



Afghan Forces Successfully Pound Taliban Positions in Uruzgan

TIRINKOT - Afghan National Army (NNA) forces have rejected social media claims about the fall of Tirinkot, the capital of central Uruzgan province, into the hands of Taliban, in a statement.

The 205th Atal Military Corps statement said the recent social media propaganda was in response to successful airstrikes and joint Afghan Special Security Forces operations over the past two weeks in the province.

Although these tweets seemed to be an announcement to an upcoming Taliban attack, what transpired was another precision airstrike by the Afghan Air Force. "Eleven Taliban fighters were killed by Afghan Special Security Forces; five Taliban fighters were observed in a tactical formation in the open."

The fighters were killed by one airstrike away from civilians in Tarin Kot district," said the 205th Corps Spokesperson. "During the same operation six fighters were observed for several hours actively planning future attacks against Afghan National Defense Security Forces and civilians in the region.

The fighters were killed by two separate airstrikes away from civilians in Tarin Kot district." In the past two weeks, 76 Taliban fighters have been killed by on-going operations.

"We have seen significant effects from these operations," said COL Wali, the BDE Commander for ANDSF Soldiers in Uruzgan.

"No matter what they say to the media, we have seen a drop in their ability to resource and coordinate attacks against ANDSF forces in the area. The recent operations have really hurt their formation." (Pajhwok)

Over 3,700 Militants Killed in 88 Operations in North: Official



KABUL - The Afghan National Army's 209 Shaheen Corps has conducted 88 military operations during the last one year, inflicting 3,771 losses to Taliban and other militant groups, the Deputy Commander of the Shaheen Corps, Gen. Adam Khan Matin, said. Officials from 209 Shaheen Military Corps in north said in the security and defense forces operations, around 3,771 insurgents

were killed of whom 64 of them were foreign fighters.

"In total, we launched 88 operations under Operation Walid 97," Matin said. "The operations were carried out to support rule of law, security and people's safety. Around 64 of the 3,771 militants killed in the operations were foreign nationals."

Sources said that security forces also suffered heavy casualties during this year in the north and north-eastern

parts of the country, but Matin rejected the claims.

"No security outpost of Afghan forces is under siege in the north and north-eastern provinces of the country," Matin added.

Operation Toofan 25 in Balkh, operation Toofan 41 in Kunduz and Operation Shaheen 1 in Baghlan are ongoing against militants, he said.

Army soldiers in the north said they are ready ... (More on P4)...(9)

UN ESCAP and the Inclusive Business Action Network Partner to Strengthen the Policy Environment for Inclusive Businesses in South-East Asia

BANGKOK/BONN - The Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) announced a joint initiative today to help governments to enhance the policy environment for inclusive business in South-East Asia.

iBAN is a global initiative implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which supports the scaling and replication of inclusive business models to improve the lives of the poor. ESCAP - the regional intergovernmental platform for the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific - will leverage its expertise in promoting impact investment, sustainable business and inclusive innovation; to support policy-makers to develop inclusive business policies, and provide a sub-regional platform for sharing knowledge and lessons learned across South-East Asia.

"ESCAP's regional expertise and knowledge in promoting inclusive innovation policies makes it ideally placed to support a strong policy foundation to spur inclusive businesses in this fast-growing region," said Christian Jahn, Executive Director of iBAN.

Inclusive businesses provide goods, services, and livelihoods to people living at the base of the economic pyramid; while also engaging the low-income population in the value chain of companies as suppliers, distributors, and retailers. Governments can encourage the growth of inclusive business by implementing policies that facilitate impact investments. They can also reward companies that have a social impact, and boost innovations that allow businesses to be inclusive while meeting profit margins.

The iBAN-ESCAP partnership will focus on three main areas: country-level analysis and advice, regional policy ... (More on P4)...(10)

One of 7 Kidnapped Indians Returns Home from Afghanistan



KABUL - Nearly 10 months after being kidnapped in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan province, one of the seven Indians has returned to his country, the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi said on Monday. It said India continued to work closely with the Afghan government for the safe and early return of the remaining six Indian

nationals. The seven Indian engineers were kidnapped by Taliban in the Baghlan on May 6 last year.

India has been requesting the Afghan government to secure the release of the engineers. "One of the seven Indian nationals ... has safely returned to India," the MEA said. "We are grateful ... (More on P4)...(11)

2 Policemen Killed, as Many Wounded in Pul-i-Khumri Blast



PUL-I-KHUMRI - At least two policemen have been killed and as many wounded in a bomb blast in northern Baghlan province, an official said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in Pul-i-Khumri city, the provincial capital, late on Monday night when a magnetic bomb attached to a police vehicle went off. Deputy Director of Public Health Dr.

