

20 Taliban Militants Dead in Logar Clashes

PUL-I-ALAM - At least 20 Taliban militants and three security personnel were killed when Taliban fighters raided three police check posts in central Logar province, officials said on Wednesday.

Brig Gen Abdulhakim Ishaqzai, police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News local and foreign Taliban rebels raided the check posts in Pul-i-Alam, Baraki Barak and Qila Madad districts.

The group also staged coordi-



ated group attacks on Sarkh and Kharwar district headquarters, he added.

The security forces strongly retaliated, killing 20 militants and wounding 16 others, he said, adding that the security forces seized a car and huge cache of arms and ammunition.

Two policemen and a soldier of Afghan National Army were killed and five others wounded in the fight, the police chief said. Najib Ahmad, resident in Sarkh district... (More on P4)... (23)

10 Killed, 150 Families Displaced in Baghlan Clashes



PUL-I-KHUMRI - Six Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel, three armed rebels and one civilian were killed during clashes that displaced about 150 families in northern Baghlan province, an official said on Wednesday. Deputy governor Abdul Qadim Niazi told Pajhwok Afghan News militants stormed police check posts last night in Gadanha locality of Dand Ghor district near the provincial capital, Pul-i-Khumri.

The ensuing clash left six local policemen, three rebels and a woman dead and eight militants, three civilians and one policeman wounded.

Niazi said the woman was killed and another three civilians were injured when Taliban-fired rockets struck residential houses.

The Taliban in their website said their one fighter was wounded in the clash.

Mohammad Ali, a resident of the area, said four houses were hit by rockets. He said the security situation was not satisfactory for residents. The militants fled when security forces conducted a clearing operation last week, but they staged a comeback when the security forces left the area, the resident said.

He said the area had been the scene of violent clashes that displaced at least 150 families to other areas. Meanwhile, two rockets fired into Pul-i-Khumri city left six civilians, including three children, wounded and another four other rockets hit nonresidential areas, but caused no casualties. (Pajhwok)

Bakhtar Bank Branch Looted in Ghor

FEROZKOH - The Bakhtar Bank manager in western Ghor province and two others have been detained on charges of robbing 25 million afghanis and \$140,000 from the branch. A security official, who wished not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News Zabihullah the branch manager and two of his colleagues had taken the money out of the bank. The manager was detained before flying to Kabul in Ferozkoh, the source added.

cial attorney general, said the case was under investigation. It was found that the money was transferred out of the bank. Haidari added of the 25 million afghanis, 2.5 million have been found in the branch manager's residence.

The bank has been locked and police would ensure its security, he added.

Salim Rahimi, Bakhtar Bank marketing and development manager in Kabul, however, told Pajhwok Afghan News three million afghanis were



stolen from the bank's Ghor branch. He added 2.5 million of the amount has already been recovered and some accused persons were also nabbed by police. (Pajhwok)

8 Die As School Van Overtakes in Daikundi

NEILI - Eight people, mostly young girls, died and another 14 were injured on Wednesday when a vehicle carrying them overturned in central Daikundi province, an official said.

The dead included six girls aged between nine and 13 years and two men, a public health department official, Syed Sarwar Hus-saini, told Pajhwok Afghan News. The vehicle skidded off the road and overturned in Plass area of the Miramor district around 1:30pm. Another 13 children and a man were injured in the mishap and most of them were in critical condition, the official said.

Mohammad Ali Hemmat, a civil activist, said the vehicle was carrying schoolchildren to attend a religious gathering when it overturned in Lala Omoj area. Earlier car accidents this ongoing solar year have claimed the lives of 16 people and causing injuries to another 20 in Daikundi, one of the impassable provinces. (Pajhwok)

Daesh Fighters Torch Taliban Leaders' Homes

JALALABAD - Amid fierce clashes, armed members of the self-styled Islamic State group set fire to at least ten houses of Taliban commanders in the Spinghar district of eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Wednesday. The district chief, Mohammad Qasim Momand, told Pajhwok News the houses were torched in Shadal and Gardi areas on Tuesday night



as clashes between the two groups continued in the area. However, he had no exact information about casualties. Abdul Qayum, a local resident, said the houses torched belonged to top local Taliban com-

manders. There were no casualties when the houses were set afire, he, adding government's writ did not prevail in the area. The Taliban have not yet commented about the incident. Clashes between Taliban and Daesh militants have been ongoing intermittently over the past two months in Nangarhar. Dozens of militants have been killed during these clashes. (Pajhwok)

ISIS Beheads 10 Taliban Militants

KABUL - A group of ISIL Takfiri terrorists have beheaded 10 Taliban militants in eastern Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan after fierce clashes between the two sides, Press TV reports. The clash between the two militant groups erupted with an exchange of heavy gunfire in Nangarhar province and then the ISIL terrorists took some of the Taliban militants hostage and cut off their heads.

