

US Drone Strike Kills 22 Taliban in Kandahar



KANDAHAR CITY - At least 22 militants were killed in an overnight US drone strike in the Shah Wali Kot district of southern Kandahar province, an official said on Monday. Kandahar police spokesman Zia Durrani told Pajhwok Afghan News the Sunday's night airstrike was carried out in cooperation with the Afghan forces. He said the drones targeted the rebels in their hideouts in Kata Sang locality of Shah Wali Kot district amid an ongoing clearing operation to reopen the Kandahar Uruzgan highway. The Taliban closed the road 45 days ago by

emplacing landmines after attacking security posts and capturing them, but now security forces have intensified their efforts to reopen the road.

Durrani said local people and security forces had so far suffered no casualties during the operation and the drone strike. Shah Wali Kot district chief Haji Abdul Ghani said the landmines on the highways had been detected and neutralized as part of the operation aimed purging the area of insurgents.

The Taliban have not yet commented in this regard. (Pajhwok)

Women Arrested in Afghanistan while Transferring Classified Docs to ISIS

KABUL - The Afghan National Security and Defense Forces(ANSDF) have arrested two Pakistani women as they were transferring classified documents to the loyalists of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group. According to the provincial officials, the documents seized from the two women included information on how to make explosive devices and other weapons. The source further added that the two women are ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Haqqani Network Terrorists Arrested in Logar

KABUL - The Afghan intelligence operatives have arrested three Haqqani network militants involved in major terrorist attacks in central Logar province. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) said the three terrorists were arrested from Sara Ghonda village in Khoshi district. A statement by NDS said the Afghan intelligence operatives confiscated 2 Ak-47 assault rifles with their 8 magazines, 2 communication devices, and some ammunition and explosives. The statement further added that the militants were involved in major terrorist attacks and anti-government insurgency activities, including ambush on security forces ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Bomb on Berry Tree Wounds 12 in Paktika

SHARANA - At least 12 people, including a policeman, were wounded in a bomb blast in the Batikhel district of southeastern Paktika province on Monday, an official said. The administrative head of the unofficial district, Badruddin, told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion occurred in the evening and caused by a bomb which had been planted on a berry tree in the district's bazaar. He said the bomb exploded when a policeman exited a shop and went near the tree, injuring him, his father and another 10 civilians. He said some of the injured were in critical condition. (Pajhwok)

Hopes and Fears for Jobs as Afghan Cement Factory Reopens

KABUL - After a break of 20 years, Afghanistan's first cement factory is once more clanking noisily in the countryside near Kabul as crushed-up limestone rocks rattle along a battered conveyor belt to the newly restored kiln.

In an area desperately short of industry and jobs, workers hope the relaunch of the plant, built by Czech engineers in 1957 and shut by the Taliban in 1995, heralds the revival of an industry shattered by decades of war and destruction.

"By selling our products and improving the factory's production, we can avoid hav-

ing our young generation go abroad," said Amir Mohammad. "If there are job possibilities, they can stay with their families and look after their children."

But the outdated state-owned plant 75 km (47 miles) outside Kabul also shows how far there is to go before that promise can be achieved and there are serious questions whether the plant has a viable future unless it is thoroughly modernised.

Jabal Saraj, which now employs 150 workers, is a small factory with daily capacity of 100 tonnes and equipment that ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

ise can be achieved and there are serious questions whether the plant has a viable future unless it is thoroughly modernised.

Jabal Saraj, which now employs 150 workers, is a small factory with daily capacity of 100 tonnes and equipment that ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

he did not give details of his arrest.

Some days ago, NDS operatives had detained political

analyst Hassan Haqyari in Kabul. He was released two days after being arrested. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Shadow District Governor Arrested in Kunduz



KABUL - Qari Saleem, Taliban's shadow district governor for Khan Abad district of northern Kunduz province, was arrested in a military operation on Sunday night, local officials said.

The operation was launched in Khan Abad during the night. Special forces arrested Qari Saleem and six of his men. Provincial Police Chief Gen. Qasim Jangalbagh said.

