

21 Militants, 5 Police Killed in Farah Clashes

FARAH CITY - Twenty-one Taliban fighters and five policemen have been killed during two separate clashes in western Farah province, an official said on Thursday. Two Public Order Police officials were killed and another three wound during a Taliban attack in Bala Buluk district, where four vehicles shifting logistics for security forces were also torched by the insurgents, Syed Mohammad, the town's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News. But Abdul Salam, an eyewitness,



said 10 public order police officials had been killed and 15 vehicles destroyed in the clash that took place late on Wednesday. He said: "We were traveling from Herat to Farah province when got trapped in the area due to the clash that lasted three hours. I saw the bodies of 10 security officials and 15 tankers and some military vehicles in flames." According to other witnesses, some Taliban were also killed and wounded in the incident, with ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Sugar, Flour Prices up, Ghee Down in Kabul

KABUL - The prices of sugar and flour increased while that of ghee decreased during the outgoing week in capital Kabul, market sources said on Thursday. Traders' Union head, Fazal Rahman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the wholesale price of 49 kilograms of Kazakh flour increased from 1,220 afghanis to 1,230 afghanis due to the commodity's high demand. A 49-kg bag of Pakistani sugar cost 1,920afis in wholesale and 25kg of rice 1,650afis, the same prices as last week's, he said. But a retailer in Dehna Bagh area, Haroon, said the retail rate of a 49-kg bag of sugar had increased from 2000 afis to 2100 afis. While Fazl Raham said the rate of a 16-litre Momin ghee tin decreased to 980afis from last week's 1,000afis. Meanwhile, Ihsanullah, a tea reseller in Kabul Market, said a kilogram of African black tea cost 240afis and the same amount of Madena green tea 220afis, the same prices as last ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Women Farmers Slam Govt. for Not Addressing their Issues

KABUL - Women farmers on Thursday lashed out at government over the perceived lack of attention paid to their problems. They said that government's inaction has negatively impacted the development of domestic production, and called on the relevant government institutions to take steps to enable them to boost their output levels through a proper marketing system. According to women farmers, the government has not focused on the agricultural development process over the past fifteen years despite them having proved their worth



in the agriculture sector. Security threats, lack of proper land and the lack of support to them from government are apparently their main challenges. They called on government to step up efforts to bolster their sector and provide them with modern farming mechanisms. "We did not have a good harvest during the recent years due to water shortages," said an Afghan woman farmer Tahira Sakhi Zada, citing one ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Afghan Forces Seize Haqqani Weapon Depots

KABUL - The Afghan security forces have recovered three weapon caches in eastern province of Logar, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said on Friday. "The personnel of NDS have found three weapon depots following separate operations in Khusi and Azra districts of Logar province recently," the country's intelligence agency said in a statement. One recoilless gun with two shells, three rounds of RPG-rockets with 14 rounds RPG shells, two AK-47 guns, 33 improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and anti-personnel



mines, six mortar shell rounds and thousands rounds of different weapons bullets were among other items seized after the raids, the statement said. The weapons belonged to militant group of Haqqani and two suspected militants were also captured during the operations, according to the statement. As a Taliban-linked group of militants, the Haqqani network mostly operating in eastern provinces and capital Kabul, has been responsible for many high-profile attacks against se ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

ISI Blamed for Funding 2009 Attack on CIA Base in Khost

KABUL - Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) may have funded a deadly suicide attack on a CIA outpost in Afghanistan's southeastern Khost province, suggests a declassified State Department cable. Sent to the State Department two weeks after the attack on Dec. 30, 2009, the cable spoke of a meeting between Haqqani network operatives and unidentified officers of the Pakistani spy service. Released on Wednesday, the cable said the ISI was suspected of giving the Haqqani network \$200,000 to enable the attack on Forward Operating Base Chapman. Seven CIA officers and a Jordanian intelligence ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Kunduz-Takhar Highway Commander Gunned Down

TALUQAN - Unidentified gunmen have shot dead commander of Kunduz-Takhar highway and his three guards in the Farkhar district of northern Takhar province, an official said on Thursday. Saifuddin Mushtaq, the town's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Commander Abdul Qahar Khurmabi was on his way to the district centre when trapped in the ambush of armed men. "Khurmabi wanted to go to his home when attacked by armed men in Sengan locality," said Mushtaq. Rajab Mohammad, the resident of locality, confirmed the incident saying they heard of a clash and ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Dozens of Afghan Citizens Detained in KP Operations

