

15 IS Militants Killed in Eastern Afghan Airstrikes

JALALABAD - Some 15 militants of the Islamic State (IS) group were killed as a U.S. pilotless plane attacked their position in Nangarhar overnight, the provincial government said on Monday. "Acting upon confirmed intelligence reports, the pilotless plane of the coalition forces stormed a hideout of IS militants in Mohmand Dara area of Achin district last night, killing 15 IS militants and destroying their weapons and ammunition," it said in a statement. The district bordering Pakistan has been the scene of heavy clashes between IS militants



and security forces, backed by pro-government local militiamen over the past couple of months. The militant group has yet to make comments. In an unrelated incident, six Taliban militants had been killed and seven others wounded after security forces repelled an attack on three villages in Darqad district of northern Takhar province, provincial police spokesman, Abdul Khalil Asir, told Xinhua on Monday. The militants attacked the security checkpoints in the district bordering Tajikistan late on Sunday ... (More on P4)...(14)

Female Convicts Handed Over to Tribal Elders in Paktika

SHARAN - Some women accused of committing different crimes in south-eastern Paktika province remain unpunished and have been handed over to tribal elders after their conviction due to non-availability of a separate prison for females. Asadullah Wazir, the provincial appellant attorney, told Pajhwok Afghan News there was no separate prison for women in Paktika and female convicts were handed over to tribal elders. "Prison is a place where criminals reform them-

selves, but we don't have a prison for women in the province and we transfer female criminals to tribal elders or to their families against guarantee which had no positive results." Yaquob Khan, the head of a youth organization in Paktika, said female criminals remained unpunished as there was no prison for them and it was a reason behind the increase in crime ratio. A resident of Sharan, the provincial capital, who wished to go unnamed, ... (More on P4)...(15)

Afghan Battle Claims 32 Lives Including 19 Militants

KABUL - Afghan militancy and counter-militancy have claimed the lives of 32 people including 19 armed insurgents and 13 security personnel across the conflict-ridden country over the past 24 hours, officials confirmed Monday. Up to 14 Taliban militants have been killed as clash erupted in Kajaki district of the southern Helmand province on Monday, an army spokesman in the restive province, Mohammad Rasoul Zazai said. A group of Taliban militants, according to the official stormed security checkpoints in Kajaki district early morning triggering gun battle, which

had left 14 armed fighters dead. Seventeen more militants have sustained injuries during fighting which is continuing sporadically, the official asserted. Mantine, Afghan Defense ministry in a statement released here Monday reported killing 19 anti-government militants including 14 Taliban fighters in the troubled Helmand province, two others in the eastern Ghazni and three more militants loyal to the so-called Islamic State (IS) in the eastern Nangarhar province over the past 24 hours. Defense Ministry in the statement also confirmed that 13 security personnel had

been killed in fighting against militants elsewhere in the militancy-hit country over the past 24 hours. Taliban militants who are active in parts of the country and have been fighting in several provinces to regain power, haven't commented on the claim made by government. Fighters loyal to the Islamic State haven't commented either. Taliban militants, according to Afghan observers, have speeded up activities ahead of the proposed direct talks with Afghan government to discuss peace and national reconciliation expected to be held in Pakistan within week. (Xinhua)

14 Militants Killed in Helmand

LASHKAR GAH - Up to 14 Taliban militants have been killed as a clash erupted in Kajaki district of the southern Helmand province on Monday, an army spokesman in the restive province, Mohammad Rasoul Zazai said. A group of Taliban militants, according to the official stormed security checkpoints in Kajaki district early morning triggering gun battle, which has left 14 armed fighters dead. Seventeen more militants have sustained injuries during fighting which is continuing sporadically. The spokesman, however, didn't comment on possible casualties of security forces. Taliban militants who have been fighting the security forces in several districts of Helmand province, are yet to comment on the situation in Kajaki district. (Xinhua)

Taliban Seize Ex-Commander after Joining Peace Process



MAIMANA - The Taliban have detained their former commander who recently joined the peace process in northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Monday. Gulbadin, who had joined with the government-initiated recon-

ciliation campaign in Almar district, has been captured by the militants, the official told Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity. Following his surrender, Gulbadin joined the police force, securing the Maimana... (More on P4)...(16)

