

148 Insurgents Killed, Wounded in Past Two Days

KABUL - Ministry of Defense (MoD) said that 148 insurgents have been killed and in newest security operations in 18 provinces. A statement issued by the ministry on Saturday states that the operations were conducted in Kunar, Ghazni, Logar, Paktia, Paktika, Khost, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Daikundi, Zabul, Ghor, Farah, Baghlan, Sar-i-Pul, Kunduz, Faryab, Takhar and Helmand provinces in past 48 hours. According to the press released, 77 militants were killed, 71 wounded and 8 others detained during these operations. The press release further states



that 10 soldiers from the Afghan National Army (ANA) also embraced martyrdom in landmine explosion and enemy fire. The statement does not specify the location of the incident. (KP)

Woman, 3 Children Among 19 Killed

ASADABAD - A woman and her three children were killed in a rocket strike during a clash between Taliban militants and security forces, in which 14 rebels and one Afghan soldier were killed in eastern Kunar province on Saturday, an official said. Kunar police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Habib Syedkhel told Pajhwok Afghan News nearly 500 Taliban fighters stormed several security posts in Chapa Dara and Manogi districts early in the morning. A woman and her three children were killed and eight others were wounded when a Taliban-fired rocket hit their house in Galsalak area of Chapa Dara district. Eight shops and four houses were torched in the incident. The police chief said 14 rebels were killed and 23 others wounded during the clash with security personnel. An Afghan soldier was also killed and four others wounded... (More on P4)... (17)

Freed Policeman Says Govt. Ignored Baghlan Siege

KABUL - A local police commander, Abdul Rahim, from the Pastak military base in Dahane Ghore district in Baghlan province on Friday criticized government for not having come to their rescue after his unit came under siege for seven days by the Taliban. Rahim said the Taliban held their base under siege for seven days. He said his unit eventually ran out of food and water and had nothing to eat for four days. They were also not able to bury their fellow officers who had died during the gun battle. He said that all they had to eat in that time was rotten bread. According to him it was only after tribal elders stepped in and mediated their release that they were freed. "We were under Taliban siege for seven days and many times we contacted with the provincial police chief but no one delivered supplies to us. We didn't even have water or bread, also no weapons," Rahim said. In addition, a relative of one of the dead officers said the Taliban had made them leave the body on the base for four days. The relative, Abdul Bahari Musaddiq said that the government failed to help release the bodies of the deceased so they could be buried. "My cousin's son who was in the Taliban's siege was killed at the base and for four days his dead body was left in the base. We visited the provincial police chief many times to ask to transfer our dead bodies but the police chief was not able to bring our dead bodies and in the end only mediation by the elders secured the bodies," said Abdul Bahari Musaddiq one of the soldiers' relatives. After the incident many questions were raised - especially about the lack of supplies being delivered. Local police said Baghlan security officials will have to answer these questions. (Tolonews)

Sprayed with Water Cannons, Hundreds Protest Against E-ID Cards

KABUL - Hundreds of people on Saturday took to the streets in Kabul to protest the omission of the words "Afghan and Islam" from new electronic national identity cards. Afghan National Movement head Mohammad Ismail Yon, Afghan Millat Party chief Anwarul Haq Ahadi, Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) chief Abdul Sattar Saadat and Kabul University teacher Faiz Mohammad Zaland took



part in the rally. The participants stressed the inclusion of the two boxes in the e-ID cards and chanted slogans, "Death to Iran, death to Pakistan, death to Ashraf Ghani and Abdul ... (More on P4)... (18)

Poppy Cultivation to be Reduced to Zero: Laghman Governor



KABUL - The cultivation of the outlawed poppy crop would be brought down to zero during the current year in eastern Laghman province, the governor promised on Friday. Abdul Jabbar Naeemi told local elders, religious scholars and peace committee head: "We will try to decrease the cultivation of poppies to zero with support from you and young people to win Laghman one million dollars in assistance."

