58. Anagram of "Ties", 59. Warmth, 62. Discontinuity.

Yesterday's Solution

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

awful, blame, campaign, certain, create, cruise, defeat, emerge, entry, first, gags, gear, greet, instant, interior, junior, leap, little, mandate, message, month, murder, passion, phone, prison, provide, repeat, report, sister, slob, teen, thing, usual, voyage.

