

Afghan Conflict Leaves 86 Taliban Dead, 87 Security Personnel Killed, Missing

KABUL - Afghan conflict has left 86 Taliban militants dead and 87 security personnel either killed or missing over the past three days in the militancy-plagued country, officials said Sunday.

According to a statement of Helmand provincial government, 86 Taliban insurgents have been killed over the past 48 hours in the restive and poppy growing province.

"Afghan forces during ground and air operations have killed 86 rebels throughout the troubled Helmand province over the past 48 hours," said the statement. It



said 26 militants have been killed during air sorties against Taliban hideouts in Nan Ali district over the past 48 hours, while the remaining 60 more insurgents have lost their lives in districts Nahr-e-Saraj, Nawa and other parts of the besieged province. Several Taliban commanders are also among those killed in the ongoing crackdown against militants in the province. The statement, however, failed to say if there were casualties on the government forces. Taliban militants who are in control of some districts and have been fighting to overrun Lashkar ... (More on P4)...(9)

20 Talibs and Daesh Insurgents Killed in Jawzjan Clashes



KABUL - At least 20 Talibs and Daesh insurgents were killed in the past four days in ongoing clashes in northern Jawzjan province, local officials said on Sunday. In addition, 40 other insurgents were injured. Mohammad Reza Ghafoori, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said that clashes have been ongoing in Darzab and Qoshtepa districts of the province and that "a local police commander

and four other policemen were also killed." Ghafoori said that the security forces have so far been able to retake one village but two other Darzab villages remain in the Taliban's control. More troops have however arrived from Sar-e-Pul and Faryab provinces to support the local troops, he said. However, he did not provide more details about the ongoing situation. (Tolonews)

Military Helicopter Crash Kills 7

KABUL - A military helicopter has crashed in northern Afghanistan, killing all seven people onboard.

A Defense Ministry spokesman, Dawlat Waziri, confirmed the incident, saying three Afghan soldiers and four crew members were among the victims.

He blamed a "technical

fault" with the Russian-made Mi17 aircraft for going down in Dand-e-Ghori district of the conflict-gripped Baghlan province while it was transporting supplies to Afghan forces. But the Taliban claimed its fighters shot down the helicopter, claiming it was heading toward a base in the district where insur-



gents have besieged around 200 soldiers for more than a week. Unclear circumstances It was not possible to determine through independent ... (More on P4)...(10)

Telecom Services Down in Helmand, Kunduz

KABUL - Officials from the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology said Tuesday that a number of telecommunication companies have ceased operation in areas under Taliban control in Kunduz and Helmand due to threats from the insurgent group.

"They [militants] threaten telecommunication companies and sometimes they threaten their workers or sometimes they push the companies to act according to their plan," said Mohammad Yasin Samim, spokesman for the ministry. Meanwhile, Helmand and Kunduz residents confirmed that parts of their provinces have no cellphone reception. ... (More on P4)...(11)

7 Dead, 9 Injured in Collision on Kabul-Gardez Highway

PUL-I-ALAM - Seven passengers were killed and nine others wounded in a tractor and van collision on Kabul-Gardez highway on Sunday in central Logar province, an official said. Saleem Salih, The governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News a Super Custom model Mini Van, en-route to Khost, collided with a

tractor in Tiri Kando area on Kabul-Gardez highway at around 2:00pm today. Saleh said the accident resulted in the killing of seven onboard passengers and sustaining injuries to another nine, including women and children. He said the wounded had been evacuated to Gardez civil hospital and their health... (More on P4)...(12)

Afghan Migrants Stuck in the Balkans Resist Going Home

BELGRADE, Serbia - They have come a long way, spent most of their money on smugglers and camped out in the open for weeks. For Afghan migrants stranded in the Balkans there is no turning back, even as the most likely prospect many of them face in the European Union could be deportation back to their country.



