

225 Daesh Fighters Killed in Week-Long Kot Offensive

JALALABAD - At least 225 Islamic State, or Daesh, fighters have been killed during a week-long operation in the Kot district of eastern Nangarhar province, local officials claimed on Friday. Ninety-four fighters of the militant group had been wounded during the counter-terrorism offensive in the district, Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said the dead included some important com-



manders and group leaders. The security personnel also destroyed a huge quantity of arms and ammunition belonging to the rebel outfit, the spokesman added. As a result of the offensive in Kot, he continued, 45 villages had been cleared of a Daesh presence. He blamed the group for killing 20 security personnel and civilians over the past week. The operation would continue until the entire district was... (More on P4)... (18)

Voluntary Repatriation Centres to Stay Shut During Eid



KABUL - UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) in Pakistani cities of Peshawar and Quetta will remain closed on account of Eidul Fitr, the UN agency announced on Friday. In a statement, the refugee agency said the Chamkani VRC in Peshawar would stay shut from July 5 to 10 July. The centre will resume work on July 11. Similarly, the Baleli VRC in Quetta will remain closed from July 4 to July 9 and will reopen on July 10. Encashment Centres in Afghanistan will also remain closed from July 5-9 July. (Pajhwok)

Dried Fruits Prices up, Eid Sales Down in Kabul

KABUL - When compared with last year's days preceding Eidul Fitr, an average 18 percent increase in prices of dried fruits and cookies can be noted in capital Kabul. Afghans wear new suits on Eid days and after offering Eid prayer, they visit relatives and friends at their homes and serve guests with different kinds of fruits, cakes and cookies. During days ahead of Eid, bazaars are fully crowded as Afghans before Eid



make special preparations and purchase Eid-needed food stuff for own houses. Though some vendors claim a decline in food sales, but crowds in Kabul city are like

last year's in days before Eid. Wahidullah, a grocery seller in Pul-i-Bagh-e-Umumi area of Kabul city, told Pajhwok Afghan News food prices have increased as compared to last year's these days. He said the price of a kilogram of high quality almonds increased from 1100 afghanis to 1200 af, one kilo of walnuts from 700 af to 800 af, one kilo of pistachios from 700 af to 850 af, one kilo of... (More on P4)... (19)

73 Taliban Killed in Nuristan Operation

KAMDISH - Nearly 73 Taliban militants were killed in a military operation carried out by security forces in Nuristan province on Wednesday night, 201 Selab Military Corps said in a statement on Thursday. According to the statement, 26 other insurgents were wounded in the operation. The operation was conducted in Kamdich district when dozens Taliban fighters attacked the security forces' outpost in the area, the statement said. The statement added that foreign insurgents were among the death militants in the operation. Air Force supported



the ground forces in the battle, the statement said. No casualty was incurred to security forces and civilians in the clash, according to the statement. The statement did not provide more details about the operation. (Tolonews)

Afghan Singer Fighting Against Child Marriage Wins Award

KABUL - An upcoming Afghan rap singer, waging a war on the curse of child marriage, has won a coveted award, a feminist blog reported on Friday. Sonita Alizadeh, using her songs to highlight the social issue, was recently shown in a documentary that earned the 2016 World Cinema Documentary Audience Award. Her documentary was directed by Iranian filmmaker Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami. Sonita's family shifted to Iran when she was only eight years old. Being undocumented, she was banned from attending school.



According to Feminist Newswire, the 19-year-old found work at a non-profit organisation that assists unregistered Afghan children. She learnt karate, photography, guitar and a passion for singing and rapping. Sonita was married off at the age of 10, but

Senior Afghan Taliban Leader Shot Dead in Peshawar City

PESHAWAR CITY - A senior leader of the Afghan Taliban group was reportedly shot dead by unknown gunmen in Peshawar city of Pakistan. According to reports, the incident took place in Nasir Bagh Road and the Taliban leader has been identified as Qari Syed Murad. The gunmen reportedly opened fire on Qari Murad near his residence in Nasir Bagh Road where he was also running a seminary. Qari Murad was a member of the military commission of the Taliban group for eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the incident so far. This comes as another senior leader of the Taliban group Mawlawi Alam was shot dead... (More on P4)... (21)

