

# ISIS Militants from Iraq, Syria Forming the Group's Branch in Afghanistan

KABUL - Around 70 militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are busy in forming the core of the group's branch in Afghanistan, it has been reported. According to a UN report the terror group is making inroads in Afghanistan with the number of sympathizers and followers growing across the country. The report further added that the group is recruiting followers in at least 25 provinces of Afghanistan with 10 percent of the sympathizers belonging to the Taliban group. "The number of groups and individuals who are openly declaring either loyalty to or sympathy with ISIL continues to grow in a



number of provinces in Afghanistan," the report said. Quoting the Afghan government sources, the report said "sightings of the groups with some form of ISIL branding" ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

# Lawmaker Among 5 Hurt in Nangarhar Explosion

JALALABAD - At least five people, including Wolesi Jirga Member Eng. Abdul Ghafar, were wounded in an explosion in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, on Saturday, an official said. Police Spokesman Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraqiwal told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place at around 10:30am behind the Eidgah Masjid in the limits of 4th municipality district. The mine which was planted in a stream went off when Lawmaker Eng. Ghafar convoy was passing through the area. According to the spokesman Ghafar's driver, his



two guards and a passerby was among the wounded. He said the injuries of lawmakers were not serious, however, he had been shifted to the hospital for treatment. Bakhtyar, an eye witness, said: "I was passing through the area when heard a huge explosion and saw five wounded people, including a motorcyclist, lying on the ground." Eng. Ghafar is a former activist of Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) and led presidential campaign for Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in last year polls. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. *(Pajhwok)*

# Paktika Pine Nut Traders Complain of Huge Losses

SHARAN - Pine nut traders in southeastern Paktika province complain they have to suffer losses worth millions of afghanis every year due lack of access to suitable markets. Most of the businessmen sell their annual stock to Pakistani traders at throwaway prices. The Pakistanis export the same dry fruit with their own labels, they say. MalemHamdullah, one of the resentful traders, told Pajhwok Afghan News they suffered huge losses because of having little or

no access to foreign markets. The Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock and Commerce and Industries should extend them all-out cooperation to get access to regional and international markets. "Paktika has dense pine nut forests. After purchasing and processing the nuts, Pakistan exports the dried fruit to regional, Asian and European countries with its own label," he claimed. Hamdullah grumbled the government's continued unconcern left them with

no option but to sell their pine nuts to the Pakistanis at dirt-cheap prices and on deferred payments. Similarly, another trader Juma Khan also accused the central government of ignoring their plight over the years. The trade will see a boost if the authorities provide businessmen with the required facilities. "Argon, Gayan, Zherok, Nakai, ChaharBaran, SraRawza, Barmal and some other districts of Paktika have dense pine nut ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

# CAE Revival May be a Shot in the Arm for Helmand's Economy

LASHKARGAH - Officials of the ChahAnjir Enterprise (CAE) in southern Helmand province have asked the government to help reactivate the firm for speedy development in the construction projects of the country.

The CAE was established by the American company Morrison in the ChahAnjir locality of Nad Ali district a decade ago. But due to the conflict, most of its equipment and assets have vanished into the proverbial thin air.

Before running into crisis, the enterprise was capable of providing services for the construction of dams, canals, roads, streams, apartments and auto parts. CAE head Malem Shah Wali Khan, in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, urged the government to revive the vital project, on which several people would be able to get jobs. He believed: "CAE could have been transformed into a grand construction company. But some officials and powerful individuals plundered its resources and sold them in the form of scrap to neighboring countries including Iran and Pakistan."

According to Shah Wali, foreigners had established a base there six years back. As a result, he claimed, the remaining resources and tools of the enterprise were also squandered.

He recalled as many as 15,000 individuals used to work at the factory that executed different development projects in the provinces. Currently, 103 individuals are working for CAE. Of the 37,000 spare parts it had, 18,000 are left. But they were also rusted because of sheer neglect, the official lamented, making a strong pitch for the company's rehabilitation.

