

44 Militants Suffer Casualties in Past 24 Hours

KABUL CIYT - Forty-four militants suffered casualties during security forces' operations in several provinces over the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Saturday.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry said the operations were carried out in Ghazni, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul and Sar-i-Pul provinces. The brief statement said



nothing if security forces had suffered any casualties during the operations.

Meanwhile, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) claimed arresting a two-member group linked to militants. The spy service in a statement said the two wanted to smuggler weapons from central Maidan Wardak province to Kabul. (Pajhwok)

IS Group Commander among 7 Killed



JALALABAD - Seven militants including a group commander loyal to the Islamic State (IS) outfit were killed after unmanned plane pounded their hideout in Kot district of the eastern Nangarhar province on Friday, spokesman for provincial government Attaullah Khogiani said Saturday. IS group commander Mullah Bazarg is among those killed in the air strike, the spokesman said.

There were no casualties on civilians in the raid, Khogiani said.

Nangarhar province with Jalalabad as its capital 120 km east of Kabul has been the scene of IS activities over the past two years. (Xinhua)

4-Member Kidnap Gang Busted in Kandahar

KANDAHAR - Police have detained a four-member group of kidnapers in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Saturday. Deputy police chief Lt. Col. Wali Mohammad Askar told Pajhwok Afghan News the group had kidnapped a resident of Kandahar City, the provincial capital, Mohammad Younas two weeks back. He said the kidnapers had sought five million Pakistani rupees in ransom from Younas family, but his family couldn't arrange such a huge amount. The kidnapers then reduced the ransom money to 1.2 million rupees but the family offered half a million (Rs500000). The family loaned the money from other people. Askar said Younas was safely recovered from the kidnapers and reunited with his family. (Pajhwok)

13 Taliban Rebels Killed in Kandahar Clashes

KANDAHAR - More than a dozen Taliban militants have been killed in clashes with security forces in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Saturday. Zia Durrani, the police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News insurgents stormed Qaragah check-post in the Shorak district on Friday night and the fight continued for several hours, leaving 12 militants dead.

He said only one policeman was injured and civilians suffered no casualties during the clash. Meanwhile, Taliban attacked Mullah Agha Jan locality in Arghistan district. The ensuing clash left one militant dead.



The Taliban have not yet commented about the incidents but they claimed carrying out attacks in Maiwand and some others districts. (Pajhwok)

Border Police Seize Car Bomb in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Police have seized an explosives-laden car and a drug smuggler in two separate incidents in eastern Nangarhar province.

The bomb-rigged vehicle was confiscated in Momand Dara district and four suspects, including three brothers, were arrested in connection with the plot, eastern border police chief, Col. Mohammad Ayub Hussain Khel, told a press conference here.

He said the seizure of the explosives-filled car prevented a bloody terrorist attack in the district centre.

Elsewhere, a man arrested after 62 kilograms of hashish were recovered from him in Darband locality of Dur Baba district, Col. Hussain Khel said. The detainees had been shifted to the provincial police headquarters for investigation, he said. (Pajhwok)

Indian Anti-Terror Forces Conduct Raids on Zakir Naik's Offices



NEW DELHI - The Indian forces have reportedly conducted raids on at least 10 locations where the controversial preacher Zakir Naik's Non-governmental Organization (NGO) is having offices.

According to the local media reports, the raids were conducted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) forces earlier today in Maharashtra. The raids on Islamic Research Foundation owned by Naik was conducted days after a First Investigation Report (FIR) was registered after examining Mr. Naik's speeches telecast on Peace TV, which is partly-funded by the IRF.

The reports further added that the 50-year-old Naik came Indian government's focus after the Bangladeshi government accused him of making speeches that could have incited some of the terrorists who attacked a Dhaka cafe in July, killing 20 people.

The Times of India newspaper reported that one of the terrorists involved in the Dhaka cafe attack had allegedly posted on social media that they had been inspired by Naik's speeches.

