

54 Daesh Militants Killed in Pachiragam Airstrikes

JALALABAD - More than 50 fighters of the Islamic State, also known as Daesh, were killed in eastern Nangarhar province on Friday, local officials said.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News 54 Daesh militants were killed in two separate drone strikes in Pachiragam district. Forty-five insurgents were killed in the first raid and nine others in the second strike in the Adikhel area of the district, the official said. The airstrikes took place at



10am. In the Upper Pachir neighbourhood of the restive town, the insurgents stormed checkpoints of a local uprising force at dawn on Thursday.

The attacks triggered pitched battles between the two sides, which left 22 Daesh members and four Taliban militants, the spokesman added.

Khogyani, citing preliminary information, said two civilians were killed and 27 others wounded in the clashes. The Daesh fighters also torched 17 civilian houses in Upper Pachir. (Pajhwok)

Four Civilians Killed in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - At least 27 civilians were killed and 27 wounded amid clashes between security forces and militants of Islamic State (IS) in Nangarhar province, said the provincial government on Friday.

The clashes erupted on early hours of Thursday after IS militants launched multiple attacks against joint checkpoints of security forces and government-backed local anti-IS fighters in Pass Pachir and Azikheel localities of Pachir Wagam district.

"The sporadic clashes have been continuing as of Friday noon in Pachir Wagam. Some 54 IS militants died following airstrikes in Azikheel area Friday morning. And 22 fighters of IS lost their lives during Thursday's combat in Pass Pachir locality," the provincial government said in a statement. "Four innocent civilians had been killed and over 27 civilians injured since the clashes broke out. The IS militants set on fire 17 houses in the targeted villages," the statement said, adding the number of casualties was likely to rise as clashes were continuing there.

Mohammad Hanif Gardiwall, acting provincial governor, has instructed the concerned authorities to provide best medical treatment for the injured, according to the statement.

Details about security force and government-backed local fighters' casualties remained unknown.

Nangarhar province with Jalalabad city as its capital, 120 km east of Kabul, has been the scene of clashes between security forces and IS militants since the emergence of Afghan IS chapter in early 2015. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Afghan Returnees Find Little Has Changed after Forced Exile Three Decades Ago

KABUL - Desperately waiting at a cash center in Pul-e-Charkhi to receive her repatriation and reintegration grant of 400 U.S. dollars provided by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a 70-year-old woman question how her family was supposed to live on such a paltry amount.

Bibi Hawa, who had escaped the war-torn region to live as a refugee in Pakistan 30 years ago, said that little had changed since she was away and the country remained plagued by terrorism and militancy.

A resident of northern Baghlan province who went to live in Punjab in Pakistan said she sees "no difference in the security situation in Baghlan even after 30 years when I left my homeland in hope of peace returning to Afghanistan one day." The relatively volatile Baghlan province with Pul-e-Khumri as its capital, located 160 km north of Kabul, was the center ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Faryab Residents Take up Arms to Defend their Homes

KABUL - A number of residents of northern Faryab province have picked up arms and have said they will personally defend their province.

Recently Taliban attacked parts of the province. This led to residents arming themselves.

Faryab residents said they will stand alongside security forces and will help them fight insurgents.

They said they want the Taliban to join the peace process otherwise they will eliminate them from the province. (Tolonews)



Bomb Explodes Inside Herat Mosque; No Casualties

HERAT CITY - A bomb went off inside a mosque in the capital of western Herat province on Friday, one eyewitness said.

Abdul Hakim told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion took place during Juma prayers. However, he said the blast caused no fatalities.

The explosive device had been placed beneath the pulpit, according to the witness, who said the Herat Ulema Council head Maulvi Khuda Dad Saleh was also in the mosque at the time of the blast. (Pajhwok)

5 Schools Get New Buildings in Samangan

AIBAK - The construction process for five school buildings has been completed in the Dara-i-Sauf Bala district of central Samangan province, an official said on Thursday.

