

Afghan Forces 'Kill up to 200 Militants'

Afghan officials Tuesday said security forces have killed up to 200 Taliban and pro-Daesh militants in nationwide offensives.

KABUL - According to the country's Ministry of Interior, 123 Taliban militants -- including nine top commanders -- have been killed in ground and air offensives in restive Faryab and Balkh provinces in the country's north. Bordering Turkmenistan, the Faryab province lost its Kohistan district to the Taliban on Sunday. "Nine top commanders namely Mullah Abdul Raheem, Mullah Ruhullah, Qari Zabeh, Mullah Salam, Maulvi Ismail, Maulvi Sifatullah, Qari Abdul Manan, Mullah Abdul Samad and Qari Janak have been killed", the ministry said in a statement. There has been an evident surge in the clashes between the Afghan forces ...*(More on P4)...*(14)



Janikhel District Falls to Taliban; Police Chief in Denial

GARDEZ - The Janikhel district of southeastern Paktia province has fallen to the Taliban after heavy clashes, residents said on Tuesday. Fierce firefights have been ongoing for two days in the district. The militants claimed capturing some security check-posts late on Monday. Police chief, Brig. Gen. Toryalai Abdyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News 11 insurgents were killed, three others wounded and a Pakistani militant arrested. But some security officials and residents of the district said the Taliban overran the district Tuesday morning. For his part, the police chief denied the claims, saying gunbattles were still underway in the district. Each side claimed inflicting heavy casualties on the other. Located 85 kilometers from Gardez, the provincial capital, and the district remained under Taliban's control for some days last year. *(Pajhwok)*



Nangarhar: 168 Militants Eliminated in 3 Weeks

JALALABAD - As many as 168 insurgents have been killed during three weeks of an ongoing operation in eastern Nangarhar province, the provincial police chief said on Tuesday. Lt. Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi told a press conference in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, that at least 53 rebels were also injured in the joint operation backed by air support. Most of the dead and wounded militants were loyal to Daesh group. They included foreign fighters as well, he said. ...*(More on P4)...*(15)

Taliban Ban on Irrigation Water Leaves Crops Parched

FAIZABAD - The Taliban have banned farmers from irrigation water in the Yaftal Payeen district of north-eastern Badakhshan province, leaving crops on more than 5,000 acres of land parched. Imam Ali Hamdami, the district's administrative chief, confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News that the militants had restricted the use of irrigation water in five villages of the district. The ban has been in force for two months. The insurgents had asked farmers that each village should pay them 100,000 afghanis a month in return for irrigation water, he said. "We sent a group of ulama and elders to the Taliban to resolve the ...*(More on P4)...*(16)

180 Nuristan Schools without Buildings: Official

JALALABAD - The newly-appointed education director for eastern Nuristan province says insecurity and improper management on local level has affected the education process in the mountainous province. Mohammad Amin Hamad told Pajhwok Afghan News that schools in Nuristan lacked teaching materials, teachers and buildings and most of the times schools in many areas were closed for security reasons, rendering in complete the education process. "Of the total 225 schools in Nuristan, only 40 have buildings and as a result, thousands of students attend classes in tents or under the open skies and trees," the official said. Hamad said seven schools had so far been torched by insurgents in the province where another two schools had been closed for the past six years. "The schools closed by Taliban are in Waigal area and it's now a sixth year of their closure. These two high schools were better compared to others because it had experienced teachers who held master's degrees from Russia. But now I have initiated my work as education director and these ...*(More on P4)...*(17)

Afghanistan Book Berth in U-19 World Cup



KABUL - Unbeaten Afghanistan on Tuesday qualified for the 2018 ICC Under-19 World Cup after registering their sixth consecutive triumph in the qualifying round in Singapore. The qualifying round began last week in Singapore and ended on Tuesday, with Afghanistan emerging the top point getter. The event featured Afghanistan, Nepal, Malaysia and the hosts Singapore and each side played two matches against the other. Afghanistan played their

last match against Nepal, said Farid Hotak, the Afghanistan Cricket Board spokesman. He said the Afghanistan under-19 cricket team won the toss and decided to bat against Nepal. The Afghans set the Nepalese 196 runs target after losing all wickets in the 46th over. For Afghanistan, Ibrahim Zadran shined with the bat and struck 101 runs. The Nepalese were unable to chase the target and all were sent back to the pavilion after piling up 90 runs on the scorecard. Yousaf Zazi grabbed four wickets, followed by Mujib Zadran who clinched three scalps while Shams Walikhel, Tariq Stanikzai and Zahir Paktian shared one wicket each. ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