PESHAWAR - Dozens of Afghan citizens have been detained outlaws during search operations in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, officials said. At least 20 Afghan nationals having no valid documents were arrested in Char-sadda district on Wednesday, the town's police chief said, claiming the recovery of arms from the detainees. Law-enforcement personnel have stepped up search operations in the district following last



month's suicide attack on a court in Shabqadar area. In the Jamrud sub-district of Khyber tribal region, police arrested 24 unregistered Afghan nationals. Under a law for tenants, everyone living in a rent residence in the area has to register with the political administration. Thousands of Afghan nationals are living in Khyber, according to the administration. Many of them have also purchased properties and run businesses in the area. (Pajhwok)

Book on Opium-Power Relationship in Afghanistan Launched

KABUL - A book on relationship between opium poppy cultivation and power in Afghanistan was launched in Kabul on Thursday, detailing multiple attempts at banning the illicit plant made over the past two decades. The new book "A State Built on Sand: How Opium Undermined Afghanistan" was unveiled at a launch at the European Union (EU) on Tuesday and at a press conference at the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) on Thursday. The author, a long-time Afghanistan researcher, David Mansfield provides an in-depth look at the Taliban prohibition as well as subsequent bans in Nangarhar and Helmand. The book recalls multiple attempts to ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Disabled Young Afghan Artist Dreams to Become Professional Teacher

KABUL - The story of a young disabled Afghan girl has gone viral in Afghanistan with reports and stories surfacing the media regarding her extraordinary drawing skills. The young Rubaba is disabled from her legs and hands but she dreams to become a professional teacher in the future despite her family is suffering from poverty and she is not able to walk and perform like other children. Her heartbreaking story has attracted the attention of hundreds of thousands of people after she appeared she in various Television reports, causing the social media users to overwhelmingly share her stories in the internet. The 16-year-old Rubaba says she wants to become ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Afghan Man Arrested for Keeping Syrian Girl as Hostage in Herat

HERAT - An Afghan man has reportedly been arrested in western Herat province of Afghanistan allegedly for smuggling a teenage Syrian girl from Turkey. According to the local security officials in Herat, an investigation is underway regarding the alleged smuggle of the girl from Turkey. Provincial governor's spokesman Jilani Farhad said they are aware regarding an alleged smuggle of a 16-year-old girl from Turkey. He said an investigation is underway and it has been reported that the girl is originally hailing from Syria. According to Farhad, the arrested man is originally ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

