

Most Senior Taliban Leader Killed After Attacking Hesarak in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - One of the most senior leaders of the Taliban group has been killed shortly after the group launched a coordinated attack in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

According to the local officials, the top Taliban leader, Naeem Khalid, was killed during the fierce clashes in Hesarak district.

Provincial governor's spokesman Ataulah Khogyani said Khalid was leading the coordinated attack on Hesarak district and was killed in an attack by the Afghan forces.

Khogyani further added that the Taliban



militants suffered heavy casualties during the clashes in Hesarak but did not provide the exact figures, only stating around 100 militants were killed or injured.

The provincial government also added that the Taliban militants have been pushed away from Hesarak district and the situation in the district is currently under the control.

The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far.

The Taliban militants group in the meantime claim Saturday that they have taken control of Hesarak... (More on P4)... (12)

3 Afghan Clerics Gunned Down in Peshawar

KABUL - Three Afghan religious scholars have been killed by unidentified gunmen in Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, an official said on Sunday.

The triple murder took place after Friday's prayers in Gange area of the metropolis, an Afghan refugee, Azizullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Unidentified gunmen opened fire at a seminary in the area, killing the madrasa head, Maulvi Ghulam Hazrat, his father and another scholar Sheikh Ilyas.

Azizullah said the religious scholars were residents of Pachiragam district of eastern Nangarhar province who had been living in Peshawar for the last three decades.

A man, who wished to go unnamed, said the slain scholars belonged to Pir Saifur Rahman religious group in Bara area of Peshawar where the group has been engaged in a bloody rivalry with another group over the past several... (More on P4)... (13)

Qarabagh People Complain of Insecurity, Death Threats

KABUL - The residents of Qarabagh district of central Kabul province have expressed their concern about the movement of masked gunmen, telephonic threats and night letters threatening government officials to leave their jobs.

Government officials in the district confirmed insecurity and threats but rejected the movement of dressed in black masked armed men.

However, Faridullah, a resident of Dasht-i-Langar village, told Pajhwok Afghan News a number of masked gunmen dressed in black clothes used to appear during nights in a number of areas over the past three months.



"Such people are seen in Pangolak, Dasht-I-Langar, Soi Koh, Arzoghlan, Bagh-i-Zaghan, Sabz Sang and Qala Bibi areas of the district, but they do not interact with local residents," he said.

He said he had personally come across the masked gunmen thrice. "Few days ago, I was transferring wheat from the district bazaar to my village when nine... (More on P4)... (14)

2 Civilians Killed, 3 Injured in Nangarhar Blasts

JALALABAD - Two civilians were killed and three others, including a woman and two children, were wounded in two separate blasts in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Sunday.

The governor's spokesman, Ataulah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News the civilian casualties occurred in Lalpora and Pachiragam districts.

He added unidentified people had planted explosives in front of a home in central part of Lalpora district. The blast wounded a woman and two children. Separately, Khogyani said two civilians were killed when an unexploded ordinance went off in Pachiragam district. (Pajhwok)

Taliban's Judge Detained, 12 Militants Eliminated

KABUL - Afghan National Police (ANP) have arrested a Taliban judge during an operation in the Shinwari district of central Parwan province, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Sunday.

A dozen militants were killed and 27 others wounded in a counter-attack in northern Sar-i-Pul province, a statement from MoI said. The judge was identified as Mohammad Nadir.

In the meantime, police repelled Taliban's attack on security posts in the Sar-



charak district of Sar-i-Pul province. Twelve militants were killed and 27 others wounded. Four ANP personnel also sustained injuries. (Pajhwok)

25 Killed, 32 Wounded in Sar-I-Pul Clashes

SAR-I-PUL - At least 41 Taliban militants and 16 security forces suffered casualties in clashes during the past 24 hours in Sancharak district of northern Sar-i-Pul province, the governor said on Sunday.

Mohammad Zahir Wahdat told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban militants stormed from four sides Masjad Sabz, Topkhan and Gozar localities of the district.

In the ensuing clashes, 16 rebels were killed, including two notorious commanders Mullah Jaber and



Qari Omar and another 25 were wounded, the governor said. He also confirmed the killing of nine security personnel and injuries to another seven during the clash.

