

Andar District Teetering on the Verge of Collapse

GHAZNI CITY - Officials of southern Ghazni province on Saturday said heavy clashes in Andar district were underway, fearing the town would fall to militants if immediate support did not arrive in time.

Provincial council head, Hamidullah Nawroz, told Pajhwok Afghan News firefighters were ongoing in most parts of Ghazni province due to the limited number of policemen there.

"Government leaders treat Ghazni as a third-grade province, while it is clearly a full-fledged province," he remarked, saying heavy clashes had been going on over the past four days. He feared the district would fall to the Taliban if



reinforcements did not arrive immediately. Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel, confirmed the clashes and said more than 30 militants had been killed and a large number of others wounded.

"I shifted a number of police personnel from the district to Ghazni City, because the number of policemen is very limited here," he said, adding that the issue had been shared with the Ministry of Interior.

Governor Abdul Karim Matin said a number of... (More on P4)... (19)

A Casket-Maker Distressed by his Soaring Income

KABUL - A coffin seller in Kabul says his income has risen as result of growing demand for funerary boxes for victims of suicide attacks and explosions in the city, but he never feels happy.

Abdul Shakoor, 60, inherited the casket-making job from his father. "I was a very small kid, but I don't know what my age was when my father made coffins. I would curiously watch his work." He would often pester his father with innocent queries about the use of the wooden boxes. "Why are bodies wrapped in white shrouds and placed in coffins before burial?" he would question his dad.

A father of four daughters, the elder man ekes out a living by making coffins. He said 40 years ago, the Afghans were living in peace and prosperity. There was no war or violence. "Four decades ago, only one customer would come in the entire day, but now we sell four to five coffins daily." Shakoor, heaving a deep sigh, ... (More on P4)... (20)

10 Civilians Killed in Paktia Explosions

PAKTIA - At least ten civilians were killed in separate bomb explosions in southeastern Paktia province of Afghanistan on Friday, local officials said.

Provincial governor's spokesman Naqib Ahmad Atal said at least five members of a single family lost their lives in the first explosion in Samkanai district. He said the incident took place after a vehicle carrying the civilians struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

Atal further added that five more were killed in a separate explosion targeting a tractor vehicle in the same district. No group including the Taliban



militants has so far claimed responsibility behind the incident. Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other in-

Explosion Leaves 5 Policemen Dead

KABUL - At least five policemen lost their lives in an explosion in the outskirts of Kabul province late on Friday, local officials in Logar province said Saturday.

Provincial governor's spokesman Salim Saleh said a commander of the Public Order Police Forces lost his life along with 4 policemen in Khak Jabar district.

He said Gen. Abdul Satar Hashemi was killed on Friday evening as he was on his way from Logar to Kabul and his vehicle was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device. Saleh further added that Gen. Hashemi was serving as the commander of the 5th brigade of the Public Order Police Forces.

No group including the Taliban militants has so far claimed responsibility behind the incident. According to reports, at least six civilians including a woman were killed in a similar incident on Azra-Khak-e-Jabar highway around four ... (More on P4)... (22)

10 Including 5 of A Family Dead in Paktia Explosions

KABUL - Ten people, including five of a family, have been killed in two separate bomb blasts in southeastern Paktia province, an official said.

Five relatives were killed on Friday when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Chamkani district. Hours later, five people more people were killed when the tractor carrying them struck a similar bomb.

Naqib Ahmad Atal,



spokesman for the governor, accused the Taliban of planting the roadside bombs that often resulted in civilian casualties. (Pajhwok)

Police Rescue Boy from Kidnappers in Kunduz

KABUL - Police in northern Kunduz province have rescued a seven-year-old boy from kidnappers, an official claimed on Saturday.

Police chief, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh, told Pajhwok Afghan News the boy was kidnapped two weeks ago by unidentified gunmen in Bandar-i-Khanabad area. Earlier, security officials worked hard to ascertain the area where the minor was kept captive. Security officials besieged the area and the kidnappers had no option but to free the boy, he added.