16 ISIS Militants Killed in Separate Airstrikes

JALALABAD - At least 16 loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group were killed in separate airstrikes in eastern Nangarhar province. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the airstrikes were carried out in Kot and Achin districts where the loyalists of the terrorist group are actively operating. MoD further added that a vehicle belonging to ISIS terrorists was also destroyed along with a PK heavy machine gun. The loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist

group have not commented regarding the report so far. The Afghan forces are still engaged in clearance operations in Kot and a number of districts of Nangarhar after ISIS loyalists launched a major attack police check posts in Nangarhar last Friday. The attack was one of the major one since the group has launched its operations in Afghanistan and despite they received major setbacks during the recent months. The National Security Adviser... (More on P4)... (22)

Wounded Soldiers Give Chilling Accounts of Kabul Attack

KABUL - The Afghans across the nation on Thursday strongly condemned the Taliban suicide attack on a convoy of Afghan police recruits that left at least thirty officers dead and 53 others wounded. The attack was one of the deadliest on Afghan police in recent years. "We condemn the attack in the strongest possible terms. It shows that armed opponents have been defeated in the battlefields, therefore they conduct such attacks," Kabul resident said. They called on the government to devise more inclusive security measures for the country. Veterans who... (More on P4)... (23)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

No one could blame you for focusing only on the positive when blinders are already preventing you from seeing the truth. Paradoxically, you have an innocent air of invincibility about you today that makes other trust your judgment. You can get away with pursuing your ambitious goals now because your drive is softened by gentle Venus as she assists enthusiastic Jupiter in your 6th House of Employment. Fortunately.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your imagination is inspired these days when your heart is stirred by optimistic daydreams of love and pleasure. Beautiful Venus supports beneficial Jupiter in your 5th House of Romance, allowing satisfaction to come easily if only you stop struggling now. The key to your happiness is to graciously receive what is offered.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Emotional satisfaction might be much closer than you realize now so don't even think about giving up. Although you are reassessing your priorities, it's more important than ever to remain singularly focused on your career objectives. Persistence is the secret to your success. Don't pretend to be shocked if you receive that long-overdue raise or promotion. Nevertheless, you still could be surprised because rewards don't necessarily arrive in the form you expect.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Discretion is critical today as you handle the awkward cleanup from a recent disclosure. Spilling too many secrets in a giddy moment of optimism could actually cause damage to a relationship. Strong emotional bonds and a sense of compassion help you let go of conflicts and enjoy pleasurable experiences. But don't agree with others just because it's the easier thing to do.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Hard work produces tangible results today, thanks to the activity of propitious Jupiter in your 2nd House of Finances. A sobering Venus-Saturn connection may cool your desires, but it also grants you the patience you need to wait for gratification. Although you might confuse your fantasies with reality.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Sometimes the grass really is greener on the other side of the hill. Luckily, reaching for new experiences now actually pays off as long as you don't raise the bar too high. If you seek the impossible, your hope can dissolve into despair. Think twice before taking on another project because even a simple one can end up testing your patience. But if your goal is based on sound logic, you will be more than pleased with the results.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your charm is your not-so-secret weapon as auspicious Jupiter flatters attractive Venus in your 10th House of Public Life today. You can be especially persuasive if you employ a gentle touch in your approach. Don't worry if you need to lower your expectations in one situation, because bigger emotional or material rewards will likely appear somewhere else.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You may find resolution today to a recent struggle between you and someone who seems to oppose your every move. Although it might be difficult to get your way at first, uncovering hidden resources coaxes your adversary to step out of your way, enabling you to take definitive action.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your dedication and sweat equity don't seem to offer the immediate return you expect for the amount of effort you invest. Fortunately, your persistence has the magical power to turn lemons into lemonade while sweet Venus cooperates with lucky Jupiter in your 10th House of Worldly Success. Happily, you could see a lovely outcome if you just slow down and focus on what needs to be done next.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

