

Policemen Among 7 Killed in Paktika, Helmand Attacks

SHARAN - Five Taliban and two policemen have been killed and a notorious rebel commander wounded in fresh violence in southeastern Paktika and southern Helmand provinces, officials said on Saturday.

Paktika governor's spokesman Mohammad Rahman Ayaz told Pajhwok Afghan News the rebels shot dead two policemen and wounded a civilian in the Amberkhel locality of Sharan, the provincial capital, on Friday night.

Mohammad Nasim, a resident of the area, confirmed the incident and said Taliban shot dead two policemen in



front of their houses and wounded an Afghan Local Police official and a resident late last night.

The dead policemen severing in Yahyakhel district were going home on leave. Mohammad Noor, brother of one the dead, said the two policemen were coming home when they came under ambush.

He urged the government to find his brother's killers and give them exemplary punishment.

Separately, five fighters were killed and notorious commander Mullah Mubarez wounded during ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Ex-NDS Official among 3 Killed in Faryab, Badakhshan

M A I M A N A / FAIZABAD - A former National Directorate of Security (NDS) employee was among three others gunned down separately in north-eastern Badakhshan and northern Faryab provinces, officials said on Saturday.

Abdullah Masomi, the administrative head for Sabz-Push district of Faryab, told Pajhwok Afghan News Abdul Rashid Arab, a retired NDS worker, was shot dead by unidentified

gunmen in Gorzad locality of the district late on Friday night. He said the ex-intelligence official was 70-year-old and had retired from the spy service more than 10 years ago. Meanwhile, an off-duty border policeman was pulled from a car and gunned down by gunmen on Friday night. The border guard was going home from Maimana, the provincial capital, to Kohistanat district. Kohistanat district ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Clash Kills 4 in Takhar

TALUQAN - At least four people were killed as clash erupted between police and armed robbers in Rustaq district of Takhar province on Saturday, police spokesman in the province Sunatullah Timori said. The clash, according to the official, occurred after police attacked a group of armed robbers on the road connecting Rustaq district to provincial capital Taluqan and the robbers opened fire killing one police constable. In the clash which lasted for a while one traveler civilian and two robbers had also been killed, the official said. In parts of the militancy-hit ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Taliban Commander Among 9 Killed in Kapisa Operations

MAHMOOD RAQI - At least nine Taliban militants have been killed during operations in Kohi-Band and Tagab districts of central Kapisa province, an official said on Saturday.

Police spokesman Mohammad Ayub Yousufzai told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban commander Abdul Khahir was killed and his two partners were wounded in the operation in Darnama locality. Security forces and civil-

ians suffered no casualties during the overnight offensive, which also led to the seizure of some weapons from the rebels, he added.

Meanwhile, eight militants were killed and seven others injured in a separate operation in Tagab district, where the security personnel reopened the road the Taliban used for smuggling chromite to Pakistan.

The Taliban have no yet commented about the



incidents but claimed inflicting heavy casualties on the security forces in Nijrab district. (Pajhwok)

Afghan Forces Destroy Taliban Weapon Cache in Shindand

HERAT - Units of Afghan army raided a Taliban hideout in Shindand district of the western Herat province and destroyed a huge weapon cache of the militants early Saturday, an army spokesman Mehdi Qadiri said.

"Units of Army's Special Forces launched the operations early today and blown up a huge weapon cache of the rebels in Shindand district," Qadiri told Xinhua. Countless anti-vehicle mines and hundreds of kilograms of



explosive materials were destroyed during the raid, the official added. Taliban militants who have control over parts of Shindand district over the past couple of years are yet to make comment. (Xinhua)

4 Haqqanis Killed in Paktika Overnight Battle

SHARAN - Four members of the dreaded Haqqani network have been killed during a clash with security force in Barmal district of southeastern Paktika province, an official said on Saturday. Lt. Col. Mohammad Ayub, 203th Thunder Military Corps commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News dozens of Haqqani network gunmen attacked the corps base, sparking a battle that left four attackers dead ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

3 Daesh Affiliates Arrested in Nimroz

ZARANJ - Three Islamic State members have been arrested in southwestern Nimroz province, an official said on Saturday. Police chief Brig. Gen. Ghulam Jailani Abu Bakar told Pajhwok Afghan News the detainees included Mullah Dur Mohammad, who spearheaded a 50-member group active against government in Khan Abad district of southern Zabul province. Another detainee was Yar Mohammad, a former policeman who had defected to the rebels with two Kalashnikovs and a



walkie-talkie, he said. He said the third captured person, Gul Mohammad, was an expert in making roadside bombs. The police chief said the arrested group was planning to set up a training center and recruit young boys in Daesh group. (Pajhwok)



Afghan men watch cockfighting in Ghazni province on Friday January 13, 2017. (Xinhua/Sayed Mominzadah)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Although there are chores waiting for you today, you're ready to blow off your responsibilities and pursue a bit of overdue pleasure. Thankfully, the disparate pieces should fall into place pretty easily once you make your decision. There is no reason to hide your plans from anyone else, even if they don't agree with your choices. Follow your heart and not your head now.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You're eager to swing into action in order to reestablish your emotional equilibrium today. You may feel like a candle in the wind if you lose your connection with the more practical side of the equation. Nevertheless, your life is more stable than you realize and your light has nearly no chance of being blown out by changing circumstances. Author Ricki Rogers wrote, "Strength doesn't come from what you can do."