Thousands of young Afghan men in Serbia and elsewhere in the region are determined to reach wealthy EU nations, despite closed borders and an agreement between their government and the EU that will more easily send home Afghan citizens who have been rejected for asylum. Aid groups have sharply ... (More on P4)...(13)

Policemen among Five Hurt in Jalalabad Explosion

JALALABAD - Five people, including three policemen, were wounded in an explosion in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, a statement and official said on Sunday. The explosion happened before noon at around 12:30pm near Kabul Bus station on police vehicle, said Police Spokesman Hazrat Husain Mashraqiwal.

A statement from the governor house confirmed three policemen and two civilians were wounded in the blast. Zonal Hospital Director Ihsanullah Shinwari said four injured had been evacuated the facility, but there was no details about their identity and health conditions. No group took responsibility for the blast so far. (Pajhwok)

2 US Soldiers Wounded in Jalalabad Roadside Bombing

KABUL - Two US Soldiers Have Been Wounded in a Roadside Bombing in Eastern Nangarhar Province On Sunday. A local official said. The improvised explosive device went off when the troops were conducting a routine security patrol near the Jalalabad Airfield. Mean-

while, a statement from the NATO mission said the soldiers were evacuated to the Jalalabad Airfield for treatment. A security official, requesting not to be named, said the patrol vehicle the soldiers were travelling in struck the explosive device at 11am. A ... (More on P4)...(14)



Pakistani Militant behind Lankan Team Attack Killed in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - A leading Pakistani militant leader, who was behind the 2009 attack on Sri Lankan Cricket Team in Lahore, has been killed in eastern Afghanistan, local media reports said on Sunday. The attack on Sri Lankan cricket team had killed seven police officials, and injured seven players including senior Lankan cricketers. Qari Ajmal, a leader of the banned sectarian

"Lashkar-e-Jhangi," group was killed in a joint operation by the foreign and Afghan troops in Aurgon area of Paktika province that borders Pakistan, local media quoted the militants sources as saying. Ajmal had fled to Waziristan tribal region after the attack and joined the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan under Hakimullah Mehsud, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in ... (More on P4)...(15)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You might feel as if you're caught between a rock and a hard place today when you want to do one thing and your friends want to do something else. Maintaining a cheerful attitude is difficult when people change their mind at the last minute, leaving you stuck with nowhere to go. Nevertheless, there's no reason to blame others for your position.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



On one hand, you want to stick to your regular routine no matter who pressures you to do something different. On the other hand, you can't suppress your urge to break free from the status quo when the Moon squares volatile Uranus. Simple statements trigger strong reactions today, especially when you're unsure of what you really need.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Change seems to come out of the blue today, initiating a process that brings you greater freedom of expression. But first you must find your way through the complicated emotional maze or you may reach a breaking point that can alter the course of a relationship. If your need for independence is greater than your hunger for closeness, it may be healthier to take time to reinvigorate a partnership with conscious intent than to let your emotions explode.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Your agenda might not match everyone else's expectations today. You could overreact to what others say if you don't like the advice you receive. Conflict is possible now, especially if you're unwilling to compromise. However, choosing flexibility over stubbornness allows you to maneuver around emotional landmines while tactfully suggesting solutions.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You could work yourself into a corner today by clinging to your fixed views. However, relief may come quickly if you're willing to roll with the changes instigated by the Moon's square to unstable Uranus. Nevertheless, you might feel overloaded with too many challenges as you attempt to eliminate the old in order to make way for the new.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



It's unnecessary to settle for less today just because things don't seem to go as you planned. In fact, disruptive Uranus can open your mind to a radically different notion about your true life's purpose. However, you may have to step outside of the logical box that usually works in your favor. Thinking about the alternatives beyond the limits of your current situation empowers you with a surge of creativity.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Your diplomatic approach to conflict is put to the test today when people act in unexpected ways. Although your day may be turned upside down by someone's shocking behavior, you're exhilarated once you take off your kid gloves. However, you don't need anyone's permission to make radical positive changes. Fortunately, you can stand up for your beliefs even against great odds without letting your emotions get the best of you now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Although your heightened sense of urgency makes it nearly impossible to hide your frustration, risky behavior won't necessarily make you feel any better. Unfortunately, your mouth can move faster than your ability to moderate outrageous comments today.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



