



Govt Criticized for Insecurity in Badakhshan's District

FAIZABAD - Residents of the northeastern Badakhshan province on Sunday criticized government and the security forces for the fall of Arghanj Khwa district to the Taliban.

The district reportedly fell to the Taliban on Saturday morning but the Ministry of Interior Affairs' spokesman Nusrat Rahimi said it as planned retreatment to prevent casualties.

"The area was vulnerable and the security forces had temporarily pulled out from there to prevent more casualties," said Rahimi.

Arghanj Khwa is located in the vicinity of Faizabad city, the provincial capital, and is a connecting point between the center of the province and 10 other districts.

"The district has fallen to the Taliban due to the 'negligence' of the central and provincial government," said a resident of Badakhshan.

"Government should respond to the people. People are ready to ensure their security if government cannot shoulder this responsibility. How much more should we be subjected to killings?" a Badakhshan resident asked.

Local officials confirmed that Taliban militants have taken the control of the district and have killed at least 10 security force members. Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former Deputy Minister of Interior, said the district has a strategic location as it connects Faizabad, the capital city of Badakhshan, with other parts of the province.

"The district is evacuated. Security forces are fighting in surrounding areas. Around 15 people have been killed," Yarmand said.

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Qatar Reacts to Taliban Militants Attack on Afghan Vice President's Convoy in Balkh



KABUL - The government of Qatar has reacted to Taliban militants attack on convoy of First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum in northern Balkh province.

"The State of Qatar expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the assassination attempt against First Vice-President of Afghanistan Abdul Rashid Dostum, in which four of his bodyguards were killed and six others were injured," the Foreign Ministry of Qatar said

in a statement.

The statement further added that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the State of Qatar's firm stance on rejecting violence and terrorism regardless of the motives and causes. "It considered the attempt an unacceptable criminal act, stressed the importance of arresting those involved in it and bringing them to justice."

The 209th Shaheen Corps had earlier issued a statement, stating that the Taliban militants had laid an ambush

against the convoy of Gen. Dostum at around 5:00pm local time on Saturday in Alam Khel, Margin Tapa, Sharsharak, Khanabad, Slaiman Khel, Joi Uzbek, Timorak, and Choba villages of Chahar Bolak district.

The statement further added that the Afghan Special Forces who were conducting operations in the area were deployed to support the security guards of Gen. Dostum.

According to 209th Shaheen Corps, at least 4 Taliban ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

PC Members Concerned Over Deteriorating Security Situation in Kunduz



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...(More on P4)...(15)

25 Taliban Militants Killed in Special Forces Operations, Airstrikes



KABUL - At least 25 Taliban militants were killed during the operations of the Afghan Special Forces and airstrikes which were conducted in Paktika, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Kandahar provinces.

Informed military sources said Saturday that an airstrike in Bermal district of Paktika province killed 2 Taliban fighters while 8 Taliban fighters were killed in Afghan Special

Forces operation in Nahr-e-Saraj district of Helmand in past 24 hours.

The sources further added that an airstrike in Musa Qal'ah district of Helmand killed 1 Taliban fighter and wounded another.

Afghan security forces killed 3 Taliban fighters in Tarin Kot district of Uruzgan during the same period, the sources said, adding that airstrikes ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Moneychanger Shot Dead in Nanangarhar



JALALABAD - A moneychanger was shot dead by unidentified gunman in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province on Sunday morning, an official said.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident took place in front of a market in limits of 2nd police district of Jalalabad City at

6:40am. He said the moneychanger murdered by a customer after a verbal dispute over money and the killer managed to escape.

