



### Sale of Illegal SIM Cards on the Increase in Takhar

TALOQAN - The Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA) has noted an increase in the number of illegal SIM cards used in criminal activities in northern Takhar province. ATRA head for Takhar Qayamuddin Weqar said in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News the number of illegal SIM cards had sharply risen in the province in recent past.

Based on law, SIM cards should be sold inactive only by authorised dealers, the official said, explaining the cards had been activated within 24 hours of purchase. "But it is not the case in Takhar, where SIM cards are pre-activated in violation of the relevant rule. Such cards are used for kidnapping, threatening calls, murdering and other crimes," he argued. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

### 6 of a Family Injured in Farah Artillery Strike

FARAH CITY/ SAR-I-PUL - Six members of a family were wounded after their home was hit by an artillery strike blamed on the Afghan National Army in western Farah province. Elsewhere, three militants were killed when a landmine they were making went off prematurely in northern Sar-i-Pul province, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Wednesday. In Farah, Amanullah, an

inhabitant, told Pajhwok Afghan News six artillery shells struck Mazaar village late on Tuesday night at around 8pm, injuring five members of a family, including four children, one man and one woman. Dr. Hakim Rasouli, provincial hospital director, said the six injured family members had been brought to the hospital and condition of one child was critical. Naser ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

### 11 Insurgents Including Tajikistani Militants Killed in Airstrike

KABUL - The provincial police commandment in a statement said the Afghan security forces conducted operations in the vicinity of Imam Sahib district and targeted the insurgents who had taken position inside a house, leaving 11 of them dead. The statement further added that the airstrike was carried out on the residence of commander Momin as the militants were busy making Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). At least nine Tajikistani in-

surgers were among those killed in the airstrike, the police commandment said, adding that the house on which airstrike was carried out belonged to commander Momin who is a local influential figure. The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far. Kunduz is among the relatively volatile provinces in northern Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

# ISIS Suffer Heavy Casualties, 44 Including Foreigners Killed

JALALABAD - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group suffered heavy casualties during the ongoing military operations in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

The provincial government media office in a statement said the militants were killed during the airstrikes conducted in Kot district as the Afghan ground forces are busy in clearance and counter-terrorism operations against the terror group. The statement further added that several foreign insurgents are among those killed in the airstrikes. The local residents and security personnel did not suffer any ...*(More on P4)...(14)*



### Daesh Claims Responsibility for Iranian Attacks

TEHRAN - Iranian media reports that at least 12 people were killed in the two "terror attacks" in Tehran on Wednesday. Terrorists carried out an attack on Iran's Parliament (Majlis) and Ayatollah Khomeini's mausoleum in Tehran on Wednesday, killing at least a dozen people. According to Iran's Press TV, at least 12 people have been killed in Wednesday's attacks while another 42 were injured and admitted to three hospitals for treatment.

The Daesh Takfiri terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The first attack was on parliament when at least four gunmen, disguised as women, entered the visitors hall of the building, and opened fire on the security guards. The assailants were all killed by security forces following the attack.

Press TV reported that Tehran MP Elias Hazrati said the assailants were armed with two Kalashnikovs and a handgun. However, reports state an Interior Ministry source said a bomber had blown himself up on the fourth floor of the parliament building, where he was holed up.

Separately, Fars said three gunmen attacked the mausoleum in Tehran, ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

### In Ghazni, Taliban Impose Taxes on Shopkeepers

GHAZNI CITY - Residents allege Taliban have imposed taxes on some shops, worrying the vendors of southern Ghazni province. The insurgents confirm the claim. Bismillah, hailing from Ali Kala area on the outskirts of Ghazni City, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban had imposed 5,000 to 10,000 Pakistani rupees in annual tax on shopkeepers.

"The Taliban come here to collect money from shopkeepers. If anyone refuses to pay, the militants beat him," he said, asking for a cut in



the tax rate for shops. He argued the whole investment of a shopkeeper was less than 20,000 Pakistani rupees and paying a high tax was beyond him.