No arrest has been made so far but police have launched an investigation, according to Jangalbagh. Sayed Rahim, uncle of the boy, welcomed the safe release of his nephew. He said the kidnappers had telephoned them from different numbers and demanded a huge ransom. (Pajhwok)

6 Taliban Eliminated in Laghman Clashes

MEHTERLAM - Six Taliban have been killed 10 others, including three Afghan Local Police (ALP) and two civilians, wounded in separate incidents of violence in eastern Laghman province, an official said on Saturday.

Six Taliban, including notorious Commander Ghazi, were killed and six others wounded in Alingar district. He said the clashes erupted in Hakimabad, Maidano and Bibi Hajari localities late on Friday.

Three ALP men were wounded during the clashes who had been in better conditions after they were



evacuated to the hospital. Separately, two civilians have been wounded in landmine explosion in the Nabur locality of Alingar. One injured was in critical condition, according to Zwak.

Taliban, however, claimed three check-posts had been captured by the group's fighters and several security officials were killed during the attack in Mehterlam, the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

ISIS Loyalists Behead Two Men in Eastern Afghanistan

JALALABAD - The loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group have beheaded two men in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan on charges of supporting the pro-government forces in their fight against the terror group.

The two men were reportedly executed in the restive Kot district on Friday which comes as the Afghan forces are busy conducting operations against the terror group in this district. The sympathizers of the terror group started circulating the photographs of the brutal execution of the two men in social media.



The ISIS loyalists have threatened everyone who backs the Afghan government against its self-declared Caliphate to face a similar punishment once captured by the group. The latest execution by ISIS loyalists comes as the terror group received major blows during the ongoing operations in eastern Nangarhar province during the recent weeks. Both the Afghan and US forces conduct regular raids against the loyalists of the terror group in Nangarhar province. The ... (More on P4)... (23)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might feel it's your duty to share what's on your mind today, but speaking the truth can bring an undesirable response. Talkative Mercury's hard square to no-nonsense Saturn complicates conversations by undermining trust if you say too much. Granted, you aren't often the long-suffering type, yet you could possess even less self-control at this time.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

The lure of pleasure could distract you from delivering on a promise today. However, there's a price to pay for irresponsibility when active Mars and hardworking Saturn in your 8th House of Shared Resources are stressed by four planets in your 5th House of Fun and Games. Fortunately, your tenacity can help you overcome your own resistance to work.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You want to initiate a conversation about a delicate subject to clear the air of invisible tension. Unfortunately, too many details create a roadblock that forces you to think twice before you speak your piece. Your key planet Mercury runs into scrupulous Saturn, requiring you to back up every statement you make with facts and figures. Thankfully, sufficient preparation works wonders; you'll be showered with trust and respect if you can satisfy your audience.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You may be quite upset with someone's actions today, yet your tendency is to withdraw rather than push outside of your comfort zone and share your concerns. Communicator Mercury in your 3rd House of Distractions crosses paths with authoritative Saturn, making it even harder to get your point across if you lose your temper.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Financial matters continue to be in the spotlight, especially if you must limit your activities or purchases because of fiscal restraints. Unfortunately, there might not be an easy solution to your current dilemma because valuable Venus and intellectual Mercury are feeling the pressure while visiting your 2nd House of Resources.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You wish to involve others in your decision-making process, but could have a difficult time finding the advice you need. There's a lot on your mind now that romantic Venus, mental Mercury and opportunistic Jupiter are all hanging out in your analytical sign. Meanwhile, Mercury slams into a square with stem Saturn, stopping you in your intellectual tracks and forcing you to realize that a few well-considered words create more impact than a rambling speech.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

