

# Al-Qaeda Members among 25 Killed in Fresh Offensives

TIRINKOT - At least 25 militant, including some Al-Qaeda members, have been killed in airstrikes in Uruzgan, Farah and Zabul provinces, officials claimed on Sunday.

Dost Mohammad Nayab, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News a car Taliban were traveling in was struck by a drone in the Khanaqa area of Tirinkot, the capital of Uruzgan province, late on Saturday.

He said seven militants, including a commander, were killed and the car destroyed in the attack. Foreign forces conducted drone strikes in different parts of Tirinkot, he added.



On the other hand, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said 17 militants were killed in airstrikes and ground operations in Zabul and Farah provinces.

A statement from the MoD said 10 militants including five Al-Qaeda members and a Taliban commander were killed and five motorcycles of rebels destroyed in airstrikes in Chino and Baghi areas of Shah Joi district of Zabul.

It said eight militants were killed and nine others wounded in air raids and ground operation in the Balcharagh district of Farah province. (Pajhwok)

## Security Agencies Slammed for not Preventing Attacks



KABUL - Former head of the National Directorate of Security, Rahmatullah Nabil, and former head of the National Security Council, Rangin Dadfar Spanta, on Saturday criticized security agencies for their "security lapses and intelligence failures" in preventing deadly attacks on public and military facilities such as Friday's attack on the Afghan National Army 209 Shaheen Corps Headquarters in Balkh.

As many as 135 soldiers were killed in this attack. The officials said changes should immediately be made in the leadership structure of security agencies.

"Unnecessary casualties are rooted in poor management and it is not acceptable. The people who are involved in many coups in the past are appointed in the leadership ranks of security and defense agencies for two reasons: first because of ethnic issues and second because of ideology trends. Therefore, they are not loyal to the... (More on P4)... (18)

## Twitter Suspends Taliban Spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid's Account

KABUL - The twitter account of the Taliban group spokesman Zabiullah has been suspended as the group widely used the online news and social networking service to spread its propaganda. Mujahid's account was apparently closed earlier today and days after the group launched a coordinated attack on the 209th Shaheen Corps in northern Afghanistan.

The Afghan government declared a national day of mourning to pay tribute to dozens of Afghan soldiers killed in a deadly attack on the main army base. The national flag will be at half mast across the country and in the diplomatic missions of Afghanistan outside the country as President Ghani issued a decree to organize special prayers in the presidential palace and other mosques across the country for the martyrs of the attack for one day.

The Taliban militants group claimed responsibility behind the deadly attack which was carried out by a group of at least ten insurgents, including some suicide bombers.

The exact number of the casualties has not been officially announced by the government so far but latest reports indicate more than 100 soldiers lost their lives in the attack. (Tolonews)



## Samangan Student Collecting Zakat for Taliban Held

AIBAK - The student of a semi-higher education institute has been arrested on charges of collecting zakat for Taliban in northern Samangan province, an official said on Sunday.

Provincial police spokesman Munir Rahimi told Pajhwok News Najmuddin, a student of 3rd year, was held with 10,000 afghanis he had recently collected in zakat from local people. According to the police officer, the student is a resident of the Only village of Hazrat Sultan district. He has long been receiving money from shopkeepers and businessmen. Meanwhile, Hazrat Sultan district chief Sirajuddin Fitrat said in the past two months Taliban had received about 800 cattle heads in the



name of zakat in areas under their control. Fitrat claimed the only income source for the Taliban was the money collected in the name of zakat and alms from residents of the areas under their control. He added livestock owners gave one in 40 sheep to the insurgents. (Pajhwok)

## Ghazni Civil Hospital Urgently Needs New Building

GHAZNI CITY - Public health officials in southern Ghazni province on Sunday said despite the lapse of 12 years, the provincial civil hospital's building is yet to be constructed.

Public Health Director Dr. Zahir Shah Nekmal, in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, said a contract for the construction of the hospital had thrice been signed in the past 12 years, but practical work on the project was yet to be initiated.

"The first plan suggested the hospital to be built in Ali Lala Township will have 200 beds. Later, the number of beds was reduced to 50 but the contractors ran away," he said.

Finally, construction work on the building started in 2014 but the process was stopped for unknown reasons. The resumption of the construction process was still awaited, he said.

"I searched a lot and finally found the contractor. The owner of the company, in a telephone call, told me the government has not paid his money," added Nekmal, who was appointed as public health director two months ago. He had no information about the funds allocated for... (More on P4)... (18)



## Policeman Among 7 Dead in Farah Clash

FARAH CITY - One policeman and six Taliban have been killed in a clash in western Farah province, an official said on Sunday.

