

Militants Use Children in Paktia Battles: AIHRC

GARDEZ - Militants have been using children as fighters in battles with security forces in southeastern Paktia province, a human rights official said on Wednesday.

Saifur Rahman Niazi, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) head for Paktia, said the presence of children and youth in rebels' ranks was concerning and against national and international laws.

"We are concerned about the safety of common people in the conflict and for this purpose we hold regular meetings with security institutions and ask militant groups to make sure people's lives and properties are not harmed." Religious scholar Muallvi Ahmad Shah termed killing of innocent people as unlawful and said people's lives, honour and properties people should be protected during the war.

He said bomb blasts in public places like mosques were crime and had no justification. (Pajhwok)



4 Men Held with 296kg of Narcotics in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Police have arrested four drug smugglers and recovered 296 kilograms of narcotics from their possession in two separate incidents in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said.

Police spokesman Hazrat Hus-sain Mashriqwal told reporters here that 251kg of hashish had been skillfully placed in a corolla vehicle en route to Torkham border town from Khogyani district. The vehicle was seized in Jalalabad city. (Pajhwok)

Road Construction, Water Supply Schemes to Kick Off

JALALABAD - Road construction and water supply projects will be launched at a cost of 50 million afghanis by the Rural Rehabilitation Department in eastern Nangarhar province.

RRD Director Mujibur Rahman Zia said the road would be constructed in Momand Dara district at a cost of 37.48 million afghanis in collaboration with village councils.

In a statement, the director said the road would be completed within three months. Village councils will conduct the construction work in accordance with contract specifications.

Additionally, contracts for five water ... (More on P4)... (14)

Women Employees of Bagram Airbase Killed by Gunmen

KABUL - Three Afghan women employees of Bagram Air Base killed and another wounded; attackers escape, officials said.

Gunmen attacked Afghan women employees of Bagram Air Base in Bagram district of Kabul province on Wednesday afternoon, killing three and wounding another, officials confirmed.

The attack took place close to the Air Base. The attackers managed to escape from the area, district governor, Abdul Shokoor Qudousi said.

"The women were working in the security section at Bagram Air Base and their duties were to search people before entering to the base," Qudousi said.

No group, including the Taliban, has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

Kabul Magnetic Bomb Blast Kills one Person



KABUL - One person was killed in a magnetic bomb blast in capital Kabul on Wednesday, an official said. Najibullah Danish, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (MoI), told Pajhwok Afghan News the blast took place at around 11:20am in Benihsar locality situated in the limits of eight police district.

The magnetic bomb was planted in a private vehicle and the driver was killed in the blast.

Police have opened investigations into the incident. There was no claim of responsibility for the blast so far. (Pajhwok)

4 Killed, 11 Injured in Panjsher Traffic Accident

PARAKH - Four people have been killed and seven others wounded as a result of a traffic accident in central Panjsher province, an official said on Wednesday.

Police spokesman Mohammad Mansour Anabi told Pajhwok Afghan News a Mazda-type vehicle with 11 individuals aboard -- heading to Panjsher Bazaar from Anabah district -- overturned due to driver's recklessness. He said four individuals were killed and seven other injured, including the driver. The victims, inhabitants of Samangan province, had come to Panjsher for work. Anabi added the injured had been evacuated to the Emergency Hospital for medical treatment. Three of them are said to be in critical condition. (Pajhwok)

5 Rebels Killed in Zabul; 4 Suspects Held in Nangarhar

JALALABAD/QALAT - Five insurgents have been killed and another four arrested separately in Nangarhar and Zabul provinces, officials said on Wednesday.

Three Taliban militants were killed and two others wounded during a clash with security forces in the Shamulzai district of the southern Zabul province, the governor's spokesman Gul Islam Seyal told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Also in the Shamulzai district, another two rebels were killed in a blast caused by their own bomb, he said, adding the Afghan forces escaped unharmed in the clash.

In eastern Nangarhar province, four suspected militants and one alleged kidnapper have been arrested by security forces in Achin, Haska Mina and Nazian districts.

The detainees included one Daesh (Islamic state) foreigner member, an official said.

Separately, police recovered 20kg of heroin from a rickshaw in Behsud district's Samarkhel locality and detained a person in connection with the drugs, Nangarhar police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal told Pajhwok Afghan News. (Pajhwok)

11 Taliban Killed, 6 Injured in Paktika Clashes

SHARANA - Eleven Taliban were killed and half a dozen injured during a clash with Afghan forces in the Gomal district of southeast Paktika province, officials said on Wednesday.

Border police commander in Gomal, Raz Mohammad Tofan, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash broke out in Zangal area last night and the security forces continued their operation on the Gomal highway on Wednesday. He said the Taliban had



planted landmines on the Gomal highway and were firing at security forces from mountains, preventing the forces from quick advance.

A local police officer, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News that one security personnel was killed and five others ... (More on P4)... (15)

7 Insurgents Killed in Drone Strike in Ghazni

GHAZNI - Police officials of Ghazni confirm that seven Taliban insurgents have been killed by a drone operated by foreign troops.

At least seven Taliban insurgents have been killed in a drone strike by foreign troops in central Ghazni province, local officials confirmed on Wednesday.

Four other insurgents were wounded in the incident on Monday night.

The strike took place in Gailan district of the province after a drone operated



by foreign troops targeted a Taliban's safe haven, according to police officials.

"A number of Taliban vehicles and weapons were also destroyed," police said.

