

Sar-I-Pul Villages Fall to Taliban

SAR-I-PUL CITY - Taliban have captured parts of Sayyad district in northern Sar-i-Pul province, and the ensuing firefight left one policeman and an assailant dead, an official said on Saturday.

Police Chief Maj. Gen. Noor Habib Gulbahari told Pajhwok Afghan News rebels mounted attack when security forces were offering Jumrah prayers.

He said insurgents had captured the Aqsvi village and blocked logistic supply route to Kohistanat district. He,



however, said that security forces would regain control of the areas soon.

Abdullah Ansari, the town's administrative chief said, militants had captured Mirzawalang valley of the district. He said the valley was strategically important because it connect with Kohistanat district.

He warned if the area was not purged of insurgents they would soon capture the district centre. Insurgents had already captured 14 villages in the Suzma Qila district. (Pajhwok)

HRW, Afghan Journos Condemn Pajhwok Office Attack

KABUL - Human Rights Watch and Afghan journalist bodies on Saturday strongly condemned Wednesday's night bomb blast at the Pajhwok Afghan News regional office in eastern Nangarhar province.

The bomb which was fixed to the office's entrance gate went off at about 8pm on Wednesday, injuring four guests at the nearby office of the American broadcaster Voice of America radio in Jalalabad, the provincial capital.

The Pajhwok staff members were not present at the office at the time of the blast, which destroyed the office equipment.

The influential New York-based human rights watchdog in a statement said Afghan journalists faced numerous threats, which had recently increased. The Human Rights Watch said some government officials, militia groups, powerful warlords and radical groups had been killing and harassing journalists since 2002.



Referring the bomb attack on the Pajhwok office, the watchdog said it was the latest attack against media outlets in Afghanistan, where such attacks were on the increase.

Meanwhile, the Afghanistan Council of Journalists condemned the bomb blast at the Pajhwok bureau office and called it an attack on the freedom of expression and violation of human rights of common people.

The council issued a statement that said attacks on media organizations had lately increased, raising concerns about the freedom of speech....(More on P4)...(20)

17 Policemen Killed in Taliban Attack

LASHKARGAH - Heavy clashes between the Afghan National Police (ANP) forces and Taliban have left about 17 policemen dead in Musa Qala district of southern Helmand, officials said.

The fighting broke Friday night when a number of armed insurgents stormed several police posts, leaving another two policemen injured, said Omar Zowak, a spokesman for Helmand's governor.

He added the death toll was likely on the rise.



Reports suggest about 10 Taliban insurgents were also killed in the clashes. (Tolonews)

49 Insurgents Killed in ANSF Military Operations

KABUL - At least 49 insurgents have been killed in a series of coordinated operations over the past 24 hours by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said in a statement on Saturday. Thirty other insurgents were injured during the operations.

The operations were conducted in Kapisa, Takhar, Kunduz, Kandahar, Oruzgan, Ghazni, Paktiya and Paktika provinces, the statement said.

"During the same 24 hour period, Afghan National Police discovered and de-



fused a roadside bomb placed by enemies of Afghanistan for destructive activity in the Nad Ali district of southern Helmand province," it said.

The MoI, however, did not comment on whether any security force members were injured during the operations. (Tolonews)

Turkish Troops Rescue Afghan Migrants

ANKARA - Soldiers discover 41 people, including six children, trapped in a valley in eastern Turkey.

Turkish troops have rescued a group of Afghan people trapped in a valley in the east of the country.

Soldiers launched a rescue operation after a group of people was seen crossing the Turkey-Iran border illegally. Troops found 41 people, including six children, in the valley located the Baskale district. After being rescued, the group were provided with food and fresh clothing.

The Afghan citizens are to be deported after a health check in nearby Baskale State Hospital. (Agencies)

Taliban's Shadow Governor Gunned Down

KABUL - A Taliban's designated governor for eastern Nangarhar province was gunned down in Peshawar, the capital city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan, an official said on Saturday.

Maulvi Mir Ahmad Gul was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Spina Wari area, Rahmatullah Nabil, director general of National Directorate of Security (NDS) wrote on his wall on Facebook.

