

Taliban Insurgents Execute 29 Afghan Border Officers

LASHKARGAH - The Taliban stormed two check points in the southern Helmand province, killing 29 Afghan border police officers, an Afghan official said. According to the Associated Press, provincial council member Bashir Ahmad Shakir explained that the officers were executed in a three-day confrontation with the Taliban. Insurgents killed 21 border officials and kept eight hostage, later killing them. The violence comes just days after data from the United Nations indicated that the Taliban now has the most reach in Afghanistan since U.S. forces ousted the group in 2001. The data,



collected in September, showed that U.N. security officials rated the threat level as either "high" or "extreme" in half of Afghanistan's districts, a figure higher than any recorded in 2001. Over 10 percent of all districts were given an extreme threat rating. The U.N. data also indicated that the Taliban has been expanding its reach more quickly in several areas that previously did not have any Taliban presence. Despite his initial plan to reduce the U.S. troop level in Afghanistan to a small embassy force by the time he leaves office, President Obama is currently considering ... (More on P4)...(13)

Upcoming EU Summit to Discuss Possibility of Setting up Border Guard

BRUSSELS - Leaders from the European Union and EU member states will meet here on Thursday against the background of the migration and refugee crisis, while they will narrow in on setting up a possible EU border guard. According to the European Council, EU leaders will continue to discuss migration in aspects of strengthening of the EU's external borders, including a possible EU border guard, offering support for the countries in the neighborhood and the refugees there, and addressing the root causes through cooperation with the countries of origin and transit. "Let us be clear about one thing. The exceptionally easy access to Europe is one of the main pull factors," said European Council President Donald Tusk in his invitation letter ahead of the summit. "Even if the influx of refugees slows down during winter, we must be ready for spring and the threat of bigger waves flowing to Europe. In fact, all the leaders I met in the region spoke about millions of potential new refugees," he said. Leaders will also take stock of the next steps with regard to the UK referendum on its membership of the EU, and the EU side will confirm its commitment towards seeking viable solutions, said Tusk. Preparations for the Paris climate conference, an update on the recent meeting of the Normandy format (France, ... (More on P4)...(16)

MSF Repeats Call for Impartial Investigation on Air Strike on Hospital

KABUL - The international aid agency, M decins Sans Frontieres (MSF), on Wednesday once again repeated its call for conducting impartial investigation by International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC) on U.S. air strikes against its hospital in Afghan northern Kunduz city on Oct. 3, which left dozens of people dead and injured. "MSF cannot rely only on the ongoing internal investigations by parties on the conflict and remains firm in its call for an independent and impartial investigation by the IHFFC," the statement said. Taliban militants captured Kunduz city, capital of Kunduz province 250 km north of Kabul, on Sept. 29 and the U.S. military, which supports Afghan forces in efforts to dislodge militants conducted air strikes that erroneously struck MSF-run hospital killing 22 people including medical staff, patients, injured 37 others and left over dozens missing. The attack has drawn wide condemnation. U.S. president rendered apology and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for impartial investigation on the tragic incident. "We have received apologies and condolences, but this is not enough. We are still in the dark about why a well-known hospital full of patients and medical staff was repeatedly bombed for more than an hour," said MSF International President Dr Joanne Liu. "We need to understand what happened and why." "We need to know if the rules of war have changed, not just for Kunduz, but for the safety of our teams working ... (More on P4)...(14)

Group of Azerbaijani Peacekeepers Leaves for Afghanistan

BAKU - A group of Azerbaijani peacekeepers left for Afghanistan, the Azerbaijani defense ministry said Wednesday. A group of 25 Azerbaijani peacekeepers operating as part of NATO's 'Resolute Support' non-combat mission went to this country. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces' peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan began Novem-



ber 20, 2002. The mission involves 94 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, two military doctors, and two engineers. (Trend News Agency)

Security Forces Re-Take Chahardara District Governor's Office

KUNDUZ CITY - Security forces have re-taken the district governor's office in Chahardara district of northern Kunduz province after a military operation, local officials said on Wednesday.

Quasim Jangal Bagh, Provincial Police Chief, said that security forces launched the operation on Tuesday night in the center of Chahardara and on the district governor's office early Wednesday. Jangal Bagh says that security forces continue their military operation to clear all the insurgents in the district but that clashes are ongoing in different parts of the district.

