

32 Taliban Killed, Scores Wounded in Helmand Battles

LASHKARGAH - Thirty-two Taliban militants have been killed and scores of others wounded during separate clashes with security forces in southern Helmand province, the military said on Saturday.

Lt. Col. Mohammad Rasool Zazai, 215th Maiwand Military Corps spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that operations were ongoing in Bolan area on the outskirts of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, and in Nad Ali district.

He said air forces were also taking part in the operations



which had so far resulted in the killing of 22 Taliban militants. Another five rebels were wounded in ground and air attacks.

Another 10 Taliban were killed separately in Garamsir and Gareshk districts in ground and air attacks by security forces.

Garamsir administrative chief Ayoub Omar Omari told Pajhwok Afghan News that foreign forces carried out airstrikes in Garamsir district yesterday.

He said 12 Taliban including a notorious commander were ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Kaihan Wins Futsal Competition for Disabled



KABUL - Kaihan defeated Kakhkashan by 8-4 in the final match to win the Futsal competition for the disabled that took place on Saturday in Kabul.

Six teams participated in the competition held at the Red Cross healthcare center.

Kaihan won the competition while Kakhkashan and Perozi teams took the second and third places.

Herat's disabled girls team played in a wheelchair basketball friendly match on Friday evening to celebrate International Women Day.

The competition was held at Mirwais Sadiq sports hall in which Etihad and Etifaq teams played. Etihad team won the final match. *(Tolonews)*

4 Feared Dead, 5 Injured in Badakhshan Car Plunge

FAIZABAD - A woman died, five sustained wounds and three more were missing after the passenger vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into the Amu River in northeastern Badakhshan province, police said on Saturday.

Provincial crime branch police chief Maj. Sayed Mihruddin Anwari told Pajhwok Afghan News the vehicle ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Daesh Behead 3 Kidnapped Civilians in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Daesh militants have beheaded three civilians in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Saturday.

The governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News the men beheaded late on Friday in Momand Dara locality had been kidnapped by the group. The victims were 25, 15 and 17 years old. Governor Gulab Mangal ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Helmand Refugee Director's Father Gunned Down

LASHKARGAH - Father of the provincial Refugee Department head for southern Helmand province has been killed, police said on Saturday.

The father of Naqibullah Zmaryal, Haji Zarif Shah, was in Bolan area of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, to visit his ancestral home when came under attack from militants ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Afghanistan's Nabi, Rashid Selected in 2017 CPL Draft

KABUL - Mohammad Nabi made more history on Friday when he became the first Afghan player to be picked in the 2017 Caribbean Professional League (CPL) draft.

The former captain was picked up by St Kitts and Nevis Patriots for USD 90,000 in the fourth round of the draft and was closely followed by team-mate Rashid Khan, who was selected in the sixth round for USD 60,000 by Guyana Amazon Warriors, the ESPN reported.

This follows an excellent couple of months for Afghanistan cricket in general. The same pair of Nabi and Rashid have



been snapped up at the IPL auction in February by Sunrisers Hyderabad and beginning in December. The Afghan team has been on a 10-match winning streak in international T20Is - a world record. Mere hours before he was picked up, Rashid produced a ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Six Local Police Force Members Join Taliban in Baghlan

PUL-E-KHUMRI - At least six local police force members joined the Taliban militant group in Baghlan province, sources said on Saturday.

The policemen served in Baghlan-e-Markazi district, the sources added.

The policemen also took a police vehicle with them.

Local officials so far have not commented on the report. *(Tolonews)*



'Illegal Armed Groups Aiding Taliban in North'

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Illegal armed groups have been assisting and supplying weapons to Taliban militants in northern Afghanistan, an official said on Saturday.

The Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) program chief in the north, Gen. Abdul Manan, told reporters here that their first survey showed 500 illegal armed groups were ac-



tive in the northern zone. Gen. Manan, who received 21 confiscated weapons from the police headquarters in Mazar-... *(More on P4)...(20)*

Khost Airport Attack: 1 Assailant Killed, 2 Flee

KHOST CITY - One attacker was killed and two others were able to flee after a botched attack on the military airport in southeastern Khost province on Saturday.

