

Insurgents Blow up Afghan-Tajik Transit Bridge in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Taliban militants have blown up the only transit bridge between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in northeastern Kunduz province, an official said on Sunday.

Deputy police chief, Masoom Hashimi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents, after being defeated in Khanabad district, suffered 37 fatalities. Subsequently, they launched attacks on the Alchin Bridge.

He said the bridge was damaged and Afghan forces were fighting against the militants in the area. The bridge, 300 meters long and six meters wide, connects three



districts with Kunduz City and is a key link between the neighbours.

"This bridge has been harmed at the directive of Pakistan because Afghanistan had started importing high-quality cement and food items from the neighbouring country that affected Pakistan's markets," Hashimi added.

He said that the bridge was destroyed to force Afghanistan into starting imports from Pakistan again.

A cement trader, Mansoor, said Pakistani goods, particularly cement, had recently lost their market in ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Family of Slain Rebel Leader Seeks Govt's Assistance

PUL-I-ALAM - The family of a slain Taliban commander in central Logar province has been struggling with economic hardships since the commander's death seven years ago, but still the family is committed to educating their children.

Mullah Sadat, who led a 10-member Taliban group, was killed along with all his associates seven years ago during a direct engagement with American forces.

Sadat was a resident of Haroon Khel village on the outskirts of Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital. He left behind his wife, five sons and three daughters.

His eldest son, Nisar Ahmad, told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview that they had been in dire straits since the killing of his father.

"We still face many problems but I, my sisters and brothers all are getting ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Taliban's Shadow Judge Arrested in Parwan

PARWAN - The shadow judge of the Taliban group was arrested during an operation in northern Parwan province of Afghanistan, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said Sunday.

According to a statement by MoI, Mohammad Nader was arrested during an operation conducted in Shenwar district of Parwan.

The statement further added that Nader was involved in several trying several people in desert courts and issuing fatwas against the people.

The Taliban militants group



has not commented regarding the report so far.

Parwan is among the relatively volatile provinces where the Taliban insurgents are active in a number of its remote districts and

often carry out insurgency activities.

This comes as the group has intensified attacks in northern provinces during the recent months, including the ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

10 Kg of Opium Withdrawn from Tajikistan-Afghanistan Border

ALMATY - 10 kg of opium have been withdrawn at the border of Tajikistan and Afghanistan, reports the Tajikistan Telegraph Agency (TajikTA).

"10 kg of drugs have been withdrawn after the firefight at the border of Tajikistan and Afghanistan," reports the border service of Tajikistan.

The drugs trafficking attempt was suppressed on August 17 at the checkpoint named after General-Mayor Amakiyev. One trespasser was injured, others managed to escape to the territory of the bordering state.

Approximately 10 kg of opium have been withdrawn. (KazTAG)

ANA Casualties on Rise Amid Growing Violence, 15 Martyred in 24 Hours

KABUL - The Afghan National Army (ANA) forces casualties remains rampant in the past 24 hours as the level of violence has considerably grown during the recent days.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the ANA forces lost at least 15 soldiers in the past 24 hours as the continued to conduct operations to suppress the local and foreign terrorists across the country.

"The Afghan National Army (ANA) forces are prepared for



all kinds of devotion and with all force to maintain security and comfort for the people of Afghanistan," a statement by MoD said, adding that 15 Afghan soldiers ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

4 Prominent Taliban Commanders Killed

JALALABAD - At least four prominent commanders of the Taliban group were killed during an operation in eastern Nangarhar province. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the Taliban commanders were identified as Naeem Khalid, Mohammad Arif, Al Badar and Abdul Rahman.

According to a statement by MoI, the Taliban commanders were killed along with several others militants during a clash in Hesarak district. The statement further added over all 21 Taliban insurgents were killed and 27 others were wounded.

The Afghan security forces also confiscated 3 PK machine guns, 3 Ak-47 rifles, 1 rocket launchers and some ammunition and explosives from the militants, MoI added.

The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. Hesarak is among the relatively volatile districts in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other insurgent groups are actively operating.

The Taliban militants ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Rebels Behead Varsity Student; 4 Wounded By Mortar Shells

MAIMANA - Militants have decapitated a university student while four people, including a minor girl, were wounded in a separate incident in northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Monday.

Syed Loqman Gharik, administrative chief of Sherin Tagab district, identified the victim as Taj, a student of the Agriculture Faculty, hailing from Samangan province.

