

54 Insurgents Killed, 27 Hurt in Helmand Offensives

LASHKARGAH - At least 54 Taliban have been killed and 27 others wounded during airstrikes and a ground operation in southern Helmand province, local officials claimed on Monday. Police spokesman Lt. Abdul Salam Afghan told Pajhwok Afghan News the air and ground operations were carried out in Ainak, Loykalah, and Zhawar Sahib areas of Nawa district late on Sunday night. He said 42 militants were killed and 27 others were injured. Notorious commanders Haji Ahmad, Mullah Faizi, Saqib and Haqbeen were among the dead. Four vehicles, 18 motorcycles, two machineguns and other ammunition belonging to the militants were also ...*(More on P4)...(16)*



4 Daesh Militants Killed in Kunar Drone Strike

JALALABAD - A US drone strike killed four Daesh or Islamic State militants, two of them commanders, in the Watapur district of eastern Kunar province on Sunday afternoon, police said. The drone strike took place in Sapari area of the district at about 4:30pm Sunday, killing four Daesh affiliates, Kunar police spokesman Faridullah Dehqan told Pajhwok Afghan News. A resident of the area, who declined to be named, confirmed the drone strike and said it had caused casualties to Daesh militants but he had no figures. The so-called ISIS group has so far not commented about the drone raid, which came after Friday's drone strike that killed six Daesh militants, including a key commander, in Kalail area of Manogi district. *(Pajhwok)*

Australian Firm to Draw up Blue Print for Second Salang Tunnel

KABUL - The ministry of public works said technical and feasibility studies will be carried out over the next three years at a cost of \$30 million USD. The Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) said on Monday that an Australian company has been awarded the contract to conduct technical and feasibility studies on a possible second Salang tunnel. Officials from the ministry said it is expected that the Australian company will start work on assessing the

viability of the planned 12km tunnel within a month. This phase will cost over \$30 million USD, officials said. The National Procurement Commission confirmed the contract was given to the Australian company - adding it will conduct studies over the next three years. "The Technical and Economic Review of Salang's new tunnel by the National Procurement Commission has been completed and it ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

3 Rebels Dead, 4 Hurt in Kandahar Gun-Battle

KANDAHAR CITY - Three insurgents have been killed and six others, including two policemen, wounded during a clash in Khakriz district of southern Kandahar province where 34-kg morphine has also been captured, an official said Monday. Kandahar police spokesman, Zia Durrani, told Pajhwok Afghan News rebels stormed two check points in Mandigak and Shalghami areas of the Khakriz district simultaneously late on Sunday night. He said police showed stiff resistance against the hours long attacks that left three rebels dead and three others wounded. Durrani also confirmed wounding of two policemen. However, Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the rebel fighters had captured three security check posts and killed three policemen. On the other hand, officials termed the Taliban allegations as baseless. Elsewhere, police have seized 34 kilograms of morphine in Kandahar city, the provincial capital. Durrani said, the counter-narcotics department agents discovered the narcotics that were skillfully concealed in a truck in the limits ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Afghan Forces Edge Closer to 'Retake' Helmand's Nawa District from Taliban

LASHKARGAH - Afghan security forces have begun offensive for reclaiming Nawa district of southern Helmand province from the Taliban armed group, officials said Monday. The operation which conducted since Sunday night so far left 42 dead and 27 more injured to the Taliban armed fighters, the Provincial Police Chief's Spokesman, Abdul Salam Afghan said. Afghan forces have reached to the center of



Nawa district and soon will capture the district, he said. According to Afghan, the security forces have suffered no casualties during the operation, reasoning air forces' support for its cause. The Taliban has not commented regarding the report so far. *(ATN)*

20 Tonnes of Chemicals Used in Heroin Manufacture Seized

HERAT CITY - Police have seized a container carrying 20 tonnes of chemicals used in heroin production in western Herat province, an official said on Monday. Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Ayub Ansari, told Pajhwok Afghan News the chemicals were worth nearly \$10 million. Seized in the fifth police district of the Herat City, the chemicals were being

transferred to one of the southern provinces of the country. Called acid anhydride, the substance had been placed in a container, Ansari said, adding the driver was detained in connection with the smuggling. Initial investigations showed the smugglers wanted to use the chemicals for producing heroin, he said. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) also confirmed the seizure. *(Pajhwok)*