He said that there were no casualties among the special forces and no ci-

vilian casualties were reported during the operation. (Tolonews)

8 Pakistani Militiamen among 30 Rebels Killed in Paktia

GARDEZ - At least 30 Taliban insurgents, including eight Pakistani paramilitary troops, have been killed during a clash with Afghan security forces in southeastern Paktia province, an official said on Monday. The 303rd zone police commander in southeastern region, Maj. Gen. Asadullah Shirzad, told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents stormed security check posts in Aryoub Zazai district two days back.

After the attack, security forces launched an operation that resulted in the

killing of 30 rebels including eight Pakistani paramilitary troops.

"Eight Pakistani militiamen were killed because they helped the insurgents fight against Afghan security forces."

The corpses of the insurgents were also shown to reporters and Shirzad said a Pakistani militiaman had also been detained. He said the insurgents only relied on propaganda and couldn't really fight against security forces.

The Taliban have not yet commented on their losses. (Pajhwok)

An Afghan Detained with a Large Amount of Hashish in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - A 52-year-old Afghan national, who is temporarily living in Dushanbe, was detained in Dushanbe yesterday on suspicion of drug pushing, according to the Interior Ministry's website. The preliminary investigation has reportedly established that he together with his accomplices smuggled more than 40 kilograms of hashish into Tajikistan and hid the drugs in the Chubek jamoat of the Hamadoni district, Khatlon province. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against the detained drug peddler and an investigation is under way, the source said. (Asia-Plus)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Although you need the rest, you might find it challenging to step away from your regular grind today. Unfinished business takes precedence over anything else because deadlines are drawing near. Nevertheless, carving out some time for friends and family is a good idea, whether or not there are more chores still to be done. Balancing work with play requires astute time management.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your day unfolds on a dual track, prompting you to straddle the boundary between two worlds. On one hand, you thrive on conversing with anyone who is willing to explore difficult topics that shake the foundations of your thinking. On the other hand, your patience is wearing thin and you want to steer clear of heavy discussions so you can kick back and relax.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might see yourself as the leader of the pack, but you're more than willing to relinquish the responsibility to nearly anyone who will take it today. The notion of being the boss is quite different than the practical side of acting in a leadership position. Nevertheless, you can intuitively figure out the dynamics of a situation very quickly and create a game plan almost instantaneously.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're able to soar in your imagination when you feel emotionally secure amongst friends and family. You truly believe that you can be anything you wish and go anywhere your heart desires. It's especially satisfying to open your heart now and reveal some of the items on your secret bucket list. You don't even need to justify your choices.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

A day of socializing sounds just about perfect to you playful Lions. However, you're so excited that you could try to squeeze too much fun into your schedule. Allowing yourself time to linger at an event improves your chances of meeting someone special today. You might even begin a new friendship that eventually turns into a business relationship or romantic interest.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

No one seems to want to assume responsibility for making any decisions today. Unfortunately, a social event may come dangerously close to falling apart because everyone expects someone else to take charge. Normally, this kind of evasive behavior would make your skin crawl; but you just look at the situation now and shrug your shoulders. It's not that you don't care; it's just that you have faith in the group process and believe that everything will work out in due time.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your generous spirit is inspirational to all those you encounter today. Although you might not be as detail-oriented as others prefer, you're wholeheartedly committed to creating a memorable experience for your audience. Additionally, you may believe that it's your duty to do whatever you can in order to keep everyone in your world working and playing in harmony.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You see the need for significant adjustments to your daily schedule and you're confident you can make the necessary changes once you put your mind to it. Unfortunately, advanced planning isn't an antidote when the twists and turns of the day defy logic. Just make sure to choose your company carefully because connecting with people who appreciate your ideas makes you feel more optimistic.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You may be unsure of your recent decisions but don't want everyone to know about your loss of confidence today. You're concerned that your current bout with self-doubt might unnecessarily worry others or damage your reputation. It could be helpful to retreat to a safe place and rethink your options. But don't exclude those you love; overcome your fear of vulnerability by confiding in a trustworthy companion.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

