



Commanders Among 11 Taliban Killed in Farah Airstrike

FARAH CITY - A foreign forces' airstrike killed eleven Taliban militants, including three commanders, on the outskirts of Farah City, the capital of western Farah province, an official said on Friday. Farah police spokesman Mohibullah Mohib told Pajhwok Afghan News the airstrikes targeted two vehicles carrying Taliban militants in Takhti-Tewsak and Kora Gaza areas of Farah City on Thursday evening. He said three commanders were among eleven Taliban killed in the strikes. He identified the slain commanders as Mullah Abdul Zahir Hotak, Abdul Salam Hanzala and Mullah Abdul Shakoob. The airstrikes took place away from residential homes in a desert, confirmed local residents, who were not aware about any casualties. The Taliban, who recently killed 22 police including two officers four days ago in the province, have so far said nothing about the airstrikes. (Pajhwok)

Salang Pass Closed Against Heavy Traffic Following Snow

CHARIKAR - The strategic Salang pass north of Kabul has been closed against heavy traffic following continued snowing, an official said on Friday. Heavy snow and storm lashed the Salang pass in central Parwan province for two days, prompting authorities to close the highway on Wednesday for heavy traffic to avoid mishaps, the Salang district chief, Sabir Ahmadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said so far 60 centimeters of snow had been measured in southern Salang, urging drivers to equip themselves with winter gear while plying the route. The Salang highway connects central capital Kabul with nine northern provinces. (Pajhwok)

NATO Commander Visits Kunduz Province

KUNUZ CITY - NATO and US Forces Commander in Afghanistan Gen. Scott Miller on Thursday visited northern Kunduz province and held meetings with civil and military officials, a statement from the Governor Office said. The NATO Commander arrived in Pamir Military Division and held meetings with Governor, head of National Directorate of Security (NDS), Police Chief, Pamir Military Division Commander and other security officials. Governor Abdul Jabbar Naemi discussed security situation, development projects, good governance and other important issues during the meeting with the Gen. Miller. He asked the NATO commander to pay more attention to Kunduz province in the areas he mentioned in order to see multi-dimensional positive change in the province. It is pertinent to mention that NATO



commander has recently launched visits to some province. Recently he visited Ghazni province. (Pajhwok)

Fate of 23 Passengers Kidnapped in Balkh Still Unknown

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - The fate of 23 passengers remains unknown two days after they were kidnapped in northern Balkh province, officials said on Thursday. Balkh police chief Maj. Gen. Mohammad Akram Sami told Pajhwok Afghan News that a military operation was being launched to find and rescue the kidnapped passengers. Two days ago, gunmen kidnapped at least 23 passengers traveling in two vehicles from Sari Pul province to Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province. The individuals, residents of Sari-Pul province, were intercepted in Kishindi district of Balkh. Sami said the fate of the abductees remained unknown but de-



TECTIVE reports showed they had been taken to Chaharsai area of Balkh's Shulgara district. In neighbouring Sar-i-Pul province, ... (More on P4)... (16)

Herat Intelligence Chief Killed in Taliban Ambush

Ambush HEART CITY - The intelligence chief for western Herat province has been killed in a Taliban ambush in the Shindand district after 35 Taliban militants were killed in infighting there, an official said on Friday. Taliban gunmen loyal to rival commanders clashed in Joy Qazi, Deh Mirza Qasim, Deh Aman and Abdal Abad areas of the Shindand district on Thursday afternoon, leaving 35 fighters dead on both sides, the governor's spokesman said. Jilani Farhad told Pajhwok Afghan News the clashes

broke out between Mullah Samad, who is loyal to Taliban supreme leader Mullah Haibatullah ... (More on P4)... (17)



Taliban Closing in on Dara-I-Sauf Payeen District

AIBAK - Local officials and public representatives in northern Samangan province on Thursday warned the Dara-i-Sauf Payeen district would fall into the hands of Taliban insurgents if the government did not pay urgent heed. Provincial Council chief Haji Raz Mohammad Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban militants attacked the district center from three directions late Wednesday night, but security forces pushed them back. Four militants were killed and four others were wounded in the clash

that erupted after 9pm and lasted five hours, he said. The public representative said four policemen were also slightly wounded in the gun-battle and a checkpoint in Kushk-Dara area was overrun by the rebels. Abdul Yaqeen Ahmadi, the Dara-i-Sauf Payeen district's administrative chief, confirmed the militant attack on the center of what he called a strategic district. He warned if the government did not pay attention to the security of the district, it would fall and the government would lose three billion afghanis annual revenue from the coalmine located in the district. (Pajhwok)



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Do you feel a little under the weather, Aries? It's possible, considering all the emotional turmoil you've been through lately. It takes time to recover from those storms. As you know, the work itself isn't what gets you down but rather your worries about the future that drain your energy. Give yourself a break today.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



There is some likelihood that the mood at home is fraught with tension, Taurus. Did you dare to express some contrary intellectual opinion? In any case, it looks like your self-confidence is stronger than usual right now. Go ahead and express any complaints or opinions you may have been keeping to yourself.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



- It would seem that your sensitivity is in slight conflict with your actions, Gemini. You continue to go through the motions and do what you planned to do, but it seems like your heart isn't in it anymore. Don't ask yourself why. It's just that you've worked hard and have been thinking hard lately. You have reached your limit and it's time for you to rest.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You may have been spending or saving too much money, Cancer. It's clear that a rebalancing is in order if you're to find pleasure rather than eternal frustration. It's a curious phenomenon. It's as though you have lost contact with your body. Yet it's in your body where you will ultimately find your balance. You certainly won't find it in your head!