4 Civilians Killed in a Roadside Bombing

KABUL - An Afghan official says that at least four Afghan civilians have been killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in southern Kandahar province. Zia Durrani, spokesman for the provincial police chief, says the attack occurred in the morning hours on Monday and that the victims are two women and two men who were traveling in the vehicle. He added that a third



woman was wounded in the explosion, which took place in Khakrez district. No one has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but the Taliban have stepped up their assaults against Afghan security forces since announcing their annual spring offensive in April. *(AP)*



Key HIA Member Farooqi Dies of Heart Attack

KABUL - Presidential advisor and Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) member Khalid Farooqi has died of heart attack in Kabul, an official said on Monday. The former lawmaker suffered the heart attack on Sunday night and breathed his last on his way to hospital, said a source in the Hekmatyar-led party. President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman Dawa Khan Minapal also confirmed the death of Farooqi and In the absence of Hekmatyar, Farooqi led his own faction of HIA. But after the Hekmatyar's arrival in Kabul, Farooqi rejoined him. *(Pajhwok)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Giving someone the silent treatment won't solve any long-term disagreements, but it may lessen the pressure for a while. Your feelings are stewing beneath the surface and it's finally time to reveal your truth. You might have a lot to say, especially if your caution was running the show until now. Nevertheless, you're motivated to leave your past behind and throw your fortune to the wind.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You wish everyone would bury their differences and simply support your plans for the day. However, compromising is a challenge when there is an air of stubbornness setting the tone. Oddly enough, your self-image may be distorted enough that your irritating behavior outshines your gracious actions. Nevertheless, you still have an opportunity to exert a positive influence on your friends and family.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might worry about being stuck with people who don't understand your need for excitement. In fact, you're already analyzing multiple escape routes to use if necessary. But you're unlikely to initiate direct confrontation, unless you can do it in the spirit of playful banter. Unfortunately, unspoken issues may overpower your lighthearted intentions now, so explore strategies that exercise your self-restraint.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

A fresh wave of optimism fuels your self-confidence and subdues your insecurities. But proceeding with caution is wise while the presence of three planets in hypersensitive Cancer triggers emotional turmoil, especially if you end up revealing more than you intended. It doesn't hurt to think twice before sharing your story. However, your discretion could easily turn to resentment if you remain quiet.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your intellectual curiosity may be too obsessive for your own good today. You could annoy people by interrupting them before they complete a thought. They might assume you're just hungry for attention and aren't willing to share the spotlight. Nevertheless, your behavior is actually a matter of expediency now.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your goals are so altruistic now that you begin to wonder if you're actually fooling yourself. Striving to positively impact the world is admirable, but growing resentful because your personal life is neglected is not a path to happiness. Don't wait to initiate action until your good intentions turn sour. Balancing your spiritual pursuits with more practical needs sounds like a smart idea, but it may be an elusive goal.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Everyone seems to be getting along today, but you feel left out of the fun. It's annoying to watch people playing around and you might grow cranky when you assume they are letting you down now. However, you won't likely get what you want by blowing your top. An alternative strategy is to work off your pent-up tension by buzzing around like a bee in a garden.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You're looking ahead toward the next chapter of your life and reviewing all your options before making any final decisions. However, you still have a few reservations about how you can pull off such an ambitious undertaking. You want to enlist your friends as trustworthy advisors but you're not ready to share your plans yet.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your mind is running so fast today that you can't even keep up with your own grandiose visions about an upcoming adventure. You might not finish your current thought before you're skipping off to the next one. People may criticize your sloppy thinking now, but responding in anger would be a big mistake. Rather than defending your ideas, use the feedback to help you sharpen your plans.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

