

Taliban Use Armored Vehicles to Attack Afghan Forces

Afghan officials confirmed that 61 Taliban militants and 11 policemen had been killed on Thursday in ongoing gunfight with security forces, as Taliban fought to regain control of its lost territories in the restive Helmand province.

KABUL - Early Thursday morning, militants hit barriers at the security ring in Girishk district, with two explosive-laden armored vehicles.

Abdul Salam, spokesperson for the provincial police, said one policeman was killed and five others were injured in the attack.

"A third bombing was prevented by the security forces. Fresh ground and air forces have been dispatched to the area to quell the attack," he added.

This is the first time the militants have used armored vehicles -- which were snatched from the security forces during previous clashes -- for suicide attack in Afghanistan.

Clashes also broke down in the nearby Garmseer district.

Abdul Rauf, police chief for the district, said that Afghan forces are engaged in gunfight with militants who ...*(More on P4)...*(17)



Conflict Intensity Declines in Helmand's Greshk

LASHKARGAH - Officials in southern Helmand province on Friday said the intensity of the conflict in Greshk district had reduced, but clashes continued.

The governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, told Pajhwok Afghan News said the Taliban launched a group attack on the district two nights ago and the clashes continued as of today, but their intensity had declined. He said the Taliban had lost the courage to enter a face-to-face engagement with the Afghan forces.

He said the rebels sent four Humvee vehicles full of explosives, but three of them were hit from the air and destroyed, but the fourth one reached its target, killing two policemen and injuring half a dozen more.

Zwak said the security forces had brought under control the situation in Adam Khan area, but clashes in Ab Shak and Sarband areas continued and the forces were trying to control the situation.

The official said airstrikes were carried out at eight places, in which the insurgents sustained heavy casualties. He said security forces had also suffered casualties, but exact figures were not yet known.

Meanwhile, provincial police spokesman Abdul Salam Afghan said 18 Taliban militants were killed ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

Report Shows U.S. has Ramped up its Airstrikes in Afghanistan



KABUL - The U.S. Air Force data indicates that 1,634 munitions had been dropped in Afghanistan as of June and majority of the airstrikes had targeted the Taliban.

Newly released U.S. Air Force figures indicate that Donald Trump's administration has ramped up the American air war in Afghanistan, dropping 1,634 bombs on terrorists so far this year.

The figures shows ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

Annual Poetry Session 'Nakhtar' Held in Paktia

GARDEZ - An annual poetry session - Nakhtar - was held in the capital of southeastern Paktia province, Gardez, on Friday, with dozens of poets and writers attending the event.

Paktia governor Shamim Khan Katawzai, who spoke on the occasion, said poetry played a key role in a language's promotion and had always been a good source of conveying message.

The governor urged the poets to give enough space to patriotism in their subjects. He said the poets besides Pashtu and Dari ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

5 Rockets Land Near Sayyaf Residence in Paghman

KABUL - Five rockets landed near the residence of Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayyaf, a former jihadi veteran, in Paghman district of central Kabul province on Thursday.

Paghman police chief Col. Sardar Mohammad Hakimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the rockets had been fired from the direction of central Maidan Wardak province landing near the residence of Sayyaf between 12pm and 1:30pm this afternoon.

He said the rockets caused no casualties as they landed in an open ground around the jihadi commander's residence.

The issue has been shared with security officials of Maidan Wardak for investigation, he added.

Sayyaf is the leader of Hizbi-Dawat Islami Afghanistan (HIDIA) party and the National Salvation and Stability Council of Afghanistan.

Sources close to Sayyaf also confirmed the incident and but said no one was hurt in the attack.

No rebel group has so far claimed responsibility for the rocket strikes. *(Pajhwok)*

Taliban Storm 2 Baghlan Districts Overnight

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Taliban militants staged simultaneous attacks on the headquarters of Guzargahi Nur and Nahrin districts of northern Baghlan province last night, officials said on Friday.