Nabil further added that Maulvi Gul was involved in plotting and killing of hundreds of Afghans. Taliban have not commented on the incident as of yet. (Pajhwok)

Foreign Fighters' Influx Irks Qaisar District Residents

MAIMANA - Officials in Qaisar district of northern Faryab province on Saturday said unprecedented influx of foreign militants, including Pakistani and Uzbeks, have led to insecurity in the area.

Abdul Jamil Seddiqi, the town's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News 16 Pakistani and Uzbek fighters and 15 Taliban command-



ers from Kandahar province, have arrived to Khwaja-Kenti and Shakh-Qaisar localities staging attacks against gov-

ernment forces. "The district will fall to Taliban soon if the government did not pay heed to bolster security of the district," he warned.

Seddiqi said hundreds of Taliban fighters led by the two groups of commanders planned to start offensive in different parts of the district. Ahmad Farhad, Qaisar people's... (More on P4)...(18)

More Than 300 Kilograms of Hashish Seized



KABUL - Security forces have seized more than 300 kilograms of hashish in northern Baghlan province, officials said on Saturday.

According to security officials police from the anti-narcotics department of the police headquarters of Baghlan stopped a vehicle in Mal Khan area in the northern part of

Salang high way. Colonel Abdul Rashid Bashir, acting police chief of Baghlan province said that police recovered 309 kilograms of hashish from this truck.

He said the the vehicle was heading from Tala wa Barfak District of Baghlan province to capital Kabul. (KP)

Taliban Attack Police Posts

QALAT - Taliban insurgents attacked two police check posts in southern Zabul province early Saturday and clashed with security forces, local officials said.

The attack took place about 07:30 am local time in Shenkai district of the province after a Taliban group attacked the check posts, a spokesman for Provincial Police Chief Ahmad Fawad Askari said.

"Two Taliban insurgents were killed in the attack and one of them who was injured has been arrested by the police," he said. "The other insurgents have escaped."

He said the clashes continued for almost two hours but there were no police casualties.

The Taliban has not yet commented on the incident. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Change is in the air, but you can't judge which direction the wind is blowing. You may be excited with anticipation as you map out your schedule for the near future, only to be drawn back into old fears. Your memories could bring up unexpected anger that prevents you from swiftly processing your emotions. Don't be so judgmental if you aren't living up to your own expectations.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Enjoy the relaxed pace while you can because circumstances will likely grow more complex as the day unfolds. Being pressured to respond doesn't necessarily make you feel good and others may encounter the brunt of your frustration instead of your support. Thankfully, you don't have to play the role of the spoiler if you keep communication channels open from the beginning.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You instinctively know that you must take decisive action today, but there seems to be too many choices vying for your attention. You may worry that you might miss a significant opportunity because you are so caught up in current events while the Moon is busy raising a ruckus in your sign. Don't give up just because it seems like others are trying to prevent you from following your guiding light.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You like the idea of being part of a tightly-knit family, but you can do without all the day-to-day dramas that seem to be part of the package. However, you haven't necessarily failed if you think you're falling short of your goals. Looking back to gauge your success only leads to self-doubt. Live in the present moment while fully experiencing the intensity of your current feelings.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You may appear highly energetic and overly enthusiastic today, but your inner world could be less cheery than anyone realizes. You know you must continue to push forward, which is why you are wearing a smile and trying to assume a positive attitude. Even though it might seem as if you can't shake your current disillusionment, you do have the power to snap yourself out of your malaise.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your high ideals and unrealized dreams can only motivate you so far; you also must connect with the mundane side of your life. Anything that helps you keep your feet on the ground should be actively pursued now especially practices that blend a spiritual perspective with physical movement, e.g martial arts or yoga. Committing to a concrete discipline can be part of a larger plan that distracts you from obsessing about unfulfilled fantasies.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

One of your primary roads to personal growth is through your continuing exploration of relationships. However, your current analysis could lead you to the disappointing conclusion that your present state of affairs is quite different than your idealistic dreams. Stop the self-criticism before you sink into uncertainty, since judging yourself harshly only limits your potential at this time.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might have a sneaking suspicion today that you've been shortchanged and something important is missing in your life. Unfortunately, this reflection of residual childhood longings isn't just a passing whim. In fact, somber Saturn is retrograding back into your sign to remind you that there's still work to be done balancing your current trajectory with your earlier expectations.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Friends and family may be the current source of drama that begs for your involvement. Nevertheless, it's probably best to observe the unfolding circumstances from a comfortable distance if they don't directly concern you. Unnecessarily worrying about matters peripheral to your main priorities only stresses you out now. You could even complicate the situation today by adding your two cents before anyone asks.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