A casual remark could alter the course of your day in ways you can't predict. Conversations may suddenly veer off in odd directions today, leaving you perplexed about your next move. Therefore, it might be smarter to wait until your emotions settle down before saying what's on your mind while the moody Moon squares erratic Uranus in your 5th House of Spontaneity.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Domestic tranquility may be elusive today if your impatience motivates you to say and do anything to make your case. It's useless to pretend that you're willing to submit to someone else's point of view now that the Capricorn Moon squares radical Uranus in your 4th House of Home and Family. However, it's unnecessary to recklessly take a chance to find the freedom you seek.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

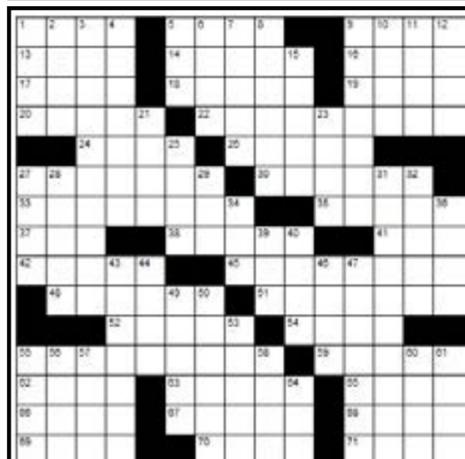


You're not interested in following someone else's arbitrary rules and are quite willing to rattle your saber today in order to let them know you're the boss. A rebellious Moon-Uranus square provokes you to tell others what you want, even if you must break with tradition to get your message across. Taking an entirely different approach allows you to let go of the past to create a more harmonious yet stimulating future.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Speaking your truth is not always appreciated in family politics, but being honest with yourself about your priorities helps to keep your spirits alive. Although you might decide to bury your feelings today, unexpressed emotions still find their way to escape and create conflict. Thankfully, the Moon's current visit to your 11th House of Community emphasizes the value of building support among your family and friends.



Across

- Absorbs, 5. Wanes, 9. Sounds of disapproval, 13. Chocolate cookie, 14. Angers, 16. Agitate, 17. Ranch, 18. Hemp, 19. As well, 20. Assumed name, 22. Most condescending, 24. Counterfoil, 26. Geneflected, 27. Honorable, 30. Sags, 33. Spider, 35. Paper with a crinkled texture, 37. A type of large sandwich, 38. Ancient Roman magistrate, 41. Disenumber, 42. Panache, 45. Bragging, 48. A type of organic compound, 51. Gallivant, 52. Drags, 54. Audible exhale, 55. Tearing up, 59. Gloomy, in poetry, 62. 53 in Roman numerals, 63. French school, 65. Sea eagle, 66. F F F F, 67. Femme fatale, 68. Satisfy, 69. Weight loss plan, 70. T T T T, 71. Skidded.

Down

- Couch, 2. By mouth, 3. Spoilable, 4. Physical, 5. Historic period, 6. Parts of aprons, 7. Void of expression, 8. 1/60th of a minute, 9. Betrayer, 10. Only, 11. Smooch, 12. Notch, 15. Cavalry weapon, 21. Very, 23. Coalition, 25. Curse, 27. Alleviate, 28. Cargo vehicle, 29. Cover, 31. The outer area, 32. Rotates, 34. Anagram of "Bid", 36. Border, 39. A parcel of land, 40. Hearing organs, 43. Non-believer, 44. Tailless amphibian, 46. Told, 47. A female tiger, 49. Naked models, 50. Bring out, 53. A loud sleeping sound, 55. Toboggan, 56. High fidelity, 57. Abundant, 58. Delight, 60. Against, 61. Marsh plant, 64. N N N N.

Yesterday's Solution



abuse, alternates, anger, averages, bashful, bloom, chalk, child, choke, close, convince, corrupt, cruel, enough, entrap, goat, hesitant, horrendous, lapse, level, money, nerve, pocket, price, pure, reeks, retire, score, secret, slut, spare, store, tool, turbine, wager.