He said Taj was travelling home when militants got him off a passenger bus in Dashti-Faizabad locality. The student's headless body was discovered early Monday morning.

Hospital sources in Faryab confirmed receiving the student's body, which was later sent to Samangan. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the decapitation incident. A security ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

20 ALP Men Suffer Casualties, Taliban Capture Kunduz Village

KUNDUZ CITY - At least 20 Afghan local Police (ALP) personnel suffered casualties during overnight clashes with Taliban insurgents who captured an area near the provincial capital of northern Kunduz province, an ALP commander said on Monday.

ALP Commander Sheikh Zahid told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban stormed Zar Kharid locality, seven kilometres from Kunduz City, on Sunday night and captured it early on Monday morning as the ALP forces lacked enough ammunition and reinforcements did not reach to assist them. An ALP



fighter, Habibullah, said they lost 12 check-posts and around 20 ALP officials suffered casualties during the clash with Taliban. "There was no air and ground support with us in Zar Kharid." Maj. Gen. Masoom Hashimi, Kunduz deputy po-

lice chief, confirmed the clash and claimed security officials had retaken the area lost to Taliban on Sunday night. He said clashes were still underway between Taliban and security forces in the province. (Pajhwok)

1 Child Killed, 3 Injured in Jawzjan Roadside Bombing

SHIBERGHAN - A girl was killed and another two girls and a boy were injured in a landmine explosion in Qush Tapa district of northern Jawzjan province on Monday, an official said.

The governor's spokesman, Mohammad Raza Ghafori, told Pajhwok Afghan News the blast took place when the children were crossing a road in Chaghar village of the district.

He said an 11-years-old girl was killed and three others aged between 12 and 14 were injured in the incident. The injured children were said to be in stable condition.

Ghafori accused the Taliban of planting the bomb to target Afghan Local Police (ALP) and uprising members.

He, however, said two militants planting bombs on a road were detained in Qorbaqa area of Muradian district. The detainees had confessed to planting bombs to target security forces, Ghafori added.

Ghafori also said two ALP members defected to the Taliban along with a vehicle ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You are so focused on doing a good job today that you can get lost in even the smallest task. Learning how to adjust your methods at work is especially important once the Sun moves into modest Virgo to join an ongoing planetary party in your 6th House of Service. This is an excellent time to sharpen old skills and develop new ones. But getting attention is not the same as getting results.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

While it's smart to have the right data at your fingertips, too much information can weigh you down and prevent you from reacting spontaneously. The way in which you see your world determines how you live in it. Naturally, you want to take responsibility and do what's expected of you. However, it's also beneficial to make time for fun when the Sun dances into virtuous Virgo.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Redefining your relationship with your home and family entails a complex mix of thinking and feeling. However, you receive a convincing invitation to reality when the Sun moves into pragmatic Virgo and your 4th House of Security. Thankfully, observing how your subconscious mind operates can help you turn anxiety into opportunity. Recognizing and respecting the line between enthusiasm and hyperactivity actually makes it possible.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

No matter how busy you think you are now, the cosmos is raising the ante and you will soon be even busier. There's no time to rest once the Sun rushes into your 3rd House of Immediate Environment, making it nearly impossible to keep up with everything that's happening. Be prepared to pass up a chance for career advancement if the trade-off is to keep your life in balance.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

The best way to collaborate with individuals who are working with ideas contrary to your position is to balance your joyful creativity with objectivity and common sense. The Sun's shift into prudent Virgo and your 2nd House of Resources reminds you to attend to pressing financial matters while they are still manageable. Of course, being thrifty today help.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Easy Street might appear to be around the next corner, motivating you to take a shortcut and make a mad dash for the finish line. Unfortunately, this impatient move is not wise -- opposing forces may be stronger than you realize. Proceed with caution, instead of trying to force progress today. Sometimes you can make a sensible decision by lining up all the alternatives and rationally eliminating them one by one.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Take some time away from the maddening crowds for a hefty dose of self-reflection now. Engaging in a spiritual practice counterbalances the high levels of personal and professional activity that are bound to keep you hopping throughout this month. Nevertheless, serious matters demand your attention with the Sun's presence in methodical Virgo and your 12th House of Privacy.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your future is brighter than you realize even if your plans are up in the air. Your fears about the direction of your life may be exacerbated now; thankfully, you can rely on your inner voice to come through with sound advice. Listening to your intuition helps you resist the temptation to overstep your current boundaries and enables you to proceed with sensible caution.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Brilliant insights pop out of thin air while your nerves are stretched tight by practical issues. Taking center stage seems natural now that the hardworking Virgo Sun is shining in your 10th House of Career. Concentrating on immediate tasks while polishing your skills raises your status on the job, but a lack of focus could reduce your effectiveness. If you aspire to turn your life in a radical new direction.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