Police officials did not provide further details about the strike. The Taliban have not yet commented on the strike. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You're likely to underestimate what's required to complete a job today. You also tend to overestimate your ability to fix anything that goes wrong. Nevertheless, you can surprise everyone with your superb level of productivity if you keep your enthusiasm in check. The problem with unrestrained positive thinking is it sets you up for failure.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus Your go-to response for nearly any dilemma is to create a sensible plan and then stick to it as much as you can. Although logic appears to be the key to your success, your strategy falls apart as soon as you swing into action today. Every obstacle you encounter now reminds you there is a significant difference between a good idea and a pragmatic solution.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini You prefer to put a positive spin on all of your interactions today. However, it's easy to gloss over the facts in your attempt to maintain an upbeat attitude. Thankfully, you are a wiz at finding innovative answers, but it's challenging to convert your ideas into actions now. Each time you get close to manifestation, something happens and you're back to square one.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Your uncertainty is more of an asset today than a liability because it encourages you to keep your heart open. You don't normally ask for other people's input when you already have all the answers. Fortunately, your friends may be instrumental in helping you gain the clarity you seek.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You're riding a tsunami of confidence today that's so strong it might even frighten you, but that won't stop you from surfing the energy while you can. However, one tiny slip and you could lose your balance. Of course, there's no shame in falling; what matters is what you do next.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo Your verbal eloquence is your secret strength today, but you could over-sweeten your message without realizing it. You prefer to keep your options open, but worry because you want everyone to entertain all the possibilities of the moment, instead of closing down because of their fears. Don't be afraid to tell the truth as you see it, rather than trying to paint a picture so perfect that no one believes you.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra You're unafraid to tell your friends what you want today, but they might not hear what you say. Everyone brings a unique set of personal desires and fears to each conversation. Sometimes these biases are so clearly obvious that they can be easily avoided. However, you inadvertently hit the hot buttons now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio Your preferences are currently so entangled with your ambitions that you could get your priorities mixed up now. You tend to view your downtime as just another chance to do more work to get further ahead. There's nothing wrong with being motivated to succeed as long as you don't burn out in the process.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius Your social life is heating up now and maybe even interfering with your responsibilities. Nevertheless, you won't likely turn down an opportunity that sounds like fun. Unfortunately, you might misjudge your previous obligations, believing you can plow through your work in a flash. Discouragement may set in once you dig into your chores and realize how long they will take.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You are usually the Champion of Structure, creating an ambitious schedule and then executing your plans with great efficiency. Unfortunately, complications arise today because time seems to be like rubber -- a fifteen-minute phone call could stretch into an hour or a short commute might turn into a long drive.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius People come to your rescue today, whether you need help or not. Interpersonal dynamics can grow complicated if someone believes you can't get along without their intervention. Meanwhile, all you want is the ability to make your own decisions without anyone else's interference. You must be crystal clear and explain what you need now, because a lack of boundaries invites a lack of respect.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You don't mind it at all when the universe invites you to follow your fantasies. But you must juggle this potentially non-productive daydreaming with the demands of people who count on you at work. They think you shouldn't let your imagination wander today, because it's a waste of precious time. Nevertheless, you know better because you can see the possibilities becoming certainties once you initiate action.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-61 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across clues: 1. Adhesive strip, 5. Vice ___, 10. Decree, 14. Spindle, 15. Housemaids, 16. Ancient Peruvian, 17. Pertaining to biology, 19. Young sheep, 20. Not high, 21. Moderated, 22. Hints, 23. Responses, 25. Egg-shaped, 27. Fodder, 28. Trading, 31. Ancient unit of dry measure, 34. Expensive fur, 35. Ghost's cry, 36. Lamp or candle, 37. Leg of lamb, 38. Countertenor, 39. Hair goop, 40. Unwind, 41. Liberated, 42. Soup crackers, 44. An unskilled actor, 45. Seminal fluid, 46. Bouquet, 50. Dilutes, 52. Mobile phones, 54. Not against, 55. Fizzy drink, 56. Destruction, 58. Ends a prayer, 59. Pee, 60. Backside, 61. A musical pause, 62. Banana oil, e.g., 63. D D D D ,

Down clues: 1. Small drum, 2. A low-mass chargeless particle, 3. A type of farm tool, 4. Snake-like fish, 5. Whim, 6. Gives forth, 7. Dash, 8. Shallow rectangular display box, 9. American Sign Language, 10. Positive stimulus, 11. Impossible to hear, 12. Apex, 13. Checks, 18. A religion based on sorcery, 22. Make do, 24. "Pow!", 26. Electrical unit, 28. Heroic tales, 29. Memo, 30. Well-behaved, 31. Hens make them, 32. Urgent request, 33. Slopes, 34. Gun mufflers, 37. Heredity unit, 38. Not legs, 40. Edges, 41. The language of Persia, 43. Renter, 44. Yell, 46. Duplicate, 47. All excited, 48. Gander, 49. Sea eagles, 50. Russian emperor, 51. "Where the heart is", 53. Send forth, 56. Fitting, 57. Little bit,

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

DRBLASTAOBSIP
DESTRUCTIONRT
CPSECRETAMRHE
LAVISNIURBUSC
OPPROJECETE BIN
UUBLINDWNRZNE
DESTROYRHCDAL
COMMEMORATEVI
FORCEKCATTAUS
NIAHCRUBBLEEP
NUCLEARNEFAED
PREGNANTSWIFT
DEFORMTWEAPON