

Taliban Capture Qala-i-Zal District's Bazaar

KUDNUZ CITY - Taliban militants captured the bazaar of Qala-i-Zal district of northern Kunduz province and were closing in on the district headquarters, the town's police chief said on Wednesday. The rebels advanced on the district bazaar amid an ongoing fierce clash with security forces, Col. Safiullah told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said at least 200 militants attacked the district and captured some parts of the district centre.



Meanwhile, provincial police chief Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh said the Taliban also attacked Dasht-i-Archi district, but security forces pushed them back, killing 10 fighters and injuring 15 others. A statement from the 209th Shaheen Military Corps said the troops had killed 21 rebels and injured 25 others during "Operation Thunder" in Dasht-i-Archi, Khanabad, Chardara and Imam Sahib districts. (Pajhwok)

Protestors Want Afghan Girl Killer in Iran Punished

KABUL/HERAT - Residents and civil society activists on Wednesday protested in front of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul and the country's consulate in western Herat province over the raping and killing of a minor Afghan girl in Tehran. The six-year-old girl identified as Setayesh Quraishi was abducted in Veramin town near Tehran on April 9 by a 17-year-old Iranian boy, who sexually abused and killed the little girl and reportedly thrown acid at the girl to hide his crime. With Iranian authorities investigating the case and autopsy results are expected to be released this week, many Afghans and Iranians have roundly condemned the crime as outrageous. Some 100 people protested in front of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul. The protest was arranged by Andesha-i-Naw civil society and the participants demanded severe punishment for those involved in the murder of Quraishi. ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

Surging Violence Claims Lives of 33 Militants, 7 Afghan Soldiers

KABUL - At least 33 militants were killed and 35 others were wounded during the clearance of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the past 24 hours. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) in a statement said at least 4 militants were also arrested during the same operations. The statement further added that 8 of the militants were killed in Nari district of Kunar where 4 militants were also wounded, while 2 others were killed and 8 more were wounded in Chahar Dara district of Kunduz. At least 4 militants were



killed in separate raids in Syedabad district of Wardak province and 4 others were killed in Baraki Barak district of Logar province. At least 2 militants were killed in Qarabagh district of Ghazni, MoD said,

adding that 2 others were wounded. The Ministry of Defense also added that 7 soldiers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces also lost their lives during the same operations. ...*(More on P4)...*(16)

3rd Polio Case Detected in Kunar



ASADABAD - A third polio case has been detected in eastern Kunar province, an official of public health department in the remote province said on Wednesday. Public health director Dr. Ihsanullah Fazli told Pajhwok Afghan News that Zahidullah son of Taj Mohammad belonged to Shultan area in Shigal district was infected with the virus. Over the past four years, polio vaccination campaign could not be implemented in the Shigal district due to Taliban's opposition, a reason he cited behind the infection. The director said anti-polio campaigns each time faced

Iran Speaker Condemns Terrorist Attacks in Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Kabul which resulted in the death of a large number of Afghan civilians. Larijani extended his condolences to the Afghan government, nation and the bereaved families of the victims of the terrorist attack in a meeting with his Afghan counterpart Abdelraouf Ebrahimi in Moscow on Tuesday. "Afghanistan has gained many achievements in its fight against terrorism, but the regional countries should provide assistance to the Afghan government and people in their fight against terrorism," Larijani said in the meeting on ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

Peace Committee Member Shot Dead Along with Son, Guard

GARDEZ - Unidentified gunmen shot dead a member of the peace committee, his son and a bodyguard in southeastern Paktika province on Wednesday, an official said. Police chief Brig. Gen. Qader Gul Zadran told Pajhwok Afghan News that Mohammad Ishaq, his son and body-

guard were gunned down at around 10:00am. He said police had launched an investigation into the incident and a manhunt for the gunmen had been mounted. But no one had been arrested as yet, the police chief added. Mohammad Umar, an eyewitness, said: "An in ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

Robberies on the Increase in Jalalabad City

JALALABAD - Incidents of mobile snatching and robberies have been on the increase in the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, the residents and provincial council members say. Robberies ranging from car-lifting to snatching mobile phones and looting shops are among growing incidents the residents are concerned about. Dr. Nasir Kamawal, a member of the provincial council, told Pajhwok Afghan News these incidents had lately increased in the face of little efforts to prevent such incidents. "We have held meetings with security officials on the issue and have shared people's concern with them in this regard," the public representative said. He said the provincial administration should prevent robberies. Another member of the ...*(More on P4)...*(17)

