

# 40 Daesh Militants Killed in Nangarhar Raid

JALALABAD - The Afghan army's special commando forces killed 40 Daesh or Islamic State militants during operations in the Kot district of eastern Nangarhar province, the military said on Friday.

A statement issued from the Afghan National Army's 201 Selab Military Corps said the commando forces had NATO air support.



The statement said Janjal Tapa, Sahabi, Maidan, Bahadar Baba and Bandarak villages were cleared of the so called Islamic State militants as a result of the raids. It said 47 various landmines were found and defused and four silencer-fitted guns were confiscated. The commandos and civilians escaped unhurt in the operations, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

## Only Marble Factory in Kunar at Standstill



ASADABAD - Owner of the only marble factory in eastern Kunar province says his \$250,000 investment was wasted after the government denied him contract. The factory started functioning three years ago but its operations came to a halt after the government ordered closed marble mines. The factory's owner, Malak Lotfullah Zaheer, said his factory which was established three years ago had to be closed a month

after its inauguration. He said the government had awarded him a contract for extraction of marbles, but the contract was cancelled after a month. He said he had invested \$250,000 in the factory and had employed dozens of workers. Zaheer told Pajhwok Afghan News they would bring marble stones from mines to the factory but now they had been told by the ministry that the president ... (More on P4)... (20)

## Nangarhar Police Bust Murderous Robbers' Gang

JALALABAD - Police have arrested a gang of robbers who were also accused of several murders in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Friday. Besides the gang, police have detained another 23 individuals in connection with various crimes during the past week, Nangarhar police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi told reporters in Jalalabad, the provincial capital. He said the robbery gang was arrested as a result of ... (More on P4)... (16)

## 1 Killed, 29 Injured in Khost Car Suicide Bombing

KHOST CITY - One Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier was killed and 29 other people, including civilians, were wounded on Friday in a car suicide bombing in southeastern Khost province. The early morning attack targeted an old building of the Afghan army in Yaqobi district, killing one soldier and wounding 13 others, a security official in the district said. He said the blast that was heard kilometers away shattered windowpanes of nearby buildings. ANA's Thunder Military ... (More on P4)... (17)

## 3 Civilians Killed, 7 Wounded in Kunduz Airstrike

KUNDUZ CITY - At least 10 individuals, including three civilians, were killed and 10 others wounded in an airstrike by security forces in Chahardara district of northern Kunduz province, officials said on Thursday. Brig. Gen. Abdul Hameed Hameedi, the provincial police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News commando forces, backed by air support, raided a Taliban hideout in the Yatim locality of the district on Wednesday night. ... (More on P4)... (18)

# Official Claims Daesh Entrenched in Achin District

KABUL - Esa Khan Zawak, the district governor of Achin district in eastern Nangarhar province, said on Friday Daesh was still firmly entrenched in the area where they had military bases, training centers, prisons and even a court. "We are in offensive status and do not feel serious threats, but almost 80 percent of the fighters are foreigners," he said. "They are 100 meters away from us," said Abdul Samad, local police commander. Reports have indicated



that Daesh in Afghanistan are being supported by people outside the country and are therefore able to maintain their presence in

Achin district. TOLONews journalists, Sharif Amiry and Ziar Yad spoke to Mohammad Amin whose brother was

beheaded 12 days ago by Daesh. Amin said his brother had five children, who he now has to care for. However, this was not the first person in his family to fall victim to Daesh. "Recently one person in my family was killed (by Daesh). Before this a number of my family members were killed by Daesh," Mohammad Amin said. Residents say however that despite having to deal with the problems the Daesh incur, they are still ... (More on P4)... (19)

# Taliban Militants Step up Activities Ahead of Nawroz

KABUL - Taliban militants have stepped up activities in conflict-hit Afghanistan as people prepare to celebrate Nawroz or the New Year falling on March 21. The armed insurgents launched a series of offensives in a single day on Friday. In a suicide car bomb against an army base in the eastern Khost Province, two people including the bomber and an army soldier had been confirmed dead and seven more soldiers sustained injuries, ac-



ording to an army official in the province. The Taliban outfit in Afghanistan claimed responsibility for the attack,

insisting the bombing inflicted huge casualties to the soldiers. In a similar attack also in ... (More on P4)... (22)

# Calls for Security Reforms Grow Amid Ongoing Violence

KABUL - Military affairs experts and a number of ex-security officials on Thursday called for comprehensive reforms to be implemented in Afghanistan's security sector in order to enable the conventional forces defeat insurgents on the battlefields. Experts say that in view of ongoing uncertainties and poor war leadership among the security institutions, the security situation in the country would deteriorate further unless fun-

damental reforms are implemented. Commenting on the issue of wide-ranging reforms in Afghanistan's security institutions, Ministry of Defense (MoD) and Ministry of Interior (MoI) officials have said that bringing about basic reforms in the security sector is a time-consuming process. "There are hundreds of generals who have obtained master's degrees; they have pursued their higher education and they have experience as well; they have also

served in army corps and units, therefore they can contribute in the ministry of defense and ministry of interior. There is a need for reforms in the higher and lower ranks of police, district police headquarters and police stations," said one military expert Gharzai Khawkhugai. "We need to have an alert and well-equipped security system," said another military expert, Mirza Mohammad Yarmand. Experts say that in a country ... (More on P4)... (23)

## Outlook Horoscope

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



The waters of doubt can corrode even the strongest of iron wills. You may feel like life's flow is carrying you away from your long-term goals today as Saturn the Tester issues a harsh reminder of the distance between you and your ultimate destination. You instinctively fight the current with all your might, but the smarter option is to tread water until you're out of the emotional rapids.