Two Killed in Clash on Afghan-Tajik Border

KABUL - Tajik border guards have been engaged in a firefight with a small group of militants trying to enter the country from Afghanistan, the authorities said on Monday, with losses on both sides. Nine armed militants tried to cross the border near the Panj border post on Saturday, the State Security Committee said in a statement, but were noticed by Tajik servicemen who killed one intruder in an ensuing gunfight. One Tajik border guard has also died from heavy wounds and others were still chasing the remaining militants on Monday. The committee described the militants as a terrorist group, making the incident distinct from regular clashes with drug smugglers on the same border. Tajik security services said in January that as many as 5,000 militants from Taliban and other Islamist groups had amassed near its 1,344 km (835 mile) border with Afghanistan. Russia has a military base in the former Soviet republic, which has a population of 9 million. But it pulled some of its troops away from the border to capital Dushanbe last December and said last month it would downsize the base. (Reuters)

8 Illegal Afghans Detained in Peshawar Operation

PESHAWAR - Eight Afghan citizens have been apprehended during door-to-door search operations in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar, a security official said on Monday. A police officer confided to Pajhwok security forces netted the illegal foreigners in Hayatabad and Faqirabad areas of Peshawar, capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, on Sunday. At least 150 houses were searched during the operations, involving policewomen and personnel from different law-enforcement agencies, said the official, who requested not to be named. Four pistol and ... (More on P4)...(18)

Hundreds of Goshta Families Displaced by Cross-Border Shelling

JALALABAD - At least 300 families have been displaced due to an exchange of fire between Afghan and Pakistani security forces in the Goshta district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Monday. Brig. Gen. Wali Khan Shinwari, commander of the 301st border police force, told Pajhwok Afghan News Pakistani security forces had been firing at different villages in the district for a month. On Sunday, fire erupted across Durand Line in Goshta after the Pakistani border guards attacked Anar-



ki area, a public representative claimed. The Afghans responded to the shelling from the Pakistani guards, who used light and heavy weapons, including artillery fire.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor spokesman, confirmed the cross-border clash to Afghan media. However, he had no more information regarding the incident. (Pajhwok)

NDS Seized 680 KG Drugs, Explosives in Logar

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency has seized drugs and a weapon depot of militants during a raid in central Logar province of Afghanistan. Officials said

on Sunday that the operation was carried out in Dobandi area of Khwakhai district and that the seized materials include 680 kilograms of opium, seven bags of ammonium nitrate, ... (More on P4)...(17)

Badakhshan Police Detain Two Drug Smugglers

KABUL - Police in north-eastern Badakhshan province have detained two drug smugglers, an official said on Sunday. Spokesperson for the provincial

governor said Qari Hisamuddin and Mohammad Isa had hidden 93 kilograms of opium in a Corolla vehicle and planned to take the ... (More on P4)...(19)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Putting your plan into motion is taking longer than you expected, but recent setbacks finally seem to be left in the dust today. You feel as if you are humming in tune with the whole universe and nothing can get in your way. However, an over-inflated sense of self-importance could lead to an epic failure. Even if everything is coming up roses.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Practice time is over; the bright lights are on, the curtains are lifting and the show is about to begin. You're either ready for the main event or you will miss your chance to shine. The good news is that your jittery nerves should transform into an inspiring performance today, so drop your insecurities at the door and put on a show that everyone will remember.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You won't be coerced into joining a new project now until you're fully prepared, but unfortunately, circumstances won't necessarily wait for you. Resistance isn't wise because you're about to be pulled into a powerful portal that will aim you on a new life path. Remain flexible in your thinking and step onto the launch pad; you may be surprised as the future begins to manifest just the way you imagined it.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You must shift mental gears in order to put your dreams into proper perspective today or they could grow out of hand. You want to believe that you can do nearly anything, but part of you is still moving slowly like a cautious crab. Thankfully, you can also see the wisdom in expressing your feelings as the day wears on. Overcome your shyness and boldly beat a path to your desired destination.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Reflecting on the potential for creative self-expression in your future can bring great satisfaction today. You might benefit from collaborating with a close friend or partner in order to increase your income or improve your overall financial condition. But don't get too hung up micromanaging your daily schedule since you'll probably be happier if you let yourself be spontaneous in the present moment.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You're delighted by the lovely opportunities that others bring to the table while the radiant Sun in your 7th House of Partners opposes benevolent Jupiter in your sign. You may want to kick back and chill today, but you can't help but say yes when invited because there's so much potential for fun everywhere you look. You are at the peak of a manifestation cycle, so it's crucial to be specific about what you want.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Someone in your immediate vicinity may confront you with a work-related issue that previously was on your radar of concern, but seems non-consequential to you today. Criticism that might ruffle your feathers on any other day just falls like water flowing off a duck's back. If anyone pushes for a confrontation, rely on your keen diplomacy skills to peacefully charm your way out of the situation.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You can feel the heat of the spotlight getting closer and closer, prompting you to run and hide. But you might as well enjoy the attention today while positive recognition is brightening your life. Rather than minimizing your accomplishments because you don't want to be scrutinized, stand tall and graciously receive the accolades for the work you do so well.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