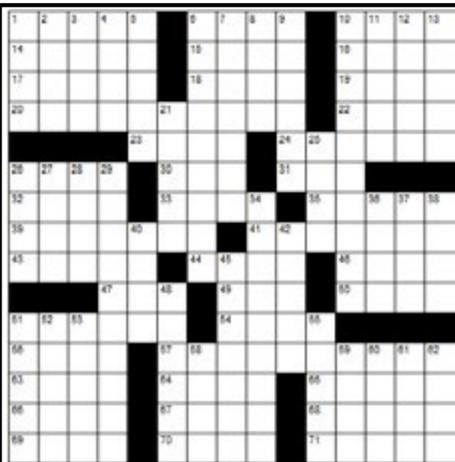
No matter how much you have accomplished so far in your life, you still may fall short of your own unattainable ambitions. Nevertheless, you can't travel your individual road to happiness until you understand what motivates you to be successful. Unquestionably, you can learn a lot about yourself by reexamining your personal history from time to time.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Last night's discouraging dream may still linger on your mind after you wake up today. Unfortunately, it's no easy task to untangle the symbolic meaning of this otherworldly message from your subconscious. Forget about explaining your feelings to anyone else now. Instead, head back into the uncomfortable shadows and let the strange images wash over you without any fear.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Everywhere you look you can't help but see that so many people are dissatisfied with lives. Your deep compassion for their failures may also be the source of your current disillusionment. However, your dreams are so vivid now that their clarity reminds you of the stark difference between your imagination and reality. But don't waste time analyzing everything that's wrong with your world.



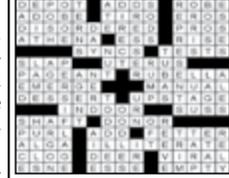
Across

1. An object, 6. Unwanted email, 10. Movie, 14. Equestrian, 15. Urgent request, 16. Hodgepodge, 17. Snow house, 18. Rabbit, 19. Break in friendly relations, 20. A remarkable development, 22. Spouse, 23. Filly's mother, 24. Among, 26. Astrological transition point, 30. Small portable bed, 31. Father, 32. Largest continent, 33. Snake sound, 35. Expire, 39. Sequoia, 41. Rude, 43. Inclination, 44. Wise one, 46. Not short, 47. What we sleep on, 49. Hotel, 50. Countercurrent, 51. Scant, 54. Be worthy of, 56. Novice, 57. Plastic wrap, 63. Stink, 64. Train track, 65. Product of bees, 66. Skin disease, 67. Feudal worker, 68. Gall, 69. 365 days, 70. Gave the once-over, 71. Legions.

Down

1. Journey, 2. Not low, 3. Doing nothing, 4. A noble gas, 5. Spouse-to-be, 6. Elliptical orbits, 7. Venus and the Earth, 8. Relating to aircraft, 9. An unnaturally frenzied woman, 10. Extremely impressive, 11. Homeric epic, 12. Elevators (British), 13. Sacred song, 21. Markedly masculine, 25. Shopping center, 26. A heavy open wagon, 27. End ___, 28. On the left or right, 29. A type of lender, 34. Communicated silently (British spelling), 36. Goad, 37. Transmit, 38. Jittery, 40. Poems, 42. Slowly, in music, 45. A company that flies, 48. Edict, 51. Roam, 52. Portion, 53. Rink, 55. Ancient unit of dry measure, 58. Not difficult, 59. Vagabond, 60. Rectum, 61. Where a bird lives, 62. Visual organs.

Yesterday's Solution



active, arctic, bladder, bridge, cancel, chance, clear, cots, cream, crisp, damper, depend, disputed, factor, fend, field, flick, freeze, gadget, highlight, hurry, jaded, lumber, need, negative papa, peace, player, poise, rare, rear, sale, secure, spoon, strong, tender, terse, victor, virus, yield.