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You've been stamping the ground impatiently. You're waiting for the moment to jump into new adventures with renewed vigor after your meditation of the last few months. Leo, know that the moment has almost arrived! You now have the strategy, objective, and means at your disposal to succeed. Just a bit more work remains.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



- If you find yourself tired and irritable now, Virgo, you should know that this is normal. You may have had a few months that were a little too studious. Would you like to continue with the same rhythm? Be careful that your ambitions don't lead you to physical exhaustion. If you get sick, you will be even more frustrated. So be wise and take care of your own basic needs.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



This is going to be a good moment to look elsewhere, Libra. You should do just as the artist does when he has worked on a painting for too long, which is take a step back. You need to see some people, travel, go to the theater, and clear your head. This is never easy for you, but don't hesitate. You will realize afterward that it was the best thing for you to do.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



This is the right moment to extricate yourself from relationships that have seen their day, Scorpio. This won't be easy, but you must. In your professional and private lives, you're too hesitant to get out of distasteful situations or obligations. You're afraid of hurting people or making them mad. But in the end, you're hurting yourself.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



- You took off like a bullet a few days ago, Sagittarius, making great progress in a short amount of time. But now you're grappling with doubts that are undermining all your energy. Reflecting on the events of the past few days, it's obvious that you were somewhat reckless in your headlong pursuit of your goals. Don't give up! Just rethink your strategy.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



There is some likelihood that thoughts of your love life will haunt you today, Capricorn. Perhaps you're intrigued by the idea of exploring certain realms of your relationship that remain secret, but you're unsure how to communicate this to your mate. Perhaps you're still testing the waters, waiting until you're sure of how you feel. In any case, you may make a decision to proceed!

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

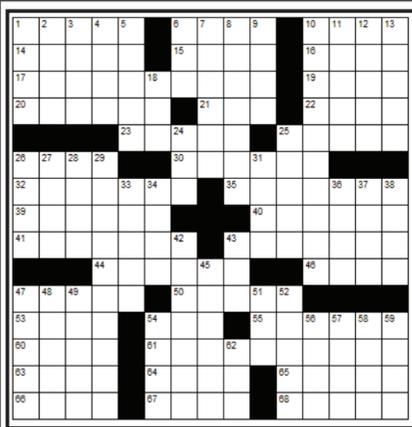


Today more than ever you will yearn to escape from the daily routine. You're thirsty for new sights and sounds, new faces and places. However, you're well aware that you must juggle your desires with your professional or domestic obligations. It isn't always easy, but you should trust your imagination to suggest a way to amicably settle this conflict.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Finally, you're on the mend, Pisces. The minor ailments that have been dragging you down lately are beginning to disappear, and you're about to regain all of your physical energy. However, if you overindulge, your energy levels are likely to plummet again. If nothing else, you will have learned a valuable lesson about the importance of moderation, especially now. Don't overdo it!



Across

- 1. Blocks, 6. Cain's brother, 10. Remained, 14. Come together, 15. Stow, as cargo, 16. Biblical garden, 17. Someone who is paralyzed, 19. Madam, 20. A tax on tax, 21. Greatest, possible, 22. Buddy, 23. 72 in Roman numerals, 25. Plant life, 26. Untruths, 30. A religious cult 32. A former Turkish term of respect, 35. _____ nor, 39. Riot, 40. On the beach, 41. Labored respiration, 43. Aerial, 44. Termination, 46. Sow, 47. Barbed, 50. Marsh growth 53. Canvas dwelling, 54. Eastern newt, 55. Leopardlike cat, 60. Abominable Snowman, 61. Annoying, 63. Not odd, 64. Digestive juice, 65. An independent film company, 66. Arid, 67. Killed, 68. Encounters, ,

Down

- 1. Mugs, 2. Two-toed sloth, 3. Ethiopian monetary unit, 4. French for "State", 5. Flower part 6. Beer, 7. Bathhouse, 8. Version, 9. Pervert, 10. Bed coverings, 11. Potato state, 12. Take exception to, 13. Colonic, 18. 70 in Roman numerals 24. 16 in Roman numerals, 25. Impose 26. Its symbol is Pb, 27. Questionable, 28. F F F F, 29. Snake-like, 31. Prefect, 33. Nursemaid 34. Not the original color, 36. Sharpen, 37. Sea eagle, 38. Absorb written material, 42. Fin 43. Senesce, 45. Urticate, 47. Infections of the eye, 48. Annoy, 49. _____ alia, 51. Female deer 52. A firm open-weave fabric, 54. Wanes, 56. Feudal worker, 57. Prospector's find, 58. Leave out, 59. T T T, 62. Cut down, ,,

Yesterday's Solution

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

avoid, banner, bonus bound, , chase, coast corner, dear equal expansion, exploit, fabric, fall, family fluff, force, gram, , hotel, hunger, improvement, infraction, jewel, lies pair, precious