Fazl Khuda, 203rd Thunder Military Corps spokesman in the southeastern region, told Pajhwok Afghan News three armed men attempted to storm the military airport, but one of them was killed by Afghan forces and the two others fled.

Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Faizullah Ghairat confirmed one attacker had been killed and two others fled. But he said only a pistol was discovered. ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Work on Planting 500 Fruit Orchards Kicks Off in Jawzjan

SHIBERGHAN - Work on establishing 500 orchards under the National Horticulture and Livestock Programme (NHLP) has been launched in northern Jawzjan province, officials said on Saturday.

Fahim Jabari, NHLP in-charge for northern zone, said the project initiated today was one of the basic programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).

"We are working on 12 kinds of fruits in the north, including apple, pomegranate, cher-

ries, grapes, apricot, almond, walnut, pear, peaches and some other fruits."

He said 500 new orchards of the mentioned fruits would be set up during the spring tree plantation campaign in Jawzjan. "The fruit gardens would have standard and new system of gardening."

Latif Qalich, a gardener in Shiberghan, the provincial capital, said the programme had been profitable: "The gardening can improve the economic situation of farmers and ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You prefer to be left to your own devices today so you can make some headway on your daily list. You're trying to keep yourself busy because someone's mixed messages are too much to decipher. The moment you think everything is normal, an odd comment or behavior makes you question the situation. Looking for a logical answer probably won't get you anywhere when things seem stranger than fiction.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You're willing to push yourself to the limit with your long-term aspirations in mind. Time and energy seem a worthy sacrifice today when you feel like you're on the verge of a major breakthrough. But a misalignment between the willful Sun and cheerful Jupiter warps your perception, tricking you into believing your gas tank is bigger than it is. By all means, put in the work necessary to move closer to your dreams.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You feel like a true visionary as your pool of ideas appears to overflow in a sparkling deluge. It seems like success is just a matter of picking a professional prospect and throwing yourself into it, letting your natural ability to think on your feet fill in any gaps. Annoyingly, the prudent Virgo Moon will not allow you to jump into just anything without having some semblance of a plan. Although holding off to double-check under the hood is restrictive.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You genuinely want to be the best person you can be now, but you may idolize an ideal until it becomes untouchable. Theorizing about your future inspires you to grow, but discontent sets in when you believe you can't possibly catch up with your vision. You could worry so much nothing gets done, thinking of all the things you can't do yet.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

A sincere fascination with your feelings arises when you plumb the depths of your heart. You may feel the urge to communicate your revelations to someone, as if they're more real when acknowledged by another. While opening up can be a healthy practice, you might divulge more than necessary as exaggerating Jupiter feeds compliments.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're running a tight ship because you want every little thing in its place. You could be trying to impress a special someone by making sure everything is perfect. But what seems like a gleaming example of the ideal relationship or person may not be as exalted as it seems today. Micro-managing your every move only makes things uncomfortable when the object of your affection turns out only to sparkle when the light is just right.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You're looking forward to some downtime after a recent flurry of hard work. But as much as you want a bit of privacy to recharge, you keep your nose to the grindstone, hoping someone will validate your fatigue and congratulate you for your efforts. Perhaps it's time to ask why you're seeking outside approval. The truth is that you don't need a reason to take some time off; put your guilt aside and place yourself first on your list.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You believe that your latest creative endeavor will be one for the books. It seems like you managed to funnel your secret ideas into a poetic rendering, and you're sure everyone will marvel at your success. However, if your friends aren't overly enthusiastic, you may get irritated with their lack of interest.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're convinced that nothing can go wrong today as long as you maintain a high level of optimism. Success seems inevitable when you feel like all your bases are covered and you have a rich network of connections to boot. But you may be overestimating just how much your friends will come through for you in a tight squeeze. You must be able to depend on your own resources and knowledge instead of assuming your social net will always be there to catch you.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