Some of the youths from Mumbai suburbs, who had left their home to join Islamic State earlier this year, were also allegedly inspired by the preacher. (KP)

Uprising Group Commander Dead in Badakhshan Clash

FAIZABAD - Commander of an uprising group and his bodyguard have been killed and three Taliban wounded during a clash in the Yafal district of northern Badakhshan province, an official said on Saturday. Police Chief Brig. Gen. Gulam Sakhi Ghafoori told Pajhwok Afghan News the uprising group Commander Haidar was killed in Taliban ambush at around 5:00pm on Friday in the Saran village.

He said three Taliban were



also wounded in the counter attack by the local security officials. Taliban have not yet commented about the incident and injuries of its three fighters. (Pajhwok)

Clash Kills 16 Including 12 Militants

GHAZNI - A total of 16 people including 12 militants and four police personnel have been killed as clash erupted in Andar district of the eastern Afghanistan's Ghazni province Friday night, provincial police chief Aminullah Omarkhil said Saturday.

The clash, according to the official, flared up in Mirazar area after Taliban insurgents stormed security checkpoints and police returned fire which lasted for hours.

Taliban, after leaving 12 bodies behind, fled the scene and cleanup operations in the area are going on, said the official.

Meanwhile, Zabihullah Majahid, who claims to speak for the Taliban, in contact with media confirmed the clash, saying over two dozen security personnel have been killed. A doctor at a hospital in Ghazni city said seven dead bodies and eight injured persons had been taken to hospital. (Xinhua)



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Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might think you have your facts in order today, only to discover you've landed on Fantasy Island without anyone who understands your plight. Perhaps your comprehension is so extensive that your perspective doesn't fit into a normal conversation now, leading people to misinterpret your intentions. Nevertheless, your world is tinted with rose-colored hues.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Hearing innocent comments as if they were critical remarks can complicate conversations with friends today. Fragile feelings make you extra sensitive to the opinions of others, so doublecheck your impressions before jumping to conclusions that undermine trust. Thankfully, it's easy to forgive and forget when loving Venus and spiritual Neptune positively influence your day.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're more intrigued with what you can't see in the shadows today than what you can see in the direct sunlight. Magnetic Venus is collaborating with misty Neptune in your 10th House of Authority, casting a soft focus over what you think you know. Snapping out of this reverie might take a couple of days, no matter how hard you try. In the meantime, remember the words of author Joe Meno, "Imagination is the place where all the important answers live."

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

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Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Old grievances fade away as forgiveness replaces blame. Nevertheless, you can't rely on your words to convey what's in your heart now because your logic is overpowered by your compassion. You might seek safety by trying to stick with the facts, but this evasive tactic will not keep you out of trouble today.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You come across more forcefully to others today than you realize. Your measured enthusiasm may be perceived as outright aggression by those who don't understand your need for perfection. Thankfully, there is sweet magic in the air when beautiful Venus and metaphysical Neptune inspire creativity and romance. Nevertheless, if impatient Mars takes over and gives rise to competitive feelings, insecurity and jealousy can rear their ugly heads.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Romantic moments and inspirational experiences add up to make your day a memorable one. Given the choice, you don't want to work or play alone now. A loving Venus-Neptune connection turns the humdrum of everyday reality into potential storylines for fairytales with happy endings. Once in a while, your dreams really do come true. Nevertheless, as Margaret Bonanno wrote, "It is only possible to live happily ever after on a daily basis."

