

Major Anti-Rebels Offensive in Badakhshan Soon: Jahid

FAIZABAD - Interior Minister Taj Mohammad Jahid on Sunday said a massive operation against insurgents would be launched soon to drive them from Yamgan and Warduj districts of southeastern Badakhshan province.

Jahid arrived in Faizabad, the capital of Badakhshan, at the head of a high-ranking delegation to assess the security situation here.

The minister met with members of the provincial council members, Ulama Council, tribal elders, influential figures, and civil society activists and youth. He said the government had firmly decided to retake Yamgan and Warduj districts



from rebels. However, Jahid, addressing around 1,000 people, didn't provide a specific date for launching the operation, but it would be likely launched next month. About equipping security forces, he said they used to provide security forces with needed stuff at their disposal in the military sphere.

He said he would meet various groups of people and would pass their suggestions on to the leadership of the unity government.

Ahmad Bashir Samim, the provincial council head, called the security situation in the province as worrying and said security ... (More on P4)...(16)

Civilians Among 4 Dead in Kandahar Clash, Blast

KANDAHAR CITY - Two civilians and as many militants were killed in a road side explosion and clash in the Shahwali Kot district of the Southern Kandahar province on Sunday, an official said.

Samim Khplwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News two civilians were killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in the Andarano locality at around 9:30pm. The individuals were on their way to Kandahar City, the provincial capital, he said.

Separately, two militants have been killed during a clash with security forces in Syasang locality of the district, Police Spokesman Zia Durrani said.

"Two insurgents were killed during a clash and their bodies remained in the battle ground," He said. Taliban Spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi rejected Durrani claim and said 12 policemen were killed and 14 weapons were seized during the attack. (Pajhwok)

16 Insurgents Killed in Herat, Faryab Clashes

HERAT CITY/MAIMANA - Sixteen Taliban militants were killed and several others wounded during a nighttime military raid and a separate clash in western Herat and northern Faryab provinces, officials said on Sunday.

Najibullah Najibi, the 201st Zafar Military Corps spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 12 militants were killed and 10 others wounded when security forces attacked them on Saturday night in Sunoghan locality of the Shindand district of Herat.

He said three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were also injured in the battle. Taliban have yet commented



on the incident. Separately, at least four insurgents were killed and some others suffered wounds during a clash with security forces in Faryab province. Brig. Gen. Abdul Nabi Ilham, the provincial police chief, said militants attacked security forces' check-posts in Jar-Qala and Khwaja Musa localities on the outskirts of Pashtun Kot district last night.

In the ensuing clashes, a notorious Taliban commander Mullah Musa ... (More on P4)...(17)

17 Daesh Militants Eliminated in Achin Air Raids

JALALABAD - At least 17 Islamic State (IS) rebels have been killed in airstrikes by the Afghan National Army (ANA) in eastern Nangarhar province.

A statement from ANA's 201st Selab Corps said the raids took place Saturday night in the Mamandara area of Achin district.

Attullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, said at least 17 IS or Daesh militants were killed in the airstrikes, which did not harm civilians. Meanwhile, the army claimed the soldiers killed notorious Taliban commander Sayed Rahman in the Noor-Gram district of Nuristan province.

The Taliban have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

8 Talibs Killed in NDS Operation in Kabul

KABUL - At least eight insurgents were killed in clashes with security forces in Qarabagh district of Kabul province on Saturday night, local officials said.

Among those dead were three Taliban commanders, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) confirmed.

Clashes started at about 11pm local time when security forces stormed a house the Taliban were using to make IEDs.

According to district governor Samiullah Sharifi:



"The clashes ended after three hours and a suspect was also arrested by security forces." An NDS source meanwhile said the group had been suspected of being behind some recent IED blasts in the city. No casualties among security forces or civilians were reported. (Tolonews)

Taliban Commander Among 20 Militants Give up Fighting in S. Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH - A 20-member Taliban group including a notorious commander Mullah Daud alias Habash has given up fighting and surrendered to government in the southern Helmand province, provincial governor Hayatullah Hayat said Sunday.

