

Taliban Commander among 6 Rebels Held in Herat

HERAT CITY - Six Taliban, including the group commander, has been arrested in western Herat province, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said on Saturday.

The suspected militants had been arrested in Qafsalan locality of Enjil district, a statement from the Spy-Network said.

Taliban commander Safiullah and his colleagues Mushfeq, Wahidullah, Ghulam Mohammad, Baharuddin and Sayed Eesa



were among the detainees. The arrested individuals were involved in roadside explosions, murders and other criminal activities. During initial investigations detainees have confessed to their involvement in several terror and criminal activities including the murder of two policemen and one Afghan soldier.

Taliban have not commented about the arrest of their fighters. (Pajhwok)

IS Militants Kill Three Civilians



SHIBERGHAN - Militants loyal to the Islamic State (IS) have killed three civilians in Darzab district of the northern Jawzjan province, deputy police chief of the province Abdul Hafiz Khashi said Saturday.

The hardline armed militants, according to Khashi, abducted three innocent civilians including a 70-year-old on Friday and their bodies were found Saturday. Darzab district in the northern Jawzjan province with Shiberghan as its capital has been the scene of IS activities over the past year. (Xinhua)

Deadly Mosque Bombing Foiled

KABUL - A deadly plot by the anti-government armed militants to detonate explosives inside a mosque in northern Sar-e-Pul province has been foiled by the Afghan security forces.

According to the local government officials, the militants were looking to target the Friday prayers in Guzar Shahan mosque.

Provincial governor Mohammad Mohammad Zahir Wahdat said a suspect has been arrested in connection to the planting of an Improvised Explosive Device inside the mosque.

He said the suspect has been identified as Basir and was arrested by the security forces after he planted the IED in the mosque.

Wahdat further added that the Afghan security forces managed to detect and defuse the IED before the militants manage to detonate and a deadly terrorist attack plot was foiled.

Sar-e-Pul province has been among the relatively calm provinces since the fall of the Taliban regime but the anti-government armed militants have increased their insurgency activities in this province during the recent years.

The anti-government armed militants including the Taliban insurgents frequently use Improvised Explosive Device (IED) as the weapon of their choice to target the security forces and government officials.

According to the UN mission in Afghanistan, it documented 11,418 civilian casualties between 1st January 2016 to 31st December, 2016. (KP)

Peshawar Court Acquits Afghan of Terrorism Charge

PESHAWAR - An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar has acquitted a suspected Afghan militant in case regarding possession of explosives.

Hailing from Afghanistan, the man had been detained by the counter-terrorism department in 2016 in Peshawar on the charge of carrying an explosive device.

Judge Tariq Yousafzai ruled the prosecution had failed to prove its case against the accused, named Farid. The evi-



dence placed on record did not substantiate the charge, the judge said. The counter-terrorism department arrested the accused with a seven kilogram improvised explosive device along with

prima cord and detonator at a cordon near the Bhudni Bridge.

Farid was charged under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act and Section 5 of the Explosive Substance Act. But his lawyer Shabbir Hussain Gigyani said the accused was innocent.

Gigyani said the accused was taken into custody by an intelligence agency before being handed over to the counter-terrorism department. Nothing objectionable was found against him. (Pajhwok)

Four Taliban Fighters Killed



GHAZNI - At least four militants were killed and four others injured as clashes flared up between security forces and Taliban in the eastern Ghazni province Friday night, a local army spokesman said Saturday.

The clashes, according to the spokesman, erupted after a group of Taliban insurgents attacked a security checkpoint in Azat Qala area of Muqar district late Friday night and the security forces returned fire.

There were no casualties on security personnel, the spokesman said, adding sporadic fighting continued in the area.

Taliban militants who are in control of parts of Ghazni province have not commented on the situation. (Xinhua)

Drone Raids Kill 22 IS Militants

JALALABAD - Twenty-two Islamic State (IS) militants have been confirmed dead in drone attacks in eastern Nangarhar province on Friday, a spokesman for the provincial government said Saturday.