The ensuing clashes between the rebel fighters and security forces lasted several hours, the Guzargahi Nur district chief, Noor Mohammad Guzar, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said the attacks in his district began at about 2am last night, but the security



forces pushed back the attackers. He said nothing about casualties to either side.

Nehrini district chief Fazluddin Mardi said at about 2am the Taliban stormed the district center and the ensuing clash lasted until 5am. He said two Taliban attackers were killed and two were wounded. ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

24 Daesh, 2 Taliban Rebels Killed in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - As many as 24 Daesh and two Taliban militants have been killed during clashes and operations in eastern Nangarhar province, the provincial government said on Friday.

A statement from the media office of Nangarhar said clashes broke out yesterday between Daesh militants and local residents in the

Khogyani district. Twenty-four Islamic State fighters were killed and five others were captured alive by the residents, it said.

The statement quoted Afghan National Army's 201 Selab Military Corps officials as saying the clashes between Daesh and local residents took

place in Tangi, Anarkhel and Sulimankhel areas.

However, a resident of the area, who wished anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Daesh rebels did not clash with local residents, but Taliban rivals.

He said the clashes between Taliban and Daesh rebels erupted yesterday and they had ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

Samangan Man Axes Mother-in-Law to Death

AIBAK - Police on Friday said they were searching for a man who allegedly killed his mother-in-law and wounded his father in law and a sister in law in the capital of northern Samangan province.

The incident took place last night in Gul Qashlaq village of Aibak city, said Col. Abdul Halim Baig, the city's second police district chief. ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

Teenager Commits Suicide, 2 Police Shot Dead

FARAH CITY - Two policemen have been shot dead in the Pushtrod district of western Farah province, where a young girl committed suicide in the provincial capital, officials said on Thursday.

Master Najib Omar, the crime branch chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News an 18-year-old girl named Zahra hanged herself inside her house in the limits of the first police district of Farah City.

Omar said the reason for the suicide would be ascertained after police completed their investigations. The girl ended it all on Wednesday evening. *(Pajhwok)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You're on the edge of a resurgence of energy that will fuel your confidence and bring more joy into your life. Of course, a shift in your attitude won't occur overnight, but you will likely feel more positive day by day as the radiant Sun and courageous Mars collaborate in your 5th House of Spontaneity.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



There's no reason to cling onto childhood patterns any longer, especially if they reinforce old worries about scarcity. Nevertheless, the Sun's move into your 4th House of Home and Family invites you for a walk along Memory Lane. Looking back is healthy if it deepens your perspective on your current life.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Although you might try to overcompensate today by displaying only your very best side, this deceptive strategy won't work. Your positive attitude could sound disingenuous if you seem blindly optimistic about your future plans. There is no value in hiding the truth now, even if you think it is more than people can handle. You are in charge of your thoughts, so don't dwell endlessly on those things that bend you

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You may be relieved once the bright Sun leaves your sign today, allowing you to work your magic quietly behind the scenes. Nevertheless, you don't want too much isolation now that the Sun is shining in expressive Leo. Although you wish you had one singular goal so you could simply get on with your business, you're actually being pulled in two totally different directions.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're often resistant to change, especially if you let your notorious pride block your progress. However, you're already walking in uncharted territory now, and your anticipation continues to build because you can't wait to see where this current road leads. You feel like the past is behind you and the Sun's shift into your sign today brings you the freedom to express yourself as

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept 22)