"A total of 20 insurgents including Taliban notorious commander Mullah Daud alias Habash laid down arms and surrendered to government yesterday," Hayat told Xinhua. Commander Habash and his fighters were involved in anti-



government activities in Washir district over the past couple of years, the official said, adding his surrender to government would inspire more militants to follow the step and give up fighting. Karim Atal ... (More on P4)...(18)

ALP Commander Among 3 Killed in Taliban Attack

QALAT - An Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander and two of his bodyguards were killed in a Taliban attack in southern Zabul province on Sunday, an official said.

Deputy police chief, Ghulam Jilani Farahi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the assault took place in the Shah Joi district centre in the morning.

He said Haji Gul Agha, the ALP commander for the district, was killed along with his two bodyguards in the Taliban

attack. The attackers managed to flee after the incident. Mohammad Anwar, a resident of the district, said Agha was heading from Chino area to the district bazaar when he came under attack in Kalakhel locality. Two other bodyguards of the commander were injured. On the other hand, Farahi said that two militants were



killed during a clash in Katili Manda area between Qalat, the provincial capital, and Seori district. He said the bodies of the rebels were still lying at the scene. The militants have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Blow up Shrine in Logar: Official



PUL-I-ALAM - Taliban militants have blown up a Shrine in the Barak-i-Barak district of the central Logar province, an official said on Sunday. Mohammad Rahim Amin, the district's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the shrine was bombed in Badkhop Roghani locality Saturday night.

Zakirullah, a resident of the area, said they were jolted out of sleep by the massive explosion. In the morning, villagers told him the insurgents had bombed the Pir Shah Abdul Samad Shrine. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your need for independence is heightened today when the trailblazing Aries Moon runs into rebellious Uranus. Nevertheless, your current dilemma is that you also want to take someone else's perspective into consideration now. In the final analysis, you possess the impetus to break through any restraints and freely express your desires.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You are elated with your sudden attraction to unusual people and things today. Opening your mind to fresh experiences can be fantastic as long as you don't leap without looking. However, the trouble with love stems from complications when romantic Venus opposes unreliable Uranus, bringing unexpected new information to light.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're eager to test the limits today, giving you the courage to take initiative when it comes to pursuing pleasure. Wild Uranus opposes delicious Venus in your 5th House of Play, prompting you to organize an unusual social activity, whether it's a major event or a private party for two. It doesn't matter if it's cooking in the kitchen or the bedroom; you can take the lead in so many surprisingly delightful ways that you're bound to find a willing partner.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Family relationships could be unstable or even emotionally explosive now, especially if a schedule adjustment at work interferes with domestic commitments. You may feel misunderstood or surprised by sudden changes that require rapid reactions while Venus opposes the volatile Moon-Uranus conjunction in your 10th House of Public Life.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

It's nearly impossible to suppress your desires today, so you might just choose to put them out in the open as a proactive measure. Charming Venus in your 3rd House of Communication opposes uncontrollable Uranus, adding to your current impatience. Fortunately, someone may suddenly appear in your life who shows you new routes to experiencing joy.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

So many emotions flow through your awareness today that it's challenging to know which ones are the most important. It's simultaneously so exhilarating and unsettling that you will need all your wits just to manage your changing desires as electric Uranus shocks alluring Venus. Let the most outrageous ideas slip away while keeping only a few of the best ones for later.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Big ideas about your future create high hopes for finding peace of mind. However, a disruptive Venus-Uranus opposition can destabilize a restrictive relationship, infuse a healthy one with exciting new energy or suddenly attract you to someone new. Although you may be dealing with an emotionally intense person, gentle Venus in your accommodating sign blesses you with a calming touch now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You may have to decide between the goodies offered by a particular relationship today and the privilege of self-termination. Thankfully, you're capable of making up your mind quickly now, so you are less likely to be willing to negotiate a compromise over your needs.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You might be party to a bit of excitement today as flirtatious Venus opposes a wild Moon-Uranus conjunction in your 5th House of Love and Creativity. Fortunately, your vitality is high, yet your patience is low while macho Mars is in your extroverted sign. But it's difficult to say what you mean without being misunderstood now that mischievous Mercury is retrograde.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

