60 Taliban Killed in Sangin Airstrike: Governor

LASHKARGAH - The governor, while not denying civilian casualties in an airstrike in Sangin district of southern Helmand province, on Saturday said the foreign troops targeted Taliban's hideouts.

Governor Hayatullah Hayat told a joint news conference with military officials here that no civilian lived the incident site, three kilometers from the Sangin district centre. He said only Taliban insurgents' hideouts existed in the targeted area.

Hayat said insurgents from various districts and provinces were assembling in Sangin to devise a plan for capturing

the district. He, however, said at least 60 insurgents were killed on Thursday night in security operations backed foreign air forces.

"There are allegations of civilian casualties in airstrikes in Mata Lakra and Chinari areas; we don't reject because insurgents might have willfully brought civilians to the area for defaming the government."

According to him, investigation is ongoing to find accurate information about the allegations echoed by Taliban and some government officials.

Hayat said underground tunnels had been dug from ...(More on P4)...(14)

Badakhshan: 2 Shot Dead, 4 Injured in Avalanche

FAIZABAD - Two men, including a police officer, have been shot dead by unknown gunmen in northeastern Badakhshan province, an official said on Saturday. Col. Sakhidad Haidari, crime branch chief, told Pajhwok Aghan News the incident occurred in the 1st municipality district of Faizabad, the provincial capital, at around 8pm on Friday night. He said the unidentified gunmen opened fire at Ahmad Shah, a resident of the area, and Adil, a counter-terrorism officer, and killed both. ...(More on P4)...(15)

Terrorists Attack Border Post: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani army said terrorist from Afghanistan launched an overnight attack on a border post in Mohmand Agency in northern Pakistan.

"Pakistani troops at the post effectively responded to the fire. Terrorist fled back to Afghanistan," the army said in a statement late Friday. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (TPP JA), a splinter group of the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban ...(More on P4)...(16)

Suicide Bomber Targets Afghan Military Convoy

KABUL - A suicide car bombing Saturday killed at least seven people and wounded many others in Afghanistan's embattled southern province of Helmand, officials said.

Afghan television stations reported the blast left at least 12 dead.

The Taliban insurgency took responsibility for the bombing, according to a spokesman for the group, who claimed army officers and soldiers were among the casualties.

The attack near a bank in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah was aimed at an Afghan

National Army (ANA) convoy, a provincial government spokesman told VOA.

Soldiers and civilians were among those killed and wounded, said Omar Zwak.

He added that at least 21 wounded people have been sent to area hospitals.

The victims were collecting their salaries when the ...(More on P4)...(17)

Taliban Claim Responsibility for Deadly Afghan Blast

KABUL - The Taliban have claimed responsibility for a car bomb blast Saturday that killed at least eight people in southern Afghanistan.

In a text message to journalists, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the group was behind the early-morning attack.

The explosion happened in Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province.

A least 19 other people were wounded in the explosion, according to Omar Zwak, a spokesman for the province. (BBC)

12 Militiamen Defect to Taliban in Sar-I-Pul

SAR-I-PUL CITY - A dozen public uprising members, along with their weapons, led by Khair Mohammad have joined the Taliban ranks in the capital of northern Sar-i-Pul province, an official said on Saturday.

Governor Mohammad Zahir Wahdat said the 12 individuals surrendered to the Taliban in Gala Jar area of Sar-i-Pul city, the provincial capital, and turned in their 12 guns.

Similarly, about two weeks back, a 21-member group

of uprising forces joined the Taliban ranks in Siyad district of the province. (Pajhwok)

Kandahar-Uruzgan Highway Motorists Forced to Use Alternate Routes

KABUL - Motorists travelling between Kandahar and Uruzgan have raised concerns over the lack of safe routes between the two provinces after the Taliban closed the key highway months ago.

According to motorists, they are now using alternate routes which are unpaved and not safe.

They said the Kandahar-Uruzgan highway has been closed for about five months.

"People were stuck here for days because of rain and snowfall. The road is not paved and its security is not maintained. We

face lots of difficulties here," said Azizullah, an Uruzgan resident.

Kandahar local officials meanwhile said they will address these problems as soon as possible.