Abdul Halim Ghafari told Pajhwok Afghan News a dead body and three wounded policemen were evacuated to hospital from the site.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said four police personnel, including an officer named Nasrullah Khan, were killed and two others wounded in the bomb attack conducted by the group. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



- If you aren't traveling today, Aries, you will likely take a big trip soon. It seems that you will be sharing a room with someone special. A close friend or significant other may accompany you. You can look forward to all the romantic possibilities that come with exploring new lands together. It's bound to be a wonderful trip.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You're gifted in ways you don't even know about, Taurus. Today you may uncover that gift unexpectedly. Perhaps you doodle a silly drawing in the margin of a note to a friend. Studying it reveals an idea that would be good for a children's book illustration. Perhaps there are other things you could do with your life.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



A trip to a museum or gallery could bring you some interesting insights, Gemini. Maybe you will ignore the realistic paintings and photographs that used to interest you and admire the abstract works instead. They definitely capture your interest, and by the end of the day you may consider taking an art class to learn more about them.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



- Home and technology figure prominently today, Cancer. Perhaps you've just bought the latest gadget and want to spend the day figuring out how it works. You're in your element! A phone call from a distant friend could interrupt your project. You may speak for a long time, but you won't mind the delay at all. It's wonderful to talk to old friends.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



If you've wanted to get involved in some type of volunteer organization, today may be when you sign up to support a worthy cause. Whether it's an environmental charity or a volunteer opportunity, you realize that working to better the planet is an important element that has been missing in your life. Life glows all that much brighter with your new altruistic outlook, Leo.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Your career is about to take a turn for the better, Virgo. New professional possibilities may come your way today. Be receptive to any invitations or offers. Your advancement may not come in the most traditional way, so you need to pay close attention. Don't overlook something that seems beyond your capabilities. Your reach should always exceed your grasp. Stretch!

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Your career is about to take a turn for the better, Virgo. New professional possibilities may come your way today. Be receptive to any invitations or offers. Your advancement may not come in the most traditional way, so you need to pay close attention. Don't overlook something that seems beyond your capabilities.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Past issues may rear their ugly heads today, Scorpio. No, it isn't pretty. In fact, it's frustrating to have to deal with this problem again. You will be well served to spend time meditating. You need to address these issues once and for all or they will continue to haunt you. You're fortunate to have such close friends who will support you through this difficult process.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Romance is in the air, Sagittarius, filtering your vision with a rosy light. You're in love with the world today, and you're most especially in love with your partner. If you don't already have a partner, you may meet him or her today. Since you never know when or where, make sure to look your best throughout the day.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



All sorts of wonderful changes are in the air at home and at work, Capricorn. On the personal front, someone new is likely to enter your life and change it for the better. At work, perhaps a proposal you submitted has been accepted or you landed a deal you've been working on for some time. Enjoy this auspicious celestial energy!

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



There's a big world out there beckoning to you, Aquarius. Why not plan an adventure to a faraway land? You've been working hard and deserve a reward. If you can't take time off right now, at least contact a travel agent or do some research online. Surround yourself with pamphlets and images of foreign cities. Even though you know you can't travel to them now.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Today, Pisces, you're likely to undertake some seemingly urgent decorating projects in order to get your home in tip-top shape. It could be that a few minor purchases are all that's needed. But you may decide you can't live with the color of the bedroom one moment longer and take matters into your own hands and do the job yourself. You will be exhausted but pleased by the end of the day.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

Across

- 1. Savory jelly, 6. Remote, 10. Snip, 14. Blackbeetle, 15. Marcel Marceau was one, 16. Ascend, 17. 3-wheeled vehicle, 18. 1 1 1 1, 19. Small island, 20. An alkaloid plant toxin, 22. Glance, 23. Beer barrel, 24. Approaches, 26. Alternative, 30. Fruity-smelling compound 32. Open, as a jacket, 33. Sweetheart, 37. Give temporarily, 38. Located, 39. Bright thought 40. Dickered, 42. Infections of the eye, 43. Type of mattress, 44. Easy to handle, 45. Japanese verse, 47. Petrol, 48. Sodas, 49. A delayed flavor sensation, 56. Salt Lake state 57. Small slender gull, 58. Electronic letters, 59. No more than, 60. French for "State" 61. Angers, 62. Winglike, 63. Not nights, 64. Beach,

Down

- 1. The products of human creativity, 2. Classify, 3. Twosome, 4. Yucky, 5. Medical examination 6. Betwixt, 7. French for Finished or Done, 8. So be it, 9. Felt bitter, 10. Three-party, 11. Part of a stair, 12. Small islands, 13. Docile 21. Cool, once, 25. Poetic dusk 26. Electric light, 27. Dwarf buffalo, 28. Mogul, 29. Kookaburra, 30. Consumed, 31. Toboggan, 33. Italian for "Wine", 34. Bucolic, 35. Require, 36. Not difficult, 38. Located, 41. Arctic bird, 42. Female siblings, 44. Armed conflict, 45. Inn, 46. 3-banded armadillo, 47. Fellows, 48. Mountain lion, 50. Greek cheese, 51. Found in a cafeteria, 52. Nursemaid, 53. Palm starch 54. Layer, 55. If not,

Yesterday's Solution

Grid for yesterday's crossword solution with words filled in.

accuse, action, amends compulsory, convey delay, dice, drawn embed engage, fear, focus generous, gentle, graft guitar hands, hasty hinder, horse, impugn incriminate, instill legal place, point, purple

Large grid for a word search puzzle with letters Y, N, H, N, E, E, S, N, U, Y, I, E, F.