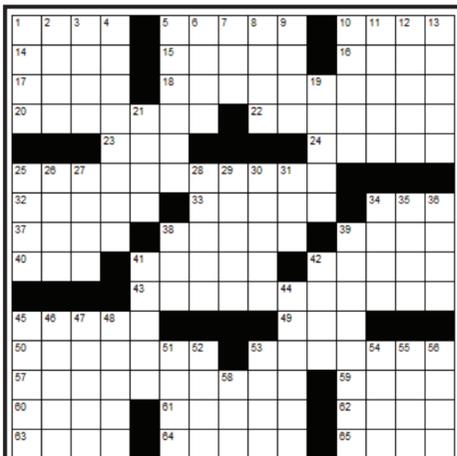
You possess important information that you want to share, but the positive effects of what you say might be lost if you don't know when to stop. You could be irritated with someone today, but you don't want to hurt his or her feelings just for the sake of revenge. Be as fair as possible and speak directly from your heart; your head will only lead you into more complicated entanglements.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You might find yourself caught up trying to balance your inner needs with the outer circumstances today. People may encourage you to take a risk only because they believe in you. But don't act impulsively since expressing your unrestrained emotions while you're in a panic only creates chaos. Instead of reacting in the moment now, place additional time between external stimuli and your responses.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

A sudden switch of plans could turn your world upside down today. If you're uncertain of your future, acknowledge your role - instead of denying it - in the present circumstances. Keep in mind that nothing happens to you; reality is co-created with your assistance. Although you might feel overwhelmed now, don't retreat too quickly. Keep the faith; you possess the ability to shift nearly any odds in your favor.



Across
 1. Sandwich shop, 5. Alpine call, 10. Sun, 14. Beasts of burden, 15. Hunger for, 16. Scramble piece, 17. Fastened, 18. Deplorable, 20. Baked dessert, 22. Celebrated, 23. Mug
 24. Approves, 25. Relating to pregnancy, 32. Disney mermaid, 33. Pass over, 34. Charge
 37. Piecrust ingredient, 38. Statistics, 39. Opera star, 40. South southeast, 41. Way to go
 42. French for "The end", 43. Compulsively, 45. African antelope, 49. Letter after sigma
 50. Assortment, 53. Not devious, 57. Unrelenting, 59. Jail (British), 60. Provisions, 61. Chills and fever, 62. Brother of Jacob, 63. Fastens, 64. Sources of ore, 65. Apollo astronaut Slayton, ,

Down
 1. Specks, 2. Way out, 3. Lascivious look, 4. Admitted as a member, 5. Named (archaic), 6. By mouth, 7. Water barrier, 8. Nights before, 9. Gave temporarily, 10. Barren, 11. Leg bone, 12. Laneway, 13. Marsh growth, 19. Equipment, 21. Twofold, 25. Not guys, 26. Historical periods, 27. "Your majesty", 28. Convulsion, 29. Give a speech, 30. Jottings, 31. Donkey, 34. Satisfactory, 35. Wicked, 36. Not difficult, 38. Weep, 39. Revealed, 41. Cowboy sport, 42. Decree, 44. Pressure, 45. Kick out, 46. Hawaiian veranda, 47. Mountain crest, 48. Vetoes, 51. Streetcar
 52. A sharply directional antenna, 53. Away from the wind, 54. Convenience, 55. Saturate
 56. Swing around, 58. Small rounded bread,

Yesterday's Solution

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| SWAG | ALAS | CRAW |
| WIRE | WARMS | HIVA |
| AKIN | LIMIT | OVER |
| MILTS | COLOR | LESS |
| HEAD | REVUE | |
| CAMERAS | DEBRIS | |
| OBELISKS | YANKS | |
| HUT | HAPPY | CIA |
| OSTER | PEARLIES | |
| ECLAIR | GROUNDS | |
| EIDER | NINE | |
| DRAGLINES | LARGE | |
| YAGI | OTTER | TALL |
| ANUS | MERCY | ITEM |
| DIET | ROTE | CELS |

abase, astride, balance, begins, blimp, break, cape, catch, clean, clock, competent, dealt, denial, efficient, explode, extra, feature, grain, heavy, injury, jest, mace, manor, mansion, meekly, nape, paltry, plead, portal,

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