

Taliban Siege of Janikhel District Broken as Commandos Arrive

GARDEZ - Taliban's siege of the Janikhel district in southeastern Paktia has been broken and the rebels inflicted heavy casualties, an official said on Saturday.

Paktia governor's spokesman Naqeeb Ahmad Atal told Pajhwok Afghan News the siege was broken after Special Forces and commandos reached the area.

He said the fresh forces during today's operation killed at least 30 insurgents and injured another 15. He said 20 corpses of the insurgents were sent to the district centre and the insurgents were forced to flee the area.

He said a clearing operation was underway



and the entire district would be soon purged of insurgents. The insurgents had placed landmines to prevent security forces from advancing, but the bombs were defused.

Atal said nothing about security personnel casualties. However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that security personnel suffered heavy casualties due to landmine explosions. Earlier, Paktia provincial council member had expressed concern over Janikhel security situation ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

3 Civilians Killed, 3 Injured in Kandahar, Sar-I-Pul Incidents

KANDAHAR, SAR-I-PUL - Six civilians including children have been suffered casualties in two separately explosions in southern Kandahar and northern Sar-I-Pul provinces, an official said on Saturday.

Governor's spokesman, Samim Khlwaj, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a roadside bomb hit a civilian tractor in Daman district late on Friday. He said three civilians were killed and their tractor was destroyed in the blast. Elsewhere, three civilians were wounded in an explosion in Suzma-Qala district of northern Sari-Pul province.

Sar-I-Pul Civil Hospital director, Dr. Niamatullah Yaldash said, three children including two girls aged between seven and 10 years were wounded in the incident. He said the health condition of the injured was stable. No any militant groups so far commented on the incident. *(Pajhwok)*

Power Transmission Line Inaugurated in Deh Sabz

DEH-SABZ - A power transmission line, with a capacity of 4.6MW, was officially inaugurated in Deh Sabz district of Kabul on Saturday.

The project will provide electricity to 2,500 families in Tara Khail, Qala Zareen, Deh Yahya and Aqa Mohammad Khan villages in Deh Sabz district.

The inauguration ceremony in Tara Khail village was attended by Minister of Energy and Water Eng. Ali Ahmad Usmani, Deputy Minister Eng. Amnaullah Ghalib, representatives from Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), representatives from Al-Hashim



Construction Company and tribal elders.

"It is our responsibility to deliver electricity to every village and corner of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Energy and Water has undertaken plans for countrywide electricity transmission and water management. We are working on the implementation of the dams that have been left incomplete due to various reasons," ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

11 Taliban Militants Suffered Casualties in Laghman

METARLAM - At least 11 Taliban rebels have been suffered casualties during a clash in eastern Laghman province, an official said on Saturday.

Sarhadi Zwak, governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News two militants were killed and eight others wounded in a counterattack in Mango and Sandrwa areas of Alingar district on Friday night.

He said two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers also suffered injuries during the attack.

Taliban did not comment on the incident so far.

Clashes between Afghan forces and the Taliban have recently increased in Laghman province. *(Pajhwok)*

Nangarhar Residents Condemn Forced Marriages

JALALABAD - A number of civil society activists, youths and tribal elders from Nangarhar on Saturday condemned the practice of bad dadan in the country, saying that it is against the teachings of Islam.

Bad dadan is a practice in Afghanistan where girls and women are given to settle a dispute between families, often a blood dispute.

"Violence against women has increased in the country. Women suffer a lot in this practice which



is a kind of forced marriage. We urge government to have a clear plan to prevent the bad dadan practice in the country," said Maliha Hussainkhal, a civil society activist in Nangarhar.

"This practice will increase if government does not take any proper action against it," said Huma Shinwari, an activist in ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

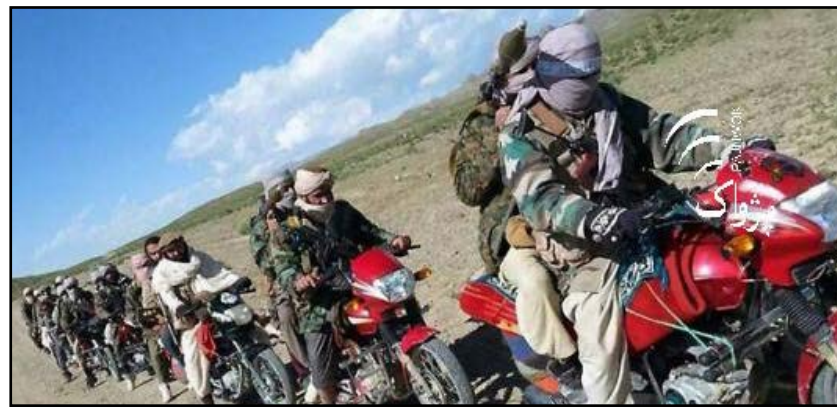
48 Rebels Killed, 45 Wounded in Paktika Airstrikes, Clashes

SHARANA - Forty-eight militants have been killed and 45 others wounded during separate airstrikes and clashes with security forces in southeastern Paktika province, an official said on Saturday.