Technical officer Ghulam Mohammad said CAE was the only state-run organisation that provided hundreds of jobs for professionals from different parts of the country. He hoped the rehabilitation of the enterprise would go a long way in Afghanistan's economic self-reliance. He appealed to the government to take urgent steps toward making the enterprise functional. *(Pajhwok)*

# US Army Honours British Soldiers over Kabul Attack

KABUL - Nine British soldiers have received the U.S. Army Commendation Medal this afternoon, in recognition for their quick actions during a green-on-blue attack in Afghanistan. In June 2014, a briefing was taking place in a courtyard at the British-run Afghan National Army Officer Academy, just outside Kabul. Suddenly, a man wearing an Afghan National Army uniform opened fire from just a few metres away. In just twenty seconds, he'd fired thirty rounds into the small crowd. It was



a shocking, daylight attack during a routine site visit by US officers. Major General Harold Greene was killed in the attack, the highest ranking US officer to be killed in 13 years of war in Afghanistan. The assailant was also killed, with no conclusive explanation given for his actions. Fifteen other troops were injured, including Afghan officers, a British Captain and a German Brigadier General. The Close Protection Team that day included nine British soldiers from the Royal Military Police. As soon as the shooting started they ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

# Ghazni Farmers Demands More Cold Storages

GHAZNI CITY - Farmers and agriculture officials of southern Ghazni province said that the fruit production has been increased this year but there was not marketing for the produce. An orchard owner in the Khwaja Omari district, Ali Husain, told Pajhwok Afghan News that his apple production has been increased by many folds, but there are no cold storage facilities in the province for storing their production. "I have two orchards which have produced nearly 10.5 tonnes apple,

but no trader has so far come to purchase the produce," he said. There are plums, cherries, quince, apricots and apple orchards in the area, but there is no storage facility for the farmers, he said. Similarly, another orchard owner from Andar district, Ahmad Lodin, said the production of fruits have been increased, there is no market for them. "I have grapes orchards, but the traders don't come to the district due to the bad security," he said. Taliban, local militias and other

groups have been taking money from the traders, so the traders are not willing to come to the district, he said. Another orchard owner in the Deh Yak district, Dildar Khan, also complained from lack of market for the fruits, asking the government to urgently establish cold storages to facilitate for the farmers to store their produce there. The director of agriculture, irrigation and livestock department, Sultan Husain Abasyar, confirmed the high yield and ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

# 4 Militants Killed During Operations Countering ISIS Activities

JALALABAD - At least four militants were killed during the operations launched by the Afghan national security forces in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. According to the local government officials, the operations were conducted in Kot district of Nangarhar province where the local residents recently complained regarding the growing insurgency activities by ISIS loyalists. Provincial police spokes-

man Hazrat Hussain Mashraqiwal confirmed that four militants were killed and two others were injured during the operations. He said some areas in Kot district were also cleared of the militants and no casualties were incurred to the local residents or the security forces. The operations, Shaheen-09 was launched last Saturday in Kot district after the local residents complained regarding the insurgency activities by ISIS loyalists. The terror group has recently increased their insurgency activities in different parts of Nangarhar province where the loyalists of the group have reportedly executed hundreds of people including civilians. At least five affiliates of the terror group were killed in an airstrike carried out by foreign forces in Nazian district nearly two weeks ago. *(KP)*

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You receive a fleeting glimpse of clarity today, but confusion quickly sets in before you have a chance to see the entire picture. Every question you answer peels off another layer of the onion. Seeking positive solutions may feel like a hopeless battle now. However, your current determination empowers you to defeat any negativity that clouds your view.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Getting a grip on the energy of the day is not as easy as it sounds because circumstances keep shifting beneath your feet. Nevertheless, the greatest challenges may come from your friends and associates while the Moon is busy mixing and mingling in your 11th House of Networking. You're prepared to separate yourself from the group if others aren't acting sensibly now.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's rather unsettling when the facts aim you one way while your intuitive hunch sends you in a completely different direction. But instead of jumping to a totally erroneous conclusion today, take your time and analyze the possibilities until your feelings are more certain about the present circumstances. Wait until after tomorrow's eclipse to gain more clarity about your choices before swinging into action.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Although you're quite patient when there's a good reason, you grow so restless now that you don't want to wait another minute balancing your desires with other people's schedules. You have gathered the pertinent information and successfully developed your plan. However, you may be visualizing your ideal fantasies today more than you are zoning in on reality.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

The spoken word carries great intensity today and can even reopen an old wound. However, it's crucial to look beyond the present circumstances and carefully consider the original source of the pain. Think about any previous situations that are brought to mind by current events. Explore your resistance to letting go of the past.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Irrational relationship fears may haunt you today, but you might struggle to expressing your deeply rooted emotions. Try not to let your insecurities stop you from sharing your heart now, for negative feelings can be destructive if you let them bottle up inside. Make time to have the type of conversations you typically prefer to postpone. Review what you intend to say and then execute your plan without further ado.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Happiness may be as elusive as a butterfly now, but it's clear that your daily routine is in need of a dramatic change. On the surface, it seems like shaking up the current situation should be a simple task, but the closer you get to taking action, the more complicated it becomes. Don't give up just because you are feeling a bit confused today. Personal revolutions don't happen overnight; believe in yourself and you can't go wrong.

