

Taliban Intensify Fight to Capture "Khas Uruzgan"

TARINKOT - The administrative chief of Khas Uruzgan district on Saturday warned the district could fall to Taliban if security forces were not immediately provided reinforcement. Abdul Karim Karimi told Pajhwok News police have retreated from check posts and militants were only 500 meters away from the district centre. He said the governor office and other authorities had been informed about the situation and they were asked to dispatch emergency as-



sistance to security forces. Karimi said militants had captured 22 policemen. "We asked the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to help us but we did not receive a positive response." The official said police were able to break the Taliban siege and escaped to safer places. District Police Chief Commander Naimatullah con-

firmed security situations of Khas Uruzgan were terrible and police had been ordered to retreat. Provincial council chief Abdullah Haqbin termed the situations terrible. He said people frequently registered their complaints about insecurity but no one bothered to take action. Police chief of Di-haroud district claimed killing 16 rebels in clashes in the past four days. He said two Afghan National Army soldiers and an Afghan Local Police were also killed. (Pajhwok)

Three Civilians Wounded in Ghazni Explosion



GHAZNI CITY A landmine explosion has left three civilians wounded in capital city of Ghazni province. Shafiq Nang, spokesman for the provincial governor says that the landmine was planted on a roadside in the jurisdiction of Police District 4 that exploded this morning. He said the target of the explosion was a police vehicle but it let three civilians wounded. Security forces rushed to the site following the explosion and cordoned off the area. Though, no arrests were being made by the time this report was filed. There is no word of responsibility for the explosion either but Taliban militants have increased their attacks on security forces. (KP)

41 Suspects Held on Different Charges in Kabul

KABUL - At least 41 people allegedly involved in murder cases, narcotics and robbery cases have been detained in capital Kabul, security officials said Saturday. Brig. Gen. Hamayun Aini, the 119 police hotline director, told Pajhwok Afghan News one man accused in murder case was among the detainees. He said a man was killed by the suspected in Wasil



Abad area of Kabul two days ago. The father of the victim claimed his son was killed as a result of personal enmity. Aini added cases of some criminals had been referred to judicial organs while the cases of some others were under investigation. However, he said crime ratio have been dropped as compared to past-- a development... (More on P4)... (17)

32 Insurgents Killed in ANSF Operations

KABUL - At least 32 insurgents were killed and 14 others arrested in a series of coordinated operations by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the past 24 hours across the country, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement on Saturday. The operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul, Ghazni, Uruzgan, Paktika and Herat provinces, the statement said. "During the same 24 hour period, Afghan National Police discovered and defused nine



different types of IEDs placed by enemies of Afghanistan for destructive activities in Nangarhar, Kandahar, Paktiya and Helmand provinces," according to the statement. However, the statement did not mention casualties of any ANSF members during the operations. The Taliban has yet to comment about the operation. (Tolonews)

ANA Airstrikes Leave Several IS, Taliban Fighters Dead

FARAH CITY/ KHOST CITY - At least 16 insurgents belonging to Taliban and Islamic State (IS) have been killed in air strikes in western Farah province, an official said on Saturday. Mohammad Hanif Rezaee, a spokesman for the 207th Zafar Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News



that Afghan National Army (ANA) jets targeted Sargzan, Gulshhtar, Dahna Jamal, Ghazi and Dahna Kshanak areas of Anardara district late Friday... (More on P4)... (18)

Gunmen Kill Teacher in Helmand



LASHKARGAH - Unidentified gunmen shot dead a teacher in southern Helmand province, an official said on Saturday. Col. Bacha Gul Bakhtyar, director of National Directorate of Security (NDS), told Pajhwok Afghan News the teacher Abdul Bari was teaching at Shaheed Abdul Matin High School. Armed gunmen in a brazen attack gunned him down in the teacher's township area. He said police were investigating the case but no one had been arrested so far. Education Director Abdul Matin Jafar confirmed the incident and said the assailants called Abdul Bari on the phone and then opened fire on him after he came out of his home. Separately, a man killed his wife inside in the Numro locality of the Lashkargah, the provincial capital, said Bakhtyar. Soon after the incident, police detained the man who was being interrogated. (Pajhwok)