Foreign troops carried out airstrikes thrice in the Khoshmand district yesterday, killing 20 militants and injuring 25 others, Paktika police chief Brig. Gen. Khalilullah Ziaee told Pajhwok Afghan News.

But a resident of the district, Aslam, told Pajhwok Afghan News a civilian house was targeted in the airstrikes, killing a doctor and four children.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid also said a doctor's house was targeted in the airstrikes. He said the



doctor was a common man who was killed along with his several family members.

But the police chief said the airstrikes were carried out after accurate information and were precise.

"The house attacked was a centre of Taliban and there were no civilians at the time," he said.

Khoshaman is an insecure district where Taliban militants openly operate. ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Children Among 4 Killed in Balkh, Uruzgan Incidents

MAZAR-I-SHARIF/TIRINKOT - Two children were among four civilians killed and three others wounded in two separate incidents of violence in northern Balkh and central Uruzgan provinces on Saturday, officials said.

Two civilians were killed on Saturday when an unknown individual hurled a hand-grenade at a taxi car in Mazar-i-Shari, the capital of Balkh, police spokesman Sher Jan Durrani told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said the incident took place at around 11am. Another three people were injured the grenade attack.

The injured were shifted to hospital for treatment, Durrani said,



adding the attacker had been identified and an operation was underway to arrest him.

A doctor at the Mazar-i-Sharif Civil Hospital confirmed receiving three injured persons from the scene. He said their health condition was stable.

In Uruzgan, two children were killed and a third one was wounded in a mortar fire incident that took place in Tirinkot, the provincial capital on Saturday morning. ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You could feel as if you're undergoing an emotional stress test today. Romantic expectations may suddenly deflate as they run into hard cold truths. But this sobering lesson is only meant to start a process; if love is to last, it must weather the rough patches as well as rejoice when the road is smooth. Nevertheless, the realization that everything is imperfect can create undue ripples of discontent.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You are reluctantly reevaluating your relationship goals and making necessary adjustments. Forbidding Saturn stresses vulnerable Venus in your 5th House of Play today, leaving you to wonder why you work so hard for emotional satisfaction. You are ready to draw a line because you can't continue to give up ground at home or work, for love or money. Stand up for yourself to gain respect, but do it calmly.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your romantic fantasies fall short of reality today, temporarily isolating you from loved ones. Loneliness and self-doubt are possible consequences when your friends don't understand what you need. Thankfully, feelings of rejection won't prevent you from trying to bridge the gulf of misunderstanding. You can't stay sad for long while the uplifting Sagittarius Moon trines uncontainable Uranus and squares jovial Jupiter.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

No one can soothe your angst today, until you examine your own buried feelings. Lovable Venus in your 3rd House of Communication squares austere Saturn, tempting you to erect walls to protect your heart from rejection. Unfortunately, people might put so much emotional pressure on you that it seems as if you can't do anything right. But retreating into the safety of your shell won't solve anything.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

No matter how clever you think you are today, something may prevent you from getting the acknowledgment you deserve. Earning approval requires diligence now as well as talent. Social awkwardness is one possible outcome of the dynamic square between affectionate Venus and demanding Saturn. Dealing with intimacy in relationships can be challenging.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

It's wise not to make any drastic decisions for a few days, because even the most amazing relationship can ebb and flow now. Family dynamics may be the source of tension when unyielding Saturn squares accountable Venus in your 4th House of Domestic Conditions. Disagreements about your self-expression could arise today, especially if you've neglected your fiscal responsibilities. The underlying stress won't disappear until you give it your undivided attention.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your entire world seems to be grinding to a halt, like reality is trying to teach you a valuable lesson. Meanwhile, your impatience grows; you have no interest in taking the time to negotiate in relationships or balance your bank accounts. Unfortunately, you must do exactly what you wish to avoid today. The stress continues to intensify only because the more pressure you feel now, the more stubborn you become.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Stress levels regarding money and love may be uncomfortably high today as valuable Venus dynamically squares immovable Saturn in your 2nd House of Money and Resources. Unfortunately, you can't easily hide your displeasure now and a simple path to your heart's desire is nowhere to be found. Don't push for resolution; just drag the issues out into the light of day and see what happens.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Patiently weighing the costs and benefits of any partnership leads to more responsible decisions today. It's easy to be grumpy while ominous Saturn inhibits pleasure by dynamically squaring off with sensual Venus in your 10th House of Public Status. But recent self-doubt or moodiness isn't sufficient to explain away your nagging dissatisfaction. Nevertheless, irrepressible desires for a new adventure conflict directly with your pressing obligations.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

