

Special Forces of Taliban Fighting in Helmand Province

LASHKARGAH - The special forces of the Taliban group are fighting in southern Helmand province which has been witnessing growing violence during the recent weeks. Equipped with modern and sophisticated weapons, the Taliban special forces belong to the 'Red Unit' which have been deployed to Helmand with an aim to capture large swathes of Helmand, including the provincial capital, Lashkargah. A special forces commander, Sayed Murad, has told Reuters "The Taliban have heavily armed, uniformed units that are equipped with night vision and modern weapons."



Murad further added that the militants are equipped with advanced weaponry, including night vision scopes, 82mm rockets, heavy machine guns and U.S.-made assault rifles. However, a U.S. military spokesman Brigadier Charles Cleveland told Reuters it was possible Afghan troops on the frontline had seen Taliban wielding night vision technology, but that the NATO-led coalition had "not seen any evidence" of such a capability. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Would-Be Female Suicide Bomber Surrenders in Jawzjan

SHIBERGHAN - A woman allegedly encouraged by her husband to carry out a suicide attack has surrendered to police in northern Jawzjan province, officials said on Monday. Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Turkistani, the provincial police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the woman's husband, Qari Zia, was a Taliban leader in Darzab district. Qari Zia had long been encouraging her wife to carry out a suicide attack, he said. The police chief said Zia asked his wife to go to eastern Nangarhar province and learn how a suicide attack was carried out and ready herself for one. Qari Zia was currently living in Nangarhar and forced her wife in telephonic communications to come to Nangarhar and learn suicide attacking. Turkistani said the woman after arriving in Shiberghan city, Jawzjan's ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

8 Closed Schools Reopen in Logar's Mohammad Agha

PUL-I-ALAM - Eight schools the Taliban had closed a couple of days ago in the Mohammad Agha district of central Logar province have been reopened, thanks to elders' help, officials said on Monday. Logar education department's spokesman, Mohammad Shapur Arab, told Pajhwok Afghan News tribal elders played a vital role in reopening of the schools, allowing at least 2000 students both girls and boys to resume studies. He said the schools included a high school for boys, three middle schools for girls and four primary schools both for boys



and girls. The Mohammad Agha district chief, Naseer Ahmad Amin, also confirmed the schools' reopening in Surkhbab area. However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied late on Sunday they had ordered closed the schools. There ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

ANA Officer, Civilian Wounded in Kabul Bomb Attack

KABUL - A civilian and an Afghan National Army (ANA) officer were injured on Monday morning when a magnetic bomb hit a Corolla car near the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in Kabul. MoD deputy spokesman, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Radminsh, told Pajhwok Afghan News that an ANA lieutenant and a civilian were wounded in the explosion that took place in the ninth police district around 9am. He said it was unclear whether the civilian injured in the incident was with the ANA officer or a pedestrian. The wounded were evacuated to hospital and their condition is said to be stable. As usual, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and said many ANA officers had been killed or wounded in the incident. *(Pajhwok)*

A Dozen Taliban Killed in Paktika, Paktia Airstrikes

SHARANA/GARDEZ - At least 12 Taliban insurgents have been killed and several others wounded in airstrikes by foreign forces in southeastern Paktika and Paktia provinces, an official said on Monday. Baz Khan, the Yusafkhel district police chief in Paktika, told Pajhwok Afghan News that foreign forces carried out airstrikes late last night in Gergahna area of the district and Spin village of Omna district. He said eight insurgents were killed in the airstrikes and five dead bodies of the



rebels remained in the areas. Similarly, a resident of Paktika's Khoshmand district, Abdul Manan, told Pajhwok Afghan News that foreign forces conducted an operation on a house of a Taliban commander named Wafadar in the district's Panah Gir area. ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

2 Girls Equipped with Suicide Vests Killed

NURISTAN - Two young girls equipped with suicide bombing vests were killed during an operation in Nuristan province, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said Monday. According to a statement by MoD, the two young girls were among 27 killed during the operations conducted in Want Waigal district. The statement further added that 31 others were also wounded during the same operations. The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far and it is yet not clear which group had recruited the two young girls for the suicide attack. Nuristan is among the relatively volatile provinces in eastern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in a number of its remote districts. The province is located ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Policeman Buries Hatchet with Former Talib Son