The airstrikes targeted IS hideouts in Milo area of Nazian district on Friday evening, leaving 22 IS militants dead, said Attaullah Khogiani.

Two group commanders named Zabihullah alias Shino and Daz Gul were among those killed in the raids, the spokesman added. The IS group has yet



to make comment on the drone raids.

The U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan usually conduct drone strikes against militants operating in the war-battered country.

Parts of Nangarhar province with Jalalabad as its capital has been the scene of IS activities over the past two years. (Xinhua)

8 Militants, Police Officer Killed in Logar Attacks

PUL-I-ALAM - A police officer and eight militants have been killed during separate incidents of violence in central Logar province, an official said on Saturday.

Two armed insurgents stormed a police checkpoint in the Kandahari Pul area of the Mohammad Agha district late Friday night, the governor's spokesman, Salim Saleh, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

"The attackers, riding a motorbike, killed the



check-post commander, Mohammad Halim," he said, adding the assailants managed to escape. Police are looking for the attackers. In the Charkh district of the same province, Afghan forces conducted air and ground attacks on a compound in Maulana Sahib area. Taliban fighters ... (More on P4)... (13)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You may question where some of your fire has gone today as your lust for the future conflicts with your longings from the past. It's no surprise that your eyes drift back and forth on the timeline when the Sun's rays fall on tender Venus retrograde in your sign. Reflecting on earlier desires might make you wonder if you made a mistake somewhere along the line.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



A dreamy haze settles over your day, glossing over nettlesome details and mellowing your mood. Silhouettes enter your daydreams as murky recollections of past aspirations join the shadow play. Fondly remembering what you used to love most may reawaken an old goal that you want to put back on your agenda. However, in this foggy climate it's best to just savor the memories without renewing a commitment.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You're looking forward to catching up with your tribe, but in the back of your mind you're remembering an awkward incident that still affects the group dynamic. However, there's no reason to let prior misunderstandings spoil the fun, and your friends might be more willing to talk it out than you expect. Fortunately, the sympathetic Pisces Moon in your 10th House of Reputation augments your ability to empathize.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You want to make the very most of your aptitudes and leave a good impression today. You're willing to put some extra time into your appearance, following the advice to dress for the job you want. You're eager to review your current progress and evaluate how best to proceed while the visionary Pisces Moon floats through your 9th House of Long-Term Goals.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're captivated by an exotic idea that fills your mind with wonder and curiosity. In fact, you might be so drawn to a foreign place that you're tempted to book a vacation so you can experience it in person. However, the journey you need to take may be within as the spiritual Pisces Moon swims through your 8th House of Deep Feelings.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You might feel as if you're all out of words today, preferring more subtle forms of communication. Sometimes just being in someone's presence is enough to comfort a troubled mind, even if you speak very little of the details. It's perfectly alright to reach out to a friend for support when your emotions are confusing. Although you're hesitant to ask for help since you dislike being a burden, sharing time is beneficial to the other person as well.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



It seems as if everywhere you go today people are talking about their romantic antics. You may find yourself in the position of both the giver and seeker of advice when the spirited Sun and magnetic Venus dance in your 7th House of Relationships. However, perhaps the best tip you could offer or receive now is to stop asking what others can do for you and start asking what you can do for yourself.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Fulfilling your obligations is always easier if you enjoy the chores you're doing. You're determined to keep as many plates spinning as possible now but sometimes the best way to stay motivated is to take a break from the action. Find a space where you can do something creative just for fun.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



The passion that stirs you originates from a deeply felt place today and you're looking for ways to show your appreciation. Whether you need to make amends with a family member or just tell a close friend how much you care, a joyful Sun-Venus combination in your 5th House of Love makes your heart swell with gratitude. Shine your light brightly; your positivity is a beacon of hope for everyone traveling in your orbit.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