Gunmen in Pakistan Butcher 21 Passengers

KABUL - Gunmen kidnapped around two dozen passengers from two coaches and killed at least 21 of them in Mastung district of Quetta, the capital city of Balochistan province, on Friday night, Pakistani media reports. But the Pakistan's Dawn.com while quoting Mir Sarfaraz, home minister, as saying: "The armed men killed 19 of the passengers after taking them to the nearby mountains." He said the attackers were dressed in security forces' uniform. He said that after receiving information security forces rushed to the area and pursued the kidnappers. "Security forces found the bodies of 19 passengers in the mountains," he said, adding that security personnel succeeded in freeing five passengers from the kidnappers. "Exchange of fire between security forces and the armed men continues in the mountains of Mastung," he said. He said the bodies had been shifted to hospital and efforts were being made to ascertain their identity. He said the armed men signaled him to stop the bus and when he tried to speed away they opened indiscriminate fire. The passengers, including labourers and traders, were coming from Pishin and Quetta and going to Karachi. Balochistan Home Secretary retired Capt Akbar Hussain Durrani said the kidnappers had taken away about 30 passengers and later freed five of them at a distance from the road. "All the passengers belonged to Pishin district and were going to Karachi," he said... (More on P4)... (19)

Rebels Kill HPC Member in Badghis

QALA-I-NAW - A provincial High Peace Council (HPC) member has been killed by militants in northwestern Badghis province, an official said Saturday. Provincial police chief Col. Mohammad Qayyum Angar told Pajhwok Afghan News HPC member Mohammad Akhtar was invited to Jawaligh village of Qadas district when he came under rebels' attack last night.



He said insurgents forced into the host's house and shot the HPC member dead and took two of his colleagues' hostage at around 12: 00 am. Police shifted Akhtar's body to his home and an investigation was underway to ensure release of the kidnapped men, he added. The owner of the house has been detained, he said. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might think you know exactly what you want only to change your mind several times. Alternating overconfidence and self-doubt can lead you in circles unless you consciously step back from your involvement. Disengaging from an exhausting cycle brings a fresh perspective with better choices. Just remember that you still have another couple of weeks until your path begins to clear.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Maintaining an open mind about what's essential can help you make the most of this confusing day. Several planets are moving through versatile Gemini now, distracting you from your normal routine. Meanwhile, your inner world is a rich source of inspiration as long as you have the courage to entertain the possibilities, even if they are not very practical.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may believe that you can avoid making a commitment today as long as you stay in motion. Although you want everyone to see how busy you are, this tactic only keeps you from the important tasks you must attend to now. Even if your overall priorities aren't clear, just pick a path and follow it as far as you can. Progress might not be readily discernible for several more days, but completing a project will ultimately be its own sweet reward.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your dreams lift you to new heights today, but they can also create unneeded complications if you assume they are real. Although you yearn to be accepted for who you are, vulnerable Venus is moving through your receptive sign, making it harder to get your emotions out into the open. Expressing your feelings temporarily exacerbates matters even more.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You Lions are known for creating a plan and boldly putting it into action. Your positivity is legendary, but overconfidence is your greatest nemesis. If you come on too strongly today, others might endorse your idea even if it's not a very good one. Your best bet now is to reveal your vulnerability; sharing your uncertainty gives your trusted allies a chance to offer their much-needed expertise.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