MAIMANA - A policeman has made peace with his Talib son after the young man renounced violence and joined the peace process in Faryab province. The son was among three Taliban insurgents who recently laid down their weapons in Qaisar district of the province. Twenty-five-year-old Said Mohammad, who joined the peace process, is the son of a local police commander. Mohammad has fought his father in battle on a number of occasions and had been ordered to kill him. Four years ago Mohammad says he was swayed into join-



ing the Taliban by a local Mullah - who at the time called government and security forces infidels. Mohammad then left home and joined the Taliban - where he not only fought battles against his own father but also against government forces. During one battle, Mohammad was wounded by government forces - a clash that ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

US Army Staff Sergeant Dies of Non-Combat Injury in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Defense said 36-year-old Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Wilbur died from a non-combat-related injury in Afghanistan. Wilbur, of Granite City, Ill., died Friday in Kandahar while deployed as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, which targets terrorist activity in Afghanistan. "Wilbur was assigned to 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, in Fort Carson, Colorado," the Defense Department said in a statement released Sunday. The



Defense Department said the incident surrounding his death is under investigation but provided no further details. Wilbur was married with two young children. Richard Wilbur, 69, said his son was born and raised in Granite City, adding that he spent 11 years in the military including two deployments in Iraq before being sent to Afghanistan. *(Agencies)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

The energy seems to be settling back into place and you're eager to reestablish your daily routine. Although you must work extra hard today, at least you're keeping up with your responsibilities. The more specific you are in your communication with your coworkers, the more you can expect to accomplish. But don't be concerned if your schedule falls apart later in the day.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You have a concrete idea of how you want your day to roll out and you're not in the mood to negotiate with anyone. The ability to stand strong with determination is one of your greatest assets. However, today's strength of character is best demonstrated by your willingness to adapt to changes as they unfold rather than resisting them every step of the way.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although you are known for your talent of keeping things light and breezy, the Moon's conjunction with potent Pluto in your 8th House of Deep Sharing motivates you to dive into an emotional issue today without reserve. Thankfully, words come easily now, enabling you to ask probing questions in a disarming manner. However, you could discover something so shocking that you might wish you didn't dig so deep.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Normally, you can handle emotionally intense conversations, even if you hold your own feelings close to the chest. However, you may grow upset today if you are goaded into discussing delicate matters by someone who doesn't know when to stop pushing. You could surprise others - you might even surprise yourself - by the intensity of your reaction when you share your discomfort. Never be

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your coworkers might be quite annoying now, especially if your agenda is different from theirs. Although you prefer it when everyone follows your lead, you're willing to go off on your own in order to stay true to your highest calling. Thankfully, you are working with just the right cosmic balance today that makes you crazy enough to do anything, but sane enough to

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're still operating under the illusion that more information is better than too little. However, several planets in picky Virgo reinforce your desire to hold onto only the most useful data. Don't jump to any conclusions because your perspective will likely shift and change throughout the day. As Atticus said in the book "To Kill a Mockingbird", "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You're not interested in revealing too much about your feelings or your plans today as the strategic Moon-Pluto conjunction falls in your 4th House of Roots. In fact, others could see you as a stoic optimist who will not succumb to negative thinking. Although your logic is sound now, you may not reach the best decision unless you open your heart to the love and support that's all around you. Ultimately, you might not

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You have something significant to say about many different subjects today. Although you might prefer to remain quiet in a crowd, you're motivated to share what's on your mind with a receptive audience. You are viewing your world with a very practical lens now and are afraid that others could steer things in a different direction. Think through your message before speaking and be as

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

An investment opportunity may come your way today and you would be wise to pursue it with gusto. However, this is not a get-rich-quick scheme; you can't sit by idly and expect money to grow on trees. This is a hands-on chance to turn sweat equity into something of intrinsic value. Once you make a commitment to participate in the project, don't throw in the towel until you reach your goal. The future belongs to those who create it.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

