

Over 60 Rebels Dead in Country-Wide Offensives: MoD

KABUL - Sixty-three militants have been killed and 29 others wounded during security forces operation in the past 24 hours, The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Friday.

The operations had been conducted by ground forces in Nangarhar, Kapesa, Paktia, Paktika, Maidan Wardak, Khost, Logar, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Badghis, Faryab, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Kunduz and Helmand provinces, the MoD statement said.

Eighteen clearing operations, 23 raid and four night raids took place in 14 provinces of the country, the statement said. (Pajhwok)



'Taliban Fighters Killed' in Helmand Gun Battle

LASHAKARGAH - At least 40 Taliban fighters have been killed in a gun battle with Afghan security forces that lasted for 12 hours in the southern Helmand province, according to local media reports.

The clashes erupted after the fighters attacked a local market in the centre of Gereshk district on Friday morning, TOLOnews, an Afghan news outlet, reported. The clashes are the latest in a series of attacks to have hit Afghanistan this week.

On Thursday, at least five security officials were killed and several wounded in a Taliban-claimed car bomb attack near their checkpoint also in the Gereshk district.

One NATO soldier was killed and six other personnel - including five soldiers and an interpreter - were wounded in an attack in the Qarabagh district in Kabul province ... (More on P4)...(16)

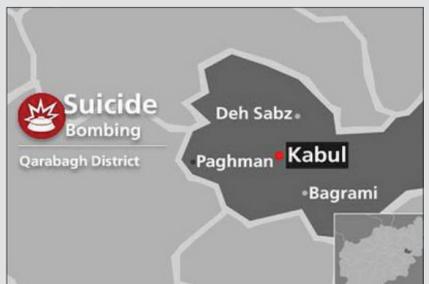
Taliban and Haqqani Network Suffer Heavy Casualties in Logar Air and Ground Operations

PUL ALAM - The Taliban and Haqqani network terrorists suffered heavy casualties during the air and ground operations jointly conducted by the Afghan and foreign forces in central Logar province. According to the local government officials, the operations were conducted in the vicinity of Pul-e-Alam district, the provincial capital of Logar province.

The provincial governor's spokesman Shahpoor Ahmadzai confirmed that several Taliban and Haqqani network militants were killed in the joint operations.

He said a leader of the Haqqani terrorist network who was in charge of the suicide attacks and training of the suicide bombers was also killed during the operations. ... (More on P4)...(17)

Two Civilians, one RS Soldier Killed in Qarabagh Blast



KABUL - Sources say the explosion took place close to Qarabagh Police Headquarters at around 8pm local time on Thursday.

At least two civilians and one Resolute Support (RS) soldier were killed when the foreign forces patrol was targeted by a suicide bombing in Qarabagh district in Kabul.

Sources say that seven civilians and five foreign troops were wounded in the attack. The explosion took ... (More on P4)...(18)

Taliban Storms Security Forces Posts near Kamal Khan Dam

ZARANJ - The Taliban have attacked security forces checkposts and installations of Kamal Khan Dam in the Chahar Burjak district of southwestern Nimroz province, a reliable security source said on Friday.

An official who wished not to be named told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban attacked installation of Kamal Khan Dam in Chahar Burjak district. The insurgent were came in seven vehicles and faced strong resistance from security forces.

According to the official, the assailants were furnished with night vision binocular attacked from the western side over the installations and outposts of Kamal Khan Dam.

A powerful storm simultaneously happened during the attack which made it hard for security forces to respond to the attack. Four militants were killed and five other injured during the overnight clash. The body of militants' group leader left in the ground.

Qari Mohammad Yousef Ahmad, the Taliban spokesman, confirmed the clash and said the Taliban attacked security forces check-posts not in the vicinity of Kamal Kham Dam but away from the facility.

He said the Taliban did not suffer casualties during the attack. Kamal Khan Dame situated 75 kilometers to the south of Zaranj, the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

Security Forces Retake Paktia's Janikhail District

KABUL - Security officials said the Afghan Army's Commando Unit also took part in the military operation to retake Janikhail.

The Afghan security and defense forces have retaken the control of Janikhail district in Paktia province in the country's east, military official confirmed on Friday.

The Afghan Army's Commando Unit also took part in the military operation which kicked off early on Friday morning, the Thunder Corps Commander Major Gen. Abdul Wase Milad told TOLOnews.

According to military



sources, Taliban has suffered heavy losses in the operation. Taliban captured Janikhail district late last month.

The Janikhail district is located 150 kilometers to the west of the provincial capital Gardez City. It shares a border with Kurram Agency and Parachinar regions across the Durand Line - the disputed border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. (Tolonews)

Pakistan to Take Steps to Counter Threat from Daesh in Afghanistan



ISLAMABAD - Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nafees Zakaria at his weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday said these measures include effective border control and management. He pointed out that there are ungoverned territories in Afghanistan and Daesh and other

terrorist outfits are gaining grounds there.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of precious human lives due to recent terrorist attacks in brotherly neighbour Afghanistan. We condemn these terrorist attacks, sympathize with the victims' families and pray for early recovery of those who sustained injuries," he said.

The spokesman rejected remarks of Indian External Affairs Minister against Pakistan and said our sacrifices and losses in the war against terror are unmatched. To a ... (More on P4)...(19)

Afghan Family Faces Hardships but Supports Girls' Education

KABUL - Family of Beheshta, who got the highest score among girls in university entrance exam, urges others to support girls' education.

Despite facing numerous hardships, an Afghan family has supported their female members to pursue their education and one of them has received the highest score among girls in the university entrance exam announced last week.

