

Farah Operation Leaves 17 Insurgents Dead

FARAH CITY - Officials said 17 militants have been killed during a clearing operation in the Gulistan district of western Farah province. Mohammad Hanif Rezaee, spokesman of the 207th Zaffar Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News the offensive by Afghan commandos has been underway in the district from the past 3 days. He said 17 insurgents were killed and 13 others wounded during the operation carried out in Shah



Foot, Baqal and Awlar villages of the district that were seized by Taliban. Rezaee said all villages were recaptured by security forces after defeating rebels in the operation.

The corpses of militants were handed over to the Red Crescent Society to deliver onward to the victims' families, he said. Two machine guns, five Kalashnikovs, a walkie-talkie and 27 remote control bombs were also seized from the militants, Rezaee added. Taliban did not comment on the incident so far. Gulistan is one of the unstable districts of Farah where most of the areas were being controlled by insurgents. (Pajhwok)

Kunduz, Baghlan Offensives Leave 15 Rebels Dead

KUNDUZ CITY/PUL-I-KHUMRI - At least 15 militants have been killed in separate clearing operations in northern Kunduz and Baghlan provinces, while security forces continued advancing towards Dasht-i-Archi district, officials said on Saturday. Ten rebels were eliminated and as many others, including four security officials, were wounded during clearing operation in the Dasht-i-Archi district of Kunduz province. The offensive was launched jointly by police and Afghan National Army (ANA) early Saturday and district headquarters and Shikhabad village were purged of anti-sate elements, Abdul Wadud Wahidi, the governor's spokesman, told



Pajhwok Afghan News. Maulvi Abdullah Qurliq, secretary of the Mesharano Jirga and a lawmaker from Kunduz, expressed differences with the strategy being implemented by security forces against militants. He said there was need for grand operation against rebels in which anti-sate elements could be surrounded from four sides. ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Policeman Joins Taliban Ranks in Zabul

QALAT - A policeman along with his official vehicle and ammunition has joined militants in southern Zabul province, an official said on Saturday. Qasam Khan, the Shinkai district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News a policeman along with a vehicle and ammunition joined Taliban. The policeman served as a police official for long.



He said that investigations had been launched into the incident. Taliban have confirmed the incident. (Pajhwok)

Bangi District Executive Chief Dead in Landmine Blast

TALOQAN - The executive chief for Bangi district was died in a landmine blast, provincial police chief said, claiming police gunned down Taliban shadow governor for western Herat province on Saturday. Maj. Gen. Abdul Hamid Rozi told a press conference that Taliban's-designated governor Haji Wazir had a meeting with his colleagues in a house when security forces conducted raid. The militant resorted to fire upon police party and in the ensuing Haji Wazir was killed while his cousin, son-in-law and other family members were apprehended. The slain Taliban leader was



allegedly involved in murder, kidnappings and several other anti-state activities. Taliban have not commented on the incident so far. The police chief said that a group of three persons involved in kidnapping had also been busted. The group had kidnapped a child which has been in their custody, he added....*(More on P4)...(19)*

Five Terrorists Arrested in Ghazni

GHAZNI - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency has arrested five terrorists in Ghazni province. A statement issued by the NDS on Saturday states that the five terrorists were detained during special operations in the jurisdiction of Ghazni's provincial capital Ghazni city. The arrested terrorists are identified as Sibghatullah S/O Mohammad Zahir accused of killing eight children, Shamsudding S/O Shir Agha accused of kill-

ing two policemen, Shafiullah alias Majid S/O Shuja Mohammad accused of a body guard of the mayor of Ghazni city, Amaduddin alias Saifullah S/O Alawuddin accused of killing two policemen in Ghazni city and Hazrat Omar S/O Janan. The statement further states that all detained terrorists are the residents of Ghazni province of member of Mullah Rohani's group of Taliban. According to the statement the group has confessed to the crimes committed. (KP)

16 Rebels, ALP Man Killed in Helmand Showdown

LASHKARGAH - As many as 16 militants, three civilians and an Afghan Local Policeman (ALP) have been killed and 16 Taliban fighters and three children wounded in series of clashes and other violence incidents in southern Helmand province, an official said on Saturday. Farid Ahmadi Obaid, police spokesman, told Pajhwok Af-



ghan News15 militants were killed and 16 others wound-

ed when fighting erupted between security forces and Taliban in Kajaki district. An ALP soldier was also killed in the firefight, he said, adding that Taliban fled the scene after the gun fight, he added. Meanwhile, a Taliban fighter was killed in a fight with police in Marja district, Obaid added....*(More on P4)...(17)*