Abdul Hanan Munib, Kandahar's acting governor, said that plans are being drawn up to build a 40km stretch of road as an alternate route. The ...(More on P4)...(18)

Gas Cylinder Explodes Near MoD Car Parking

KABUL - A gas cylinder exploded near a car parking at the Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Saturday, damaging a vehicle, an official said.

MoD spokesman Maj. Gen. Dawlat Waziri told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place around 8:20am.

He said the driver of a Ranger pick-up was heating his vehicle when the blast happened, which was initially taken as a bomb blast. But the MoD ...(More on P4)...(19)

2 ALP Officials Detained with Alcohol in Takhar

TALOQAN - Two Afghan Local Police (ALP) members have been detained with hundreds of bottles of alcohol by the spy-service in northern Takhar province, an official said on Saturday.

The governor's spokesman, Sunatullah Timor, told Pajhwok Afghan News the alcohol was being smuggled in two ALP ...(More on P4)...(20)

Taliban's IED Expert Arrested in Farah Province

KABUL - A key Taliban militant expert of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) making was arrested in western Farah province of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the Taliban IED expert was arrested from Bala Bolok district highway as he was planting a roadside bomb.

MoI further added the militant is originally resident of Bala Bolok district and was involved mainly in roadside bombings.

No further details were given regarding the identity of the arrested mili-

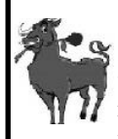
tant but MoI said the militant was arrested by the intelligence operatives of Farah police commandment. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. Taliban militants and insurgents belonging to other militant groups frequently use Improvised Explosive Device (IED) as the ...(More on P4)...(21)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

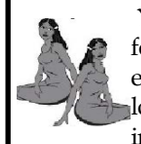
Although you're well suited to charging ahead with no one telling you what to do, collaboration is favored today. Group discussion can act as a feedback loop that magnifies collective aspirations, creating the perfect environment for brainstorming. However, you're so eager to get your hands dirty that you may grow restless, ready for less talk and more action.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You finally can settle into a comfortable groove, solving problems while staying on track. Your ambitions seem crystal clear now, making it simple to tailor your daily routine to support them. An affirming Sun-Jupiter alignment stabilizes the connection between daily and long term goals, clarifying your path and bolstering your faith in the future.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You can't help but convey your enthusiasm for some exciting newly acquired knowledge. Thankfully, you can bring your philosophizing down to earth and incorporate it into your personal expression. It seems like there's room in every conversation to slip in a nugget of wisdom, and you're happy to share what moves you. However, you may end up talking circles around people when you throw in too many technical details.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You feel like opening all the windows of your heart to let the breeze in. Your inner sky has cleared to blue today, and you can finally take a long deep breath. This space to breathe is perfect for journaling your thoughts as the detail-oriented Virgo Moon graces your 3rd House of Writing. Exploring your feelings is less disorienting now.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Contentions melt away to be replaced with gracious conversations today. It's easier to see everyone's point of view now as you objectively find value in what others have to say. You're likely to learn more about your companions when you're willing to listen and share equally.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

In your mind, growing your wealth is a reflection of a strong work ethic and personal integrity. You take special pride in your accomplishments now that the astute Aquarius Sun aligns with auspicious Jupiter in your 2nd House of Money. Making the pragmatic choice is easy when you see the relationship between your daily spending habits and your inflow of funds, allowing you to iron out wrinkles in your budget with your trademark attention to detail.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You seem to be in touch with your inner artist, bolstering your confidence in aesthetic endeavors. Cultivate your creative side today, whether that means settling in with a sketchbook, playing your guitar, or just styling yourself in a way that reflects your mood. However, the critical Virgo Moon's presence in your 12th House of Privacy may make it tricky to decide what you want to show to others and what you want to hold back for further polishing.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You're not sure if you're up to making plans today and you may find yourself vacillating a few times before deciding. There's a lot weighing on your mind these days and it seems like you're able to recall memories from the past with greater objectivity. Keeping a cool head while sifting through mental images from childhood allows you to enjoy them more.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You want to tell the world about your big ideas and you're in a perfect position to know your subject inside and out. Your high-minded ideals are funneled into your social space today, and it seems like everyone is all ears. The radiant Sun and boisterous Jupiter team up to magnify your oratory skills, sending you surfing on a wave of confidence. However, you might come across as overbearing or condescending if you are too self-righteous in your presentation.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

