

Taliban Deaths Exceeds 60 in Ongoing Operations in Helmand Province

KABUL - The death toll of the Taliban insurgents has exceeded 60 as the counter-terrorism and clearance operations are underway in southern Helmand province.

The local security officials are saying that the operations are currently being conducted in the vicinity of Nawa district, which were launched 48 hours ago.

Provincial police chief Abdul Ghafar Safi told reporters that four airstrikes were conducted in different areas of Nawa in the past 48 hours.

He said at least 62 insurgents have been killed during the operations so far, including some of their important commanders and around 40 more have been wounded. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*



Afghan Cricket Team off to London for Historic Match against MCC at Lord's

KABUL - The Afghanistan national cricket team left for London on Wednesday to play against the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in the historic One Day International (ODI) match.

The Afghan team departed Kabul earlier today and expects to play against the World XI next week, on 11th July.

Speaking during a gathering ahead of the national team's departure to London, the cricket board chairman Shukrollah Atif Mashal congratulated the Afghan team for the opportunity provided to them to play in a historic match against MCC.

He said the match against the World XI is not only historic and important for the Afghan team and cricket board but will have a specific importance to the Afghan nation as well.

Mashal urged the national team players to put up on show a good performance in a bid to show the world that the Afghan team is on the rise and improving, specifically after gaining full membership of ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

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Afghans Given 6 Days to Leave Mohmand Tribal Region

PESHAWAR - Undocumented Afghan refugees living in Mohmand Agency have been given a week to leave the tribal region, bordering eastern Kunar province.

The political administration has issued notices to all unregistered Afghan refugees to leave the area within six days, a leading Pakistani newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Stringent action would be taken against the Afghans failing to leave the area in the stipulated time, Dawn quoted an unnamed administration official as saying.

Local tribesmen have also been warned against renting out houses to Afghan refugees. "All Afghan refugees residing illegally in Mohmand Agency should return to Afghanistan within a week or face action."

Meanwhile, Afghan shopkeepers and traders were directed through mosque loudspeakers to sell their outlets and return to their homeland. (Pajhwok)

16 Members of Faryab Uprising Group Join Taliban

MAIMANA - Sixteen members of a local uprising group, led by Gul Ahmad, have joined Taliban's ranks in the Khwaja Sabzposh district of northwestern Faryab province, officials said on Wednesday.

Mansoor Azizi, police chief for the Maimana-Andkhoi highway, told Pajhwok Afghan News Ahmad had been appointed last year as commander of the group in Qazel Qeshlaq. He joined forces with the Taliban along with 15 members, who also surrendered 18 weapons.

Azizi warned if the government did not take immediate action to clear Qhezel Qeslaq village and other areas controlled by the militants, most government servants and members of the uprising would join the Taliban...*(More on P4)...(16)*

US Soldier Dead after Attack in Afghanistan

KABUL - A 19-year-old American soldier has died in Afghanistan's Helmand Province from wounds received in an attack, the Pentagon said on Wednesday.

Private First Class Hansen Kirkpatrick of Wasilla, Alaska, died on Monday in the incident, which was under investigation, a Pentagon statement said. Further details were not available.

Large stretches of the restive province in southern Afghanistan, source of much of the world's illegal opium supply, are in the hands of Taliban insurgents, who have steadily pushed back Afghan forces that now control less than 60 percent of the country.

The Trump administration is considering adding several thousand troops, largely in a training and support capacity, to the pared-down U.S. military presence in Afghanistan. (VoA)

Woman, Child Die as Rockets Hit House in Kabul

KABUL - A woman and a child were killed as rockets hit their house in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, an official said on Wednesday.

"A total of two rockets hit the Neyaz Beck residential neighborhood in the Fifth Police district. A woman and a child got martyred in the attack", Najib Danish, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, told Anadolu Agency.

He said police have reached the site to investigate the incident. Civilian casualties in Afghanistan are on an upward trajectory in the recent months.

According to official estimates, up to 231 civilians died in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan alone in terrorist attacks in the capital Kabul, and Paktia, Khost and Herat province. This includes the devastation caused by May 31 truck bombing in Kabul that killed up to 150 people.

Landmines are another major cause of civilian casualties. In the past two months, 29 civilians died in four incidents when their cars hit roadside landmines.