At Least 140 Taliban Killed in Faryab Airstrikes, Clashes

MAIMANA - Authorities on Tuesday said at least 140 Taliban insurgents, including some shadow district chiefs, have been killed during air and ground operations in three districts of northern Faryab province. Police Brig. Gen. Delawar Shah Delawar said Mullah Qubadullah was killed along with his 25 fighters, Mullah Abdul Karim, a

shadow district chief, with his 10 fighters and Mullah Zahirullah Yousafi with 25 fighters. Another Taliban commander Salam aka Nesson was killed along with 16 loyalists and commander Sayed Esmael was killed along with 10 gunmen while another 40 militants in an orchard were killed in airstrikes in Kohistan

district late on Monday night. Delawar said it was possible the Taliban had suffered more than double the casualties so far reported in the airstrikes. He said it was the heaviest death toll the Taliban suffered in Faryab. Two days ago, Lowlash area, the centre of Kohistan ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

Taliban Seize 3 Districts in 4 Days amid Fresh Spate of Violence

KABUL - The militant group on Tuesday reportedly took control of Janikhail district in Paktia province in the country's east. The resurgent Taliban on Tuesday infiltrated Paktia's Janikhail district as battles between the Afghan security forces and the militant group rage across multiple fronts in the country. This also comes after the group's deadly attack on Monday that killed over 36 civilians in Afghanistan's capital Kabul. The collapse of Janikhail marks the third consecutive victory by the militants in just four days. Over the weekend, the Taliban launched major offensives on Taiwara district in Ghor and Kohistan district in Faryab province in the country's west and northern parts respectively -- seizing control of the strategic towns. Defense Ministry Blames Pakistan "Pressure has been mounted on the Pakistani government from the international community particularly from the U.S side. Pakistan has persuaded all armed opponents to come to Afghanistan and increase their attacks," Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said. But, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has rejected claims about the collapse of Janikhail to the Taliban. ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Your confidence is soaring and your energy level is off the charts. You may be feeling invincible now that your key planet Mars aligns with the expressive Leo Sun. You might even assume you can do whatever needs to be done faster than anyone else. Although you are outwardly optimistic, the bad news is that you belatedly realize there's something .

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



One of your ongoing concerns is how to keep motivated as you drive toward your goals without pushing against others too forcefully. If you're overly aggressive, you may face negative consequences as someone backs away, leaving you on your own. However, your emotional intensity is hot right now -- maybe even too hot to handle.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



A unique situation is unfolding which may take you down various paths now, depending on your current relationship status. If you are blessed to have a supportive partner, you can work together to make something special happen. But unexpressed discord could suddenly erupt, possibly forcing an overdue confrontation. Naturally, some conflicts are resolved immediately, while others take longer to fix.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Take full responsibility for your body today, but don't just run to the internet to search for the latest-breaking news story about another amazing elixir. Seriously reassess what you can do to improve your physical endurance and cultivate healing. Forget about discovering a magical fix; healthy changes to your diet and lifestyle will positively impact your well-being.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You may attempt to impose your will on those around you today, simply due to your exuberance. Your inner resolve is unwavering and your outer strength is fierce while warrior Mars connects with the brilliant Sun. Unfortunately, petty ego disputes can lead to unnecessary conflict now, which would be a total waste of this planetary boost.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Unexpressed emotions are rattled now, and confronting them may raise old unresolved feelings of anger. Your down-to-earth orientation inspires you to possess a pragmatic attitude toward life. Nevertheless, it's easy to mix up childhood memories with current circumstances, making it more difficult to manage the situation. Thankfully, exploring the differences between then and now can free you from repeating old patterns once again.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Although you're likely to share your thoughts on a regular basis, you can usually say what you want from an objective perspective. However, it may be more challenging to separate your feelings and opinions from your identity today. Unfortunately, you might grow aggressive in your own defense if you are overly attached to your position.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



our current position on a work-related issue is likely to be controversial and you're not afraid to share your thoughts with everyone you encounter. However, you may be so concise in your communication that others think your delivery is too smooth. They might not trust your message if it sounds perfectly rehearsed. There's no reason to worry; the reactions of others are out of your control.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