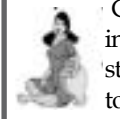
You may be worried because jumping into a new situation while everyone is watching could throw you off balance now. You don't know whether to risk losing anonymity or to hide out at home while the Sun in your 4th House of Security opposes auspicious Jupiter in your 10th House of Public Status. Don't delay any longer; temporarily set aside further analysis so you can take advantage of the amazing opportunities currently knocking at your door.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



There are so many things on your plate today that your head is spinning. If you feel overextended, step back from the noise and reconsider your priorities. Although you probably realize how much you could accomplish if you push yourself, it's more important to ease up on the accelerator now, even if doing less is difficult for you. Although you conscientious Goats don't often like to take time off.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Conflicting incoming messages finally converge into a singular directive: go for it. If circumstances stir up interference today, withdraw just enough to refine your plan and then try again as soon as you can. This is your time to express yourself by remaining true to your values and not capitulating to anyone else's demands. Your chances for success improve as long as you're confident about accomplishing your goals.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Inspirational people share their brilliant ideas with you today, enticing you to join them on their journeys. The Sun in your dreamy sign opposes lucky Jupiter in your 7th House of Relationships, expanding your horizons as you connect with others. Although amazing things can happen now if you say yes, don't forget about your dreams in the process. Use your colorful imagination and create an adventure right in your own backyard.



Across

- 1. Strong fiber, 5. A strict vegetarian, 10. Anagram of "Seek", 14. Arab chieftain, 15. Put up with, 16. Citrus fruit, 17. Big party, 18. Expression of sympathy, 20. Impresario, 22. A disrespectful laugh, 23. A parcel of land, 24. Infections of the eye, 25. Fake, 32. Concur, 33. Not written exams, 34. Children's game, 37. Narrow opening, 38. Vortex, 39. Storm, 40. New Zealand parrot, 41. Shooting sport, 42. Neighborhood, 43. Unfeeling, 45. Mystic, 49, 12 in Roman numerals, 50. An apparition, 53. Laud, 57. Pampering, 59. Roman moon goddess, 60. Z Z Z Z, 61. Backsides, 62. Boats, 63. Countercurrent, 64. Borders, 65. Cumberbund.

Down

- 1. Pleads, 2. Nursemaid, 3. Storage cylinder, 4. Dagnet, 5. Abandon, 6. Black, in poetry, 7. Martini ingredient, 8. Contributes, 9. A noble gas, 10. Choose by voting, 11. Strikingly unconventional, 12. Master of ceremonies, 13. Clairvoyants, 19. Enumerates, 21. Bit of dust, 25. Keg, 26. Leer at, 27. Murre, 28. Oarsman, 29. Cooked in hot fat, 30. Our planet, 31. Sick, 34. Diplomacy, 35. Wings, 36. Neuter, 38. Calypso offshoot, 39. Great apes, 41. A decoy, 42. Nonclerical, 44. Leftover, 45. Take by force, 46. Entertained with dinner, 47. Supplemented, 48. Quiet and timid, 51. Monster, 52. Require, 53. Unit of land, 54. Emanation, 55. Writing fluids, 56. Sitcom set in Korea, 58. Henpeck.

Yesterday's Solution



afraid, attire, blame, block, bolt, brace, caper, charge, crass, crate, crazy, cultivation, daily, east, erase, eternal, fearless, geography, goose, happy, league, level, pale, people, plate, ream, rote, seesaw, select, sheep, stare, stem, stump, stun, team, temper, teen, terse.