Blood Donation Drive for Kabul Attack Victims Kicks off

CHARIKAR - Dozens of people, including government officials, in central Parwan province on Wednesday donated 30,000cc of blood to those injured in Tuesday's suicide bombing in Kabul. At least 64 people were killed and 347 others wounded as a result of a suicide car bombing on in the 16th police district of Kabul. The blast allowed attackers to enter government offices, sparking an hour-long gunbattle with security forces. Nearly 55 people visited



the hospital for blood donation as part of a campaign that would continue for the next two days, Director of Public Health Mohammad Qasim Saee-di said. Governor Mohammad Asim Asim offered con-

Nangarhar Blast Leaves 9 Civilians Injured

JALALABAD - A bomb blast injured nine civilians near a bus stand in the capital of eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday evening, an official said. The blast took place at around 5pm behind the Laghman Bus Stand in Hadi Akhonzada area of Jalalabad, the governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News. "The explosion was carried out by a motorcyclist. Eight civilians sustained injuries in the explosion," he said, adding the detonation might occur due to placing explosives on the bike. However, public health director Dr. Najibullah Kamawal said the nine people had sustained injuries as a result of a hand-grenade blast. Six of the injured were discharged from hospital after treatment ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

Dreaded Taliban Commander Killed in Logar Operation: NDS

KABUL - A dreaded Taliban commander has been killed during a special operation by intelligence operatives in central Logar province, the spy service claimed on Wednesday. Qari Zubair, head of the Taliban's military omission for Paktia province, was killed along with three associated in Khoshi district, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said. Another member of the Taliban's military commission - Qari Mir Ahmad - was detained in the Charkh district of the same province, a statement from NDS said. Two heavy machine guns, 28 boxes of ammunition, a vehicle, two communication devices, 28 rounds of RPG, two hand grenades, 3 mortar rounds, 6 AK-47 magazines and eight military uniforms were seized. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Obstacles seem to be popping up in your path and your plans might not turn out as expected today. A series of minor delays could prompt you to doubt your ability to reach your goals as assertive Mars backtracks through your 9th House of Future Vision. But don't look to anyone else for your answers, even if you're feeling insecure. Although your friends mean well.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Your confidence is growing by leaps and bounds and you will continue to gain strength in your own convictions day by day. But instead of rushing off to the next great thing, give yourself time over the weeks ahead to absorb your recent accomplishments. Developing a deeper sense of self-awareness isn't particularly fun because you Bulls would rather plow the fields than analyze your feelings.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You may need to contend with an angry partner or coworker now that combative Mars is backpedaling in your 7th House of Relationships. But someone else's negative emotions become more problematic when you don't express your own feelings for the sake of convenience. If you are upfront about your needs, others might not have to lose their tempers trying to get you to talk. Be the bigger person and reveal your heart before anyone asks.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You may grow restless with your life these days because it seems like everything is about your job now. Naturally, there's more going on in your world but simply keeping up with all your obligations can drain your energy. Fortunately, the gentle Libra Moon encourages you to balance work with play. But don't try to make any big changes yet; maintaining your daily routine is enough.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Although you're known for your creative outlook on life, something is holding you back now. You possess the energy to follow through with your plans, but may be fearful that your ideas aren't good enough. This emphasis on self-analysis can wreak havoc on your outer world, causing you to read signals incorrectly or to judge a current situation based upon an old hurt.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Domestic responsibilities weigh heavily on your shoulders these days, possibly preventing you from embarking on a new course. Fortunately, you're not in a hurry; you want this change of direction in your life to be built on a solid foundation. However, waves of frustration can be overwhelming when you realize how much there is yet to be done. Just remember, the big shift is not going to happen overnight, so you may as well take care of your personal business.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



It may be discouraging when people get in the way of your progress because they don't really understand your intentions. However, exerting too much control over your own schedule can prove self-defeating now that action-hero Mars is back-stepping in your 3rd House of Immediate Environment. Don't waste energy trying to mobilize your coworkers. Slow down and let them come around on their own accord.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



