

Two Foreigners among 12 Killed in Taliban Attack

KABUL - At least 12 people were killed in an 11-hour-siege by Taliban on a foreign guesthouse near Spanish Embassy in central Kabul, which ended early Saturday morning, sources said. The killed included two Spanish citizens, one Afghan civilian, five Afghan police and four attackers. "At around 06:00 p.m. Friday, one terrorist detonated a car bomb at the entrance of a guesthouse in Shairpoo locality, enabling three other attackers to enter the building. Units of Police Special Operation Force arrived at the site shortly after the at-



tack and launched a counter-offensive against the terrorists," the Afghan Interior Ministry said in a statement Saturday. A total of 12 guests trapped in the targeted building were rescued by the police, the statement added. "The clash ended at around 5:30 a.m. Saturday. As a result of the terrorist attack, four police were martyred and seven civilians sustained injuries while four attackers were killed," according to the statement. Unofficial sources said that two Spanish nationals and one Afghan civilian were among the killed, adding that five police lost their ... (More on P4)... (14)

UNSC Slams Terrorist Attack in Embassy Area in Kabul

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council on Friday condemned "in the strongest terms" the terrorist attack in the vicinity of the Embassy of Spain in Kabul, which resulted in at least two deaths. The casualties include an Afghan policeman and an officer of the Spanish National Police serving at the Embassy of Spain, as well as a number of wounded persons, the 15-nation UN body said in a statement issued to the press here. "The members of the Security Council reiterated their serious concern at the threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, ISIL (Islamic State) affiliates, and illegal armed groups to the local population, national security forces, and international presence in Afghanistan," said the statement. A car bomb exploded near the Spanish Embassy in Afghanistan's capital early Friday evening. The Taliban claimed responsibility for "suicide attacks... on a guesthouse of invaders in the Sherpoo area of Kabul in the evening." (Xinhua)

ISIS Might Have Passport-Printing Machines

KABUL - American intelligence has issued warning of another serious threat posing from the terrorist group of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). An intelligence report obtained by ABC News states that the terror group's followers may have infiltrated American borders with authentic-looking passports ISIS has printed itself with its own machines. According to ABC News, the 17-



page Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Intelligence Report which was issued to the law enforce-

ment last week says that ISIS likely has been able to print legitimate-looking ... (More on P4)... (15)

District Governor Killed in Baghlan

PUL-E-KHUMRI - A district governor was shot dead following an ambush attack in Baghlan province on Saturday, police said. "Suspected militants ambushed the vehicle of Abdul Jabarlami, governor of Burka district, along a main road in neighboring Baghlan-e-Markazi district at around 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Islami was shot and killed shortly after his vehicle was intercepted," Zabi-



ullahShoja, provincial police spokesman, told Xinhua. The deceased governor was travelling to his office in Burka from provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri after Friday's

holiday, he said. The fate of policemen escorting him and that of his driver remained unknown, the source added. No group has claimed responsibility ... (More on P4)... (16)

10 Militants Surrender in Badakhshan: Official

FAIZABAD - About 10 members of Taliban militant group on Saturday renounced violence and surrendered to the government in Afghan Northern Province of Badakhshan, an official said. "A total of 10 anti-government opponents under the command of Mullah Hafizullah denounced the hostility and joined the peace and reconciliation process," Ab-

dul Wahid Tahibi, chairman of provincial peace council, told Xinhua. He said that the government will spare no efforts to help the former insurgents to rejoin their families and provide them jobs. The surrendered who were active in Baharak district also handed over nine rounds of weapons to security authorities earlier on the ... (More on P4)... (17)



Afghan workers clean place near Spanish embassy after Taliban attack in Kabul on Saturday December 12, 2015. Two Spanish nationals and four Afghan policemen were killed, and nine civilians were wounded, the ministry of Interior confirmed. (EFE/EPA/JAWAD JALALI)

Taliban Claims Responsibility for Kabul Blast

KABL - The Taliban claimed the responsibility for the massive blast that rocked Kabul on Friday evening. Reports suggest that the blast appeared to have taken place in a car near the Spanish Embassy in the city's affluent Sherpur area, which has many foreign embassies and ... (More on P4)... (18)

Eight Development Projects Completed in Nimroz Province

KABUL - National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Saturday said that 8 development project worth Afs4,000,000 funded by the including 10% community contribution completed in Kang and Chakhansor districts of Nimroz province. ... (More on P4)... (19)