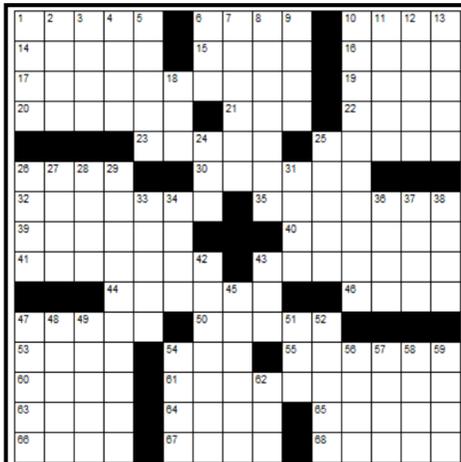
The lingering effects of yesterday's stress might still be stirring up anger or mistrust. However, it becomes easier to release any negativity as the love planet Venus forms a cooperative sextile with generous Jupiter in your 9th House of Future Vision today. Although you prefer to focus on the big picture now, managing the littlest details of your life is a necessary step toward reaching your goals.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Declaring your needs may seem selfish but you're determined to get what you want today. However, pushing too far could put everyone on edge. Thankfully, a friendly sextile between sociable Venus and broad-minded Jupiter keeps the windows of hope and the doors of opportunity open wide.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Staying cool under pressure today earns you positive recognition within a partnership. In fact, others offer a safe haven for joyful experiences now that delicious Venus sextiles buoyant Jupiter in your 7th House of Relationships. Fortunately, you know how to bring out the best in people. Your entire life is enhanced by your optimism, expanding your capacity to appreciate your current blessings and attract even more.



Across
1. Nascence, 6. An enclosed conduit, 10. Mend (archaic), 14. Potato state, 15. Dwarf buffalo, 16. Shade of blue, 17. A popular vote by the electorate, 19. Religious splinter group, 20. Potential, 21. Mineral rock, 22. Scramble piece, 23. Smell, 25. Pariah, 26. What a person is called, 30. Antenna, 32. Not precise 35. Deviate, 39. 2nd largest country, 40. Autobiography, 41. Hard to pin down, 43. Big ape, 44. Verse, 46. "Oh my!", 47. Units of land, 50. Four-bagger (baseball), 53. Rude person, 54. Bro or sis, 55. Gambling, 60. Constellation bear, 61. Frugal, 63. Hissy fit, 64. Be worthy of, 65. Investigate, 66. Feudal worker, 67. If not, 68. Feel.
Down
1. Engage in logrolling, 2. Bright thought, 3. Flat float, 4. You (archaic), 5. Brass musical instruments, 6. One of the tribes of Israel, 7. Foiled, 8. Wooed, 9. Docile, 10. Germs in the blood, 11. Provide, 12. Gown fabric, 13. Consumer of food, 18. And so forth, 24. Eastern newt, 25. Pry, 26. Agreeable, 27. A Freudian stage, 28. List of options, 29. Incense, 31. Large luxurious car, 33. "Bye", 34. Grotto, 36. Somersault, 37. Arizona river, 38. Historical periods, 42. Honorable, 43. Athletic facility, 45. Androids, 47. Bad treatment, 48. Sores on toes, 49. Kino gum, 51. Conceit, 52. Stadium walkways, 54. Arid, 56. Bog, 57. Computer symbol, 58. Apprehends, 59. Delight, 62. Born as.

Yesterday's Solution
CAFE SATCH STOP
ABOUT OCHRE TRIO
REDEMPTION RAND
TAG OPENS DUNKS
SMEARER SPECK
BAR STOCKCAR
HOLLER PHOTO EGO
OBEY BOWS SNOG
GOV STREN MIDGE
SEEDLESS SOG
CHART GHANT NOR
YOGA GUARDHOUSE
ABST OTTER AREA
NODE FESTY FESI

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