The more softly you speak, the more impact your words will have today. A compassionate tone makes a world of difference when reconciliation is on the agenda, even if you simply feel the need for closure. The people closest to you will respond well to extra time taken to not only bring up matters of the heart, but to phrase them mindfully. Your sincerity is your greatest ally.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

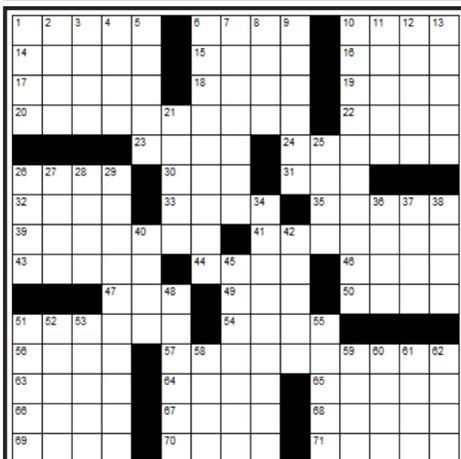


Sometimes it's challenging to express your feelings with words for fear of sounding clumsy when it comes to emotional topics. In lieu of writing a poem or singing a song, you may decide that picking out a meaningful gift is a better way to communicate your intentions. However, you might end up agonizing just as much over finding the perfect present as finding the perfect words.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Your friends are lucky to have you by their side. Always looking for ways to help, you're quick to remind people that they should feel good about themselves. However, you may not be practicing what you preach today as retrograde Venus and the noble Sun align in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem. Subscribing to a victim narrative when it's within your own power to recognize your worth is a disservice.



Across

1. Historical period, 6. Broad valley, 10. "Oh my!", 14. Pious, 15. Regrets, 16. Breathe hard, 17. Throng, 18. Mining finds, 19. Savvy about, 20. Urban smarts, 22. Travel on water, 23. Platter, 24. Become aware, 26. Jump, 30. Be unwell, 31. Hearing organ, 32. Climax, 33. Bobbin, 35. Whole, 39. On the other hand, 41. Omen, 43. Lad, 44. Temporary worker, 46. Sister and wife of Zeus, 47. Fury, 49. Very Important Person, 50. Biblical garden, 51. Peyote, 54. Again, 56. Against, 57. Randomize, 63. Pearly-shelled mussel, 64. Modify, 65. Be in trouble with, 66. Humdinger, 67. Blackthorn, 68. Light refractor, 69. Seats oneself, 70. 10 10 10 10, 71. Classifies.

Down

1. Hens make them, 2. Harbor, 3. Smell, 4. Hint, 5. Publicized, 6. Most sleepy, 7. Pinna, 8. Dregs, 9. Ancient ascetic, 10. Punctuation mark, 11. Hawaiian veranda, 12. Caper, 13. Filched, 21. Crown, 25. Horse feed, 26. Statutes, 27. Reflected sound, 28. Ends a prayer, 29. Exceedingly harmful, 34. Bonding sheets of material, 36. Fastened, 37. Unit of land, 38. Low-fat, 40. Tropical American wildcat, 42. Not lower, 45. Dodging, 48. Not the youngest, 51. Mangles, 52. Boredom, 53. Supporting column, 55. Cloaks, 58. Doing nothing, 59. Hairdo, 60. French for "Black", 61. Burst of wind, 62. Shade trees.

Yesterday's Solution

HAHA SPIT DACE
EGOS KUDOS ELAN
RUTS RIBERT VEND
DECAY PARAKEETS
HUED SIGIL
APPLAUD DEVOUR
SLOTHFUL APNEA
PIT FIELDS HUB
SECTS DATABASE
RHYTHM WAVELET
PIOUS RITIL
UPTRUSTS DITODE
FARIO SKATIE EWES
OLLO BERIE VEER
SEEN TEEN EDDY

automobile, brush, burn, champion, chip, choice, contain, early, financial, flimsy, focus, grain, hardware, infect, junior, lean, linger, nautical, outside, plank, preparation, privilege, question, reach, relief, sags, similar, smart, spar, steak, stolen, sure, tough.