Rocket Mortar Hits Military Academy in Kabul, No Casualties



KABUL - A rocket mortar allegedly launched from Khujawa Jam Hill of Kabul hit Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim Military Academy in the west of Kabul on Saturday, Kabul Police said. No one was harmed in the incident, police officials told TOLONews. "Investigations are underway and so far one suspect has been arrested in this connection," according to the police. No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack. (Tolonews)

4 Civilians Injured in Kapisa Blast

MAHMOOD RAQI - Four civilians were wounded in a blast in the Kohistan-1 district of central Kapisa province, the district chief said on Saturday. Abdul Fatah Shafiq told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosive device had been planted on a bicycle in a sack and abandoned in front of the provincial National Directorate of Security (NDS) office. The NDS officials stayed unhurt in the blast that injured four civilians, including shopkeepers. Zubair, a local resident, said the wounded persons were local residents and shopkeepers. Dr Momin, an official at the district health clinic, said the wounded persons were in stable condition. (Pajhwok)

Civilian Among two Dead in Sar-i-Pul Clash

SAR-I-PUL CITY - Two persons, including an insurgent, were killed and two others wounded in separate incidents of violence in northern Sar-i-Pul province, an official said on Saturday. A rebel was killed when Taliban stormed security forces check-post in the Balghali village of Sar-i-Pul City, the provincial capital, 1st Lt. Syed Naqibullah Darman, senior police official, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Two security officials were also wounded in the overnight clash, he added. Separately, a woman was killed on Friday night as a result of hand-grenade blast inside her house. The bomb was hurled by unidentified men, Darman added. (Pajhwok)

3 School Girls Attacked with Acid in Herat

HERAT CITY - Unidentified men have attacked three school girls with acid in western Herat province, security officials said on Saturday. Abdul Rauf Ahmadi, police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News unidentified men sprayed acid on the faces of girls early Saturday morning in vicinity of 2nd



police district. The girls have been shifted to

hospitals where they were stated to be in stable condition, he added. Nobody has been detained in connection with the incident but police have launched investigations into the incident, he said. Jamal Naser Akhundzada, a senior doctor at Noor Hospital, said two girls were shifted....*(More on P4)...(18)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You have too many options to choose from today because you are not restrained by reality. Although your fantasies might seem like pipe dreams to others, you're capable of extraordinary accomplishments now if you can focus on your ambitions. Nevertheless, it's prudent to maintain a practical perspective in spite of your penchant for daydreaming.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your desires are pulling you into new territory while your common sense holds you in your current position. You're motivated by your innate need for emotional security, but you are increasingly intrigued by the distant horizon. Even if you choose to explore the unknown today, don't abandon your present routine, especially if someone is counting on you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're naturally talented at assimilating information and turning it to your advantage. However, it's not advisable to grow too attached to thinking your way through every problem because logic is a trap of its own. Don't rely solely on rational analysis now; instead, take a different path into your future by embracing your intuition. Sometimes, having faith in the process is more useful than having all the facts.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You are quick to retreat into your fantasies today as your thoughts drift into an imaginary dimension where you are no longer bound by facts. Although everything is possible in your imagination, you still can't avoid close friends and relatives who keep drawing you back to the present moment, making it impossible for you to fully escape.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your cool demeanor begins to fade as you're lured into deeper emotional realms. Although your interpersonal relationships can be a source of concern, you don't need to let your uncertainty lead you down a path of self-doubt. But don't make any significant changes yet; instead, be content with integrating your current lessons into what you already know.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are highly motivated to improve your daily regimen, but could get sidetracked worrying about the impact your changes might have on others. Obviously, being sensitive to those closest to you is important. Instead of just imagining the consequences of your actions, make a list of all the pros and cons. Preemptively discussing the most significant potential problems now may be enough to minimize any possible negativity before it manifests.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may be bewildered about which chores you should do, leading you to believe there's more to life than finishing tasks. If you were planning on completing a project around the house, you suddenly could change your mind and decide that it's more critical to give yourself a day off. If you have trouble concentrating, try a bit of physical exercise to expend your excess energy before you settle down to work.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

