

14 Policemen Killed in Taliban Attack in Helmand



LASHKARGAH - At least 14 policemen were killed in a Taliban attack on two security check posts in Lashkargah, capital of the Helmand province on Saturday night, local security sources said. The attack took place at about

1 am local time. After the Taliban insurgents attacked security check posts in PD7 and PD8 of Lashkargah city, clashes continued for more than an hour, according to the sources. Hayatullah Hayat, the provincial

governor, confirmed the attack and said: "11 policemen were killed and two others were wounded." He did not provide further details. The Taliban have not yet commented on the attack. (Tolonews)

One Killed, Two Wounded in Balkh Explosion



MAZAR-E-SHARIF - At least one person was killed and two others were wounded in a magnetic mine blast in Balkh province, police said Sunday.

The incident occurred on Sunday at 11:00 when a magnetic mine placed in a Hilux vehicle detonated close to Noor square in Mazar-e-Sharif city, capital of Balkh province, police added.

One weapon also discovered in the vehicle, police said.

Police did not provide more information about the victim's identity of the weapon owners. Investigations are underway to find out to whom the vehicle and the weapon belonged.

No group, including the Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack. (Tolonews)

'NDS Releases Khadim after 3 Days in Captivity'

KABUL (Pajhwok): Global Link and Analysis Hub (AGAH) head, Intizar Khadim, was on Saturday released after spending three days in intelligence service's custody, an official said.

Intizar Khadim was detained by the National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel as he returned to Afghanistan from India on last Wednesday.

Earlier, the Wolesi Jirga members and civil society activists said Khadim had been arrested in violation of the law and should be set free at the earliest possible.

However, a security source, on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News Khadim was let go on Saturday evening. (Pajhwok)

Heavy Explosion Rocks Quetta City in Pakistan

QUETTA - A heavy explosion has rocked Quetta city of Pakistan amid reports a gun battle is underway between the security forces and the remaining militants.

The incident has taken place in the vicinity of Zarghoon road but the type of the explosion has not been ascertained so far.

There are also no reports regarding the casualties as a result of the explosion.

Hospital sources in Quetta have confirmed that dead bodies of five people including a woman and twenty others in wounded condition have been shifted to the hospitals.

The home minister of Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti earlier told local media outlets that the incident has taken place close to Imdad Chowk and the target of the attack is apparently a church located on Zarghoon road.

He said preliminary reports indicate a group of four suicide bombers have taken position in the blast site and a clash is underway in the area.

No individual or group has so far claimed responsibility behind the incident. (KP)

Key Taliban Commander Arrested in Nangarhar Night Raid

JALALABAD - At least four Taliban militants were killed and a key commander of the group was arrested in a night raid carried out by security forces in the eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday evening, local officials said Sunday.

The operation was conducted in Khogyani district in the province to arrest a well-known Taliban commander in the area, said Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for Nangarhar governor.

"Seven other suspects were arrested during the operation," Khogyani said.

He did not provide further details about the operation.

Taliban rejected the report and



claimed that the Afghan forces targeted a madrassa, religious school, in the district.

The group claimed that two students and a local resident were killed and nine others were arrested during the operation. (Tolonews)

U-19 World Cup: Afghan Team off to New Zealand

KABUL - The Under 19 (U-19) national cricket team on Sunday departed for New Zealand to take part in the World Cup event commencing from January 13.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) chairman Lutfullah Mashal told reporters here the national team would face Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Ireland in the group stage matches.

"The U-19 team is taking part in the World Cup with complete preparation and we hope they will win become the winners," he added.

Team coach said the team was

fully prepared in all three departments the batting, bowling and fielding. The preparation was on global standard and hopefully the team would put up a good show in the global championship.

He said Afghanistan was participating in the World Cup having won the Asian Cup.

Skipper Noor-ul-Haq Nawin said: "We are prepared and will work according to the plan to get the results."

Qais Ahmad Kamawal, a team player, said he was fully prepared to take part in the World Cup. (Pajhwok)



Woman Killed in Car-Bombing on Foreign Forces Convoy

KANDAHAR CITY - A woman was killed and five others injured in a car bombing on foreign forces convoy in Kandahar City, the capital of southern Kandahar province on Sunday afternoon, an official said.

Police Chief Gen. Razeq said the Surf car was used in the bombing that took place in the Shorandam locality in the limits of fifth municipality district. A passer-by woman was

killed in the attack while five civilians injured, he said, adding foreign forces suffered no casualties.