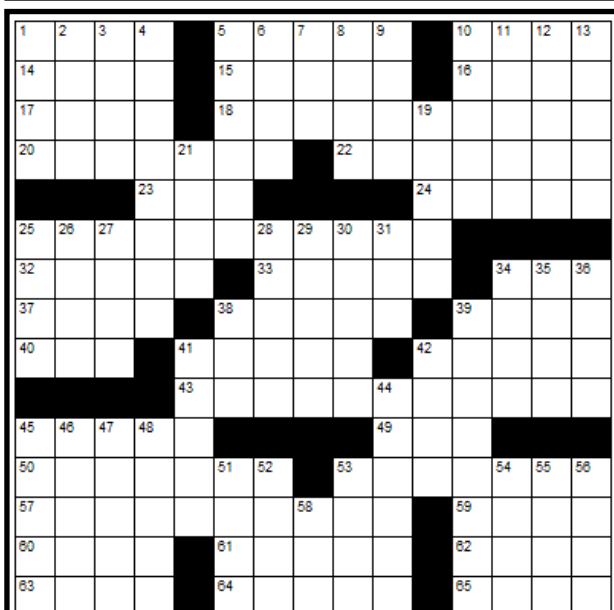
The future is now and you're ready to apply the principles that you hold most dear. Thankfully, practical intelligence is a gift of the Sun's entry into technically astute Virgo and your 9th House of Higher Mind. Mapping out the details of a complex journey comes easily today; you're primed to learn from the best and can be an effective teacher for those who lack your skills and experience.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Being flexible enough to shift from making plans for the future to addressing the nuts and bolts of the present logistics is essential for creating more effective alliances now. But general principles give way to concrete pragmatism as the Sun shifts into earthy Virgo and your 8th House of Shared Resources. Blaming others isn't helpful if reality doesn't match up to your expectations.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

All types of relationships find their way into the spotlight now. The Sun's entry into ethical Virgo and your 7th House of Companions starkly illuminates the complex dynamics of your partnerships, while encouraging you to work through unresolved issues with others. Discovering a new truth can be a powerful source of inspiration, but testing it diligently will reveal whether it's actually useful or just a passing thought.



Across

1. Consciousness, 5. Slumber, 10. Not soft, 14. Den, 15. Crown, 16. Double-reed woodwind, 17. Chocolate cookie, 18. Circuitous, 20. Gourmandizer, 22. Take up the cause, 23. Center, 24. Daisylike bloom, 25. Furnace, 32. Birthing coach, 33. Courtyards, 34. Consumed food, 37. Countercurrent, 38. Agitated, 39. Small songbird, 40. Donkey, 41. Express a thought, 42. Not first or second, 43. Walkers, 45. Smell, 49. Cool, once, 50. Polluter, 53. Gift, 57. Abhorrent, 59. Mimics, 60. Not odd, 61. Territories, 62. Feeble, 63. Lairs, 64. After ninth, 65. Catches.

Down

1. Plod along, 2. Nobleman, 3. Place, 4. In a frothy manner, 5. A rapidly flashing light, 6. King of the jungle, 7. French for "Water", 8. Sea eagle, 9. Cushions or mats, 10. Vagabonds, 11. More or less, 12. Awaken, 13. Discourage, 19. 3-banded armadillo, 21. Bluefin, 25. Bright thought, 26. Gestures of assent, 27. Wads, 28. Fanciful, 29. Redress, 30. Attempts, 31. Petroleum, 34. Diva's solo, 35. Small slender gull, 36. Terminates, 38. Gibbon, 39. Cheated, 41. Opaque gems, 42. Tall woody plant, 44. Flail, 45. Supplemented, 46. Female ruff, 47. Frequently, 48. Comportments, 51. French for "State", 52. Unusual, 53. ___ du jour = Meal of the day, 54. Type of sword, 55. Tidy, 56. Sounds of disapproval, 58. Tall hill.

Yesterday's Solution

amusement, beard, bleak, clatter, confess, decent, desire, dread, drift, dunce, feed, focus, forget, gangster, glare, grade, harbor, lent, mumble, necessary, owner, parchment, peel, pencil, point, possess, romance, slaves, solution, sorry, spell, wanton.

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