In February this year, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in its annual report that the civilians again bore the brunt of violence in Afghanistan in 2016 that saw a ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

29 Armed Taliban Killed and Wounded in Paktia

KABUL - The Mol said the incident happened when a group of armed Taliban fighters attacked an Afghan National Police patrol in Aryoub district on Tuesday night.

Fourteen 14 armed Taliban insurgents were killed on Tuesday night and 15 others were wounded in clashes with Afghan National Police in Zazai Aryoub district in Paktia province, the ministry of interior said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to them the incident took place in Dak region when the group of armed Taliban fighters attacked an Afghan National Police patrol.

During the incident, one Afghan National Border Policeman was wounded. No civilians were harmed, read the statement. (Tolonews)



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4 Policemen Killed in Farah Roadside Bombing

FARAH CITY - At least four policemen have been killed in a roadside bombing in western Farah province where two Taliban bomb planters detained by Afghan forces.

Governor's spokesman, Naser Mahri, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place when a police ranger pick-up was heading from Jowin district of Farah to the capital of the province late on Tuesday.

He said four policemen were killed and their pick-up vehicle destroyed in the attack in Dorjo village of the district.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to another report, police and intelligence forces detained two Taliban militants involved in planting bombs on roads in ...*(More on P4)...(18)*



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Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Like the mythical Icarus, you could fly too close to the Sun only to have your wings melt, plunging you into the sea. But knowing your fate might not be enough to prevent it from happening as the aristocratic Sagittarius Moon tricks you into believing you're above the rules. Nevertheless, you must answer to the laws of karma during Luna's conjunction with authoritative Saturn.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You typically don't like being pressured to step beyond your comfort zone until you are good and ready. Unfortunately, you could become irritated today when someone pressures you to join in a complicated venture that requires you to alter your plans for the days ahead. Don't just acquiesce in order to avoid a confrontation.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It seems like a thrill a minute when others enter your sphere of acquaintances to introduce you to another fascinating opportunity. However, the possibilities could be overwhelming because new offers are put on the table before you can evaluate the previous one. Naturally, you like the thought of doing something different, but you might need to narrow the field of options before making a decision about your future.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You might harbor regrets about something you recently did, especially if you didn't heed the common-sense advice you received. It's possible that you had an excellent idea and simply took it too far. Fortunately, there's still time to compensate for overplaying your hand, but you need to act quickly.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You're standing on your soapbox today, shouting about a topic of extreme importance to anyone who will listen. The problem is the information you're sharing may not be as accurate as you think. Unfortunately, it's nearly impossible to see how you are distorting the facts to favor your previously drawn conclusions.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

It's as if the communication door is closing and you're worried that you missed your chance to let others know what's been bothering you. Although you may believe you still have time, you must initiate a conversation immediately. Nevertheless, participating in an open discussion about a sensitive subject feels like an uphill battle today and you grow weary just thinking about it.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You might have a plan to take control of an awkward situation at work today, but you don't want others to know you're manipulating the situation. Your easygoing approach encourages people to lower their defenses. Your strategy is to sell your idea in such a low-key manner that your coworkers step into executive roles without knowing that you're pulling the strings.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your vision of the future is much more detailed than anyone realizes, but you're probably not ready to reveal it to the world yet. Unfortunately, you might appear like you don't know what you're talking about today unless you're prepared to drill down and discuss specifics. Thankfully, your self-restraint is legendary, but only when you are confident that your agenda is the right one.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your exuberance is powerful enough that your friends and associates watch you in awe, unsure of how to keep up with you. However, they might also wonder how to slow you down so you don't overshoot your target or burn out before you reach your goal today. Fortunately, you can monitor your own behavior more effectively than anyone else. Taking time to consider all the consequences of your actions enables you to modify your runaway optimism before it becomes a liability.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