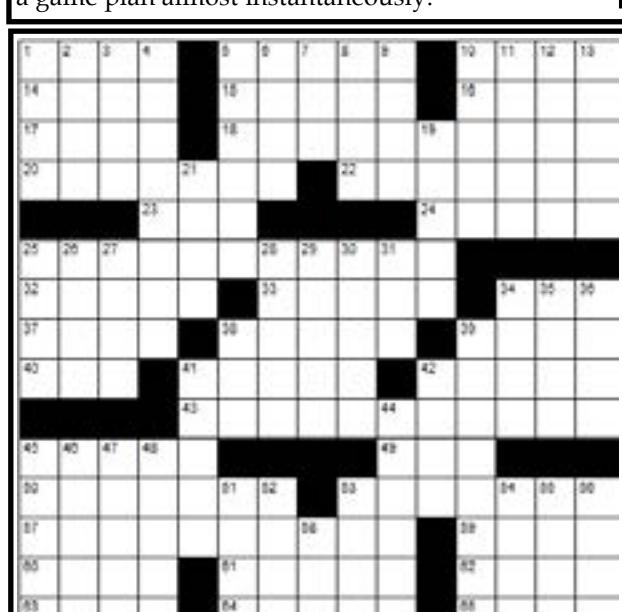
It's surprisingly easy for you to shift into a more social mode today, especially if there are festivities on your calendar. But even in the midst of hanging out with your best friends, your thoughts keep returning to unfinished business. Thankfully, you don't need to dwell on your responsibilities now; your right to relax is well-earned and there's no reason to harbor guilt about enjoying the present moment.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You're up for nearly anything today and are quick to abandon your agenda to join in on the fun. Happily, floating through a day of social activities takes your mind off your mundane problems. However, you grow bored of talking about subjects that don't touch your soul or stimulate your creativity. Rather than shutting down so you don't rock the boat, bring up a topic that excites you to the core.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your soulful approach to the day enables you to find transcendent beauty in everyone and spiritual meaning in everything. An activity as simple as catching up on family matters deepens emotional bonds between you and those you love. There's no need to pursue intense metaphysical conversations at the edge of the universe now when you have everything you need in your immediate environment.



Across

1. A feudal vassal, 5. Monetary unit of Macedonia, 10. Spheres, 14. Feudal worker, 15. Genus of heath, 16. 12 inches, 17. Pause, 18. Written material, 20. Dutiful, 22. Estate, 23. A single-reed woodwind, 24. _____ alia, 25. Reinforcing, 32. Fire residues, 33. Slowly, in music, 34. Scarlet, 37. Tiny sphere, 38. Synagogue scroll, 39. Delicate, 40. A large vase, 41. Land of the Rising Sun, 42. Chop finely, 43. Profanities, 45. Large tropical American fish, 49. Fury, 50. Right, 53. Bitter, 57. Squadron, 59. Maguey, 60. Tidy, 61. Attune, 62. Gashes, 63. Being, 64. Wanderer, 65. Not nays.

Down

1. Bawdy, 2. Brother of Jacob, 3. Module, 4. Despised, 5. Luxurious, 6. Goddess of destruction, 7. Louse-to-be, 8. Breezed through, 9. Unusual, 10. Frequently, 11. Get out of bed, 12. Carried, 13. Drive, 19. Spanish for "Friend", 21. Paddles, 25. Hindu Mr., 26. End _____, 27. Part of a comparison, 28. Spills, 29. A pinnacle of ice, 30. Absurd, 31. Greatest possible, 34. Hindu princess, 35. Behold, in old Rome, 36. Colors, 38. Bar bill, 39. The ability to read, 41. Jested, 42. Bog, 44. Refinement, 45. Display, 46. Snouts, 47. Killer whales, 48. Give a speech, 51. Outcropping, 52. Neat, 53. Austrian peaks, 54. Color of the sky, 55. Greek letter, 56. To tax or access, 58. One time around.

Yesterday's Solution



another, award, banish, beige, block, class, clinic, desire, dumb, events, fashion, festive, first, gain, grand, grill, groan, ignite, instead, invest, island, leader, leal, limit, lunch, number, passion, possession, return, shins, sleds, soffit, symbol, usage.

