

9 Killed after Troops Repel Taliban Attack

GHAZNI - Afghan army soldiers on Monday repelled a Taliban attack on security checkpoints in the eastern province of Ghazni, killing eight militants, and one soldier also died, an army source said.

The attack occurred in the early morning hours as several armed militants stormed the checkpoints in Mohammad Kli and Regrashan localities of Muqur district, Hanif Rezahi, an army press officer in the province, told Xinhua.

About 12 militants and two army soldiers were also wounded in the clashes which lasted for a couple of



hours in the province, with Ghazni city as its capital, 125 km south of the national capital of Kabul, the source added.

The Taliban militants, who ruled the country before being ousted in late 2001, renewed armed insurgency, staging ambushes and suicide attacks, killing combatants as well as civilians.

They have been on rampage since the beginning of 2015 when the Afghan security forces assumed the full responsibility of security from the U.S. and NATO forces. (Xinhua)

Unidentified Men Kill 5 Civilians in Sar-I-Pul

SAR-I-PUL CITY - At least five civilians have been killed and two others injured by unidentified armed men in Sancharak district of northern Sar-I-Pul province, an official said Monday.

Provincial deputy police chief, Col. Enayatullah Habibi, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the civilians were gathered in a house in Taghai Khwaja area of the district when came under attack on Sunday night.

He said five civilians were killed and two others wounded when the unknown men opened fire on them. The motive of the attack yet to be cleared.

No one has so far arrested in connection to the attack which was under police investigation, he said. (Pajhwok)

Another 2 Women Shot Dead in Herat

HERAT CITY - Two women have been gunned down in western Herat province, taking the number of females killed this year in the province to 10, local officials said on Monday.

Herat zonal hospital spokesman, Mohammad Rafiq Shirzai, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had been delivered dead bodies of the two women.

He said one of the victims, a 27-year-old woman had been shot dead by unknown armed men in Bagh Zubaidah locality of the fifth police district of Herat City, the provincial capital.

He said the second victim, a 60-year-old had allegedly been killed by her son in their house. Her body was evacuated to the zonal hospital by security forces who had arrested her son.

Meanwhile, police spokesman Abdul Rauf Ahmadi said police had started their investigation into the two incidents.

The zonal hospital official said so far 10 women had been killed and their bodies delivered at the hospital this year. (Pajhwok)

Kandahar Violent Incidents Leave 2 Dead, 4 Hurt

KANDAHAR CITY - Two people, including a policeman, were killed and four members of a family were wounded in separate incidents of violence in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Monday.

Four members of a family, including a woman were wounded in an explosion in the Bibanak area of Maiwand district at around 11:00pm, Samim Khpalkwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said a roadside bomb ripped through a civilian vehicle en-route to Maiwand district from Helmand province leaving four members of a family on board critically hurt. The blast threw legs of the two injured in to the air.

District Chief Sultan Mohammad blamed Taliban for the explosion saying the roadside bomb was recently planted by the insurgents. Wounded individuals had been evacuated to Kandahar city's Mirwais hospital by police.

Incidents of explosions and attacks have recently enhanced in Kandahar in which besides government ... (More on P4)... (14)

7 IS Militants Killed in Afghan Airstrike

JALALABAD - Seven militants of Islamic State (IS) group were killed in a U.S. drone attack in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar, police said on Monday.

"The coalition forces conducted a drone strike against an IS militants' hideout in Langari area of Haskamina district late Sunday, killing seven militants," Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal, provincial police spokesman, told Xinhua.

He said no civilian was hurt by the raid as the attack occurred in a remote area of the mountainous province.



Nangarhar province with Jalalabad city as its capital, 120 km east of Kabul, has been the scene of clashes between Afghan security forces and IS militants since the emergence of IS in early 2015.

Earlier on Monday, a police

officer was killed in a landmine explosion in Alishing district of neighboring Laghman province, according to Sarhadi Zwak, provincial government spokesman. 7 IS militants killed in Afghan airstrike. (Xinhua)

8 People Killed and Wounded in Zabol Incidents

QALAT - Two civilians, one policeman and one insurgent have been killed and two civilians and as many police wounded during separate incidents of violence in southern Zabol province, an official said on Monday.

Gul Islam Syeal, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the two civilians were killed and as many injured in a roadside bombing.