The clash erupted after militants stormed police check-post on the outskirts of Farah City, the provincial capital on Saturday night, said Iqbal Baher, provincial police spokesman.

Four more militants and one policeman wounded in the overnight clash, he added. Among the wounded is Mullah Naser, one of the Taliban commanders, said Baher.

Taliban have not commented about the clash. (Pajhwok)

## 8 Taliban Killed in Herat Infighting

HEART CITY - Eight Taliban have been killed during infighting in the Shindand district of western Herat province, an official said on Sunday.

Governor spokesman Jilani Farhad told Pajhwok Afghan News the clashes took place Friday and Saturday evenings in the Khifan locality. Seven rebels led by commander Mullah Samad and one rebel of Mullah Nangyali group were killed in the clashes.

There was no report of other losses to the Taliban but local officials' stressed scores of the Taliban had been wounded in the firefight. Taliban have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

## Mosque Imam Talks about Attack on Army's Mosque

KABUL - Mawlawi Ahmadullah, the Imam at 209 Shaheen Army Corps' mosque, had a lucky escape on Friday as he had had guests at home on the day of the deadly attack and had been unable to lead prayers.

Ahmadullah, who has been the mosque's Imam for ten years, told TOLONews re-

porter Sharif Amiry that on the day he had not been able to get to the mosque on base but while on his way to another mosque, he heard gunfire.

"I requested someone else to lead the Friday prayers in my place after I received the guests. But I was on my way to another mosque for prayers when we heard the

shooting. I received a call and I was told that a suicide attack had happened at the mosque," he said.

Ahmadullah said luck had been on his side that day but sadly he lost one of his brother's in the attack.

"I tried to call my brother and his colleagues, but their phones were off line at the time... (More on P4)... (16)

## Outlook Horoscope

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

You can't decide whether to give up on your search for happiness or to jump for joy because you believe satisfaction is within your grasp. Chances are your exuberance will lead you forward until you experience a setback that you take to heart. But a disappointment is not the end of the world and probably isn't even as troubling as it seems in the moment. Fill your day with activities that leave little time for worry or doubt.

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

You think you're doing everything right today, so you can't understand why you still feel like an outsider. Unfortunately, over-compensating doesn't seem to change the dynamics; being extra nice only makes others suspicious of your motives. Attempting to outsmart the cosmic energy won't help you fit in now and could zap your confidence in the process.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a long list of things to do today and you're eager to hit the ground running. You don't want to waste any time because you can imagine the wonderful sense of relief you will feel once your obligations are fulfilled and you are free to relax. However, your schedule might start to crumble when you realize that you bit off more than you can chew now. Letting go of your expectations early in the day saves you from falling short on a serious deadline.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your energy doesn't express directly today, making others unsure about where you stand. However, you want to be heard and could make multiple attempts at communicating your perspective. But the noise of the cosmos is blowing up a storm that threatens your emotional security and drowns out your voice. You aren't happy about being put on the spot.

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

Breaking an old pattern can be challenging for you proud Lions, especially if a current situation reminds you of a recent failure. But today's events are quite different than yesterday's crises. Nevertheless, residual feelings probably do more to hold you back from the potential of love than to protect your heart. It requires courage to reveal your human frailties.

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

A relationship may seem strained today because someone close to you is emotionally withdrawn. Unfortunately, the more you push for reconnection, the less likely you are to succeed. Appealing to their sense of loyalty only widens the gulf. Everyone needs a little space now and then. Turn the tables on your world by depersonalizing current events. If people are retreating from you, let them. "No resistance to the outcome" could be the mantra that flips the energy in your favor.

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

You long for a day off when you can drift in and out of the real world without your regular pile of cares. Much to your chagrin, you may feel the heat if someone accuses you of not holding up your end of an agreement. You know you must do the mature thing by jumping in and tackling your chores, even if you're fighting an internal battle against your commitments. However, it's your struggle that makes your work so difficult.

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

Too much planning takes the spontaneity out of your day. However, setting aside preexisting plans may be the catalyst for turning a boring day into one filled with excitement. But you can't just walk away from promises you made. Juggling your responsibilities with your desires is a never-ending task, but a little cosmic shuffling enables you to serve two masters now.