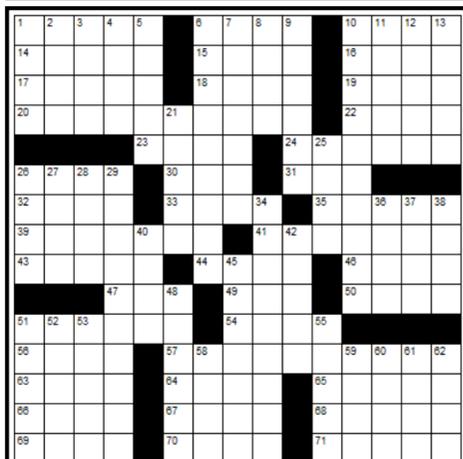
While it's true that advancement toward your goals begins with a single thought, it takes more than speaking your convictions to make them real. Viewing your objectives all in a row makes you feel like you're halfway there already, but an excessive Sun-Jupiter misalignment could be distorting your depth perception when it comes to your career aspirations. Keep going in the right direction.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Every time you think about your latest hypothesis you become more excited about its potential. But at the same time, your infatuation with your scheme could simply be a way to avoid some nagging doubts. Those thoughts that go bump in the night are just the fussy Virgo Moon in your 8th House of Self-Analysis clamoring to get your attention. You must acknowledge your feelings now.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

It feels like it's up to you to make it or break it right now, and the pressure is getting to be too much. While you always want to keep your options open, sorting through so many possibilities can be a burden. You may turn to a close friend for advice, but when they don't have the answer you want you might snap at them out of exasperation. However, you can't expect an immediate solution to your current problem.



Across

1. Drills, 6. Leer at, 10. Constellation bear, 14. Submarine, 15. Not amateurs, 16. Kettles, 17. France's longest river, 18. Legumes, 19. Colors, 20. Deadly nightshade, 22. Curved molding, 23. Plateau, 24. Named (archaic), 26. Water pit, 30. Roll of bills, 31. Mayday, 33. Incite, 35. List components, 39. Disentangle, 41. Memory loss, 43. Fish broth, 44. Decorative case, 46. Telephoned, 47. Fuss, 49. Consumed food, 50. Laughs (slang), 51. Disparaged, 54. ___ fide, 56. WW1 plane, 57. Surfactant, 63. Salute, 64. Storage cylinder, 65. Incline, 66. Unit of land, 67. Catch, 68. Language of ancient Rome, 69. Don, 70. Breezy, 71. Precise.

Down

1. Electric light, 2. Double-reed woodwind, 3. Agitate, 4. Nobleman, 5. Water vapor, 6. Our thumbs are this, 7. Explosive device, 8. Give temporarily, 9. Literary compositions, 10. Covering on a sofa, 11. French for "Red", 12. Precipitous, 13. Something of value, 21. Type of vacuum flask, 25. Metal money, 26. Potato, 27. Forearm bone, 28. Untidiness, 29. Beggar, 34. Useless repetition, 36. Brother of Jacob, 37. Furry mammal, 38. Droops, 40. Assistant, 42. Comports, 45. Arranged in table form, 48. Black Sea port, 51. "Hogwash!", 52. Quickly, 53. Nigerian monetary unit, 55. Passageway, 58. Short skirt, 59. Plant fiber, 60. Greek letter, 61. Sweeping story, 62. Lease.

Yesterday's Solution

BAMBI VEEP HASKY
AREAS ENVY TICKY
NEWSLETTER NOIR
TASSEL TREE TREE
ORCA SMITE SENDS
GOODMAN TRILLOGY
LAWMARE AZALLEA
ENLIVEN AMENITY
REWARD DOSS
PAGAN TOOTS
ABOUT OUTF APPEAL
LITTLE DRAWBRIDGE
EDDO DATE TLEUS
SEEN SLED GENET

abound, about, admire, bate, break, bust, check, cheese, cleanse, creature, dies, dirty, disappear, dreamy, fleet, gentle, helmet, house, hunger, kittenish, legal, load, lower, miser, nest, return, riles, rubber, sane, seer, soonest, sting, strike, switch

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