He said the explosion took place Baho Qala locality of Shinkai district on Sunday before noon and the

wounded were evacuated to the provincial civil hospital by police.

The same day, a separate roadside bombing ripped through a police vehicle in Dab Kotal area of Shinkai district, killing one police and wounding two others.

Meanwhile, security forces killed a rebel and seized his weapon during a clearing operation against militants in Shahjoi district yesterday.

The Taliban have not yet commended about these incidents. (Pajhwok)

High-Ranking Taliban Commander Killed

MOSCOW - According to interior ministry, the commander was involved in terrorist activities across the Parwan province.

A top commander of the Taliban group, Mullah Naiem Kor, was killed in the central Afghan province of Parwan, the country's interior ministry said on Monday.

"Yesterday, Afghan National Civil Order Police launched a special operation in the Siah Gard district of Parwan province, in which



a Taliban's key member Mullah Naiem Kor known as Umaduddin was killed," the ministerial statement said, as quoted by Kabul-

based Khaama Press newspaper. Three militants are said to have been injured during the special operation. ... (More on P4)... (15)

10 Taliban Eliminated in Nuristan Operation

ASADABAD - Ten militants were killed after security forces raided their hideout in Barg-i-Matal district of eastern Nuristan province, the governor said on Monday.

Hafiz Abdul Qayum told Pajhwok Afghan News the police operation targeted the insurgent hideout in Badin Sha locality of the district, killing 10 rebels. He said civilians and security forces suffered no casualties during the gun-battle.

Ministry of Interior (MoI) officials also confirmed the opera-



tion in Nuristan and as well as Taliban's casualties. They said some weapons and

ammunitions were seized by security forces in the operation. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're distracted, not only by the myriad of things on your to-do list now, but by a nagging ache in your subconscious. There may be something that you try not to think about often that pervades your head space today, reminding you that you're not over the issue yet. But resolution won't come from simply shifting your attention to something else.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

The clutter on your counter-tops mirrors the clutter in your mind today. It's difficult to finish one thing before starting another, and the disorganization may be driving you a little crazy. Although the outside world is disorienting now that vulnerable Venus is under duress in your 10th House of Status, an old grudge may be what's troubling you on the inside.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Buzzing like a bumble bee from one flower to the next, your loquacious disposition is on display for all to see today. You're proficient in juggling a million tasks at once, but may feel scattered underneath the chatty veneer once the restless Gemini Moon jumps into your changeable sign. Nevertheless, memories of an old emotional scar are chanting in the background of your mind. No matter how much you try to avoid the healing process.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You may be so lost in your thoughts that you consider taking a personal day. Your mind shifts like a holographic image from the reality of the present moment to the uncertainty of the future and to the nostalgia of the past. Your reminiscence could lead you down a path to an unpleasant event that has haunted you all these years.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You might find your attention diverted by an influx of social invitations today, even with the best of intentions for high productivity. In fact, you're an expert at using your busy schedule to cover up an old wound. You can't be on top of the world all the time, so be sure to face this lingering emotional issue before it hijacks your day.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're all too familiar with losing yourself in specifics and technicalities. You may notice that your thoughts meander a little more than you prefer while you're busy at work or school today. In fact, maverick Chiron's current activity in your 6th House of Habits draws you back to an old pattern you wish to change. It's hard for you Virgos to admit that you're imperfect like everyone else.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You seem to create one amazing plan after another today, and before you know it you have imagined your path into six unique futures. Unfortunately, you might not get much actual work done while the Gemini Moon breezes through your 9th House of Big Ideas, diffusing your focus as she goes. But beneath the surface lies a recollection of a less fulfilling time which still plagues you. You may not feel as alienated now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Managing your moods is a full-time job today as memories from the past bubble back to the surface. Although you might be cautiously optimistic when you see blue patches of sky on the horizon, you're not home free just yet. Wounded Chiron is under attack now, requiring you to process feelings that obscure your happiness.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Boundless banter swirls around you today, decreasing your productivity while providing welcome entertainment. The witty Gemini Moon's presence in your 7th House of Others attracts conversations that may be cheerful on the outside. However, your internal dialogue is more disconcerting if you find it difficult to avoid getting lost in nostalgia. Remembering a past experience can be a catalyst that temporarily eclipses your normally sunny demeanor.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