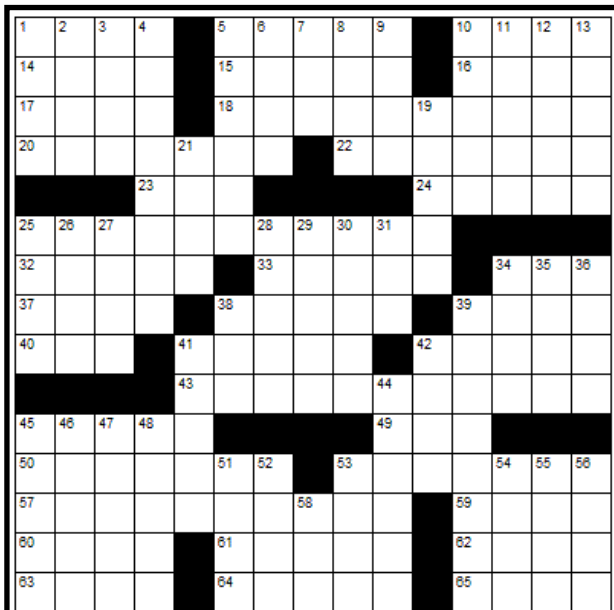
You are prepared to take a passionate position on nearly any matter that comes to you for consideration today. In fact, you may react in such an extreme manner that your behavior is upsetting to others. Nevertheless, you're not likely to temper your words; everyone must simply deal with the truth as you see it. Unfortunately, the ruthless Moon-Pluto conjunction in your 1st House of Personality can use your wrath

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You may spend money unwisely today or feel a bit betrayed by people when receptive Venus opposes deceptive Neptune in your 2nd House of Personal Resources. Fortunately, you are rational and clear-headed enough to adopt a more practical outlook on life. Nevertheless, there is an undeniable tension now between your desires and your social obligations.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Compassion is admirable, yet quite difficult to maintain if it's not reciprocated in some way. A partner may lack credibility today when vulnerable Venus in your 7th House of Associates opposes slippery Neptune. Knowing what you want and holding people accountable for their actions are essential pieces of the puzzle while the Moon is visiting earthy Capricorn. Remember, you can't afford to have untrustworthy allies when there's so much at stake.



Across
1. Sweeping story, 5. Quiet, 10. Headquarters, 14. Start over, 15. Habitual practice, 16. Astringent, 17. Peddle, 18. Strictly obeying the law, 20. Latticework, 22. Having tooth-like projections, 23. Dawn goddess, 24. Brusque, 25. Nonreligious person, 32. Anagram of "Arson", 33. Tropical fruit, 34. Tavern, 37. Not yours, 38. Anaglyph, 39. Cab, 40. Hair goop, 41. Deli item, 42. German iris, 43. Immeasurable, 45. Hinder, 49. Tall hill, 50. Remedy, 53. Compactness, 57. Submerged, 59. Pout, 60. Bit of gossip, 61. A long-legged S. American bird, 62. Ancient Peruvian, 63. Ripped, 64. Columbus's birthplace, 65. Sounds of disapproval.

Down
1. At one time (archaic), 2. Equal, 3. Doing nothing, 4. Irish girls, 5. Stubborn, 6. Applications, 7. Children's game, 8. Quaint outburst, 9. Expunge, 10. Sew together loosely, 11. Communion table, 12. Jackets and trousers, 13. Master of ceremonies, 19. Foreword, 21. Plenty, 25. Tailless amphibian, 26. Debauchee, 27. Nobleman, 28. Picture, 29. What we are called, 30. Genuflected, 31. Conceit, 34. Stinging remark, 35. Angle of a leafstalk, 36. Ascend, 38. Tin, 39. Send 41. Motorcyclist, 42. Portent, 44. A European peninsula, 45. Gossip, 46. Slowly, in music, 47. More peculiar, 48. Cream (cooking term), 51. Booty, 52. Wise one, 53. Audition tape, 54. Charged particles, 55. Fit snugly into, 56. Not nays, 58. Buff.

Yesterday's Solution
LECH SWAB TICKY
LECRU OZZES MONO
AHEW BAUNA PROW
LODES DRUMBEATS
IRKS EMBAR
ACTUATE BASICS
CHA STISE ELEM
REB ERIDE LEB
ECLAT NUTSHELL
KETONE EATABLE
EROSE TOUR
COAL ESCED PLATE
ETUI FAREB ATOIP
SIRE SPILLE GENE
SCAR BELLY EDGE

apply, bite, black, bread, clash, dealer, dollhouse, drink, effort, event, fume, gases, gleam, guys, honor, luster, mixture, naval, near pleat, profession, profile, rest, rots, round, rumor /serve, silly, snap, snare, soap, soften, spear, stake /tables, tale, tease, thigh.

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