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

It requires almost no effort to radiate confidence today, which increases your likelihood of success. Nevertheless, a surefooted approach is more reliable than leaping into the unknown. Practicing creative visualization enables you to modify the flow of events as psychic Neptune happily supports pleasure-seeking Venus in practical Capricorn.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You are free to travel across dimensions in your mind today, exploring uncharted realms of love. Diffusive Neptune softens the resistance as it forms a cooperative sextile with graceful Venus in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem. Facts and fantasy swirl together to create a beautiful palette of feelings which can be spiritually enlightening, romantically blissful or emotionally confusing.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

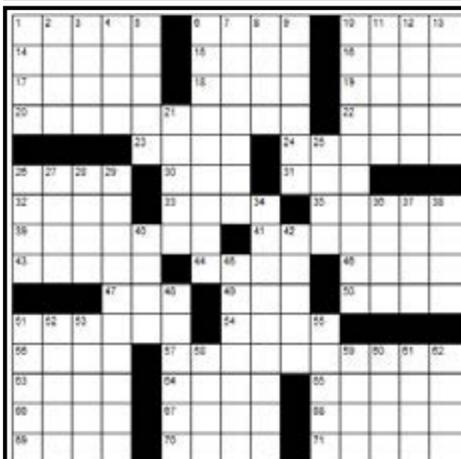
The stage is being set for sweet romance or, at least, more pleasurable times ahead. Sexy Venus sextiles enchanting Neptune, casting a magical spell over you, empowering you to mesmerize others with your charms. Although you're not one to gamble with your future, taking a calculated risk for love just might bring you the happiness you deserve.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your intellect is as sharp as a razor today, blessing you with the power to choose your words with care. Nevertheless, there may be internal discord between what you want and what you actually put out in the universe. Thankfully, imaginative Neptune is cooperating with resourceful Venus in your 12th House of Mystical Mystery, enabling you to dream your way into the future.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

If a lingering disagreement about long-term goals returns to the main stage today, you might be happily surprised with the outcome. A supportive connection between gracious Venus in your 11th House of Friends and visionary Neptune offers you the magic of faith and forgiveness, inspiring you to rekindle your hopes and dreams. Most conflicts now could be avoided if you simply try to look at the current events from a different point of view.



Across
 1. Gander, 6. Kittens' cries, 10. No more than, 14. Hearing-related, 15. Dash, 16. Always, 17. Climb, 18. Nil, 19. Opera star, 20. Showing little emotion, 22. Frosts, 23. A sharply directional antenna, 24. Used to boil water, 26. Tibia, 30. Prefix meaning "Modern", 31. Calypso offshoot, 32. Connects two points, 33. Sea eagle, 35. French for "Storehouse", 39. A former Turkish term of respect, 41. Yearner, 43. Thermionic tube, 44. Wicked, 46. Brand of credit card, 47. One time around, 49. French for "Summer", 50. Dines, 51. Ravel classic, 54. A few, 56. Applications, 57. Nationalism, 63. Trailer trucks, 64. 62 in Roman numerals, 65. Move furtively, 66. Genuine, 67. Aquatic plant, 68. Notions.

Down
 1. Sharp intake of breath, 2. Owl!, 3. By mouth, 4. An exchange involving money, 5. Mournful poem, 6. Zoo, 7. Jubilation, 8. Dry riverbed, 9. Noshes, 10. Contemplative, 11. Kick out, 12. Celebrate, 13. Delete, 21. Anagram of "Amend", 25. Anagram of "Seek", 26. Toboggan, 27. High fidelity, 28. Data, 29. Unnecessarily, 34. An article of opinion, 36. Operatic solo, 37. Annoyance, 38. Historical periods, 40. Close, 42. Lacquer ingredient, 45. Trace, 48. Cottonwood, 51. Donkey, 52. Willow, 53. Lawful, 55. A red fluorescent dye, 58. Spindle, 59. It ebbs and flows, 60. Midmonth date, 61. Thin strip, 62. Untidyness.

Yesterday's Solution

anger, argue, association, better, blame, blast, bridge, broken, delay, excite, fare, fault, field, first, games, ignore, irate, junior, labor, latch, mage, mere, munch, nature, podium, procedure, rival, rough, sleet, soya, stack, story, that, thick, thrown, today.