It's to your advantage to reconsider a budget that you thought would carry you comfortably through the rest of the year. Your traditional planetary ruler Mars is retrograde in your 2nd House of Money for the next couple of months, bringing up financial concerns. However, some of your worries might be based upon an irrational fear of not having enough, rather than on the actual bottom line.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



It's important to exercise a little caution before saying yes to more than you can handle now. Your life is complicated by the fact that action-hero Mars is hanging out in your sign due to its retrograde motion, which can fuel your enthusiasm and drive you to take too much. But karmic Saturn is also in the picture, requiring you to pay the price for any bad decisions. Remember, it's a marathon, not a sprint.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Although you are naturally driven to achieve success, there's an internal intrigue pulling you into the metaphysical realms now rather than the physical. Retrograde Mars is lurking in your 12th House of Spiritual Mystery, luring your attention toward otherworldly matters. Ambitious goals feel hollow now because you yearn for the deeper meaning that comes from within.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

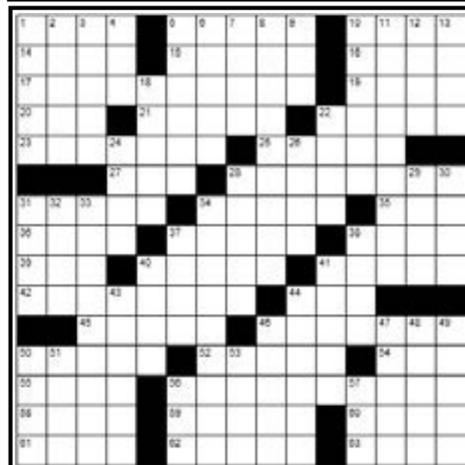


You are motivated to establish plans for your future, but you can get so hung up in the brilliance of your ideas now that you can't get your scheme off the ground. Additionally, with retrograde Mars setting up shop in your 11th House of Social Networks, you might wait for an invitation that never arrives. If there's a dream you wish to pursue, make it happen.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



The notion of getting ahead in the real world captivates your attention today. Red-hot Mars is camped out in your 10th House of Career, making this a great time to drive steadily toward your professional goals. But its retrograde motion can bring about detours and delays, so avoid getting lost in self-criticism if you don't immediately get what you want. Instead of wearing yourself out for no reason.



Across

- Mongrel, 5. Napped, 10. Generous slice of the pie, 14. Gumbo, 15. Eyeshade, 16. Gambling game, 17. In a non-hurting manner, 19. Dines, 20. Clairvoyant's gift, 21. Laneway, 22. Loft, 23. Notwithstanding, 25. Chew noisily, 27. Consumed food, 28. Not southern, 31. Ostentatious, 34. Brass musical instruments, 35. Caviar, 36. Ripped, 37. Lights, 38. Quash, 39. French for "Friend", 40. Hebrew unit of weight, 41. Broaden, 42. Ambrosia, 44. Thorax protector, 45. Approaches, 46. Chooses, 50. Pirate's pal, 52. Anagram of "Space", 54. Not in, 55. French for "State", 56. Deadly nightshade, 58. Fee, 59. Not written exams, 60. Seven days, 61. Church alcove, 62. Heretofore (2 words), 63. Stringed instrument.

Down

- Acted gloomily, 2. An edict of the Russian tsar, 3. Journeys, 4. Buff, 5. Slender, 6. Fine thread, 7. Being, 8. An organism with various forms, 9. Attempt, 10. Draw, 11. Coriaceous, 12. Against, 13. Pear variety, 18. Not clergy, 22. Picnic insects, 24. Chess piece, 26. Coffee dispensers, 28. Wanderer, 29. Learning method, 30. A noble gas, 31. Knife, 32. "Where the heart is", 33. Not occidentals, 34. Harriers, 37. Lascivious look, 38. Atmosphere, 40. A neutral color, 41. Tricked, 43. Ladybug, 44. Meal, 46. French for "Room", 47. Hyrax, 48. Channel selector, 49. Investment, 50. Anagram of "Meat", 51. At the peak of, 53. Kaolin, 56. Type of snake, 57. A wise bird.

Yesterday's Solution



appreciate, atone, author, belong, boat, cast, char, clear, cloak, contrition, crime, director, enemy, ocean, pellet, pilot, piton, pots, reach, rout, scribe, script, shale, sharp, sheer, spigot, stake, strive, stylus, suspend, swing, taste, teal, tend, thank, tooth, weasel.