Rahmatullah, a resident of the Zara Kala village of Andar district, said the Taliban had slapped an annual tax on shopkeepers in his area. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

### Jalaluddin Haqqani's Group Suffer Casualties in Latest Taliban Infighting

KABUL - Militants belonging to the Jalaluddin Haqqani's faction of the Taliban suffered casualties in the latest infighting between the Taliban insurgents in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said Wednesday.

The provincial government media office in a statement said clashes broke out between the Taliban insurgents in Bati Kot district late on Monday night.

The statement further added that one Taliban insurgent



was killed during the clashes and at least two others were wounded.

The militants killed or wounded during the clashes belong to the Jalaluddin ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

### Power Struggle Seen within Surging is in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - A letter drafted by a senior Islamic State militant and obtained by The Associated Press points to a growing power struggle within the group's Afghan affiliate, pitting notoriously fierce Uzbek fighters against Pakistanis seen as too close to that country's powerful intelligence service.

The rumblings of discontent come as the IS affiliate, which refers to itself as the Khorasan Province, is at war with both the U.S.-backed government and the more well-established Taliban, with which it differs on tactics, leadership and ideology.

The IS affiliate emerged in 2014 and refers to itself as the Khorasan Province, an ancient term for an area that includes parts of Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asian states. It has pledged allegiance to the IS group in Iraq and Syria but consists mainly of disgruntled former Taliban and other insurgents from South and Central Asia.

The letter, obtained by a jihadi fighter with ties to the IS affiliate and then provided to AP, was signed by Moawiya Uzbekistani, the apparent nom de guerre of an Uzbek militant, who claims to have become the leader of the IS affiliate after the death of Abdul Hasib, who was killed in a joint U.S.-Afghan operation in April.

Uzbekistani rejects reports that another fighter, ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You can recall trying to avoid a difficult scene from your distant past as if it were just a few minutes ago. However, something is shifting now and you want to react to an entirely new situation based on the old dynamics. One of the hardest things to do is to wait for all the circumstances to line up in your favor, inviting you to start the show.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Setting your priorities can be tricky business today because you're unwilling to make plans until you get a nagging feeling off your chest. Your current emotional unrest is exacerbated by tomorrow's Full Moon, making it impossible for you to remain silent any longer. If you have something controversial to say, choose your words carefully so you don't stir up unnecessary conflict.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You can make your message sound as casual as possible, but others are still going to listen between the words in an attempt to uncover your true intentions. Nevertheless, you don't want to err on the side of endless rambling because you will surely lose your audience before you finish making your point. Consciously conserving your energy in all conversations ensures you will be ready for the spotlight in a day or two.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You can feel your own resistance build as you think about putting a temporary halt to the never-ending bickering. Although it might seem as if confronting someone's overactive persuasion techniques isn't worth the effort, fighting for respect is a noble cause. Don't give up your power in unnecessary ways.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Celebratory activities are occurring all around you now, and you may be suffering from a severe case of envy. Although you have so much work on your plate, you're tempted to walk away from it all to join the party. You're unwilling to cut back on your indulgences unless you have no other choice. Fortunately, you always have other alternatives.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You aren't pleased when your energy is so scattered because you have little to show for all your work. In fact, messenger Mercury is light and lively today, even while delivering news to suspicious Pluto. You might stumble upon someone's long-held secret while probing Pluto is snooping around in your 5th House of Spontaneity, prompting a surprising revelation. Actor Dave Willis wrote, "Secrecy is the enemy of intimacy."

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You're promoting a specific agenda at work today and you're not interested in running your plan by anyone else. Although it's reassuring to gain the approval of others, you just want the satisfaction of knowing that you made your choices on your own now. Potent Pluto's connection to strategic Mercury in your 9th House of Distant Horizons nudges you along on your personal evolution.