He said the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics provided one million dollars in development assistance to a poppy-free province, where farmers opted for cultivating wheat, saffron and other crops. The funds could be used for the welfare of society, the governor added. Farmers should avoid poppy cultivation, which brought a bad name to the government and resulted in a cut in international support to the province, he explained, asking elders and clerics to play their role in ensuring peace and convincing militants to join the peace process. The local elders promised complete support for the peace process, giving up the cultivation of poppies and persuading the insurgents to join the reconciliation campaign. (Pajhwok)

720,000 Eggs Set Ablaze

FARAH CITY - Eggs imported from Iran in three containers were set afire as a preventive measure against H5N1 (bird flu) virus, officials said on Saturday. The influenza could be transmitted from pigs to birds before reaching humans. HPAI Asian H5N1 is especially deadly for poultry. The virus was first detected in 1996 in geese in China. Asian H5N1 was first detected in humans in 1997 during a poultry outbreak in Hong Kong and has since been detected in poultry and wild birds in more than

50 countries. The Ministry of Public Health had asked for preventing imports of chickens and eggs from Iran, Farah Customs Director Ajir Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News. A month ago, they seized three egg containers smuggled into Afghanistan by the Afghanistan Company, which tried to resend the eggs to Iran. However, the neighbouring country did not accept the eggs, prompting the officials to set them ablaze on Saturday, the director added. (Pajhwok)

Afghan Journalist Among World's Top 10 Peace Builders

KABUL - The United States Institute of Peace has selected an Afghan freelance journalist, Yasir Ahmadzai, among the top 10 peace builders across the globe for the year 2015. USIP is an independent, nonpartisan conflict management center created by US Congress in 1984 to prevent, mitigate and resolve international conflict without resorting to violence. Headquartered in Washington, DC, it has offices in Baghdad and Kabul and a full-time country representative in Islamabad,



Pakistan. Global Peace Center (GPC) and USIP conduct an annual peace computation for peace builders around the world and publish their stories in their annual report and website. This year, the organization selected an Afghan civil activist as one of their top-10 peace builders... (More on P4)... (19)

Nearly 2 Dozen Militants Dead

JALALABAD - Nearly two dozen rebels have been killed in a fierce gun-battle between Taliban and Daesh militants in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Friday. Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal, police spokesperson, told Pajhwok Afghan News 23 armed rebels from the two groups were killed and eight others wounded during the clash in Pachiragam district. Four houses of men from both warring groups were torched, a civilian killed and four other civilians were wounded during the battle, the spokesperson added.

Resident Obaidullah confirmed the gun-battle and torching of houses but did not have exact information regarding the



casualties. Local elders accused Daesh fighters of setting alight civilian houses, sparking a gun-battle between residents and fighters. They claimed 14 civilians were killed and 22 others abducted by Daesh fighters. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)

Nothing is more important to you today than living up to other people's expectations and you might even become obsessive about doing the right thing. Your drive to finish what you start is probably much stronger than your need to be distracted. You understand that you have no other option but to take care of unfinished business before you run out of time.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

Your emotional steadiness goes beyond a textbook description of a stubborn Bull. Romantic concerns that might normally be upsetting are taken in stride today because you believe you can safely say what's on your mind. However, you might have a sneaky suspicion that no one is listening to you. But don't rock the boat just to see if anyone is paying attention.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're confident you can communicate your ideas easily today, and you expect others to be charmed by your charisma. Although you may be poised to swing into action before you have all the details in place, your cavalier attitude clashes with a more contemplative side of your personality that comes to the forefront now. Assimilate your careful analysis into your strategy, for it helps you hit your target with even more accuracy.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your brain may win out over your heart in an internal struggle between logic and emotions. But it isn't wise to overreact to a situation before you allow sufficient time to process your feelings. It makes good sense to override a strong attraction that will only add drama to your life as long as you don't just shut down prematurely out of fear.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

It could seem as if you have reached the end of the road and that summer is already over, even though it's not. However, your anticipation of the future heightens your sense of urgency today as the Moon highlights your 11th House of Hopes and Wishes. You might try to squeeze so much into your schedule that you don't have time to enjoy any of it.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You may be locked in an endless debate that has no clear winner as passionate Pluto aligns with the practical Virgo Sun today. Your words sound overly emotional, even if that's not how you feel. Although you might keep your vulnerability a secret for now, the truth will probably leak out soon enough, anyhow. Take control by shifting the conversation from a confrontational argument into an opportunity to share your passions.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You wish you could lean on others now, but everyone seems to be on their own edge of change and therefore somewhat unavailable. Meanwhile, you can find balance as long as you keep your worries to yourself. Unfortunately, you may be living under an illusion based upon what you don't want to know. Nevertheless, it's easier to simply take care of a problem by responding quickly.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

Don't quit now just because you're feeling overwhelmed. Have faith that you can get through all your assignments if you simply focus on one task at a time. However, all kinds of distractions pull you away from your mundane commitments. Fortunately, the Sun's trine to persistent Pluto blesses you with the ability to maintain your concentration, no matter what.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