Rural Rehabilitation and Development Director Eng. Mohammad Asif Dawlat Shahisaid that the project cost 46.8 million afghanis. Each of the school buildings has eight classrooms, four administrative rooms and other essential facilities.



Dara-I-Sauf Bala district chief, Ahmad Ali Husna, said the newly-constructed buildings were for three girls' schools and two high schools for boys.

Around 3,600 students were attending the schools in rental buildings or under tents before the new buildings were constructed, he said. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Leader among 6 Killed in Jawzjan Gunbattle

SHIBERGHAN - A local Taliban leader was killed along with five associates by security forces in northern Jawzjan province on Friday, an official said.

Mohammad Raza Ghafoori, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban's deputy governor for Faizabad district Sakhi - alias Malang - was among the fatalities.

The militants were killed after they stormed checkpoints of a local uprising force in the district. At

least 15 of the attackers were wounded in the gun-battle, he said.

Ghafoori added the clash was still ongoing in the area, where the corpses of the militants lay at the site. Two members of the uprising have been wounded so far.

Abdul Baqi, a resident of the area, said a number of domestic animals had been killed as a result of the ongoing fighting. There was a serious concern among the people, ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Afghan Army Destroys Taliban Explosives Factory

KABUL - The authorities of the Afghan province of Helmand confirmed today the destruction of an explosives factory operated by Taliban.

According to reports by the national security forces, after an operation conducted in the province, they found the factory where the Taliban made homemade bombs.

The operation conducted by the 215th 'Maiwand' Corps also allowed the capture of 15 terrorists.



Recently, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan released a report that says that at least 3,726 civilian casualties were registered between January and June, 2016 due to the violence caused by rebels and the government. ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Responsibilities weigh heavily on your shoulders today, but there's a part of you that doesn't really care. You want to do what you Rams do best: speed up and plow through the obstructions without looking back. You believe the way out of your current frustration is to break through the bonds of doubt with sheer force. But some blockages don't respond to a full frontal assault.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

It might feel as if someone is raining on your parade today as a burst of creativity runs into the wall of reality. Colorful ideas and images may fill your mind, whether or not they are practical. However, a tenacious Sun-Saturn struggle puts the halt to your fantasies, allowing only the most pragmatic concepts to survive.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Negotiations about what you are willing to give for what you want in return are likely to be productive today. The Sun's aspect to serious Saturn in your 7th House of Relationships is a signal to be clear about what you expect to accomplish with others. It might not feel romantic or generous to be so definitive about your needs now, but building a solid foundation ensures the development of trust in the long run. Honesty is the highest form of intimacy.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You may be upset if an authority figure reads you the riot act today for no apparent reason. However, you might be missing a real opportunity if you take criticism personally now. Although you could be rather thin-skinned while the Moon is visiting your emotionally sensitive sign, don't force a showdown until you discuss the matter with people you can trust.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Braking for speed bumps isn't the easiest thing to do when you have your destination in sight and time is running out. However, you may have little choice today when the willful Sun crosses paths with karmic Saturn in your 5th House of Self-Expression, testing your patience.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Stop to take a long hard look at your real motives for accomplishing a specific task today. A harsh Sun-Saturn connection might have you thinking that someone is furtively working against you. However, diffusive Neptune rattles rational Mercury, making you miss the mark when explaining your intentions. Quietly retreat, regain your footing and try again in a few days when clarity returns.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may overreact to some adversity today that probably isn't as difficult as it seems. In any event, your strength is tested as the Sun shines its light in your sign only to be blocked by stern Saturn in your 3rd House of Communication. A minor setback at work might reinforce your fear of failure or, at least, challenge your self-confidence. Instead of focusing on this as a personal defeat, take it as a cosmic assignment.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your creative urges are stifled by someone's lack of support today, but it may be your own fears that prevent you from moving mountains. There is a deeper lesson to learn if you find yourself involved in a struggle with others. The real work now is internal because overcoming self-doubt is ultimately your greatest challenge.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

