

US Forces Apologize for Wardak Civilian Deaths

KABUL - American forces commander in the southeast has apologized over civilian casualties resulting from a coalition airstrike in central Maidan Wardak province, the Afghan military said Saturday.

Last week, at least nine civilians were killed in an airstrike by an American drone in Sayedabad district.

The drone targeted a civilian vehicle, killing a man Abdul Rahim, his two sons and other civilians.

The area residents closed the Kabul-Kandahar highway against traffic in protest over the civilian deaths.

Brig. Gen. Harab Khanullah Shuja, the Afghan army's 203rd Thunder Military Corps commander and NATO commander of the zone, traveled to Maidan Wardak province, a statement from the corps said.

It said the military officials met with public representatives and relatives of the victims. Shuja told the participants that the security forces' aim was to ensure people's security, not to harm them.

He said the Taliban had lost the



ability to fight face-to-face with security forces and instead they used people as human shield, resulting in such incidents. "Avoiding civilian casualties is our priority and I promise you that we will never be witnesses to such incident and this is my order to all security and defense forces in the south," he added.

The statement quoted the NATO commander for the zone as apologizing to people over the airstrike which he called a mistake. He vowed not to repeat such incidents and extended deep condolences to the relatives of the victims. "As we have said in the past, Coalition forces and our Afghan partners take great meas-

ures to avoid civilian casualties. Unfortunately, the Taliban often hide amongst innocent civilians, increasing the risk to those Afghans", RS spokesperson said in a statement. "This meeting is an example of the coalition and our Afghan partners reaffirming our commitment to reducing civilian casualties," she added." (Pajhwok)

Uruzgan-Kandahar Road Reopens after a Week of Closure



TIRINKOT - The Uruzgan-Kandahar highway was reopened for traffic on Saturday, after a week of closure, an official said.

The highway had been closed by militants and security forces in the Khakrez district of Kandahar province.

Abdul Rahim, a transport official, said the militants had told drivers that they could use the highway.

He added patients, passengers and other needy people could

travel the Kajoor highway during the closure. They traveled nine hours while the highway takes four half hours.

Niamatullah, a resident of Tirnikot, said the price of a 10-litre can of ghee had jumped to 1,100 rupees from 2,000 rupees due to the highway closure.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi said in a voice message that the highway would be reopened for traffic today. (Pajhwok)

Daesh Spokesman Killed in Nangarhar Airstrike

KABUL - A spokesman for Daesh, or the Islamic State (IS) militant group, has been killed in an airstrike, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Saturday.

In statement, MoD said IS spokesman Hassan Panjabi was

eliminated in the Khogyani district of eastern Nangarhar province.

Hassan Panjabi had been recruiting people into the militant outfit via social media. MoD added. Panjabi was a key Daesh figure. (Pajhwok)

3 Volleyball Players Killed in Kapisa Ground Blast

MAHMOOD RAQI - Three volleyball players were killed and three others wounded in a landmine explosion in Tagab district of central Kapisa province, an official said on Saturday.

Police spokesman Shaiq Shourish said the incident took place in Kakar village on Friday evening. He accused the Taliban of planting the landmine on the volleyball field.

But the militant group has not yet commented in this regard. Azizullah Safi, deputy Provincial Council chairman, said three players aged between 18 to 22 years were killed and two others were wounded in the blast.

He said the injured players had been evacuated to emergency hospital in Panjsher province.

Separately, seven Taliban insur-



gents were killed, including a notorious commander, in an airstrike in Qush Tapa district of northern Jawzjan province. Police chief Abdul Wahid Wijdan told Pajhwok Afghan News the airstrike was carried out on Friday evening. (Pajhwok)

Militants Defeated, Highway Reopened in Northern Baghlan: Official

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Taliban militants who have blocked the highway in Kilagai area of the northern Baghlan province have been defeated and the road linking Kabul to the northern Mazar-e-Sharif city was reopened Thursday night, Baghlan's provincial police chief Nayaz Mohammad Niazmand said Friday.

Addressing a press conference, Niazmand told reporters here that the militants after suffering heavy casualties fled Kilagai area and the road linking Kabul to Mazar-e-Sharif is open for traffic Friday.

Taliban militants, who launched massive offensive on Baghlan's provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri and kept control over highway in Kilagai area for about 10 days,



have not commented on the situation. Meanwhile, the security forces launched cleanup operations on the main road linking Baghlan's neighboring Kunduz prov-