Local authorities have confirmed the report. The ISIL militants have reportedly been recruiting militants in Afghanistan over recent months, in what is believed to be aimed at establishing sanctuaries in areas traditionally seen as Taliban strongholds.

The Takfiri militants, who are carrying out terrorist operations in Iraq and neighboring Syria, have demanded that the local Taliban pledge allegiance to their group.

Over the past few months, the two militant groups have frequently... (More on P4)... (24)

Dead Body of a Girl Found in Panjshir



PARAKH - The dead body of a 20-year-old girl was found in central Panjshir province on Wednesday, an official said.

Shaikh Ahmad, 1st district police chief in Bazarak, told Pajhwok Afghan News the girl was a resident of Dasht-e-Reyot locality and had gone missing 20 days back.

Her body was recovered from Mulla-Khail locality and had been shifted to the Emergency Hospital in the province, he added.

Ahmad added the case was under investigation and no suspect had been detained so far. (Pajhwok)

Planners of Kabul Guesthouse Attack Nabbed: NDS

KABUL - The spy agency on Wednesday said two planners and masterminds behind the terrorist attack on Park Palace guesthouse in Kabul had been arrested.

At least 14 civilians, including nine foreigners, were killed after gunmen stormed the guesthouse popular with foreigners in the Kolola Pushta neighborhood two weeks back. The National Directo-

rate of Security (NDS) said in a statement Ghulam Aziz also known as Salahuddin and Abdul Wakil, an employee of a Kabul-based Madeera NGO, who orchestrated the attack, were arrested in Sang-e-Naweshta locality of Kabul. The two were active members of "The arrested individuals have confessed to their involvement in planning the attack," said the statement that

claimed the plot took place under the supervision of a Haqqani network commander Qari Abdulla aka Anass in Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The NDS statement said Ghulam Aziz had obtained a fake USAID employee card and the guesthouse's map, which he had sent to Qari Abdullah. (Pajhwok)

Farah Trader Abducted

FARAH - Unidentified armed men on Wednesday abducted a tire trader in western Farah province, an official said. Jawad Afghan, a governor spokesman, said unidentified armed persons took away 40-year-old Nesar Ahmad with them in a car early morning when he was on his way to mosque. He runs a



tire shop in main Farah city. He might be kidnapped for ransom and efforts were on to ensure Nesar Ahmad's release, he added. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might believe you are being personally attacked if a coworker confronts you about your work today. However, there's no reason to automatically compromise your position by modifying your views to accommodate others. Although someone else may not share your perspective, don't just pretend to agree in order to keep the peace.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You could spend a lot of time dreaming about going somewhere far away, yet you're determined to find a practical use for your wanderlust. Unfortunately, packing your bags and leaving everything behind doesn't necessarily fit into your present circumstances. However, you might be able to schedule a real vacation in the near future if you are selective about your current choices.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are tempted to dismiss a very practical proposal before you even give it any real consideration. Unfortunately, being close-minded is a mistake because an out-of-hand rejection could inadvertently stir up negativity from potential allies. Your willingness to be a sounding board is more important than you realize. Even if you don't like the idea after you hear all the details, others will still know that you care enough to listen.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