Although your enthusiastic nature can often move mountains, optimism alone isn't enough to prepare you for the big changes ahead. Don't try to fake competence or you could find yourself in over your head before you know it. You must clearly demonstrate your competence before you ask others to accept you as their leader. Your passion is inspirational but all talk and no action won't get you very far today.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)

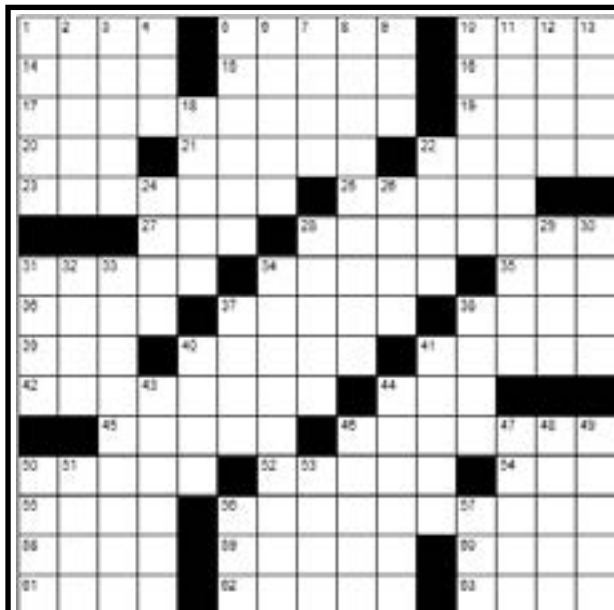
There's so much uncontrollable energy floating around in the atmosphere today that you might not be able to suppress your current anxiety. However, you won't find peace of mind by trying to run the entire show. Being in touch with your feelings isn't necessarily a problem, especially if it motivates you to exert your authority over those parts of your life that are within your sphere of influence.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

If there are lingering questions from a close friend or partner hanging between you, respond to them as fast as possible because your window of opportunity is closing quickly now. Instead of secretly manipulating the pieces of the puzzle, bring any remaining concerns out in the open while you can. Once all your cards are on the table today, it will be much easier to talk about what is wrong.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Stand up and say what's on your mind today because your words carry the intensity of the conviction of your beliefs. Go the extra mile to be completely honest with your friends while the Sun harmonizes with profound Pluto in your 11th House of Social Networking. Just be certain you're making sense when you share your feelings, since you could be extremely passionate about a relationship issue now.



Across

1. Secluded valley, 5. Consumed, 10. Expectoration, 14. Be worthy of, 15. Shame, 16. Killer whale, 17. Detestation, 19. Newbie (slang), 20. Foot digit, 21. Humble, 22. Deservedly receives, 23. Typographical error, 25. Muse of love poetry, 27. Directed, 28. Wieners, 31. Hoses, 34. Humorous, 35. Utilize, 36. God of love, 37. Spoofs, 38. Heredity unit, 39. An Old Testament king, 40. Planet, 41. Ascended, 42. Home alone after school kid, 44. Mayday, 45. Slumber, 46. Catch, 50. An official in India, 52. Fancy, 54. Crimson, 55. Historical periods, 56. Nutritionist, 58. Auspices, 59. Express audibly, 60. Pot, 61. Small horse, 62. Hangman's knot.

Down

1. Grille, 2. Work hard, 3. Aromatic solvent, 4. Prefix meaning «Modern», 5. A small earphone, 6. Perpendicular to the keel, 7. Bronzes, 8. Reverted to the state, 9. Born as, 10. A musical composition, 11. Defers, 12. Computer symbol, 13. Checks, 18. Charges per unit, 22. Not difficult, 24. Beers, 26. Tracks, 28. Foolish, 29. Feudal worker, 30. Observed, 31. Blue-green, 32. Constellation bear, 33. A petty officer, 34. Newspaper picture, 37. Awakened, 38. Essence, 40. At what time, 41. Hemp cords, 43. Stylish, 44. Lampoon, 46. Remedies, 47. Pee, 48. Leases, 49. Borders, 50. Very intense, 51. Therefore, 53. Car, 56. Religious sister, 57. An unskilled actor.

Yesterday's Solution



bleak, blunt, branch, calculate, center, coal, consume, couch, deduce, exploit, fright, gear, grown, guest, headlines, investment, jungle, lone, murder, night, pigs, rang, secretary, sect, shack, slave, solid, spade, stall, straggle, target, title.

