

Senior Taliban among 10 Killed in Airstrike

JALALABAD - A Taliban's shadow district chief was among 10 others killed in an airstrike in eastern Laghman province on Thursday, an official said. The airstrike took place in the Dawlat Shah district before noon at 11am, said Sarhadi Zwak, the provincial government spokesman. He said the dead militants included Taliban's chief for Shah Walikot district and commanders for the Alishang and Bad-



pakh districts. The airstrike was carried out in the district's Bumbai area, a mountainous village. Civilians escaped unhurt in the strike. Zwak said the slain shadow district, Shah Noor, had been involved in a number of attacks. However, he did not say which forces carried out the airstrike -- Afghan or NATO. The Taliban have said nothing so far about the airstrike and the casualties. (Pajhwok)

Price of Ghee, Flour Down, Sugar up

KABUL - The prices of ghee and flour have dipped down while that of sugar has slightly edged up during the outgoing week, market sources said on Thursday. Food Traders' Union head Fazal Rahman told Pajhwok Afghan News that the price of 50 kilogrammes of Pakistani sugar has increased from 1,520 afghanis to 1,540afs. But he said that the rates of 50kg of Pakistani flour has dipped down from 1,250afs to 1,240afs and the price of 16 liters of Momin ghee reduced from 980afs to 960afs. Other food items remained steady. One kilogram of Vietnamese green tea was priced at 180afs, the same quantity of African black tea at 210afs, a 24-kg sack of rice at 1,800afs and, the same price of last week's. But a retailer in Taimani, Gulabuddin, sold a 49-kg bag of flour for 1,330afs, a 50-kg sack of sugar for 1,700afs and a 24-kg bag of rice for 2,200afs. He sold a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,050afs, a kilo of African black tea for 250afs and the same ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

4 Rebels Killed, 5 Injured in Clash

GHAZNI CITY - Four Taliban militants were killed and five others injured during a clash with police in the Zankhan district of southern



Ghazni province on Thursday, the district chief said. Ahmad Zia told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash broke out after the insurgents attacked a security post in Sangar area near the district centre. The firefight that lasted three hours left four attackers dead and five attackers and one policeman injured, he said. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Parents of Tajik Soldier Plea to Release their Son

KABUL - The parents of an abducted Tajik soldier made a desperate plea to Taliban militants group in Afghanistan to free their abducted son. The 21-year-old Tajik soldier Merajuddin Shadeyov is currently in the custody of the Taliban militants in Afghanistan. The parents of Meraj have urged the media agencies to launch a campaign for the freedom of their son. The plea by the parents of Meraj were followed ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

3 Injured in Kabul Suicide Car Bombing

KABUL - At least three civilians were injured in a suicide car bombing that targeted vehicles of foreign troops in Despechhari area, Police District (PD) nine of capital Kabul on Friday afternoon. The Kabul Police Chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi confirmed the casualties and said that foreigners were not harmed in the attack. But earlier, the eyewitnesses told TOLONews that one foreign soldier was also among the injured. The security forces cordoned off the area soon after the bombing, and started their investigations. The Taliban in a statement have claimed responsibility for the attack. This was the second attack on foreign troops in a day in Afghanistan. Earlier in the day, a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of foreign troops in eastern Jalalabad which resulted in killing of four civilians and injuring 12 others. (Tolonews)

Air Force Personnel Unhappy About Salaries, Benefits

KABUL - Afghanistan Air Force members are unhappy about their salaries and working conditions and have called on the president to address their issues. Nilofar Rahmani, an Afghan pilot who won an international bravery award for women, said pilots and other air force personnel were fed up with the poor conditions they were expected to accept. The pilots claim their salaries are only 20,000



Afghanis a month, which does not go far as they still have to pay for their own accommodation. They have also complained about the unap-

petizing food they get. One pilot said that in Helmand, they are given a piece of bread, cold fries and burned meat for lunch. "A great deal

Kandahar Cooperatives Sell Donated Tractors

KANDAHAR CITY - Half of the tractors distributed among local agricultural cooperatives in six districts of southern Kandahar province have been sold, with the money ending up in private pockets, a public representative said on Thursday. The provincial council head, Haji Syed Jan Khakrezwal, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had summoned officials of the agriculture department to brief the council members on the issue.



