

# 16 Rebels, 3 ANA Soldiers Killed in Fresh Offensives

KABUL - At least 16 militants and three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed in round-the-clock operations in different parts of the country, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said Friday. The operations were launched by Afghan security personnel in Nangarhar, Paktika, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Baghlan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab, Kunduz and Helmand provinces, a statement from MoD said. The source said 13 insurgents were killed and four others wounded during an operation in Chora district of Uruzgan province. A number of weapons and ammunition were also destroyed in the operations, the statement added. Elsewhere, three militants were killed and a fourth



was wounded in Jaghatu district of southern Ghazni province. MoD confirmed the death of three ANA soldiers during the offensives. However, Taliban are yet to comment regarding the casualties. (Pajhwok)

## Prayer Leader Shot Dead in Kapisa

MAHMUD RAQI - A Shafiq, the district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News, the Imam in Hamzakhel village of the district was killed by a local man using hunting gun. Identifying the accused as ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Clash Between 2 Ex-commanders Junbish Leaves 4 Dead, 7 Injured

MAIMANA - Nearly a dozen people have suffered casualties as a result of a clash between the fighters loyal to two influential figures in northern Faryab province, an official said on Friday. The clash erupted when men loyal to Mohammad Sami Khirkhwa, a member of provincial council, disarmed a bodyguard of uprising commander, Ghafoor, in the Balchiragh district, the administrative head of the town, Mirwais Daudzai, told... (More on P4)... (20)

## 3 Dead, over 40 Injured in Nangarhar Mosque Blast

JALALABAD - Three worshippers including Imam were killed and more than 40 others sustained injuries in a detonation during Jumma prayer in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Friday. The incident occurred at around 1:30pm during Thursday evening in Mihrab of the mosque-- went off in the Mazina area of Rodat district, the gubernatorial spokesman, Ataullah Khogyani told Pajhwok Afghan News. Initial reports showed



that prayer leader was among three worshippers dead and more than 40 others wounded, he said. (Pajhwok)

## Would-Be Suicide Bomber Arrested in Kunduz

KUNDUZ - The Afghan security forces have arrested a would-be suicide bomber in northern Kunduz province of Afghanistan, the security authorities said Thursday. The detained would-be bomber has been identified as Dr. Mohammad Qasim and the Afghan security forces have confiscated a suicide bombing vest along with some weapons and explosives from the suspect. No further details have been given regarding the suspect and the potential target he was looking to attack. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the capture of the suspect so far. Kunduz is among the relatively volatile provinces in northern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating... (More on P4)... (21)

## Soldier Killed By Taliban two Days before Wedding

GHAZNI - Wali, an Afghan National Army soldier, who was shot dead by the Taliban in Ghazni province, was not only the sole breadwinner in his family but he was also killed just two days before his wedding in Kabul. Wali's mother said that her life now has no meaning as the Taliban has destroyed all her joy. "It was Wednesday when I called him and his phone was switched off. I was told that he had been detained by the Taliban and later I got the news that they killed my son," said Bibi Aesha, Wali's mother. On Tuesday night, the Taliban shot dead 12 people including Wali - all for working for security institutions in Andar district of Ghazni province. "I painted his room and his wedding was in two days and we got all the preparations but unfortunately....." said... (More on P4)... (22)



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## Taliban District Chief Held in Sar-I-Pul

SAR-I-PUL - A Taliban designated district chief for Balkhab was detained by local people in northern Sar-i-Pul province, a public representative said on Friday. The Taliban shadow chief for Balkhab district, Husain alias Hashimi Quraish was held on Thursday evening by local people in the Tighula area of the district, a member of provincial council, Asadullah Khuram, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Quraish was handed over to police at around 8:30pm, he said. A security official, who wanted



to be unnamed, confirmed the arrest of Hashimi Quraish by the local people. However, Taliban has so far issued no comment regarding the captivity of their commander. (Pajhwok)

## 2 Umrah Goers Detained with Drugs At Karzai Airport

KABUL - Ministry of Finance's customs department personnel have detained a man and a woman at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in central capital Kabul over smuggling drugs to Saudi Arabia, the ministry said on Thursday. A statement from the Finance Ministry said the man and the woman were destined for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. The two were detained by customs officials during a search. The man carried 1,114 grams of drugs in his bag and the woman 1,052 grams of heroin in her... (More on P4)... (23)

## Haqqani Commander Killed in Paktika Drone Strike

KABUL - A dreaded commander of the Haqqani network has been killed in a US drone strike in south-eastern Paktika province, the governor's office said on Thursday. The commander, identified as Sirajuddin Khademi, was a logistics leader of the militant group and member of the Quetta Shura. Khademi allegedly provided weapons for insurgents, a statement from the governor's office said. It added the drone raid took place in SarRawza district and some weapons were also destroyed in the strike. ... (More on P4)... (24)

## Balkh's AlamKhel Elders Deny Girl Gang-Raped

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Residents of AlamKhel village in northern Balkh province on Thursday said no gang-rape of a girl had taken place in their village as was reported in the media. A week back, some media outlets reported that an 18-year-old girl was gang-raped on April 15 in AlamKhel village by gunmen loyal a local influential figure. The reports quoted the girl's father, Abdul Jabbar, as claiming that her daughter had been sexually assaulted by gunmen loyal to Juma Khan Hamdard, a former governor of three provinces. But yesterday dozens of tribal elders from AlamKhel village visited the Balkh provincial council's office and strongly rejected the incident. They insisted no such incident had taken place in the village. The elders included two brothers of Abdul Jabbar and they also strongly denied their niece had been raped. One of the... (More on P4)... (25)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

It might seem as if you're out of step with the rest of the world today. However, you're not really sure if you want to put in the effort required to reestablish a rhythm that is in sync with those around you. Even if you attempt to meet reality halfway, there still could be awkward moments when you feel that you just don't fit in. Thankfully, you can shift the energy by accepting the dynamics as a passing phase.