If your persistent efforts have led to pleasure, recent successes could be replaced with perplexity today. The Sun's stressful alignment with austere Saturn is a constrictive influence that can tangle you up in knots. If you are encountering difficulties when expressing yourself, your aggravation may force you to clarify your intentions and commit to a new set of goals.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You may believe invisible forces are conspiring against you today, but you can't find the source of the negativity. Nevertheless, someone is likely impeding your progress and making unreasonable demands upon you. You might want to give up, but quitting is not advisable now. The good news is that this frustrating Saturn transit is short-lived.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

It might seem as if someone is purposefully complicating your life now, but the truth is the trouble may originate within you. Don't be like Don Quixote and fight with windmills when the solution is more readily found by modifying your own behavior. Paradoxically, you could be unconsciously creating difficult predicaments so you can prove to yourself and others you're capable of putting in a solid performance.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

An odd mix of serious work and serious foolishness can make for a strange day. No matter how much you try to concentrate on your job, your thoughts keep drifting in and out of fantasy while mischievous Mercury crosses paths with dreamy Neptune. However, Saturn the Taskmaster still demands concrete results. Don't take the easy way out today; show the world your determination by valiantly handling your current responsibilities as best you can.

Across

1. A piece of information, 6. Shower alternative, 10. Conceal, 14. A kind of macaw, 15. Hairdo, 16. Dwarf buffalo, 17. Greatly pleasing, 19. Flows, 20. Highly seasoned fatty sausage, 21. Belief, 22. A climbing plant, 23. Not together, 25. Floral leaf, 26. Cap, 30. Besmirches, 32. Inshore, 35. Commemoration, 39. Wicker material, 40. Evening event, 41. Honorable, 43. Final, 44. Environment, 46. Stare, 47. Delicacy, 50. Close-knit group, 53. Stop, 54. Aye, 55. Wears away, 60. Decorative case, 61. Foe, 63. Start over, 64. Applications, 65. Ringworm cassia, 66. Biblical garden, 67. Benefit, 68. Glacial ridge.

Down

1. Fathers, 2. District, 3. Gangly, 4. Murres, 5. Lava, 6. Louisville Slugger, 7. Aver, 8. Members of a governing board, 9. Low, flat land, 10. Reaping, 11. Eskimo, 12. An Italian woman of rank, 13. Artist's workstand, 18. Pelvis, 24. American Sign Language, 25. Earlier in time, 26. Unit of land, 27. Jacket, 28. Arithmetic, 29. Appraisal, 31. Church alcove, 33. Implied, 34. A Freudian stage, 36. Diva's solo, 37. Chick's sound, 38. Not there, 42. Permit, 43. Clunker, 45. A Christian celebration, 47. Not here, 48. Deserved, 49. Avoid, 51. Regulation (abbrev.), 52. Jagged, 54. Wail, 56. 1 1 1 1, 57. A soft return in tennis, 58. Feudal worker, 59. Celebrity, 62. Request.

Yesterday's Solution

awful, beauty, canopy, center, civil, crease, debate, earth, extreme, faith, farm, frame, gather, ground, gypsum, incur, intense, logic, meet, noun, peach, pestilence, pottery, care, seam, sense, severe, shock, smooth, society, sphere, statue, stone, stunt, taps.

BD GROUND T O K E N
E E Y S I N C U R G S C C
A B P E S T I L E N C E N
U A S V E R V N E H N N H
T T U E X I I S T R U T H
Y E M R T C L I H E O E S
Q W Y E R K A T S O N R P
S C A R E F R A M E C S H
U V V P M A E S R S F K E
P O T T E R Y G A T H E R
L O G I C A A W F U L U E
S T A T U E C C A N O P Y
S O C I E T Y H S T O N E