An Afghan boy sells coal to be used for fire, in Herat province on Saturday December 12, 2015. Afghanistan is experiencing a harsh winter season with temperatures falling well below freezing in many parts of the country. (EFE/EPA/JALIL REZAYEE)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're ready to deliver on a recent promise and might be so intent on fulfilling your commitments today that you ignore your friends. Anyone who stands in your path may encounter your wrath, especially if he or she becomes the temporary target of your frustration. Your best move is to deconstruct a large job into smaller tasks that can be accomplished individually.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Although you have a firm grasp on your common sense today, your fantasies aren't going anywhere fast. In spite of your down-to-earth perspective, you're clinging to your dreams with more determination than ever. There's little time now for any emotional detours, so focus on your goals regardless of any temporary setbacks you experience along the way.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're not very happy today if you have to face a complicated emotional issue that won't leave you alone. It's not that self-doubt is your problem; to the contrary, you could feel quite confident these days. However, you may try to keep the debate on an intellectual level, even when feelings continue to resurface. It's best to relax and let the conversations unfold naturally, since your attempts to avoid the intensity only add fuel to the fire.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're often the overly emotional one of the group, but it's likely that someone else's feelings could destabilize an already complicated situation today. You prefer everyone to be more careful about saying things that might be hurtful. Your innate sensitivity enables you to see that a kind and respectful approach improves the chances of maintaining peace and harmony.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You might insist that other members of your family hold up their end of the deal and do what they promised. You can be a stickler for details while the Moon works her way through your 6th House of Efficiency today. Just remember, your standards may be more exacting than anyone else's now, even if you believe that you're going easy on them. It's admirable to strive for perfection.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are eager to kick back and enjoy yourself today once you have fulfilled your obligations. But don't passively wait for an invitation; do something that allows your creativity to shine. It's likely others will resist making commitments now, so don't count on them joining you on your escapade. It's wonderful to have a partner in crime along for the ride, but there's something thrilling about venturing out on your own.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Although you are often known as the peacemaker of the zodiac, you may be the one who stirs up a bit of trouble today. Your anger could boil over now, especially if you think you're being taken for granted. Participating in an interactive process can certainly be gratifying, but not if others won't take the time to recognize your contribution to the group process.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

There's absolutely no reason to beat around the bush today. There are issues that need to be addressed, and any attempt to withhold your feelings just makes them harder to ignore. The Moon's conjunction with chatty Mercury emphasizes your 3rd House of Communication, inspiring you to express what's on your heart. Pick up the phone.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You may be required to handle an unpleasant situation today that brings up old self-esteem issues. Naturally, you're capable of demonstrating your confidence, but now your swagger is a convenient cover for a deep insecurity that you want to keep to yourself. Believe it or not, it takes a lot less energy to share what you're feeling than to hide it. Additionally, the subsequent conversations might bring you closer to someone you admire.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You might feel the pressure of discordant emotions building like a smoldering volcano. You can try to intellectualize your plans, but it's not wise to keep your passions buried beneath the surface now. If you want to avoid the consequences of an uncontrollable eruption today, express yourself instead of slipping into denial. However, it's best to start slowly by letting off a little steam with a friendly audience.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

It seems like reining in your imagination should be a simple task, but all the good intentions in the world won't turn off your fantasy generator today. You can't stop thinking, even if you don't like where your thoughts take you. Unfortunately, the more you try to shut out your dreams, the louder they grow. Your best strategy is to simply observe your inner process with as much objectivity as possible.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You aren't necessarily looking for trouble today, but it might find you anyway. Retreating back into the privacy of your inner world seems like a clever way to sidestep an uncomfortable situation. However, you could end up internalizing your current anxiety unless you face it directly. Keeping your cool even when you are caught up in the drama of the moment offers a chance for the tension to quickly fade.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Across: 1. Procrastinate, 6. Short golf shot, 10. Not right, 14. "Yippe!", 15. Dwarf buffalo, 16. Relating to aircraft, 17. Betel palm, 18. Mountain pool, 19. Outcropping, 20. Designation, 22. Hello, 23. Sleigh, 24. Exit, 26. Exploded star, 30. Mineral rock, 31. Beam, 32. Analogous, 33. Annul, 35. Demolish, 39. Explosive device, 41. Rejoinder, 43. Indian antelope, 44. "Damn!", 46. Prod, 47. A box for bricks or mortar, 49. Consumed food, 50. Feudal worker, 51. Mask, 54. Mothers, 56. By mouth, 57. Eclipse, 63. Big party, 64. A collaborative website, 65. Run away to wed, 66. French for "State", 67. Hodgepodge, 68. A green fabric mixture, 69. Arid, 70. Writing implements, 71. Experiences.
Down: 1. An aquatic bird, 2. Tropical tuber, 3. Throat-clearing sound, 4. Hubs, 5. Advances (money), 6. Striped or spotted, 7. Unassisted, 8. Lawn mower brand, 9. Leather maker, 10. Sorrowful, 11. Creepy, 12. Chafes, 13. Roman cloaks, 21. Not silently, 25. Sharp intake of breath, 26. Badgers, 27. Gumbo, 28. Contends, 29. Efface, 34. Cantatas, 36. Vipers, 37. Render unconscious, 38. Not there, 40. Shortly, 42. List components, 45. A small fireproof dish, 48. A 1950s genre of music., 51. Judges, 52. Give a speech, 53. Of the cheekbone, 55. Mantelpiece, 58. Wicked, 59. Maguey, 60. Bird of peace, 61. Iridescent gem, 62. Dampens.

Yesterday's Solution: adapt, admit, again, arrangement, cafe, cute, deflect, detours, discuss, drag, drew, drift, duress, fires, forge, frame, furs, gracious, grapes, grasp, house, ladder, lugs, mixture, music, noise, optional, patch, pegs, pert, process, repaid, rhyme.

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