He said the cooperatives in Zheri, Panjwai, Maimwand, Dand, Arghandab and Spin Boldak districts had been distributed 77 tractors last year by the provincial agriculture department and aid-giv-

5 Kidnapped NGO Workers Killed



TARINKOT - The five kidnapped employees of a foreign "Save the Children" NGO were killed on Friday in the Sosang and Zamto areas of Tarinkot, the provincial capital of central Uruzgan province, an official said. The individuals were kidnapped 45 days ago by Taliban from the Sur-

khab locality who traveled there to monitor their projects. The district's police chief 2nd Lt. Gul Agha said a team of investigators had been dispatched to probe the incident. Zubeda Akbar, spokesperson of Save The Children, could not confirm the ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Faryab Militants Set Mosque, 13 Houses on Fire Anchor



MAIMANA - Officials on Thursday said insurgents have torched a mosque and 13 houses in the SherinTagab district of northern Faryab province. Brig. Gen. Abdul NabiElham, provincial police chief, said Taliban entered some villages two days back and burned down the mosque and the residents' houses for cooperating with government. Elham told Pajhwok Afghan News a fresh reinforcement of security forces had been dispatched to the district and the area had been cleared of insurgents. Meanwhile, Mohammad Ghulam, a police official in SherinTagab, claimed rebels had burned down over 25 houses earlier and the rebels ransacked another five houses before the security forces were arrived to control the situation. He added these houses belonged to individuals who supported the government. Sayed Luqman Guhriak, the district chief, said they did not have exact figure of how many houses were set on fire. Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, Taliban spokesperson, said the group was not behind burning of the mosque. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

It feels as if the world is your playground today with so many fascinating ways to spend your time. However, you may grow resentful if you can't escape your responsibilities long enough to chase more pleasurable pursuits. Nevertheless, anyone who stands in your path to possible happiness might become the easy target for your negativity.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your finances could become a trouble spot if you lose touch with your common sense while your key planet Venus is moving through your 2nd House of Money. You might not be able to stretch your cash far enough to enjoy all the luxuries you think you deserve now. If you just say yes to your current self-indulgence, you may end up worrying that you can't afford your grand adventure.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Unspoken demands may prevent you from wandering off in search of pleasure today, even though romantic Venus is making herself comfortable in your versatile sign. You are in your element, but someone's unrealistic expectations complicate your life when vulnerable Venus runs into possessive Pluto. No matter what kind of relationship complexities you must face now, honestly addressing each situation separately.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're unsure of what you want now that Venus is hiding out in your 12th House of Fantasy. Even if your thoughts are hard to ignore, you won't likely share them with anyone today, especially if you believe that your words might be used against you. Although your suspicions protect you from getting hurt, they also prevent you from receiving love.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You can rationalize doing things your own way, yet you also accept the importance of adhering to the rules of the game. Sometimes it's challenging to operate without a plan because your fear of losing of control makes you uneasy. However, flying by the seat of your pants works in your favor now. It may be scary to make everything up as you go along, but your current adaptability enables you.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Following your predetermined path may be perplexing now because you're being shown several different roads that lead to your desired destination. Pleasure-seeking Venus enters fickle Gemini today, presenting you with more options than you want. Unfortunately, you can lose sight of your initial goal if you spend too much time wondering if any one route is more efficient than the others.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your vision of the future begins to take shape now that you can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The presence of resourceful Venus in your 9th House of Big Ideas reveals new ways to explore your feelings as relationships become more of an adventure than a responsibility. But don't fall into the trap of engaging in endless philosophical discussions about the meaning of love.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Instead of impulsively overreacting to a changing environment, you prefer taking time to contemplate a more measured response. However, don't worry if you are required to shoot from the hip today; you have the skills necessary to aim with precision. You might wish that everything was more mapped out now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You are more than willing to give nearly anyone the benefit of the doubt now that friendly Venus is camping out in your 7th House of Relationships. Luckily, you feel no need to fight back to reclaim your equilibrium if someone knocks you out of emotional balance today. It's wiser to analyze your anxiety without attempting to shift blame to anyone else.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