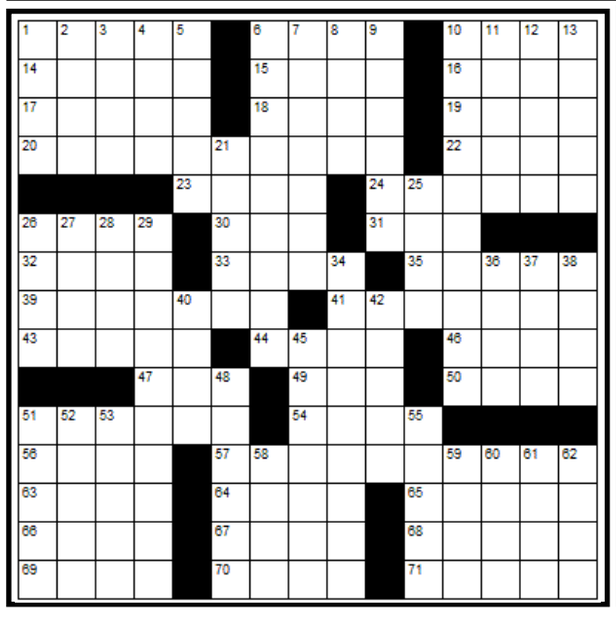
Your professional future looks bright as your aspirations and values are in harmony. The puzzle pieces seem to be fitting together and you're hopeful that things will keep going in this direction. However, you're not one to quit while you're ahead -- you see success as a sign to not slow down. You're already looking for more ways to arm yourself with the knowledge required to take you further in your ambitions.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A cosmic link is established between your future plans and your present self. You see where you want to go in stunning clarity, and you can almost feel the wind at your back, blowing you to your destination. You know you will reach your goals if you try hard enough, but nonetheless, you may feel a twinge of doubt. Irrational fears only impede your progress.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

It feels like you're interviewing yourself today. Get ready to take notes, because you can learn a lot if you remain open. The resistance you usually encounter when dredging up psychological issues is nowhere to be found, and you approach this shadow work with faith rather than dread. You may be eager to share your discoveries, but hesitation creeps up behind you when you start to wonder if others will understand your realizations the same way you do.



Across

1. Aroma, 6. Fraud, 10. Wail, 14. Depart, 15. Be dressed in, 16. River of Spain, 17. Courtyards, 18. At one time (archaic), 19. Wreaths, 20. Slacker, 22. Alley, 23. Ballet attire, 24. Chemical cousin, 26. Spurs, 30. Evil spirit, 31. Bovine, 32. Chills and fever, 33. Permits, 35. Express audibly, 39. A porch, 41. Modern sing-along, 43. Swelling under the skin, 44. Playthings, 46. Angers, 47. Female sib, 49. Cook in hot oil, 50. In order to prevent, 51. Expensive, 54. Enemies, 56. Not under, 57. Eyeglasses, 63. Was a passenger, 64. Armored vehicle, 65. Exchange, 66. Performance bookings, 67. If not, 68. Consumed, 69. Midmonth date, 70. Encounter, 71. Go on a buying spree.

Down

1. Close violently, 2. Of higher order, 3. Nobleman, 4. 57 in Roman numerals, 5. Inclined, 6. Confection, 7. Crooked, 8. Backside, 9. System of weights and measures, 10. A snapper fish, 11. Perpendicular to the keel, 12. Pee 13. Show-off, 21. Association of craftsmen, 25. Not sweet, 26. Donated, 27. Matured, 28. Harsh or arduous, 29. Dressmaker, 34. Shoot up abruptly, 36. Ripped, 37. Anagram of "Seek", 38. A musical pause, 40. Found on a finger, 42. Heretofore (2 words), 45. Umbrage, 48. Scheme, 51. Welsh dog, 52. Egg-shaped, 53. Marsh plant, 55. Satisfies, 58. Wan, 59. Poop, 60. Tardy, 61. Biblical garden, 62. Transmit.

Yesterday's Solution

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

annual, arnica, bliss, cattail, char, comprehensive, correct, crochet, determine, drift, eagle, fire, float, fluid , garden, garlic, ginger, glut, goose, information, insect, laurel, lids, little, loose, mare, mechanism, north, peach, peal, raven, sews, sign, stand, strive.

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