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

Much to the surprise of those who know you well, you actually might want to stay home and chill out today. Scheduling as little as possible gives you a greater ability to control your own time throughout the day. But you may grow concerned that you made a mistake when you realize your friends are playing and you're missing all of the fun. Thankfully, you can join the party later in the day after you take care of your own personal needs.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

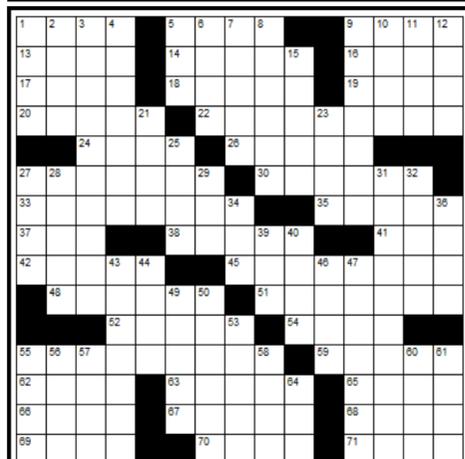
Although it may be a day of rest for some people, you are unwilling to throw away an opportunity to finish some chores. You can work in a non-linear fashion today, exhibiting great flexibility about which task you start first and jumping around from one to another before any are completed. It might appear as if your energy is scattered, but this is just an illusion. Follow your instincts and don't bother explaining your methods to others.

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

You're unable to contain your imagination today. In fact, your fantasies are so strong they could pull you off track. Although you might try to narrow your focus, your thoughts continue to drift into magical realms. Rather than resisting your current mental wanderlust, postpone your mundane tasks for another day. Pursue conversations that are out of the box; the more philosophically edgy, the better.

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

You are in your element today as you bounce around from one wild thought to another, without worrying about your impact in the real world. Your dreams have a life of their own -- and there's no reason to try to limit their expression. Take your crazy ideas out for a ride, just to see what it feels like. Although you might experience a mid-afternoon bout with self-doubt, it won't last.



**Across**

1. Short skirt, 5. Breezed through, 9. Vesicle, 13. Biblical garden, 14. Adulterated, 16. Body of water, 17. Pervert, 18. Seasoning, 19. Auspices, 20. Challenges, 22. Economics expert, 24. By mouth, 26. Climb, 27. Part mortal and part deity, 30. Ditch, 33. Cantata, 35. Different, 37. Grayish brown, 38. Twosomes, 41. Genus of macaws, 42. Come to pass, 45. An empty boaster, 48. Data input specialist 51. Murdering, 52. Boast, 54. Tropical tuber, 55. Thence, 59. Friends and acquaintances, 62. Emanation, 63. Court-yards, 65. Eccentric person, 66. Its symbol is Pb, 67. Impudent, 68. Sister and wife of Zeus, 69. Anagram of "Sees", 70. Thorny flower, 71. Gait faster than a walk.

**Down**

1. Blend, 2. Bright thought, 3. Conjuring up the dead, 4. Receive from a predecessor, 5. Commercial, 6. Make do, 7. Long stories, 8. Extract the essence, 9. Lennient, 10. A sharply directional antenna, 11. Slaloms, 12. Exam, 15. Macedonian monetary unit, 21. Palm starch, 23. Margarine, 25. A titled peer of the realm, 27. Extinct flightless bird, 28. Spew, 29. Do it yourself, 31. Driver of a chariot, 32. Long-necked bird, 34. Buffoon, 36. Telephoned, 39. East Indian tree, 40. Hissy fit, 43. Improvement, 44. Anger, 46. Antiaircraft gun, 47. Okay, 49. Couches, 50. Disagreeable woman, 53. Body, 55. Story, 56. Colors, 57. Historical periods, 58. A young lady, 60. Protagonist, 61. Three-handed card game, 64. Yes to a sailor.

**Yesterday's Solution**

GLASS MALT DIKE  
AUGHI UREA IDEA  
FLAIR STAR SENT  
FURNISHING FADE  
AIRS EDISON  
CESS GOT TAG  
EDIT NOVEL CUSPS  
ODDISH OVERLAP  
EMEND SNAKE LEAVE  
ELF BENE DYED  
ENAMEL SMUG  
LAMA UNEASTINESS  
BIBS TINT LOVIAT  
OREO EGCE LVIIIL  
WARN DEES SALLE

barge, born, brook, ceremony, checkpoint, classy, coast, course, creek, cross, daring, delta, grand, horse, insect, liter, match, mural, opponent, order, posh, puts, rail, range, rifle, riparian, rival, river, runabout, sash, shore, shout, sour, split, stray.

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