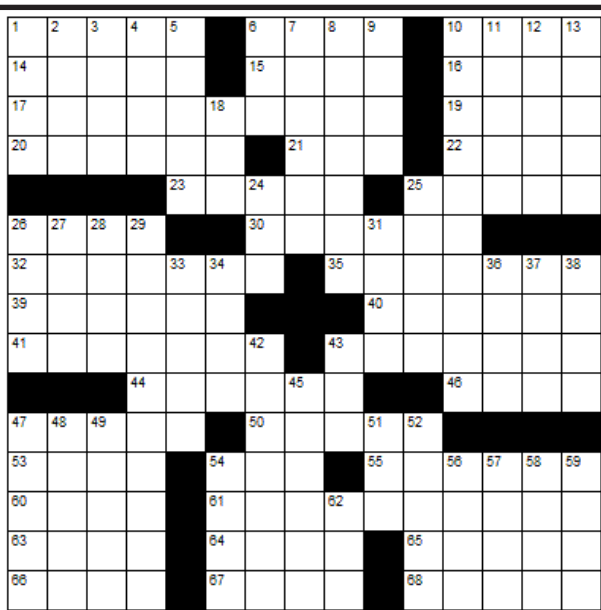
You're resigned to do whatever is expected of you today to make a relationship work. However, magnetic Venus crosses paths with the evocative Moon and passionate Pluto, stirring up emotional conflict with a stubborn opponent. You might feel as if you're being provoked, but once you move beyond your fears you begin to see silver linings instead of dark clouds.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You feel lighter on your feet now that vivacious Venus is skipping her way through flirty Gemini. Although you can charm a potential adversary with your killer smile and your quick wit, your thoughts could be moving so fast that you blurt out the wrong thing. Unfortunately, you can't take your words back if you cross over the line of etiquette, so don't waste energy trying to fix a verbal misstep.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Reminiscing about your past feels reassuring while romantic Venus is traveling through your 4th House of Roots, but your storytelling may not have the same nostalgic effect on others you had planned on. What seems like a casual disclosure to a trusted companion could create a totally unexpected impact today, unleashing an emotional chain of reactions.



Across
1. The quality of being funny, 6. Decays, 10. Grumble, 14. Practical, 15. River of Spain, 16. Type of sword, 17. Criminal, 19. Central area of a church, 20. Vascular tissue in plants, 21. Citrus drink, 22. Journey, 23. Inflexible, 25. Achievements, 26. Probabilities, 30. Irregular, 32. Grumpy, 35. Freshness, 39. Gad about, 40. Japanese hostess, 41. Blight, 43. Sunshade, 44. Scuffle, 46. Past tense of Leap, 47. Send, as payment, 50. Cut wood, 53. Send forth, 54. What we sleep on, 55. Not days, 60. Boyfriend, 61. Manufacturing, 63. At one time (archaic), 64. Cards with 1 symbol, 65. Engine supercharger, 66. An acute inflammatory disease, 67. Arid, 68. Overweight,

Down
1. Something that bulges out, 2. Salt Lake state, 3. Foundry, 4. Margarine, 5. Cite, 6. Record (abbrev.), 7. Get, 8. Trampled, 9. Achy, 100. 10th anniversary, -3. 11banded armadillo, 12. Face with masonry, 13. Glances, 18. French for «Friend», 24. Chap, 25. Not as many, 26. Monster, 27. Heavy cart, 28. A hemispherical roof, 29. Replacement, 31. Lyra's brightest star, 33. Influence, 34. Not his, 36. Being, 37. Store, 38. Sodium chloride, 42. Gist, 43. Church bench, 45. «Portable stairs», 47. Renegade, 48. Manicurist's board, 49. An unwholesome atmosphere, 51. N N N N, 52. Repeat, 54. Partiality, 56. Food, 57. Employ, 58. Checks, 59. Blackthorn, 62. Utilize,

Yesterday's Solution
CAVE ROAST GIBE
LEIS ARBOR ONUS
RESPECTABLE OHMS
WOLF ISLES GABLES
SPRITES TAPER
RED FIGURINE
BLOOD DAGES TOP
EARN PIECES TOTIE
ADD ELVES THREE
KEELBOAT VIE
ROBES MATERIAL
DOLUS HES GABLES
AKIN JACKANAPES
DREG OTHER DELE
EASE TENY ONES

ahead, barn, canoe, carrier, chills, countryside, cycle, degree, detective, dice, dragon, drizzle, early, fate, flame, freezer, gained, great, grove, leery,

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