"The security forces have air support in this operation and more troops are on the way to the district," he said. The local officials said that the insurgents have sustained massive casualties in the operation and one of their commanders named Hanzala was also among the dead. But he said many Taliban members escaped the area.

Chahardara fell to the Taliban a few months ago. On Monday, the Defense Ministry officials said that al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) and other foreign militant groups were involved in the Kunduz attack after Pakistan launched a military operation to oust them from the tribal areas of northern Waziristan. Pakistan launched a large-scale joint operation called "Zarb-e-Azb" in mid June 2014 which Pakistani officials said was aimed at eliminating militant groups from northern Waziristan, which is along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The operation however evoked widespread criticism from Afghanistan after hundreds of militants reportedly fled to Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

NDS Arrests Nine Terrorists on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency has arrested nine terrorists on Kabul-Jalalabad highway from the jurisdiction of Nangarhar province. A statement issued by NDS on Wednesday states that the terrorists were planning to attack military and civilian vehicles but detained before they could apply their plan. They were detained red handed with a rocket launcher, PK machine gun, 4 Kalashnikovs, six pistols, three hand grenades, two anti-tank landmines and



a wireless transmitter, the statement adds. The arrested terrorists are identified as Bashirullah, Tahirullah, Wahidullah, Hamid, Ghulam-ur-Rahman, Obaidullah, Mir Hamza, Bilal and Abdul Rashid who were also involved in planting landmines and terror of eminent figures. 11 children were recovered during a separate raid in Jalalabad city that ... (More on P4)...(15)

Roadside Bombs, Gunshot Claim 4 Lives, Wound 12

KABUL - Taliban-linked Wednesday afternoon violent incidents in the shape of roadside bombings and shooting have claimed four lives and injured 12 others in the conflict-ridden Afghanistan on Wednesday. In the latest violent incident, a mine planted by Taliban struck a military vehicle in Qush Tapa district of the northern Jawzjan province leaving two Afghan security personnel dead and two others injured, deputy to provincial police chief, Abdul Hafiz Khawshi, told Xinhua. He also added that the security personnel retaliated, killing one Taliban fighter and injured three others. A similar incident which ... (More on P4)...(17)

Iranian Official Hails Russia-Led Anti-Terror Effort

DAMASCUS - The visiting head of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy committee, Alaedin Boroujerdi, said here on Wednesday that the quadrilateral cooperation between Iran, Iraq, Russia and Syria is an important step toward fighting terrorism, according to the state news agency. Boroujerdi made the comments during his meeting with Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, during which both sides agreed that the U.S.-led anti-terror coalition has achieved no tangible results during the one-year-old strikes. "American coalition was not serious in facing terrorism but it was a joke. That is why the new coalition and new team started to work seriously. All of this will establish new and important conditions and developments in the region," he said. The Iranian official said the situation in Syria is getting better thanks to the steadfastness of the Syrian ... (More on P4)...(18)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might be convinced that someone is manipulating reality now, trying to involve you in the very same emotional drama that you're doing your best to avoid. But your feelings are already aroused and it's more challenging to shut them off after they have been stirred. You may not be able to prevent an interaction from turning stormy today.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You want to get back to basics now, yet others may be urging you to consider alternatives which will substantially complicate your life. Paradoxically, your resistance won't likely bring the simplicity you desire and might even trigger more unresolved emotions. This is not the time to stubbornly adhere to your principles. Demonstrating your flexibility could help everyone.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are clinging to a set agenda today and aren't interested in anything that distracts you from making tangible progress toward your goal. Someone may misinterpret your single-mindedness as a personal rejection, but you just don't have time to engage in petty personal politics now. Keep your focus on your mission; you can let others know that you are ready for some fun and relaxation after you accomplish your work for the day.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're quietly preoccupied with making an important decision, leaving others to wonder why you're being so serious now. It's likely that your friends and family will want to help you narrow down your choices, but you might see this gentle interference as a way for them to exert control over your life. There's no reason to exclude someone who can be a trustworthy ally.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You are secretly sorting out your mixed feelings about an old friend or family member now, and you might not be ready to share your thoughts yet. You are weary of always being the person that others rely on, but it's the wrong time to let anyone down. Keeping your emotions out of the picture is probably a good idea today, as long as you don't do it in a halfway fashion.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You wake up believing that you can accomplish nearly anything today. Although you might fall short of your expectations, it's useless to waste energy on self-judgment when your intentions are so honorable. Squeeze a bit of well-deserved playtime into your schedule now, no matter how many chores are on your to-do list. Ultimately, you'll be more productive if you make room in your day for creative pursuits.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You might take an unpopular stance because you think remaining true to your core beliefs is more important than simply being nice today. But it can be challenging to hold your position, especially if your coworkers are trying to convince you that your ideas are wrong. The truth is, it's not about what anyone else wants; what counts the most is maintaining your integrity, even if it temporarily alienates you from others.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your friends may pretend that a difficult issue has been swept under the rug because they don't want to risk rocking the boat and making you mad. However, you instinctively know when people are keeping secrets from you, and you do not like being played one bit. Unfortunately, there's enough emotional fuzziness in the atmosphere to misinterpret someone's motives now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You think it's simply a matter of being polite to remain quiet if you don't have something positive to say today. However, your current silence communicates more meaning than you realize now since others can't help but notice that you're not your usual sunny self. The good news is that it's unnecessary to control the flow of a conversation so you feel emotionally more secure. As long as you don't have cruel intentions.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