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You just can't stop obsessing over something that's been bothering you recently. You intuitively understand that the only way anything will improve is to talk about it until the energy settles. However, it's painful to wear your heart on your sleeve because the resultant vulnerability makes you incredibly uncomfortable today.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

It's as if your head and your heart aren't working in tandem today; they may even be reading from different adventure novels. You're feeling softer and more sentimental than you are acting as your confident behavior masks your true sensitivity. Thankfully, you can regain your center of gravity by looking within and exploring your motives for keeping your passions quiet.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

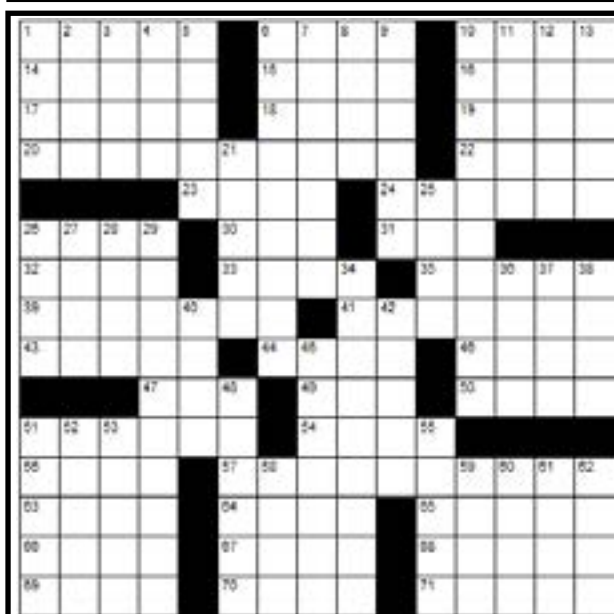
You are a pillar of strength today once you let go of your tendency toward self-criticism. You're eager to explore all the ways you can offer moral support to others. Your carefully picked words have a soothing effect and there are coworkers who can actually use your encouragement now. Push beyond any personal resistance to the idea of being a healer and start listening to those around you.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Even small doses of self-doubt are debilitating today, especially if they prevent you from participating in a significant discussion. Luckily, your thoughts are quite powerful and directly connected to your core essence now. Your common-sense perspective is desperately needed these days, no matter how many brilliant ideas you have to offer.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your dream life may be too spellbinding to resist now that the Moon is splashing around with Neptune in your watery sign. Go ahead and explore your visions today, but be wary about using them to escape from the difficult emotions attached to real world circumstances. Fortunately, the symbolism that bubbles up from your unconscious might be the catalyst that suddenly clarifies your current choices.



### Across

- 1. Express audibly, 6. Sleigh, 10. Stop, 14. Audacity, 15. Mentally irregular (slang), 16. A long way off, 17. Disney mermaid, 18. Nobleman, 19. Was a passenger, 20. Thankless, 22. A city in western Russia, 23. Oxen's harness, 24. Egg dish, 26. Part of a ratchet, 30. What we breathe, 31. Tavern, 32. Chocolate cookie, 33. Writing table, 35. Earthquake, 39. Urinary organs, 41. Gist, 43. Artist's workstand, 44. Not us, 46. Celebrity, 47. Flee, 49. Mime, 50. Hefty volume, 51. Paroxysms of chest pain, 54. Small island, 56. King of the jungle, 57. Illogical, 63. Skin disease, 64. Musty, 65. Menacing look, 66. T T T T, 67. Type of sword, 68. Holdup, 69. Makes, a mistake, 70. Catches, 71. Metalwares.

### Down

- 1. Two-toed sloth, 2. Small slender gull, 3. Trigonometry (abbrev.), 4. Always, 5. Pass-the-baton race, 6. Most lustrous, 7. Low leather step-in shoes, 8. Beige, 9. Small indefinite amount, 10. Large African antelope, 11. Be in trouble with, 12. Soup server, 13. Delicacy, 21. Sycophant, 25. Rump, 26. Jab, 27. Diva's solo, 28. Marries, 29. Solitariness, 34. Souvenirs, 36. Within, 37. Fraud, 38. No more than, 40. Distinctive flair, 42. Refine metal, 45. Snood, 48. An unmarried girl, 51. Winged, 52. More pleasant, 53. Lost cause, 55. One more than seven, 58. Sexual assault, 59. Margarine, 60. Found on a finger, 61. Backside, 62. Permits.

### Yesterday's Solution



alone, bleat, bound, chick, commitment, completion, crass, crazy, cream, dangerous, defend, diner, double, empty, favor, fettle, fines, foam guardian, handy, honey, hover, inside, near, odor, others, reason, replacement, rind, rods, spore, teach,

