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Taliban capture first Afghan provincial capital city – 8th August, 2021

Level 0

The Taliban now control a capital city in Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. They beat Afghan soldiers in the city of Zaranj. This will help Taliban fighters in other provinces. The Taliban said: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our hands." The Taliban may soon fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

Western countries spent 20 years training the Afghan army. However, the Taliban never gave up fighting. The USA and UK are pulling their soldiers out. The United Nations says the fighting has entered "a new, deadlier phase". It warned that the country was heading for disaster.

Level 1

The Taliban now control a provincial capital city in Afghanistan. This is the first time since 2001. There were not enough Afghan soldiers in the city of Zaranj to fight them. The Taliban said it was an important day. This victory will help Taliban fighters in other provinces. It said: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our hands." There is heavy fighting in other cities. The Taliban may soon fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

US-led forces beat the Taliban in 2001. Western countries spent 20 years training the Afghan army and police to keep the country safe. However, the Taliban never gave up fighting. The USA and UK are now pulling their soldiers out of Afghanistan after 20 years. The United Nations says the fighting has entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". It warned that the country was heading for disaster.

Level 2

The Taliban have captured a provincial capital city in Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, is now in Taliban control. The police in Zaranj could not fight because there were too few Afghan soldiers to help. The Taliban said it was an important day for the group. This victory will increase the morale of Taliban fighters in other provinces. It said: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our hands very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in other cities. They may also fall before the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

US-led forces defeated the Taliban after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York in 2001. Western powers spent 20 years training the Afghan army and police to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave up fighting. The USA and the UK are now pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, says the fighting has entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "catastrophe".

Level 3

The Taliban have captured an Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city of Zaranj, capital of the southern Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are now in control. Nimroz is on the border with Iran. The police there were unable to fight because there were too few government soldiers to help. A Taliban official said it was an important day for the group. He said the victory would increase the morale of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our hands very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may fall before the Taliban fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

The Taliban are fighting to take control of Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. This is when US-led forces defeated them after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other western powers have spent 20 years trying to train an Afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never gave up their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are currently pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the war there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "catastrophe".