People often rely on you for the unvarnished truth, whether or not they ultimately like what you have to say. Even if you don't support their ideas, you can be counted on to give some real down-to-earth advice when asked. However, your perspective is warped by your feelings today. You may be overly attached to your assumptions about what others want, instead of finding out the actual facts.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You're resistant to people's advice today because everyone seems to assume they know more about your future prospects than you do. However, you're not interested in hearing their solutions while you're still trying to find your own bearings. Trust your intuition if you think that your friends are barking up the wrong tree now. Nevertheless, it won't hurt to listen to what they have to say as a sign of respect.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You desperately want to believe that there is one course of action that makes the most sense for you to follow now. However, the changeable Moon's current visit to your sign prevents you from locking in on a specific goal. You're intrigued by all the possibilities, but there's too many to process and picking one is a daunting task.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

It's tempting to retreat from your responsibilities and spend time wandering in your dreams. Thankfully, you might be able to schedule a revitalizing escape today, but family and friends might not let you disappear for too long. The Sun's square to imaginative Neptune in your 4th House of Foundations enables you to journey inward within the safety of your own home or the emotional security of a stable relationship.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You have very strong convictions about your future now that the passionate Scorpio Moon is occupying your 11th House of Long-Term Goals. However, you stand to gain even more ground if you can widen your perspective and dream about your life without letting reality hold you back. Discussing your thoughts with close friends is productive as long as you aren't too specific with the details of your plans.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You are a font of fantastic ideas now, but they may not be ready for a prime time audience just yet. Your brain is buzzing with contradictions, but confusion is only problematic if you believe that you must make a final decision today. Although you're tempted to share your conflicting visions of the future with nearly anyone, it's wiser to keep them to yourself for a while longer.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

This is a day made for dreaming and, fortunately, you are up for the challenge. The Sun's dynamic square to mystical Neptune in your sign amplifies your penchant for indulging fantasies. Whether you lose yourself in a movie, a book, music or the wonders of nature, it's time to step outside of the real world and follow your creative whims. There are magnificent treasures to be found once you move into the imaginative realms.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across clues: 1. Shout, 6. Resorts, 10. French for "State", 14. Reddish brown, 15. Stringed instrument, 16. Style, 17. Cowboy movie, 18. A single time, 19. Fiber source, 20. Punctuation mark, 22. Vipers, 23. Abominable Snowman, 24. Indicate, 26. Blown away, 30. Not bottom, 31. Long-haired wild ox, 32. Hubs, 33. Regretted, 35. Demolish, 39. Hearing range, 41. Absolutely, 43. Draw forth, 44. An exchange involving money, 46. Half-moon tide, 47. Flee, 49. Frozen water, 50. Adhesive strip, 51. Reduce in rank, 54. Water chestnut, 56. Poems, 57. Reflexive form of "them", 63. South American country, 64. Employ, 65. Unsophisticated, 66. Arab chieftain, 67. Smell, 68. Not rented, 69. A romantic meeting, 70. Lairs, 71. Clairvoyants.

Down clues: 1. Stop for a horse, 2. Pile, 3. Savvy about, 5. Celebration, 6. Gunfights, 7. A primitive wind instrument, 8. Eyebrow shape, 9. Fast, 10. A long artificial mound, 11. Body, 12. Suit, 13. Anxious, 21. Backward-looking, 25. Where the sun rises, 26. Away from the wind, 27. Blue dye, 28. Beige, 29. Diligence, 34. Zithers, 36. District, 37. Smack, 38. Hoopla, 40. Warmth, 42. Adolescents, 45. Control surface on a plane, 48. A way of doing something, 51. Adulterated, 52. Swelling under the skin, 53. Excellence, 55. Taxonomic group, 58. Conceal, 59. Alley, 60. Wicked, 61. Always, 62. Collections.

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in letters.

PRAYER QUIT EGU
AAQUEENNHRNSO
RFPKAOORGOKEF
TEOPTAIHWVNNF
IJDTERSAAEEOSI
CTUYBARPNRCEC
IMAGEDRLGKKE
PEGTPCHAIRSNH
APARTBLINKRIA
TRICKASPECKCT
EHNPROCESSEKC
CCSTORYKBLUSH
ATTITUDEBRACE