Meanwhile, Sayeed Asadullah Danish, deputy head of the provincial council, said they were deputy concerned about the insecurity in the province... (More on P4)... (15)

Logar Clash Leaves 14 Attacking Taliban Dead

PUL-I-ALAM - Fourteen Taliban militants have been killed during a clash with security forces in Barak-i-Barak district of central Logar province, an official said on Sunday.

The district chief, Mohammad Rahim Amin, told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban militants launched coordinated attacks on security posts near the district centre and Tapi Khan, Chaltan and Ahmdak areas last night.

He said the rebels wanted to overrun the district centre, but they pushed back by security forces, killing 14 attackers and injuring five others. The security forces escaped unhurt, the official said.

The governor's spokesman, Salim Saleh confirmed the clash and the casualties.

The Taliban have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

Hundreds of Khanabad Villagers Displaced As War Continues

KUNDUZ CITY - Hundreds of families in Kunduz province, especially in Khanabad district, have fled to safer areas in a bid to escape ongoing battles in their area.

Most of the families have fled to Khastapa in neighboring Takhar province.

The residents said that after the Taliban took control of Khanabad district the insurgents created strongholds in their houses to fight security forces.

"When Khanabad district collapsed to the hands of the Taliban we had to escape from their tyranny and flee the area



so we came to Takhar province," said a displaced resident, Rahimullah.

"We are in a bad situation and my child got sick and we are now living in the open air under the hot sun," said another displaced resident Farzana.

"On Saturday morning the Taliban captured the whole district and made our houses their... (More on P4)... (16)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your plans begin to take shape as your impulsive reactions gain momentum throughout the day. Stabilizing Saturn enters the picture today, enabling you to construct a solid foundation on which to build your future. Although you are feeling your oats now that the Moon has returned to your incorrigible sign, her meeting with shadowy Pluto can hijack your efforts and significantly alter your priorities.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You don't like to be pushed into anything against your will, even if it's for your own good. Although you possess the good sense not to resist earlier in the day, you might grow resentful later when you wish you were doing anything else. But rather than obsessing about your current uncertainty, shift your attention to someone or something you can count on.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're excited about the prospects of doing something special with a close friend or relative today. However, there's no need to use your current plans to escape from previous promises. In fact, fulfilling your obligations early in the day frees you up to travel the outer edges of your mental explorations later on. But don't try to convince anyone that your philosophy is the only one that matters.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're ready to spread your wings and fly today, yet run into complex dynamics that force you to change your plans. You could encounter delays that turn out to be the result of someone covertly working against your efforts. However, you can't face an unseen enemy; it's like shadow boxing with an invisible opponent. Instead of looking outside yourself for answers, explore your own resistance to success.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You're eager to go the extra mile today because you see the potential for beauty everywhere you look. Fortunately, you can rely on your solid thinking as long as you don't let the current spontaneity of the Aries Moon run off with your day. But Luna harmonizes with feisty Mars and authoritarian Saturn in your 5th House of Self-Expression, urging you to bust out of your self-imposed restraints.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're in an odd state of mind now because you want to mingle with interesting people yet have no patience for any opinions that conflict with your own. You could end up planning to attend a social event, only to back out at the last moment when you realize the same old people will be in attendance. You currently crave the excitement that goes along with rubbing elbows with new and different people.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You don't usually mind redirecting the love and admiration away from yourself and onto your friend or partner. However, you grow annoyed now when someone else consistently tries to commandeer the center of attention. The spontaneous Aries Moon shines in your 7th House of Others, drawing the crowd's attention elsewhere and you don't like feeling as if you're invisible.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your mental bandwidth is narrowly focused on all the things you must finish today. Separately, each item sounds manageable, but all together they seem so daunting that you might not know where to begin. A little forethought is a good idea, but too much thinking now sets major delays in motion and places you even further behind the eight ball.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're flying off into the wild blue yonder today, but you only have a small amount of gas in your tank. The planetary emphasis on fire signs ensures you won't be lacking for wonderful activities to capture your imagination. However, building pressure from the mid-week Mars-Saturn conjunction is already slowing your progress and forcing you to be hyperaware of every move you make.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