It appears as if the cosmic weather is settling down, but don't get your hopes up for a permanent shift of energy. Although you may experience periods of calmer sailing today as the playful Leo Moon harmonizes with planets in your sign, it's challenging to know when to call it quits. Even if you're excited about the prospects for more action, be smart and catch your breath while you can.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You are all set to reveal your innermost desires today, but you have a tough time putting your feelings into words. Your fantasies seem real as nebulous Neptune influences romantic Venus. But don't give up on your dreams; your determination enables you to disclose something you might normally keep to yourself. You've been worrying about a secret long enough.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your thoughts don't matter more than what is in your heart today. Nevertheless, you may surprise yourself with how much you long to hear those magical words of acknowledgment from someone special. The simplest act of kindness means a lot to you now, especially if your insecurity has recently developed a life of its own. Ironically, it works both ways; expressing your affection helps you to navigate through this uncertain time.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You continue to single-mindedly concentrate on your career and are driven to figure out the purpose of your life. However, you're much easier for others to get along with today if you're in touch with your imagination because your fantasies are an important source of your happiness. Nevertheless, keeping your dreams alive is challenging when you're so distracted by all the possibilities at work.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You might not understand what people are trying to tell you today. And, if they are judging you too harshly, you probably won't even hear a word they say. You can turn the volume of your self-expression up so high while the Moon is in your active sign that you're not conscious of any incoming information at all. Focus on cultivating greater self-awareness and you will naturally become more considerate.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Pinpointing the source of the apparent negativity can be difficult now if someone seems to be working against you. Luckily, this uncomfortable situation won't last long and you should be able to resolve the problem without turning it into a major crisis. Rather than succumbing to fears and digging harder to uncover the facts, change the game completely by focusing on your best-case scenario.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may be happily surprised by a close friend's response when you express your feelings today. But there's no need to accommodate people by saying what you believe they want to hear; just share what's in your heart exactly as you feel it. Even if you're concerned about the uncertainties ahead, let someone you trust know your inner process. Your personal disclosure can initiate a discussion that paves the way for increased intimacy.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You're hoping to propel your life in a new direction today. You may choose to focus your feelings on a single person or one particular situation as you obsess about a specific goal. Unfortunately, everything seems to unfold too slowly for your taste. It's critical to modify your expectations and let success arrive at its own natural rate, even if it seems delayed.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're ready to race ahead today, even if you're stuck in the starting gate. You may attempt to make the most of your precious time, but your patience has run out. Although you are eager to start living your adventure right now, you must be gentle with yourself. Your unresolved feelings might require more processing before you can push them forward again.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You can overcome your self-imposed limitations by ignoring the facts for a while today. However, your current resistance stems from childhood fears that continue to impede your progress. Eventually, you may be asked to look at your old hurts with a fresh perspective that motivates you to keep moving forward without self-restraint. But don't go charging ahead just yet.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Containing your enthusiasm is a challenge these days since you truly believe anything is possible. In fact, you're so excited now that you might not be able to focus on the work in front of you. People may demand that you produce results and you don't particularly enjoy the pressure. But instead of overreacting, take a deep breath before you unconsciously push back too hard.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Finding the right starting point today can be tricky, making your day somewhat complicated to manage. It seems as if you're blowing around on the whimsical breezes of your imagination and you can't ground your thoughts. You might believe the best solution is to talk about your feelings. However, the more you share now, the less certain everything becomes.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across: 1. Muddle, 6. Custard dessert, 10. Cut away, 14. Whipped or sour, 15. Disabled, 16. Press, 17. Gibberish, 19. What a person is called, 20. Excrements, 21. Container, 22. Tall woody plant, 23. Wear away, 25. Chairs, 26. Rectum, 30. Fire warden, 32. Disquiet, 35. Three book series, 39. Ancient ascetic, 40. A type of rhododendron, 41. Hollywood hopeful, 43. Agreeableness, 44. Obtaining, 46. Sleep in a convenient place, 47. Lure, 50. Fangs, 53. Don, 54. Binge, 55. Pester, 60. Therefore, 61. Deductive, 63. Place, 64. Briskly (music), 65. Lacquer ingredient, 66. Not more, 67. Breezed through, 68. Adjust again.

Down: 1. Heyday, 2. Medication, 3. A Greek territorial unit, 4. Laboratories, 5. Overact, 6. Grippe, 7. 11th Greek letter, 8. Surrounding, 9. A noble gas, 10. Wilderness, 11. A kind of macaw, 12. Astronomical visitor, 13. Leg joints, 18. Glass container, 24. Sphere, 25. Take by force, 26. Mimics, 27. Where a bird lives, 28. Constellation bear, 29. Resembling snoring, 31. A metric unit of weight, 33. To untwist, 34. Stink, 36. Hodgepodge, 37. Obtains, 38. Cheers, 42. Historic ship, 43. Ripen, 45. Cancel, 47. Inhabit, 48. Creepy, 49. Enclosures, 51. Your (archaic), 52. Despiser, 54. An island in Indonesia, 56. Anger, 57. Air force heroes, 58. Alike, 59. Narrow opening, 62. Directed.

Yesterday's Solution: adrift, ahead, amaze, ardor, bell, brand, bucket, clean, complete, earlier, earth, family, fervor, floor, forward, hair, harken, harpy, healthy, heed, label, lifestyle, merit, noble, premature, prior, rain, relieve, rinse, rope, stamp, state, steam, strong, tent, tide, tire

TOKEN FERVORYH
STAMPLADRIFTA
STATEOAMAZERR
CTPRIORHIWBCP
LLRHARKENLOOY
ITEOSTEAMBYMU
FWMANOBLERRPF
ELAENGHTRAELO
SATRUCKHINLER
TBUCKETYTDITW
YERCYRINSEEEA
LLEBARDOREVWR
EARLIERVAHEAD