There's an emotional uneasiness in the air that comes from a lack of communication. It's obvious that there are things that must be shared, yet still remain buried while so many planets hide out in your 12th House of Secrets. You may feel as if you've stumbled onto a battlefield as your key planet Venus dynamically squares warrior Mars, but you're in no mood to fight now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Although you probably won't go out of your way to look for a fight, it still might seem as if you're cruising for trouble today. It's just that your key planet, contentious Mars, is angry and under duress in your 2nd House of Core Beliefs. Although you're ready to defend your basic values.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You could doubt your own wisdom if your ambitious plans run off the rails. You are operating with a deep well of energetic reserve while superhero Mars and taskmaster Saturn are in the picture. However, reality conspires against you today, demanding that you reconsider your long-range goals. You must have all your ducks in order now, since any flaws in your argument will be revealed, whether you like it or not.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your confidence may be shaken today if your optimism suddenly crashes into reality. Fast-talking Mercury squares nay-saying Saturn in your 12th House of Endings, requiring you to confront your inner saboteur. Once and for all, you must face the fear that the notion of failure arouses. Although you might want to withdraw from conflict.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You may grow restless today, tempted to trade measurable gains for an unrealistic pie-in-the-sky dream. However, sobering Saturn puts a damper on your wanderlust. Unfortunately, garnering support is challenging now, especially if others want proof that you're speaking the truth. It might be wise to exercise self-restraint and perform your due diligence in order to build a rock-solid case for your position.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You might be unsure of your life path today when thoughtful Mercury and physical Mars create a bit of an interplanetary struggle. Forcing resolution now at the height of your uncertainty is like slamming on the brakes during a skid. Thankfully, you can maintain control if you clear your head and acknowledge your fears. Mastering your mind is your most important assignment now.

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Across

- Small open pies, 6. Reflected sound, 10. Felines, 14. Utilize, 15. A female domestic, 16. Chocolate cookie, 17. Slowly, in music, 18. Broth (Scottish), 19. Bog, 20. Traverse, 22. South American country, 23. Owl sound, 24. Anagram of "Rascal", 26. "Where the heart is", 30. 52 in Roman numerals, 31. What we breathe, 32. Not closed, 33. Probabilities, 35. Related to tides, 39. High level of respect, 41. Overweight, 43. Fruity-smelling compound, 44. Part in a play, 46. Snell, 47. Ribonucleic acid, 49. Top part of an apron, 50. No, 51. Pass by, 54. Put away, 56. Close, 57. Recover, 63. Indian dress, 64. Chilled, 65. Alleviated, 66. Flying saucers, 67. Skin disease, 68. Desiccated, 69. Feudal worker, 70. Dregs, 71. Squalid.

Down

- After-bath powder, 2. Affirm, 3. Hindu princess, 4. Chickadees, 5. Make a splashing sound, 6. Decorate with needlework, 7. Neck artery, 8. Hastens (archaic), 9. Black Sea port, 10. Similitude, 11. Disney mermaid, 12. Latin name for our planet, 13. French for "Sister", 21. Hue, 25. Give as an example, 26. A flexible pipe, 27. Chooses, 28. Food from animals, 29. Kirk's starship, 34. Solitary places, 36. Prank, 37. At the peak of, 38. Stringed instrument, 40. Coffee dispensers, 42. Jazz style, 45. Lexid, 48. Antenna, 51. Follow as a result, 52. Flips (through), 53. Moses' brother, 55. Now, 56. Behold, in old Rome, 59. Unusual, 60. Largest continent, 61. Abound, 62. Countercurrent.

Yesterday's Solution

CAPES	TRIS	LILIT
ALERT	CENT	ALAR
ERSHIF	AGE	CITE
SETTLE	DEW	HABA
	TWEEN	ARCED
MAID	GRUMPY	
UNDEIRG	EARMARK	
STOLLER	LOISEN	
HELLICAL	PENSIVE	
	BATEAU	EASE
CREED	ABBOT	
ROAR	PRO	AREOLA
EYRA	DUNAF	ECTED
MALT	SERE	SHIED
ELSE	EDDY	SOCKS

altitude, attack, bane, blast, blind, boats, bomber, brilliant, burns, chain, chop, cloud, deafen, death, flash, flat, flying, force, heat, lest, noise, nose, paper, pregnant, reaction, rubble, ruins, seas, secret, shock, shorten, swift, total, vanish, weapon.

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