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

Expressing your opinion again and again in an attempt to get others to support you just doesn't make sense. You are aware that you're repeating yourself, and can't comprehend why your message isn't sinking in. It's quite likely that people simply need time to assimilate your words and there's no way for you to speed up the process. Being more obstinate won't help your cause but a calculated retreat gives everyone a little room to breathe.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although you thought you knew where a conversation was going, you might find yourself in the midst of an uncomfortable debate with no clue how you got there. There's nothing wrong with holding a position different from someone else; however, it becomes problematic when you believe that your point of view is the only correct one. Instead of trying to untangle the cause of a current predicament, acknowledge the richness of diversity.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

There's so much going on in your mind now that it's difficult to express the various streams of thought coherently. In fact, your logic could be running on multiple levels simultaneously, challenging you to put your ideas into words. You may be familiar with feeling isolated at times, but it's relatively easy to bridge the communication gap now. Instead of trying to reveal

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

It's tempting to tell your friends exactly what you think today, especially if you believe they are trying to control your life. In fact, you have little patience for anyone's coercive behavior. However, you could react so quickly that you speak your mind before you even know your own thoughts. Don't be a victim of your impatience now; impulsive actions lead to big trouble. Considering the consequences of your words before they are spoken saves the day.

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

Although you could be unequivocal about your own feelings today, others have a much harder time reading your energy now. You appear to be sitting on the fence, holding multiple positions and unwilling to make a choice. Paradoxically, it might be their confusion that prevents them from appreciating your single-mindedness. Don't try to convince anyone of the power of your laser-like focus; let people change their minds once they see the proof in real life.

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

There are several different ways to reach your goal today and you hope to take the easiest route to your destination. Unfortunately, your emotional life may be more complicated than the actual logistics. Your feelings for close friends and family might not match up with your high expectations. Thankfully, responding to events as they happen prevents a messy situation from getting worse.

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

You are in your element today as mystery and intrigue take center stage. However, your insatiable curiosity might require more mental bandwidth than you have available. Nevertheless, it's those things you work the hardest for that will reward you the most now. But there doesn't seem to be a lot of middle ground for you to stand on; either you don't care about a subject or you want to know everything. Both extremes are problematic.

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

People in your life seem so lovely today that you're tempted to place them up on a pedestal. You might not even notice their true identity if you are working with a preconceived notion of who they are. Unfortunately, you could admire someone so much that he or she ends up disappointing you by falling short of your vision. Thankfully, the solution is as easy as changing your mind.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You are quite optimistic about completing everything that's on your to-do list today. You may be so enthusiastic that you write down each task without regard for how long it will take to execute. Don't wait until you run into major snafus later in the day; instead, fill in your schedule and assign a realistic block of time for each chore. If you don't finish one item within the allotted time, move on to the next.

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

Your creativity sizzles today as you tackle one exciting enterprise after another. You love the variety of activity as you finish one project and then gleefully start the next. However, people may try to co-opt your efforts by requesting your assistance on something completely unrelated to your goals. Don't set aside your original plans in order to participate in someone else's pet project. You will be in a better place to help others once you see your own progress take flight.

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

You can't decide whether to keep your feelings to yourself or to give others a piece of your mind. Although you have a lot to say today, you're not sure that your message will be received in the spirit it is intended. The problem is your runaway optimism can overpower your critical thinking and awkwardly lead you into a labyrinth of emotional dynamics. All you need now is a hand to hold and a heart to understand your dreams.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68.

Across: 1. Speak derisively, 6. A flexible pipe, 10. A small high-pitched flute, 14. Hearing-related, 15. Anagram of "Star", 16. Burden, 17. Commencement ceremony, 19. Where a bird lives, 20. Elongated square or circle, 21. Mineral rock, 22. Tall woody plant, 23. Australian "bear", 25. Despiser, 26. A bitter quarrel, 30. A vast multitude, 32. Plunge, 35. Enfold, 39. Edible viscera, 40. Relating to cats, 41. Impassive, 43. Assemble in proper sequence, 44. Agency, 46. God of love, 47. Thin disk of unleavened bread, 50. Tapestry, 53. A long way off, 54. Brassiere, 55. Not outside, 60. Exploded star, 61. Deranged, 63. Gait faster than a walk, 64. Sensed, 65. Ending in a point, 66. Arid, 67. No charge, 68. Hinder.

Down: 1. Palm starch, 2. Curtail, 3. By mouth, 4. Portuguese folksong, 5. Fail, 6. Cap, 7. American songbird, 8. Warehousing, 9. Feudal worker, 10. Baby's soft spot, 11. Unreactive, 12. A friction match, 13. A chemical compound, 18. Since, 24. Beer, 25. Shack, 26. Fleshy sweet fruits, 27. Send forth, 28. Part of an ear, 29. Careful, 31. Data, 33. Happen again, 34. Sun, 36. Teller of untruths, 37. Savvy about, 38. P P P P, 42. Student, 43. Mongrel, 45. Fit for farming, 47. Desires, 48. Previously, 49. An act of gracious kindness, 51. Be unwell, 52. Breaks, 54. Polish, 56. Hissy fit, 57. Yucky, 58. Consider, 59. Countercurrent, 62. Consumed food.

Yesterday's Solution: again, alphabet, blood, calendar, channel, clever, deliver, desiccate, every, fates, glade, intestinal, lichen, lone, lover, mare, minion, mistletoe, orchid, porch, slate, still, subscribe, tale, television, thing, tides, tons, travels, umbrella, vans, wander, waste, weal

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