You're disappointed to discover that someone is withholding information from you. Thankfully, you can skillfully manage the problem now that the illuminating Sun, assertive Mars and communicator Mercury are camped out in your 12th House of Secrets. An awkward situation can quickly morph into a positive one if you display confidence rather than doubt.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You long to be free of the obligations that are restricting your personal growth. Fortunately, the brilliant Sun strides into your 11th House of Community to join forces with action-hero Mars, inspiring you to act boldly in social situations. However, there is no reason to panic and take an uncalculated risk; instead, create a strategy today that can be followed by decisive action.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You must navigate through a tricky moment if someone believes you will automatically drop your personal priorities when asked. You prefer offering your help on your own accord and you don't appreciate the pressure resulting from the expectations of others. People will manage without you immediately rushing to the rescue today.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Perhaps you dream about the future to avoid dealing with the promises you made in the past. Your intentions may have been very sincere in the moment, but situations change as the months roll by. It feels as if your time is running short now and you don't know how you're going to fulfill your obligations. Keep in mind that even the tiniest molehills seem like mountains today.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn Having faith in yourself is crucial for success, but too much confidence can inflate your ego. Even the most surefooted Mountain Goat could slip if it's climbing up a treacherous mountain without caution. Unfortunately, an overabundance of unnecessary bravado today might be enough to make you careless for a moment.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

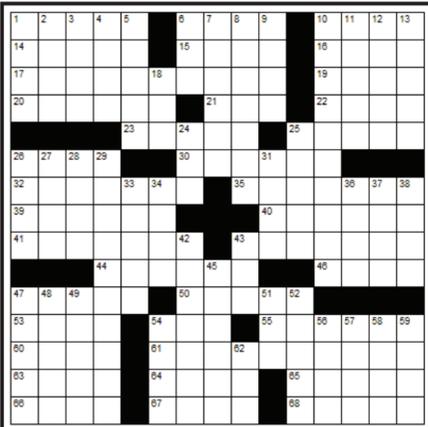


It seems as if everyone is playing a specific role in your movie while the dramatic Leo Sun is casting its light in your 7th House of Others. Unfortunately, you may grow weary of someone's affected behavior and can't seem to ignore it any longer. You crave sincerity and truthfulness, but might feel as if you're being shortchanged in a relationship.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Running routine errands and helping others as you can may prevent you from chasing your fantasies. You wish you had more free time at your disposal, but you are already overcommitted in the chore department today. Don't complain about your current obligations; just doggedly finish whatever you can. Thankfully, applying yourself diligently throughout the day will likely leave you with time for more pleasurable



Across

1. Water lily, 6. Wanes, 10. Camp beds, 14. Warning signal, 15. Loyal (archaic), 16. Monster, 17. Light teasing, 19. Adhesive, 20. A musical composition, 21. Little bit, 22. Make out (slang), 23. Publicizes, 25. Factions, 26. Palm starch, 30. Imitation, 32. Advanced screening, 35. Angered, 39. Nod, 40. Incumbency, 41. Diminish, 43. A rudimentary inner toe, 44. Orb, 46. Not difficult, 47. Illuminate, 50. Imperial, 53. Notion, 54. S, 55. Mountain range, 60. Discover, 61. Disparagement, 63. Lawn mower brand 64. Secluded valley, 65. 10th Greek letter, 66. Goulash, 67. Tropical American wildcat, 68. Metal,

Down

1. Trips around a course, 2. Margarine, 3. Mountain pool, 4. Constellation bear, 5. Metalworker, 6. L, 7. Eggwhisk, 8. Pulp, 9. Toboggan, 10. Awareness or notice, 11. Leered, 12. Armistice, 13. Searches, 18. Faerie, 24. Church bench, 25. Scatter, 26. WW1 plane, 27. Backside, 28. A feat, 29. Eclipse, 31. Pot, 33. Awkward, 34. Carve in stone, 36. Babylonian goddess of healing, 37. Historical periods, 38. Wet, as morning grass, 42. In a concise manner, 43. Former North African ruler, 45. A list of names, 47. Elevators (British), 48. Fool, 49. Style, 51. An Old Testament king, 52. Tongue touches, 54. Border, 56. French for "State", 57. Fully developed, 58. Lasso, 59. A Freudian stage, 62. Ribonucleic acid, ,

Yesterday's Solution

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

adjust, again, allow, balance, barrow, bids, catalyst, crazy, defeat, envelop, discipline, does, early, equal, erode, foil, grass, instinct, league, leave, light, liter, magic, nozzle, offside, pages,

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