A powerful exchange may leave you feeling shocked and emotionally unsafe today. Thankfully, you can discover a stable place to stand while exacting Saturn and resourceful Venus battle for control. Saturn limits the approval you receive from others, possibly giving you more than one reason to doubt yourself. Running away or pretending you don't care is an easy solution.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A trivial event might remind you of what you lack in your life today. Sweet Venus squares stern Saturn, eliciting feelings of loneliness, even if you're happily involved in an intimate relationship. Additionally, you might not have sufficient funds or time to take a pleasurable vacation you believe you deserve. Whatever obstacles Venus runs into now, don't be too discouraged by the shortcomings of your life.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You're inspired to push past your usual limits of what you say and do today. You may expose an inconvenient truth or challenge yourself by trying something new. Nevertheless, you can ramble on too long or go too far if you don't temper your enthusiasm with a healthy dose of self-restraint. Stirring conflict or promising to carry a heavier load than you can handle is more foolish than brave unless you stop to consider the consequences of your actions.

Across

1. About a US quart, 6. Units of resistance, 10. Contributes, 14. Give a speech, 15. 3 in a yard, 16. Fuss, 17. Italian for "Mouth", 18. Casino game, 19. Docile, 20. Charmed, 22. Arab chieftain, 23. Smudge, 24. Whirl, 26. Hairless, 30. Derisive laugh, 31. Consume, 32. Double-reed woodwind, 33. Bucolic, 35. Garbage, 39. Die down, 41. Slicker, 43. Unemotional, 44. Daybreak, 46. Care for, 47. Mouth (British slang), 49. Sick, 50. Female sheep (plural), 51. Crevice, 54. Untruths, 56. Emanation, 57. Loud, 63. Fortitude 64. Achy, 65. Tortilla chip, 66. Alleviate, 67. Flying saucers, 68. REQUESTED, 69. Sleigh, 70. Stars, 71. Verse.

Down

1. Part of the outer ear, 2. Press, 3. Diplomacy, 4. Carve in stone, 5. Backsides, 6. Transferred, 7. Wellness, 8. No more than, 9. Heavy and filling food, 10. A delayed flavor sensation, 11. Literary genre, 12. To yield or submit, 13. Cubic meter, 21. Orchard pest 25. Wail, 26. Head honcho, 27. Border, 28. Gray wolf, 29. Assigned, 34. State of being humble, 36. Distort, 37. Prong 38. Terminates, 40. COMPUTERSymbol, 42. Arm of the sea, 45. Control surface on a plane, 48. Tuft of strong filaments, 51. Enclosures, 52. Not urban, 53. Crop up, 55. Submarine detector, 58. Curdled soybean milk, 59. Impetuous, 60. Yucky, 61. Throat-clearing sound, 62. Connecting point.

Yesterday's Solution

1. DOLTS, 2. FADO, 3. HASP, 4. DILLIG, 5. BERTG, 6. AMMO, 7. GLOI, 8. OIICAL, 9. ROOK, 10. SONATA, 11. ALE, 12. DUKE, 13. ELUDE, 14. SHRED, 15. WHIT, 16. RECITE, 17. HEARKEN, 18. TREADLE, 19. ARMIES, 20. GUILTES, 21. TABLEAU, 22. KNEECAP, 23. ALUMNI, 24. DENY, 25. GESTS, 26. BODES, 27. ERNE, 28. BRRE, 29. LEGATE, 30. ROAR, 31. GAME, 32. KEEPER, 33. ASIA, 34. AGAR, 35. RESTS, 36. HELL, 37. DELE, 38. SKEET

athlete, backtrack, block, brush, class, ditch, hinge, hound, learn, level, limit, lumber, mend, mules, patch, pent, plead, quake, queen, receive, rough, seen, severe, skipper, sport, sprain, stamina, stares, strand, support, surplus, test, throb, toll, triple.

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