A tiny spark can start a fire in your belly that grows hotter throughout the day. The hyperactive Sun-Mars conjunction highlights your 9th House of Big Ideas, motivating you to pursue your adventurous dreams. However, you may grow restless if you're unable to break free from previous commitments. It's absolutely critical to find healthy ways to burn off your excess energy today or you may get drawn into a needless fight.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You may feel irritable today and yet you can't put your finger on the source of your malaise. There are hidden issues stewing in the minds of your friends now, and it's to your advantage to persuade them to reveal their secrets. However, others might misread your intentions if you're asking too many pointed questions.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

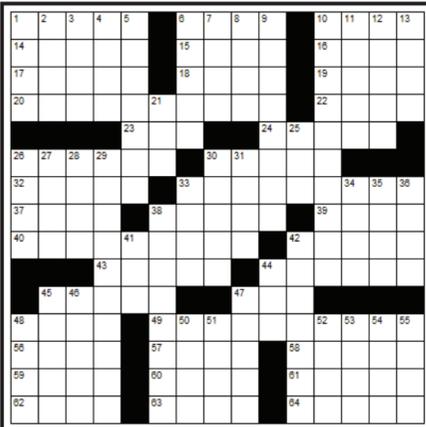


A surge of powerful energy is coming your way today. But the real question is whether or not you can acknowledge the incoming intensity and put it to proper use. If you're unable to ride the creative waves, you may take your frustration out on a friend by overstating your anger. Nevertheless, you shock others with amazing ideas if you find a way to integrate your emotions.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Your ambitions are calling today, and you're eager to show your coworkers what you can accomplish. Nevertheless, your enthusiastic behavior may pose some danger if you inadvertently create conflict in your quest to achieve your objectives. Thankfully, your happiness doesn't need to come at the expense of anyone else. Even if your ego is telling you otherwise now.



Across
1. Carved, 6. Dad, 10. Spar, 14. French for "Storehouse", 15. Low-fat, 16. Comply with, 17. Golden, 18. Relating to urine, 19. Heavy, durable furniture wood, 20. To cause inconvenience, 22. Despise, 23. Thorax protector, 24. Appears, 26. Chinch, 30. Communion table, 32. A part of the small intestine, 33. Polishing, 37. Russian emperor, 38. Small trout-like fish, 39. Smell, 40. To make meat soft, 42. Antlered animal, 43. Run away to wed, 44. Potpourri, 45. Slender-bodied semiaquatic mammals, 47. Lenient, 48. Vandals, 49. Drowsiness, 56. Therefore, 57. Cypher, 58. A steel wire rope, 59. Not "To", 60. End ____, 61. Extent, 62. French for "Head", 63. 10 10 10 10, 64. Homes for birds,
Down
1. A person who is in charge, 2. Decorative case, 3. Armed conflicts, 4. Sweeping story, 5. Propriety in manners, 6. Perpendicular, 7. Relating to aircraft, 8. Gave money, 9. Forefather, 10. Maternity, 11. Perpendicular to the keel, 12. Chairs, 13. Kid, 21. Russian fighter plane, 25. Consume, 26. A mooring post, 27. If not, 28. University administrator, 29. Onerous, 30. Astound, 31. Old stories, 33. Transport commercially, 34. False god, 35. Schnozzola, 36. Midway between white and black, 38. A diagonal path, 41. Antlered animal, 42. Someone from Mexico, 44. Chart, 45. Black-and-white diving bird, 46. Metal bar, 47. Lascivious looks, 48. Significance, 50. Fail to win, 51. Biblical garden, 52. What a person is called, 53. Wanes, 54. Narrow opening, 55. Collections

Yesterday's Solution
ACRE ABHOR WITPE
POEM URINE PINES
EPEE TANTAMOUNT
DEFRAUD ORIFICE
GYM
SIGNIFY PLAYS
ASTIER
SECTIONS HAREM BOP
KILT NODS BOMA
ELLU TENET DAZES
LULL STONEMASONS
AIRARA GOLF
CAMERAS SLOBBER
IMPASSIBLE ALAE
DILL TLEUS LURE
SEEM ALERT FEND

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