People put you on a pedestal, especially on a day like today when you can set a fine example by stepping into a leadership role. Nevertheless, it isn't wise to complicate a situation by telling anyone else what to do; instead, get to work without assuming your way is the only path to productivity. Your most effective strategy is simply to show up with a positive attitude.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Everyone is demanding a lot from you now, and you might think that they are being unreasonable. Fortunately, you're not responsible to live up to anyone's expectations except your own. Don't promise more than you can deliver; set sensible goals early in the day and make your intentions known to others. Just remember to keep your doubts to yourself today.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

It's surprising how quickly you're able to shift from overly ambitious goals to very pragmatic ones today. Some of your most vivid dreams are already fading, leaving you with a realistic picture of what you can actually accomplish. However, don't waste your precious time trying to conform to someone else's grand plan now. Trust your own vision; it's really the only one that matters in the end.



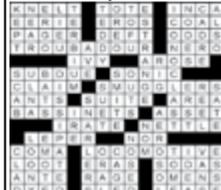
Across

1. Aquatic plant, 5. Jockey's wear, 10. Does something, 14. Prickle, 15. Lying facedown, 16. Threesome, 17. Nonconformist, 9. Stop, 20. Calypso offshoot, 21. Regenerate, 22. Liabilities, 23. Wide part of a river, 25. Prevaricating, 27. Type of whiskey, 28. Tights, 31. Orbital point, 34. Hard liquor, 35. Biblical boat, 36. After-bath powder, 37. Burn slightly, 38. Brother of Jacob, 39. In song, the loneliest number, 40. Slight color, 41. Noodles, 42. Nobilities, 44. Female sib, 45. Cent, 46. Dilute acetic acid, 50. Small cities, 52. Redress, 54. Conceit, 55. Curved mold, ing, 56. Cogitate, 58. Smelting waste, 59. Draw forth, 60. Bright thought, 61. Arid, 62. Banana oil, e.g., 63. Observed.

Down

1. Violate, 2. Blockheads, 3. Fourpence, 4. Arrive (abbrev.), 5. Orb, 6. Sarcasm, 7. Prospector's find, 8. Information, 9. Gender, 10. Goddess of wisdom, 11. Grasses with creeping stems, 12. Lean, 13. Drunkards, 18. Meal carriers, 22. Devil tree, 24. Relating to urine, 26. Oxen's harness, 28. Years, 29. «Darn!», 30. Gull-like bird, 31. At the peak of, 32. Piece of glass, 33. Pyjamas, 34. Vineries, 37. Anagram of «Sing», 38. Leisure, 40. Bronzes, 41. Years, 43. Fail to fulfill a promise, 44. Transgressor, 46. Vocalization, 47. Crystal-lined rock, 48. Grant, 49. Ancient empire, 50. Throw, 51. Leer at, 53. Tight, 56. Spelling contest, 57. It is (poetic).

Yesterday's Solution



blink, cardigan, couple, dill, draft, elate, elimination, erne, expert, fable, fight, ford, hearty, heel, horse, kite, land, leader, legend, lever, patch, polo, pours, praise, price, proven, reply, rough, sheep, speck, sting, thrown, title, tops.