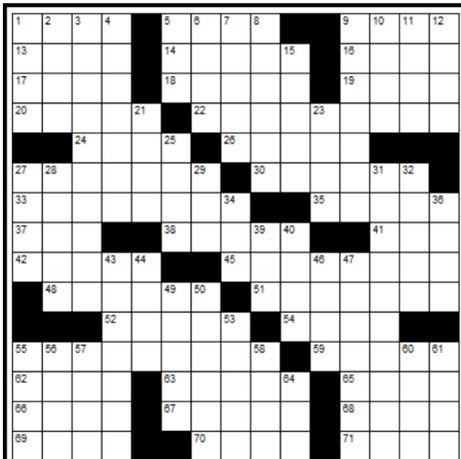
You could easily reveal more than you should today, especially if you are trying to bury your anger. Luckily, assertive Mars is working on your behalf now so you can relax and express your emotions without starting a war. Nevertheless, you are tempted to abandon your responsibilities and kick up your heels, which may not be such a bad idea unless you do something you will regret tomorrow.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

An instantaneous attraction or an unexpected emotional meltdown can rock your personal life now. In fact, your tastes may change suddenly while tantalizing Venus opposes reactionary Uranus. However, it might not be apparent whether this tempest is a passing storm or the opening volley of a more significant change.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

A heart-to-heart conversation may be exactly what you need to clear the air today. An expressive Moon-Uranus conjunction opposes Venus in your 8th House of Intimacy, encouraging you to get something off your chest. But back off quickly if this conversation turns into a debate because anger can come from anywhere, and is not conducive to a peaceful resolution. It takes very little energy now to turn a minor disagreement into a communication breakdown.



Across

1. Spinning toys, 5. Breezed through, 9. A romantic meeting, 13. Wings, 14. A dish of tomatoes and greens, 16. Pitcher, 17. "___ we forget", 18. Swedish money, 19. Soft drink, 20. Charges, 22. Certain illegal baseball pitches, 24. Away from the wind, 26. Prevent legally, 27. Rule of a substitute king, 30. Awards, 33. Withdraw too much, 35. Swelling under the skin, 37. Fiddle stick, 38. Inuit boat, 41. Woman, 42. Hockey footwear, 45. Gatherers, 48. Shoelace hole, 51. Souvenir, 52. Twangy, as a voice, 54. What a person is called, 55. Childish, 59. Long-necked bird, 62. A noble gas, 63. Gladden, 65. Palm starch, 66. Sensed, 67. Ancient empire, 68. Bit of gossip, 69. Probabilities, 70. Rodents, 71. Views,

Down

1. After-bath powder, 2. Margarine, 3. Corridor, 4. Colonist, 5. Request, 6. Automobiles, 7. Run away to wed, 8. Light sweet yeast-raised roll, 9. 10-legged crustacean, 10. Absent Without Leave, 11. Express in words, 12. Historical periods, 15. Philippine tribal chief, 21. Transmit, 23. Part of a skeleton, 25. Beige, 27. Steals, 28. Call forth, 29. Sweet potato, 31. Rejuvenate, 32. Intelligent, 34. Hairpiece, 36. As well, 39. A high alpine meadow, 40. Avid, 43. Renters, 44. Distinctive flair, 46. Nursemaid, 47. Goddess of divine retribution, 49. A chemical compound, 50. Seamster, 53. Andean animal, 55. Data, 56. Require, 57. Bend, 58. French for "State", 60. Curved molding, 61. French for "Names", 64. NNNN.

Yesterday's Solution

LASTS SWAG ASKS
ALLOT PLANE BOU
NAIRA ELAIN EDDY
DEMOISELLE RAZE
DUDE VERSUS
AMEN DITY ADA
NODE SEED ITEMS
ENOWNS OPTICAL
WOOLFS TOLL OHIO
WALL FEE NONE
SPINALE FRAP
REAL ROAT TIRATO
ESNE APSE EARED
EYED SEES SHOES

after, avoid, blouse, cargo, cede, classic, contem, late, contrue, crowd, dear, delivery, dodge, early, entertainment, exist, fiddle, flock, gate, incline, keel, kill, meager, nowhere, number, painter, panel, peal, place, portage, posse, region, roar, kulk, taunt.

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