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You may be at the center of a minor storm today as the emotional weather intensifies, triggering an early warning system between you and a close friend. Ironically, you're convinced that the most positive response is the only one you can make without raining on someone's parade. Without constant monitoring of your behavior, you believe you'll set a sequence of events into motion.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Your feelings are all over the map now and you're unable to stuff them back into an appropriate box. The moody Moon is visiting your optimistic sign, but it appears that unavoidable trouble is on the path directly ahead of you. Don't tire yourself out trying to stir excitement where there is only unnecessary resistance. You won't change someone's mind with logic today;

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



An overly talkative coworker can turn out to be the fly in your ointment today. Chatty Mercury in your 6th House of Employment is driven by paranoid Pluto to explore every alternative, including a few conspiracy theories along the way. However, all the chatter simply might be a ploy to cover up an emotional dynamic that needs resolution.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You're beginning to see that your plans for the future still need some serious tweaking. And even if they are in good shape, there are plenty of details to be ironed out along the way. You might want all the loose ends tied up, but you will only grow frustrated if you think you can outsmart the cosmos today. Don't be afraid of visualizing the future, but avoid obsessing over one final outcome.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You would like to project your umbrella of compassion and protection over everyone at work today. But your dreams of leadership may not be realized, especially if they are more like idle fantasies than a viable alternative. Imagining your destiny normally helps to create it, but now it's more of a diversion than anything else.

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61 62 63

Across  
1. Python, 5. Pale with fright, 10. Airhead, 14. Cain's brother, 15. Monster, 16. Chocolate cookie, 17. Dental tool, 19. Curved molding, 20. Cut down, 21. American symbol, 22. Honor, 23. Gist, 25. Man-made fiber, 27. One or more, 28. Walking heavily, 31. Devilfish, 34. Mixes, 35. Menagerie, 36. Beers, 37. Talk, 38. Greek cheese, 39. Letter after sigma, 40. A type of necklace, 41. Washed-out, 42. Alienate, 44. Passenger vehicle, 45. Our planet, 46. Illegitimate child, 50. Cut, 52. Avoid, 54. Twosome, 55. Murres, 56. Lurching, 58. Jewelry, 59. Attendance counter, 60. Cartoon bear, 61. Border, 62. Duck being, 63. Being,

Down  
1. Wash oneself, 2. Double-reed instruments, 3. Cat sounds, 4. Altitude (abbrev.), 5. Abbot's office, 6. Twilled fabric, 7. Transport in a vehicle, 8. Vital, 9. Greatest possible, 10. A 1950s genre of music, 11. Coordinated, 12. Lascivious look, 13. Pigeon-\_\_\_ 18. Reddish brown, 22. Charity, 24. Dines, 26. An English royal house, 28. Cubic meter, 29. Memo, 30. Incite, 31. Spouse, 32. "What a shame!", 33. Castrating, 34. A type of pasta, 37. Dispatched, 38. Quick, 40. Cut back, 41. A friction match, 43. Lay waste, 44. Bait, 46. Military brass instrument, 47. "Bye", 48. Steps of a ladder, 49. Motherless calf, 50. Medical breakthrough, 51. Dry, 53. Placed, 56. South southeast, 57. Type of whiskey,

Yesterday's Solution  
ORAMA SASS SANG  
EASSEL PRATT PLOY  
APING ACRIE ALUM  
READERSHIP CONS  
BUM SKEWS  
SATIURE STOIC  
ARENZ PLINDRIFT  
WEND TEMS AFRO  
SATURNINE OFFAL  
CIVET ECTYPE  
OMEGA OFF  
SWIM STERTOROUS  
ANTIE HOTA PENNE  
TEEN ORAL UNTIE  
ERST NETS STOOD

announce, anthem, citizen, concert, editor, ensure, ever, experiment, friend, husband, large, later, night, number, police, price, project, record, release, rind, romance, significant, strange, swirl, temptation, tweets, venture, video, voice,

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L S T R A N G E V W G I O  
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