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You want to shout your plans from the rooftop today because you're anxious to make a point about how you want to live your life. You may think it's important to express your individuality and stand up to the authority of anyone who tries to limit your options. However, you could get carried away with your mission and overstate your cause. Unfortunately, people might not be so appreciative of your agenda unless you demonstrate your concern for their needs as well.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

The same ideas that you weren't sure about a few days ago now appear to be the shiniest of stars beaming at you. Your confidence inspires others to respond enthusiastically when you share your plans, which in turn, validates your ambitious intentions. However, your current originality can overshadow your common sense. Don't trade in a practical plan for an ingenious one that won't work.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

It feels good to boldly state your needs without much of a filter today. Your plans may be outrageous but your flair for the dramatic makes even the craziest idea sound totally plausible to your audience. Happily, everyone seems to be applauding your efforts and you're not completely sure why.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You might be riding a quiet wave of self-assurance now, but people won't likely see your positivity at first. You could go out of your way to hide a blooming relationship or minimize an infatuation with a person, place or idea because you don't want anyone spoiling it with their negativity. But your somber demeanor is confusing to others who can't understand what you're keeping to yourself. Greek philosopher Phaedrus wrote, "Things are not always as they seem."

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Maintaining your place in the social pecking order is easier today than keeping the peace in a family relationship. Although your friends and associates offer enticing invitations now, your time is better spent patching up hurt feelings with someone close to you than filling your calendar with many diversions. But don't expect too much too fast; you might miss the most important part if you continue to rush through the day.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You're tired of putting your professional reputation on the line. You wish there was a way to engineer a retreat where you didn't have to face any responsibilities for a few days. Plan your great escape, whether it's a long vacation to an exotic location or a quick afternoon getaway to a local spa.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Walking on the sunny side of the street requires no extra effort today because the shade seems to magically disappear as you approach it. In fact, it feels like everything is coming up roses even in the middle of winter. Nevertheless, as Grateful Dead lyricist Robert Hunter wrote, "When life looks like easy street, there is danger at your door." Even the most perfect situation can unravel quickly if no one is attending to the details. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

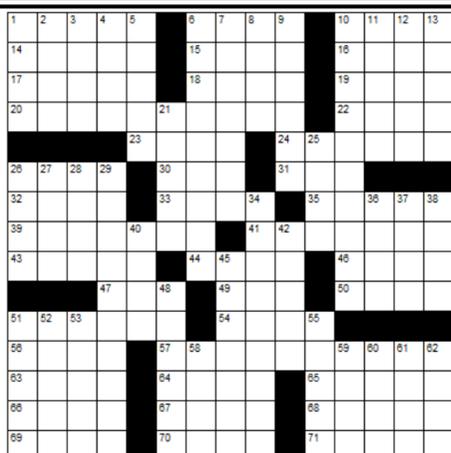
Although you don't necessarily like it when anything or anyone gets in the way of your productivity, it's nearly impossible to compartmentalize your feelings today. Thankfully, you won't likely be overwhelmed now as waves of compassion open your heart to the plight of those less fortunate. Nevertheless, your current hypersensitivity requires some time management, especially if your to-do list continues to grow.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You might need to put some personal space between you and another individual today if it feels like you're losing control of your boundaries. You aren't confident that you're reading the current situation correctly, but you're not ready to handle someone else's state of perpetual greed. There's no point in trying to reason with those who won't listen.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You can't let down your guard today until you meet your obligations. Fortunately, you're blessed with an abundance of energy so don't procrastinate while the cosmos is working on your behalf. However, your fantasy life might be running on overdrive now, distracting you from your responsibilities. You could derive great inspiration from your imagination if you stay conscious enough to know the difference between dreams and reality.



Across

1. Soft creamy candy, 6. Gown, 10. Wan, 14. A part of the small intestine, 15. Sweeping story, 16. Dash, 17. Anoint (archaic), 18. Roll up, 19. Learning method, 20. A lively whirling dance, 22. Leveling wedge, 23. Have the nerve, 24. Large lizard, 26. Alley, 30. Tall hill, 31. Ribonucleic acid, 32. Cards with 1 symbol, 33. Savvy about, 35. Savory jelly, 39. Knickknack, 41. Debase, 43. Old photo color, 44. Outbuilding, 46. Contends, 47. Russian fighter, 49. Fury, 50. Shade trees, 51. African antelope, 54. Besech, 56. Encircle, 57. Deranged, 63. 62 in Roman numerals, 64. Codger, 65. Two-door car, 66. Greek liqueur, 67. Sharpen, 68. Seraglio, 69. Not closed, 70. Anagram of "Seek", 71. Half of six.

Down

1. Decree, 2. Forearm bone, 3. Bambi was one, 4. Babylonian goddess of healing, 5. Make improvements, 6. Terms that refer, 7. Luxurious, 8. Engage in logrolling, 9. Cream-filled pastry, 10. Compelling, 11. Hello or goodbye, 12. Language of ancient Rome, 13. Colonic, 21. Forbidden, 25. Annoying insect, 26. Statutes, 27. Throb, 28. Half-moon tide, 29. Appraisal, 34. Overestimates, 36. Bucket, 37. Bit of gossip, 38. To tax or access, 40. Found on a finger, 42. Something to shoot for, 45. Pelvic arch, 48. Graceless, 51. Snow house, 52. Confusion, 53. Award, 55. Luxury boat, 58. Cozy corner, 59. Ark builder, 60. A purring sound, 61. Type of sword, 62. A Greek territorial unit.

Yesterday's Solution

STOMA SHOPE DUST
TAPES OOPS INCA
EXALTA TION SCAN
MILDEW SISE PAIDS
PNEUMIA DIAL
ERAS USURER
SUCCUMB MARI MBA
SIERRA GRATION
ENSURING GHEINNA
PNEUMIA DIAL
VALUUE NOMAD
ORAL AWL RENEGE
WINO GATE KEEPER
ESAU ALLES DRIER
LIEIS REINT SOCKS

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