Parents of Beheshta, the top scorer among girls in university entrance exam, said they have ignored unwanted believes with the hope to make a better future for the ... (More on P4)...(20)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries There is a complex mixture of powerful and subtle cosmic forces at play. However clear your intentions may be, it's all too easy to misread the signs and head off in the wrong direction. But making a mistake is not inevitable if you remember that your perceptions are unreliable today.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You take pride in your ability to cut through the excess noise in life and determine where you stand, so you can figure out what to do next. Unfortunately, your current position may not be as certain as you wish while fuzzy Neptune is busy confusing reality. Rather than performing mundane chores or developing concrete plans.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Although you might be inclined to follow a whim and do something just for fun, you still want to be productive today. For example, flying a kite could be a lovely diversion, but you prefer to participate in an organized competition so your playtime can be justified. Nevertheless, you'll feel better in the long run if you compartmentalize your ambition and channel it into your job-related responsibilities next week.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer It's never any fun to feel as if you're being pushed into a corner, but today you're unwilling to let things go that far. You can't help but see right through someone's charm if they are operating with self-serving motives. Fortunately, you can nip the bud of control before it even flowers. A proactive strategy is better than waiting until a crisis develops.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You are standing at a fork in the road and don't know how to proceed. You can feel the gravity tugging in two different directions today as your responsible side pulls one way and your playful side pulls the other. Unfortunately, you won't be satisfied with either path because you don't want to eliminate anything from your day.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept 22)



Virgo You can't tell whether people seem more confused than usual now or if it's just your foggy imagination. Your first inclination is to help others find their way since you believe your perspective is accurate. However, once an honest conversation begins, everyone seems to make more sense somehow; today's lesson is that reality is more complex than you think. All the facts in the world won't tell the whole story.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Finalizing your schedule for the weekend is daunting because there are so many variables in the mix. Although decision-making can be a sore spot for you ambivalent Libras, making up your mind is not the problem now. The fact is you could easily let your preferences be known if you felt like it.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio You are motivated to achieve something special today, and you're not afraid to share your goals with others when there is a reason. But recent events continue to raise flags, urging you to reassess your priorities. Instead of stubbornly resisting change, open your mind to all the possibilities that you previously set aside.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius Your long-term goals are in the midst of a transformation and you're unsure yet what it all means. Although you've had to defend your choices in the past, you're not as likely to fight for your self-determination now -- if only because your new direction is still ambiguous. Your perspective on the future is changing and it's healthy to let the process continue without forcing a conclusion.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You are a conundrum to others today because you appear to be grounded, yet upon closer examination you're not. You might try to keep your feet firmly planted on stable ground, but your thoughts are emotionally charged now and can pull you off center. Fortunately, you are on the precipice of manifesting an unfulfilled dream and surrendering to your imagination is key to your success.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius You are trying to be more transparent now because you want others to know what's most important to you. However, they might be distracted by your sudden shift of energy; today you're advertising the secrets you were hiding yesterday. Nevertheless, time is on your side. Most people will come around as they become aware of your good intentions.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You're grateful to find time for a bit of unabashed self-indulgence as you close your eyes and dream. But entertaining your fantasies can also be facilitated by a lazy Netflix binge or a sunny day at the beach. However you choose to escape the humdrum world today, leave your guilt behind. You're not evading your responsibilities, only postponing them.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 68 indicating starting positions for the clues.

Across
1. Grown, 6. Laughs (slang), 10. F F F F, 14. Anaglyph, 15. Largest continent, 16. Cry of pain, 17. A long artificial mound, 19. Decorative case, 20. Freeload, 21. Charge, 22. Awakened, 23. Muzzle, 25. Cabled, 26. Disgorge, 30. Traveling by air, 32. Sincere, 35. Anagram of "Reenact", 39. Quibble, 40. Heretofore, 41. Feared, 43. Impressive, 44. Agreeable, 46. Back talk, 47. Absolute, 50. Extreme 53. Steering mechanism for a vessel, 54. Biblical boat, 55. Showy, 60. Overhang 61. Showy bloom, 63. Not odd, 64. Cabbagelike vegetable, 65. Modify, 66. Flip-pant, 67. Faux pas, 68. Affirmatives, ,

Down
1. Cards with 1 symbol, 2. Humid, 3. Part of an ear, 4. Low-fat, 5. Forceps, 6. Sweet potato, 7. Beneficial, 8. Characterized by motion, 9. Satisfy, 10. Spectator, 11. Stench, 12. Good fortune, 13. Caught a glimpse of, 18. Cognizance, 24. Frequently, in poetry, 25. What place?, 26. Transmit, 27. Twosome, 28. Desire, 29. Betrothal, 31. Got bigger, 33. Church officer, 34. Observed, 36. Dwarf buffalo, 37. Male turkeys, 38. Female sheep (plural), 42. Periodic, 43. Altitude (abbrev.), 45. Acid neutralizer, 47. They make wool, 48. Throw with effort, 49. Young eel, 51. 16 1/2 feet, 52. Apparel, 54. Questions, 56. What a person is called, 57. Anagram of "Sage", 58. Anagram of "Note", 59. Terminates, 62. Liveliness

Yesterday's Solution
JESIT POLES EGGS
ONFIO LITIANA RUDE
EVENHANCED TALE
YOW ESKER OARED
SYSTEMS VAPID
TODR DANE TIST
TURNS EUTON ALE
ONES WIDEN ANOA
NAB KINGS FISTS
GUERNSSEV CAD
COPS ARREARS
AGLOW SALES GOY
GAIIT VILLAINOUS
ALLOE INGOT OREO
REND AGATE WASP

action, along, awful, bleed, blot, brawl, build, coil, couple, decrepit, deliver, emotion, entice, epee, flour, follow, font, forget-great, guard, honest, inflict, lard, lurid peanut, people, perfect

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