People may be making demands on your time, complicating relationships, since the issues now raised can't be quickly dismissed. Emotional stresses are amplified because your instincts tell you to run for the hills today while the situation continues to hold your feet to the fire. Resign yourself to processing your fears instead of avoiding them for the sake of convenience.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You're in a practical frame of mind today and nothing will deter you from executing your job and finishing your chores as efficiently as possible. You are certainly up for the challenge, even if doing your work presents a high level of difficulty. Although it feels as if you're running out of time, you still might commit to complete a project on schedule.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are quite serious about being playful with the ambitious Capricorn Moon hanging out in your 5th House of Fun and Games. You actually look forward to the hard work and the satisfaction that you can earn. Maintaining a positive attitude is a piece of cake if your job involves doing something that is exciting and different. But don't worry even if you're feeling bored; just take it one step at a time and do whatever task needs to be done next.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Domestic obligations pull you away from your career responsibilities and back to the home front while the Moon travels through your 4th House of Family. You might be asked to play a parental role on demand today or you could be required to help out your own parents. No matter what, your emotions play a significant role in the relationship dynamics.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

A close friend might have an intense story to tell you today, and it's wise to take the time to listen while the calculating Capricorn Moon connects with passionate Pluto, luring you into your 3rd House of Information. There isn't a test for comprehension following this personal disclosure, but you should still do your absolute best to learn what you can from the revelations.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Although you're not necessarily the possessive type, you can become overly protective now of an idea that you believe is yours. You feel as if you birthed the thought and it's your right to take it to the next level, but there may someone else who wants to get in on the act. Instead of resisting the free exchange of information, sharing your thinking process with your peers works in your favor.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your motives are complicated while the Moon hooks up with emotionally intense Pluto in your hardworking sign. Your convictions may be stronger than your logic today, placing you in a vulnerable position. Your feelings are exploding into awareness now, whether you want them to or not. However, once you are conscious of your desires, you might not be so inclined to stuff them back in the box.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Otherworldly ideas are simmering in your metaphysical stewing pot as the evocative Moon joins transformative Pluto in your 12th House of Spirituality. Unexpressed emotions continue to churn just beneath the radar of your consciousness. It may be wise to let them remain out of sight for a while, so you don't have to waste your time defending thoughts and emotions that are still in flux.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your dreams of the distant future are not as far away as they might seem today. Paradoxically, you're viewing your unformed and unknown life in advance through a set of very practical lenses. You won't be misled by any idealistic fantasies now. However, you could be so cautious that you miss an incredible opportunity. Even if you think an idea isn't sensible, you still might want to go ahead and explore it anyhow.

Across

- 1. Break in friendly relations, 5. Put out, 10. Hairdo, 14. Biblical garden, 15. Persons, places or things, 16. Murres, 17. A large African antelope, 19. Twice-baked bread, 20. "Eureka!", 21. The outer layer of the Earth, 22. Judges, 23. Support, 25. 3-banded armadillo, 27. Little bit, 28. Multicolored horses, 31. Incited, 34. Anagram of "Sneer", 35. Fury, 36. Applaud, 37. Aviator, 38. Sun, 39. Scarlet, 40. Levelled, 41. Perhaps, 42. Uncontrolled, 44. Morning moisture, 45. Provide with a permanent fund, 46. Adolescent, 50. Tubs, 52. It pumps blood, 54. Excavate, 55. Chocolate cookie, 56. Indulgent, 58. Bobbin 59. Exhorted, 60. P P P P, 61. Not, 62. Crystal-lined rock, 63. Mongol hut.

Down

- 1. Rehabilitation, 2. Potato state, 3. Not domesticated, 4. Explosive, 5. Anagram of "Binder", 6. French for "Sister", 7. Litigates, 8. Unsullied, 9. Eastern Standard Time, 10. Dawn goddess, 11. Thriftiness, 12. Ascend, 13. Trees of the genus Quercus, 18. Toward the outside, 22. Applies lightly, 24. Stair, 26. Equal, 28. Jimmied, 29. Blah, 30. Arid, 31. Beige, 32. Secluded valley, 33. Inventor, 34. Not here, 37. Portuguese folksong, 38. Wood that is cut, 40. Purges, 41. Encounters, 43. Wicked, 44. Mock, 46. Domesticated, 47. French farewell, 48. Donor, 49. Excrete, 50. Brought into existence, 51. District, 53. Therefore, 56. Type of dog, 57. Operative.

Yesterday's Solution



again, aloud, alternative, antler, brisk, cable, cello, class, dean, delay, enjoy, faith, flue, grill, honey, instead, light, mingle, music, paint, patch, prepare, profess, provide, quite, raise, rough, shelf, slave, slew, softly, stiff, than, today, tough, violin, wrath,