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



The shadow of uncertainty darkens your doorstep, causing you to question recent choices. You start to wonder if you've fallen prey to a mirage even if your social life has recently been a source of support and inspiration. However, your concerns may be the real illusion today when the Sun's square to suppressive Saturn in your 8th House of Intimacy projects a fear of rejection into your world.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



The weight of someone else's expectations could feel like they're too much for your shoulders to bear today. You may have been trying to emulate an individual you admire in order to advance on the professional front, but you know what they say: never meet your heroes. Although a good role model can serve as inspiration, a series of pages taken from another person's book does not a novel make. Incorporate your own intuitive observations into your plan for success.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You may be stretched to your emotional limits and it appears like nothing short of a miracle can bail you out. But an extreme reaction today will seem more proportional in the near future. It could feel like your daily efforts will never be enough to deliver you to the heights you dream of as you see how your habits are impacting your grand plan. Although you are a summation of what you do each day.

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



Your quest to find yourself takes you many places, but you may have lost your way today. Perhaps you wandered off and ended up in someone else's brambly forest, leaving you wondering how you landed in this mess. But before you launch an emergency flare, calm down and review your journey. Mentally retracing your steps will be easier in the coming days.

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



Your tendency to over-analyze lends a sense of urgency to everything today, making it imperative to discipline your mind from the start. Allies start to look like enemies if you stare for too long; you could feel like you must retreat to your fortress and change your battle plan completely. However, input from other people may strengthen your position, whether by challenging you with a new perspective or offering assistance for the next phase of execution.

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



The power of planning can be a blessing or a curse depending on how you use it. Unfortunately, merging your daily schedule with bigger objectives seems impossible and you could feel overworked and under-rewarded today. However, it's difficult to see past what's right in front of you now, and determining the best time-management strategy is likely to go poorly.

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



You might believe that your creative approach will transcend ordinary requirements for success now. But when the heavy realization of your lack of resources sets in, you worry your faith was ill placed. However, your emotions are an intoxicating elixir that can trick you into thinking that only the cynical can win the game of life.

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



You may want to rip off your rearview mirror and never look back, but your past could have a lot to teach you about where you're going. When a formidable Sun-Saturn square triggers your 4th House of Roots, you're required to address emotional patterns and childhood conditioning that lurk in your subconscious. Whether you integrate emotional discoveries or eliminate excess baggage.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Your inherent discipline makes it nearly impossible to accept anything less than procedural excellence. However, life is more than a static blueprint; three-dimensional living involves coloring outside the lines sometimes. Although time management is valuable, there's a lot to be said for going with the flow today. Instead of allowing panic to create fearful reactions that limit your choices, take a step back to explore your options.

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



Your natural awareness of social justice makes it hard to justify your need to be your own individual island. You may feel guilty for believing you must nurture your own desires when there are world problems that require selfless service to solve. But the truth is that society is made up of a group of individuals, each doing his or her own part; variety is what makes the world go round.

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



An authority figure may stand in the way of your plans today, making you doubt your choices. You might feel as if you're under personal attack for just being yourself when severe Saturn issues a harsh reprimand to the sensitive Pisces Sun. But what is really being called into question is whether or not your attitude is supporting your ambitions for success. It's too early to lose hope, even if you placed false faith in your ability to achieve your objectives.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60.

Across: 1. Celtic language, 6. Copied, 10. Unit of cut wood, 14. Small boat, 15. Malleable, 16. Double-reed woodwind, 17. Happening, 19. Person, place or thing, 20. Close, 21. Pelt, 22. Greek cheese, 23. Clairvoyants, 25. Part of a stair, 26. Breezed through, 30. Palpebra, 32. Evoking sadness, 35. Illness, 39. Street person, 40. Swordsman, 41. Taxonomic group, 43. Barbed wire is one, 44. Hard glossy coating, 46. Cocoyam, 47. Good person, 50. Jump for joy, 53. Not tame, 54. Dip lightly, 55. Journey, 60. Largest continent, 61. Creator, 63. Scheme, 64. South American country, 65. Ancient Greek marketplace, 66. Religious offshoot, 67. Biblical garden, 68. Not lemons. Down: 1. Computer symbol, 2. Dash, 3. Ancient Peruvian, 4. Not sweet, 5. Seasonings, 6. Reverence, 7. Fry in a pan, 8. Exempted, 9. One who colors cloth, 10. Self-assurance, 11. Double-reed instruments, 12. Way to go, 13. Monetary unit of Macedonia, 18. Type of whiskey, 24. Snake-like fish, 25. Ascended, 26. Contributes, 27. Henhouse, 28. If not, 29. Child or grandchild, 31. Vitality, 33. Deceptive maneuver, 34. Urine component, 36. Corrosive, 37. Transmit, 38. Therefore, 42. Besmirched, 43. Grippe, 45. Lose validity, 47. Trades, 48. Passageway, 49. Of a pelvic bone, 51. 56 in Roman numerals, 52. Anagram of "Talon", 54. Numbskull, 56. A sharply directional antenna, 57. "Smallest" particle, 58. Pierce, 59. Historical periods, 62. Pistol.

Yesterday's Solution: GAGA CEASE T W O S, ABEL AMBIT ROUE, FORTANIELLE OZE, FUR PANEL UPDOS, STEWARD IONICER, ICY SNITCHER, NOBLE STENO USE, ABOUT WHISKY ACNE, GEM PARES PIKED, SYPHILLIS DAD, TOTEM DISEASE, PATRS PLUSH GOA, TICOR DITHANOUS, TRUE UNCLE ERNE, HEST OGEES WADS.

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