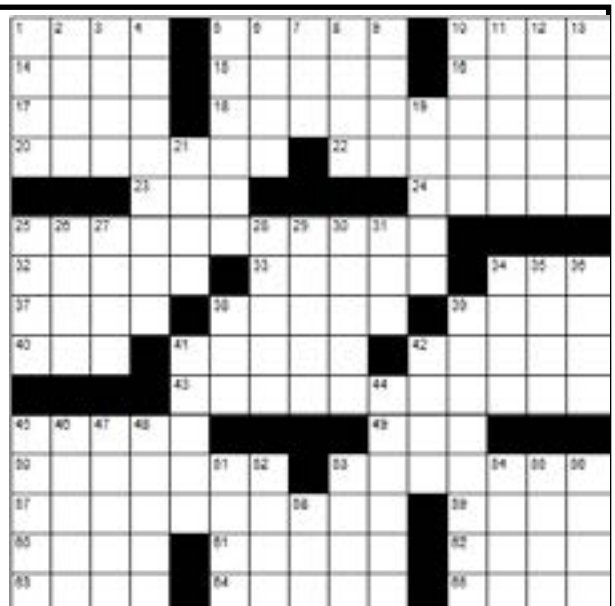
You want to do it all -- the morning fitness class, the phone call you promised to a friend, and the workload you accepted to meet a deadline. Unfortunately, one interruption after another makes it difficult to focus on completing your list no matter how hard you try. You just don't have as much energy as you prefer today, while your thoughts vacillate between excitement for the future and regret about the past.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You wish you could take a play day instead of having to return to work or school. In fact, you'd love to be distracted by any number of fun things today. The excitable Gemini Moon forms an easy trine to creative Venus, filling your mind with ideas for arts-and-crafts projects that you wish to fit into your schedule. However, it isn't wise to ignore what must be done, both externally and internally.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You can't quite find your footing today as your restless mind makes it nearly impossible to concentrate. Ironically, the one thing you want to avoid is the one thing that dominates your consciousness. The whimsical Gemini Moon stresses your 4th House of Family, prompting you to replay an unresolved childhood memory again and again like a broken record. Your thoughts are an amorphous mirage shifting from past to future and back again.



Across

1. After-bath powder, 5. Napped, 10. U-boats, 14. Chocolate cookie, 15. Cowboy movie, 16. Leg joint, 17. Bearing, 18. Beyond belief, 20. Illegitimate child, 22. Half woman and half fish, 23. Citrus drink, 24. French for "After", 25. The state of being a citizen, 32. Pee, 33. French school, 34. Glass container, 37. Foot digits, 38. Ritz, 39. Country bumpkin, 40. Terminate, 41. Name of a book, 42. Slander, 43. Compulsively, 45. Vamoose, 49. Mineral rock, 50. Low leather step-in shoes, 53. Twisted into deformity, 57. Encumbrance, 59. Wild hog, 60. Backwards "Reed", 61. Carried, 62. Beige, 63. Being, 64. Sugary, 65. Little dent.

Down

1. Grave, 2. Operatic solo, 3. Dregs, 4. Has within, 5. Evening event, 6. Territory, 7. And so forth, 8. Hair salon process, 9. Tall woody plant, 10. Cut corners, 11. Anagram of "Urban", 12. Negate, 13. Sows, 19. Curtain, 21. Axlike tool, 25. Adorable, 26. Press, 27. Fastened, 28. Salamanders, 29. Climb, 30. Sharpens, 31. Type, 34. A certain confection, 35. Cain's brother, 36. Depend, 38. Bro or sis, 39. River bottom, 41. Volumes, 42. Former Italian currency, 44. Shakespearean verse, 45. Skid, 46. Arrives, 47. Sexually assaults, 48. Ere, 51. Bones on your sides, 52. Put away, 53. Departed, 54. Hubs, 55. Acquire deservedly, 56. Medication, 58. Fury.

Yesterday's Solution

barn, blight, cars, challenge, chap, check, cheese, chose, count, crown, discussion, enjoy, expect, gaggle, gasoline, gloat, habit, history, loft, manage, pause, petty, quest, reminder, rich, safety, simple, smell, snatch, splay, stark, strand, teat, trace.

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