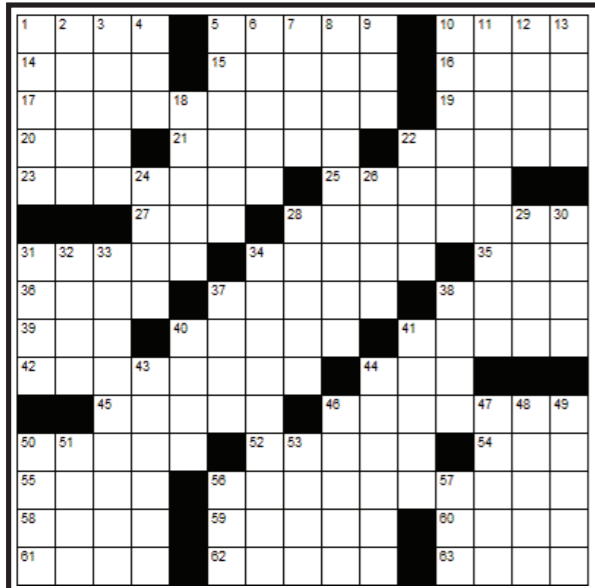
You're a champion of working within the constraints of a particular situation. Nevertheless, you may be suffering from the fallout of pushing back against an unfair rule or an unsympathetic authority figure. However, acting in a self-righteous manner will only make matters worse. Cooling your jets for a while is your best strategy now.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You may look to your network of friends and coworkers as your main source of inspiration today. In fact, you could be so moved by someone's words or actions that you pick up on their enthusiasm and take it to the next level. However, you might add so much to a promising idea that it loses focus.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your pragmatic approach to managing a project at work might surprise others today, since you're often the one with the most colorful visions. Actually, your current sense of practicality allows you to turn a recent dream into a concrete action plan. Your reasoning is sound enough that your coworkers are willing to set aside their agendas in order to be a part of yours. But don't push your luck and set your goals too high just because you receive encouragement.



Across

1. Stare, 5. Retail establishments, 10. Money owed, 14. Component of urine, 15. Latin name for our planet, 16. Arab chieftain, 17. Mollusc, 19. Sheltered spot, 20. Faster than light, 21. Got up, 22. Full of hardship or trials, 23. Conference, 25. Eighteen in Roman numerals, 27. Website address, 28. A drawing instrument, 31. Apprehensive, 34. Corrodes, 35. Letter after sigma, 36. Sea eagle, 37. Knuckleheads, 38. Small slender gull, 39. Years, 40. Magnetic induction unit, 41. Something of value, 42. Gruel, 44. A state of SW India, 45. Hebrew unit of weight, 46. Lacking in integrity, 50. Aroma, 52. Young salmon, 54. Prefix meaning "Modern", 55. Falafel bread, 56. Brought low in spirit, 58. Module, 59. Composure, 60. Overhang, 61. Agreeable, 62. Lazybones, 63. Not the original color

Down

1. Ludicrously false statements, 2. Mountain crest, 3. Knells, 4. Consume, 5. Unsaturated alcohol, 6. Long-necked bird, 7. Spheres, 8. Exists beforehand, 9. Unhappy, 10. Civility, 11. Grows weak and thin, 12. Defraud, 13. 3, 18. Hirsute, 22. Trailer trucks, 24. Certain, 26. Tanks, 28. Coarse edible red seaweed, 29. Trim, 30. Stalk, 31. Jump, 32. Therefore, 33. Industrious, 34. Heavy-handed, 37. Early 20th-century art movement, 38. Russian emperor, 40. Lass, 41. Heart artery, 43. Empathize, 44. Tiger Woods is one, 46. Thicket, 47. To untwist, 48. Annoy, 49. In shape, 50. Twirled, 51. Short skirt, 53. Letters, etc., 56. Consumer Price Index, 57. Directed,

Yesterday's Solution

GI RATH BRAY WJAL
 IO RHO I AME OLEO
 MOGUL UNTO RTGS
 PLAGIARISM STIE
 DIB ACHES
 DENIAT CANA
 EBONY DECRYPTED
 LOUT BEAMY FILE
 INNOCENCE BURAN
 EASH COLONY
 SHIER BEL
 SITIR INVIO LABLE
 CORA NEEB AVAIL
 AMEN GAGE REBEL
 BASIT STAIR DRESS

abhor, active, anaconda, anger, annihilate, antipathy, around, astir, beyond, blaze, chaste, cheap, curse, desire, eradicate, fleet, flush, fudge, futile, gene, race, hand, head, higher, humor, indeed

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