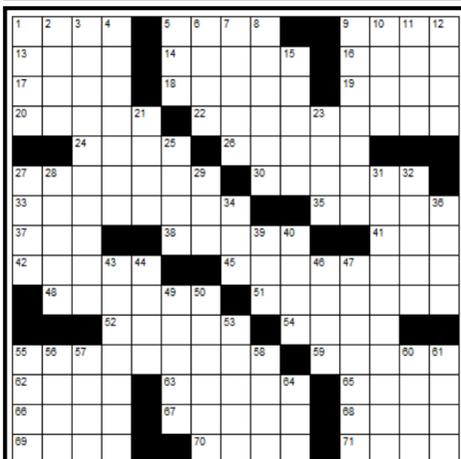
Ingenuous ideas are buzzing around inside your head now, but you may be insecure about sharing them with anyone else. The pioneering Aries Moon is traveling through your 4th House of Foundations, empowering you to explore creative options at home. Although this might sound contradictory, there is so much you can do without venturing far into the world.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Everything seems to be fine today until you open your mouth. The bossy Aries Moon in your 3rd House of Communication squares unrelenting Pluto, bringing hidden issues out into the blinding light of day. You might be surprised when you run into negativity from someone you thought was a friend. Nevertheless, it's impossible to overcome a problem unless you identify it.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You might try to power your way through a tricky situation today, but somehow keep stalling at the same point in your process. It doesn't even seem to help when others cheer you on from the sidelines. In fact, the support you receive encourages you to keep pushing in the same ineffective manner, setting you up for a fall. Fortunately, there's a lesser known way to reach your goals; working smarter, not harder all but guarantees your success.



Across

1. Parts of aprons, 5. Dress, 9. Border, 13. By mouth, 14. Cognizant, 16. Cajole, 17. Cut into cubes, 18. Plateaux, 19. Large, 20. Banana oil, e.g., 22. Quick-tempered persons, 24. Sweeping story, 26. Hair net, 27. Cautiously attentive, 30. Small piano, 33. Spill over, 35. Pertaining to the oceans, 37. Ambition, 38. Thick woolen fabric, 41. Beer, 42. Corrupt, 45. Station, 48. Queasiness, 51. Queen of the jungle?, 52. Cattle farm, 54. Photos, 55. Emasculated, 59. Ill-gotten gains, 62. Two-toed sloth, 63. Cokes or Pepsis, 65. Tiny sphere, 66. Blend, 67. A mutual promise to marry, 68. "Do ___ others..."

Down

1. Portend, 2. Colored part of an eye, 3. Germs in the blood, 4. Roomette, 5. A leg (slang), 6. Amazes, 7. Woodworking tools, 8. Intelligence, 9. Spiny ant eater, 10. Gloomy, 11. A measuring instrument, 12. X X X X, 15. Prevent legally, 21. Jazz phrase, 23. Thrust with a knife, 25. Religious splinter group, 27. Jacket, 28. Bird-like, 29. Not high, 31. Tending to vanish like vapor, 32. Anklebone, 34. Damp, 36. Not more, 39. Snake-like fish, 40. Trickle, 43. Take care of, 44. Russian emperor, 46. Drudgery, 47. A male demon, 49. Make into law, 50. They play roles, 53. Serf, 55. Astrological transition point, 56. Against, 57. Travel on water, 58. Information, 60. Be worthy of, 61. Biblical kingdom, 64. Timid.

Yesterday's Solution

CABIN AWOL AIDS
CANOE FEAR FLEA
ANODE PLAN TINT
ESCADRILLE EASY
SIDE LARDER
ILLS LAY YEW
DIET REVIEWS RADIO
EPIPHANY MORNING
METRO TRIG DATE
TON ODE SLOE
DAGGABA AGED
REAR UNDESERVED
ORZO SUMO TAIIGA
LIEU ELAN ECTAD
LESS ALPS REEDS

along, arrest, billboard, clump, cringe, dance, erase, exist, flake, flee, freak, frustrate, gantry, gasoline, golfer, hoot, hotel, humble, idiot, label, load, maim, miracle, murder, neap, nougat, other, outlaw, package, root, savor, tumble, twice, voice.

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