The intensity in your relationships continues to mellow, but you still can't totally control all your reactions to what happens in your immediate environment. Although you're not looking for a fight, you don't want to hide the facts as you see them, either. Unfortunately, your unwillingness to play games now could make you seem less compassionate.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You can't help but second-guess a recent decision, as today's events test your ability to maintain your integrity. You might know what's right in your heart, even if it doesn't necessarily agree with your logical conclusion. Making a choice may be particularly stressful now. However, going along with the majority is the right thing to do if you feel like part of the family or a valuable member of the group.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

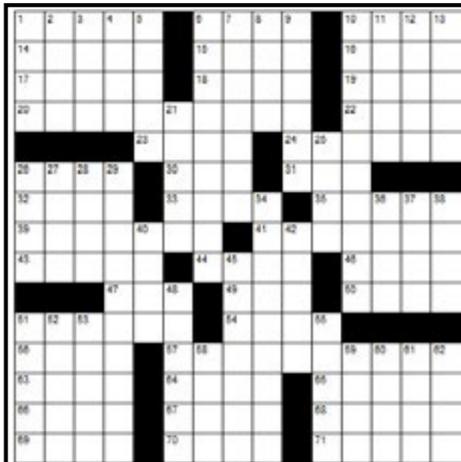
Although you might think you're being sensitive to the needs of others now, you could railroad right over their protests without even realizing it. The spacey Pisces Moon visits your 3rd House of Communication this weekend, encouraging you to ramble on about your plans for the future. Conversations are fine, but all talk without follow-through doesn't really get you anywhere.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You're quite clever when it comes to communicating your ideas efficiently, but don't put too much stock in finding a verbal solution to a social situation. Your willingness to present a softer and gentler side of your personality now is a mixed blessing. Acknowledging your vulnerability is more admirable than acting like a know-it-all.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your sensitive nature is evident in all your interactions now that the reflective Moon has returned to your emotional sign. However, you may be so in touch with your dreams today that you're also acutely aware of the gulf between your current circumstances and your ideal life. Practicing random acts of kindness dispels discouragement and enables you to keep your heart open.



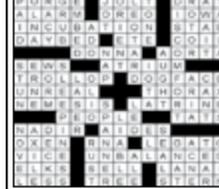
Across

- 1. Expire, 6. Head, 10. Trim, 14. Large body of water, 15. Genuine, 16. Always, 17. Not back, 18. Killer whale, 19. French for "Black", 20. Beginner, 22. Not yours, 23. Umpires, 24. Eluded, 26. Against, 30. Chief Executive Officer, 31. Put clothing on, 32. Formal dress, 33. Website addresses, 35. Small islands, 39. Gourmet, 41. An ancient jar, 43. Monetary unit of Macedonia, 44. Sandwich shop, 46. Nile bird, 47. Prefix meaning "Modern", 49. Consumed food, 50. Fancy, 51. A four-wheel covered carriage, 54. Prong, 56. Wings, 57. Sin, 63. Fishing poles, 64. Part of the outer ear, 65. Joshua tree, 66. Fashionable, 68. "Hogwash!", 69. Rabbit, 71. Prickle.

Down

- 1. Garret, 2. Unit of land, 3. Hireling, 4. Found on most beaches, 5. Go in, 6. Presented for acceptance, 7. Spray can, 8. Meal in a shell, 9. Jubilant, 10. Calligraphy, 11. Steer clear of, 12. French for "Queen", 13. Made a mistake, 21. Happen again, 25. Voice Over Internet Protocol, 26. Matured, 27. No, 28. Identical or fraternal, 29. Cause to glow, 34. Salinity, 36. Gray wolf, 37. Twin sister of Ares, 38. Cumberbund, 40. Component of urine, 42. Compartments, 45. Palatable, 48. Wall plug, 51. A tough, durable wood, 52. Hello or goodbye, 53. Point of greatest despair, 55. Country of the Nile, 58. Part in a play, 59. Hurry, 60. Reflected sound, 61. Stigma, 62. Wood that is cut.

Yesterday's Solution



boat, chest, cites, coming, congress, convince, elect, equal, evident, fight, george, glare, grit, guts, horse, hymn, king, land, orator, press, pursuit, red-coat, republic, revolution, ride, self, sink, speech, stars, switch, taxes, traitor, truth, veer, vote.