ince to Takhar province Friday morning, and according to Kunduz police chief Qudratullah Safi the road would soon be reopened. (Xinhua)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Sep 15, 2019 - This is a great day for you, Aries. You'll find that long-term trends are coming together harmoniously. Connections are being made when you share good times and laughter with close friends and other people. Stick with the things that feel right. You have love and bravery to share with the world, so don't be afraid to go out and conquer. Take action and be strong.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Sep 15, 2019 - Don't let others push you around today, Taurus. People may talk themselves up, but there's little behind the words. Be careful that you don't misfire. This is a day to care about you and your needs. Take steps toward making sure you're getting what you want. Connect with people you've met recently. There's significance in these serendipitous meetings.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Sep 15, 2019 - Stay positive and radiant today, Gemini. This is a great day for you to take control. Connect with others on group projects and feel free to offer creative input. Let the artist within take the spotlight, and cultivate this talent in any way you can. Take the time to engage in long conversations with people regarding recent events. You have a great deal to share.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Sep 15, 2019 - People may be tired of your harsh attitude, Cancer. This doesn't mean you should necessarily change your ways or who you are. Just be more aware of how your words affect others. Be prepared to take the heat when people defend themselves. Don't kick people around and expect them to never kick back. There's a frenzy of warlike energy in store for you today.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Sep 15, 2019 - You may feel the need to act aggressively regarding this climactic period in your life, thanks to long-term trends. There's expansive energy today encouraging you to take action, Leo. There may be opposition, but keep in mind that you have a great deal of strength on your side. The warrior inside you is ready to fight.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Sep 15, 2019 - Try not to be harsh and judgmental today, Virgo. You don't understand others' perspectives and the codes they live by. Differences are no reason to find fault with people. You have a powerful personality that's perceptive and creative. Use these gifts in a positive, healthy manner instead of using them to get down on others and their behavior.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Sep 15, 2019 - Long-term trends are coming to a favorable point for you, Libra. This is a good day to examine them and make some moves forward in pursuit of your goals. There's a great deal of energy working in your favor today and asking you to take charge and lead the fight toward a better reality. Get out of bed early and get moving.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Sep 15, 2019 - This isn't a day to sit around and wait for good fortune to come to you, Scorpio. It's time to make it happen. Get off the couch and get moving. Now that you've internalized, contemplated, and received information, it's time to direct that energy and wisdom outward. Express your creative, artistic self in any way you can.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sep 15, 2019 - Get ready for action, Sagittarius, because today could be a fast-paced adventure sure to keep you on your toes. Your desire to fight and conquer is probably much stronger than usual, and communication with others is the very thing that will fuel this fire. Your action-oriented instinct is likely to be bold, so use caution in all situations. Pace yourself and avoid confrontation!

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



Sep 15, 2019 - It may seem like people are trying to pick fights with you today, Capricorn. Any opposition you encounter may have a loud roar, but in reality, there's very little bite to fear. Keep in mind that arguments may be unsubstantiated. Don't work yourself into frenzy over an issue that has no solid foundation to back it up. Don't be intimidated by fast talkers.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

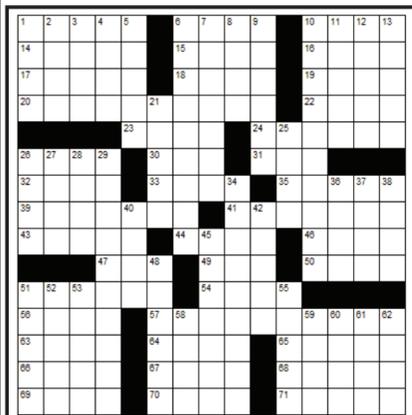


Sep 15, 2019 - Kick up your heels and get moving, Aquarius. The fast-paced energy of the day is just what you need to get things done. You're ready to take action. You have power and strength behind you, so feel free to expand and explore this desire to conquer. New adventures are on the horizon now and you have a great opportunity to take advantage.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Sep 15, 2019 - It may seem like everyone else has a purpose and project except you, Pisces. While everyone is charging out of the gate, you may still be unsure that this is the race you want to run. Don't push yourself into something you don't want to do. The energy of the day is fast and adventurous, but if you aren't feeling up for a fight, don't force it.



Across

- Courageous, 6. Celebration, 10. Mother, 14. Neighborhood, 15. Dwarf buffalo, 16. Copied
- Practical, 18. Very dry, as wine, 19. Prepare for action, 20. Re-beautify, 22. Small island
- Trigonometry (abbrev.), 24. Bacon serving, 26. A few, 30. Frozen water, 31. Nevertheless
- Holly, 33. Invited, 35. Not written exams, 39. Jelly, 41. Roman silver coins
- Tally mark, 44. Goon, 46. Nipple, 47. Bar bill, 49. Card with one symbol, 50. Hearing organs, 51. Third zodiac sign, 54. Coarse file, 56. Way out, 57. Scintillating, 63. Beige
- Meal in a shell, 65. Forbidden, 66. Sow, 67. Smell, 68. Balderdash, 69. If not
- Animal companions, 71. Affirmatives, ,,

Down

- Make unclear, 2. Learning method, 3. Corrosive, 4. Sheltered spot, 5. Choose by voting, 6. Manufacturer, 7. Angered, 8. Brag, 9. Diner, 10. Judge, 11. Gorillalike, 12. European blackbird
- Viper, 21. Small African antelope, 25. Age, 26. Anagram of "Sing", 27. Margarine, 28. Defrost, 29. Precision, 34. Teachers, 36. District, 37. Teller of untruths, 38. Seats oneself
- Part of a comparison, 42. Excrete, 45. Green bean, 48. Circus tent, 51. Ganders, 52. Surpass, 53. Bogs down, 55. Trifling, 58. Stow, as cargo, 59. Unusual, 60. Nile bird
- No, 62. "Comes and ...", ,,

Yesterday's Solution



passengers, pier, pile planes, plaza, plots resolve revenge, seize, sneak, towers, trade victims weapon, wear, world depression, destruction, dismay, emes, fires giant, ground lads link, , memory,