But eyewitness said the killer had come in a rickshaw and shot dead the moneychanger. A shopkeeper, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the attacker had tried to loot the money but failed. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Tackle things that require high energy today, Aries. This is your day to make short work of chores, errands, or any sort of physical activity. Patience is the thing that you will lack, if anything, but don't worry, because your strengths lie elsewhere now. Your heart is apt to sing once you get going on a personal project about which you feel passionate.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Even though you feel most comfortable when things are organized and meticulous, Taurus, you're going to need to be flexible. Allow room for surprise and adventure. Bask in the adventurous spirit that must be adopted when you walk out the door with no idea where you will end up.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Finding balance in your world will be no sweat once you get into the groove, Gemini. Waking up is likely to be the most difficult part of the day, but once you conquer that incredible feat, you should be fine. Try taking a cold shower instead of a warm one this morning. This will serve to open up your mind and get your blood pumping when you need it most.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You may feel like the smallest issue is suddenly a life or death situation, Cancer. Depending on your mood, you may think you're on the brink of complete disaster, but the next minute be soaring high in the clouds. The drama that surrounds you is more a product of your reaction to your environment rather than the environment itself.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Things may come to you more easily than usual today, Leo. This is a sign that you're on the right path and doing things correctly. Life shouldn't have to be full of stress and heartache. If something isn't flowing smoothly, you should consider taking a new approach toward it. Keep a smile on your face and be respectful of the people around you.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Check your messages often, Virgo. Someone is trying to contact you and you may keep missing each other by minutes. It's important to connect with this person to take care of some matters. If your objectives are clear, things should work out fine. Two people working toward the same goal make the power of the joint effort extremely potent. Don't underestimate this incredible influence.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You will get much farther than you think today, even with minimal effort, Libra. There are plenty of avenues to take now, so even if one is jammed, there's always another that you can reach easily. Soon you will arrive at your destination with time to spare. The trick is to keep moving. Don't get stuck in one place with your engine running.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Don't get too caught up in the emotional side of life today, Scorpio. Keep things light and keep them moving. A rolling stone gathers no moss. Unfortunately, you may have quite a bit of that green stuff growing on you now. Get up and get moving. One little bit of effort will send you off and running. Don't hesitate. You're ready to take the plunge.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Try not to be overwhelmed by the frenzied activity around you, Sagittarius. Unexpected variables are popping up everywhere, and your first reaction may be to flip out. This is the opposite reaction that you need to have now. Calm yourself down and take small bites. Don't try to eat the whole eight-course meal in one five-minute sitting.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



It's time to bring more fire into your life, Capricorn. Consider calling up an old flame or friend from the past who stirs the passion within you. Inspire your inner yearning for excitement and adventure. Eat spicy foods and adorn yourself in bright colors. Even the smallest actions will help bring more of this dynamic, activating energy to your life.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

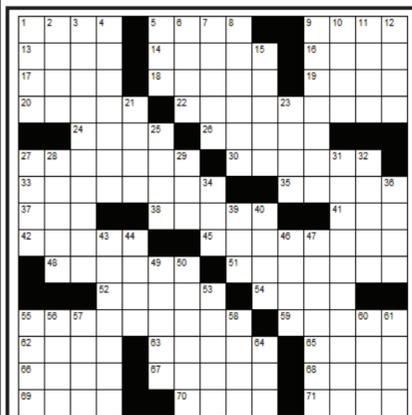


This is one of those days in which you may ask for five minutes to complete a certain task and an hour later finally finish whatever you set out to do. Keep in mind that this isn't necessarily a bad thing. Things are taking you longer than expected not because you're inefficient but because you're more passionate than usual about what you're doing.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Don't be afraid of the fire today, Pisces. Instead, embrace it and incorporate more of it into your life. Certain people may intimidate you at first, but that doesn't mean you should run away from the scene. More than likely this feeling of intimidation is a signal that there's something you need to learn from that person or situation. Stick around and pay attention.



Across

- Arithmetic, 5. Misplaced, 9. Wet, as morning grass, 13. Curved molding, 14. Ancient Hebrew vestment, 16. Type of sword, 17. A device that moves fluids, 18. Cathedral, 19. Opinion, 20. Flower part, 22. Lordosis sufferers, 24. French for "State", 26. Pilfer, 27. Matrimonial, 30. Surge, 33. Scorpion, 35. Type of vacuum flask, 37. Bamboozle, 38. Like a girl, 41. Historic period, 42. Master of ceremonies, 45. Least old, 48. Ventilate, 51. Garland, 52. Ellipses, 54. Story, 55. Wrens and swallows, 59. Slight color, 62. 62 in Roman numerals, 63. Any compound of oxygen, 65. Loyal (archaic), 66. Countertenor, 67. High, low and neap, 68. Twin sister of Ares, 69. Adolescent, 70. Lease, 71. Feudal worker,

Down

- Swabs, 2. Chills and fever, 3. Sobriety, 4. Pertaining to the liver, 5. Directed, 6. Creative work, 7. Exhibits, 8. Chief ingredient in ketchup, 9. Depreciate, 10. Sweeping story, 11. Seven days, 12. Evergreens, 15. Elder, 21. Strip of wood, 23. A lyric poet, 25. A tart spicy quality, 27. A ceremonial staff, 28. Fragrance, 29, 52 in Roman numerals, 31. Enticements, 32. Abrasive, 34. Not wet, 36. Be worthy of, 39. Not high, 40. Mongol hut, 43. Ablation, 44. Overhang, 46. Tidy, 47. An area of northern Israel, 49. Fortuneteller's card, 50. Magical drink, 53. Malicious, 55. ___ du jour = Meal of the day, 56. Spindle, 57. Location, 58. Biblical garden, 60. Acquire, 61. If not, 64. Eastern Standard Time,

Yesterday's Solution

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