Zabihullah, an eyewitness, said the car-bombing on foreign forced convoy took place at around 2:30pm. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You can see blue sky on a rainy day, enabling you to walk on the sunny side of the street no matter the weather. The inspirational Sagittarius New Moon energizes your 9th House of Distant Horizons, empowering you to transcend the apparent obstructions between you and your dreams.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You are eager to give a partner the benefit of the doubt today, even if you envision potential trouble ahead. The optimistic Sagittarius New Moon occurs in your 8th House of Shared Resources, prompting you to gloss over any lingering doubts you might have about a joint venture.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini The more you seek approval from external sources, the less likely it is that you will feel encouraged. Unfortunately, your most dependable allies might question your ability to fulfill your ambitions while the Sagittarius New Moon joins naysaying Saturn in your 7th House of Relationships. However, your success is not contingent on anyone else's judgment unless you succumb to their negativity.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Your commitments may have piled up so high that you are overwhelmed today. You thought that everything was moving along according to plan, only to realize how much remains to be completed. The Sagittarius New Moon falls in your 6th House of Work, giving you hope that you still can perform a miracle.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo The weekend may be over, but you are busy building momentum toward the end-of-year festivities. You may already feel the holiday spirit and don't see the need to pretend otherwise just to keep up appearances. Much to your chagrin, you won't be free to indulge in sentimentalities if you haven't fulfilled your obligations.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo You are quite comfortable stepping into your power, but only when you are supported by solid information. However, you grow timid when you lack good data. Normally, anxiety might surface when the buoyant Sagittarius New Moon emphasizes your 4th House of Foundations because you can't trust the ground on which you stand. However, the proximity of retrograde Mercury and stabilizing Saturn helps to shore up your confidence.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra You may be blinded by the light of your own positive thinking today. Normally, optimism works in your favor, but you must exercise caution or you could spread your energy so thin now that you won't be effective at anything you do. Thankfully, the Sagittarius New Moon collaborates with strict Saturn in your 3rd House of Information.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio You are neither an optimist nor a pessimist today. You are a possibilist, believing that good intentions coupled with hard work can bring about the results you desire. The audacious Sagittarius New Moon lands in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem, planting seeds of confidence that might grow into a job well done.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius Taking your game to the next level seems like a piece of cake until you actually step up to the plate. The cavalier Sagittarius New Moon prompts you to believe you can do nearly anything now, without taking responsibility for the consequences of your choices. Thankfully, sobering Saturn's presence demands that you come to your senses before you create a situation that you can't control.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn The sands of time are slipping through the hourglass and you intuitively know you must act before the moment is lost. You are passionate about your current ambitions while the ennobling Sagittarius New Moon invigorates your 12th House of Destiny. However, matters are complicated because this lunation is aligned with restrictive Saturn, which enters your sign tomorrow.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius Tantalizing glimpses of the future fascinate you with a variety of possible paths. You wish that you didn't need to wait until your dreams come to fruition. However, authoritative Saturn has laid down the law and there are no shortcuts when traveling down the river of time. Nevertheless, the adventurous Sagittarius New Moon triggers your 11th House of Long-Term Goals.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You've been wandering long enough and it's time to take bearings on your current position. Normally, you're quite happy to follow the whims of your imagination. However, the opportunistic Sagittarius New Moon animates your 10th House of Career, offering you the chance for professional recognition for your outstanding work. Nevertheless, you must pay your dues to achieve success.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across clues: 1. Away from the wind, 5. Generous slice of the pie, 9. Fellows, 13. An island in Indonesia, 14. Lubricated, 16. Two-toed sloth, 17. Cards with 1 symbol, 18. Subarctic coniferous, forests, 19. Scoff at, 20. Leases, 22. Governed, 24. Pile, 26. Wealthy man, 27. Without a weapon, 30. Backfire, 33. "Mild-...", 35. Classical Greek, 37. Offer, 38. Accord, 41. African antelope, 42. Roasters, 45. Sneak thief, 48. Bloating, 51. Handmaid, 52. Garden bulb, 54. Encounter, 55. Chorus line performers, 59. Genus of heath, 62. Tropical tuber, 63. Mountain crest, 65. After-bath powder, 66. Winglike, 67. A Biblical measure, 68. French for "State", 69. Part of an egg, 70. Arid, 71. Lairs.

Down clues: 1. Not fully closed, 2. Shoestring, 3. Fair, 4. Not western, 5. Drunkard, 6. Teller of untruths, 7. Foreign, 8. Mendicant, 9. A concern, 10. Module, 11. Baseball great, Ruth, 12. Sought damages, 15. Braised meat stew, 21. Alike, 23. Hubs, 25. South American country, 27. Part of an ear, 28. Unsophisticated, 29. Lair, 31. Gain favor, 32. Flax fabric, 34. Downturn, 36. Brusque, 39. "the season to be jolly", 40. The original matter (cosmology), 43. An interconnected system, 44. Self-satisfied, 46. No charge, 47. Turned inside out, 49. Of a pelvic bone, 50. A wispy white cloud, 53. Academy freshman, 55. Remain, 56. Angel's headwear, 57. By mouth, 58. Blend, 60. Family group, 61. Does something, 64. French for "Summer"

Yesterday's Solution: A crossword puzzle grid with the solution words filled in.

SMELLGTGRANDM
CRISISCHERISH
EDIAGRAMSERVE
YNNOITAVONNIW
YTIKFCCELLAMSA
BIIROGUEVUCIL
ILESETJEEESOL
PEILRGHUNRUNE
LTLSDENEREOVT
AOTISIVARORDR
CHEATWHITEOGA
ESSENCECNADPY
SPATENILTUOTS