

Taliban Recapture Faryab's Astana Baba Area

MAIMANA - The Taliban recaptured Astana Baba area in Sherin Tagab district of northern Faryab province on Thursday, a day after security forces seized it, an official said. The district chief, Syed Luqman Ghraik, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Astana Baba area fell to Taliban this afternoon hours after First Vice-President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum left Faryab for neighbouring Sar-i-Pul province. He said more than 50 fighters of an uprising group were missing and probably killed by Taliban fighters during the attack. Gen. Dostum, who has been leading a military offensive against Taliban in northern provinces, moved on Thursday morning to Sar-i-Pul province with 2000 security forces to drive militants from...*(More on P4)...(17)*



Militants Kill Policewoman in Parwan

CHARIKAR - Militants gunned down a policewoman in Jablu Siraj district of central Parwan province on Friday, provincial police chief said. Mohammad Zaman Mamozai told Pajhwok Afghan News that the policewoman had been killed in Izzatkhel locality of the district on Thursday. He said that police had detained one suspect in connection of her killing who was being interrogated. Nadira Gaya, Parwan women affairs director, said that the slain policewoman Zarghoona was discharging her duties at the Jablu Siraj police station. She said that Zarghoona had been targeted at 100 meters distance from her home in Izzatkhel village. Late Zarghoona had only one son. *(Pajhwok)*

Afghan Boy Arrested over Immigration Matters



WEST MUDKABDS - A 13-year-old boy from Afghanistan found walking on the M5 alone in the dark has been arrested over immigration matters, police said. The teenager was discovered near Junction 2 for Oldbury in the West Midlands at 01:30 BST on Thursday. It is thought he spent two days hidden in a truck before making his bid for freedom. Police released the boy into the care of Sandwell Council as their inquiries continued. Matthew Sampson, director of children's services, said the council would follow national guidance for children in these circumstances. *(BBC)*

7-Member Gang Busted in Kunduz : Police



KUNDUZ CITY - A 7-member group allegedly involved in several murder cases have been detained in north-eastern Kunduz province, an official said Thursday. Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh told Pajhwok Afghan News the men were involved in murder, robbery and launching attacks on security posts were arrested during operation by Special Police Unit in Nasiri area on the outskirts of Kunduz City last night. He said the group was led by a notorious commander Shamsu was under police observation for long. Several people from victims' families today arrived at the police headquarters and demanded severe punishment of the criminals, he said. Shazia whose husband was killed by one of the detainees said that her husband was killed in front of her eyes by members of the commander. She urged security officials to award exemplary punishment to the murderers. Sufi Abdul Ghafour whose son was killed by the gang said if the government does not punish the criminals then give him a weapon to take his son's revenge. He lamented he had only one son who was killed, warning to commit suicide if the perpetrators were set free. *(Pajhwok)*

Takhar Residents Seek Prosecution of Dreaded Commander

TALOQAN - Angry residents of northern Takhar province on Thursday called for the prosecution of a dreaded commander, accused of massacring several civilians. During a protest meeting, inhabitants of Rустаq and Yangi districts urged the government to bring Mullah Pir Maqul, also a former member of Wolesi Jirga (lower house of parliament), to justice. Residents allege the commander, who has grabbed hundreds of acres of state and private lands, distributed



weapons to members of the (anti-Taliban) People's Movement a month ago. The move triggered public protests and opposition from local authorities. The protesting residents also accused Maqul of killing a Rустаq district attorney, ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

3 Students Dead in Logar Security Incidents



PUL-I-ALM - Three students have been killed in separate security incidents in central Logar province, officials said on Thursday. Shahpoor Arab, director education, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incidents took place in Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, and Baraki Barak district on Tuesday. A 13-year-old student was on his way home from school in Khwaja Mohammad Akbar locality when a mortar shell hit him, leaving him dead on the spot. Two students of 6th class died in a cross fire between Taliban and security forces in Kalakehna locality of Baraki Barak district. Maj. Qazi Mohammad Wara, a senior police official, confirmed the incidents and said that police had started investigations in this regard. Provincial education department said 19 teachers and 30 students had been killed in security incidents in the province this year. *(Pajhwok)*

Blast in Kabul Leaves Two ANA Soldiers Dead



KABUL - At least two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were reportedly killed and another soldier wounded in an explosion in the capital Kabul. The blast took place in company area, PD five of Kabul, when a magnetic bomb attached to an ANA vehicle went off Friday afternoon, eyewitnesses told TOLNews. The security officials however have not yet commented on the death toll. The blast came about a week after a deadly car suicide bombing shattered the Afghan capital, leaving 12 people dead including three foreigners. *(Tolnews)*

Taliban Planned Inroads into Kabul Via Hesarak

JALALABAD - Officials on Thursday said Taliban militants wanted to establish sanctuaries in the Hesarak district of eastern Nangarhar province in order to extend their activities to Kabul and other provinces, but their designs had been frustrated. A security operation "Iron Triangular" has been ongoing since about a month in the Khogyani zone and other districts including Hesarak, where a highway was reopened after remaining closed for



three years as a result of the operation. More than 2,000 security forces have been taking part in the operation that was launched simultaneously from central Logar province's Azra district, ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Drone Strike in Nangarhar Kills 4 Taliban Commanders

KABUL - At least four Taliban commanders were killed in a foreign troops' drone strike Wednesday in eastern Nangarhar, said the local officials. The insurgents were targeted in Kote Khil valley in Shirzad district, said Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal, a spokesman for Nangarhar Police Chief. The Taliban however have not yet commented on the incident. *(Tolnews)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your dreams about love are likely to be more interesting now than the actual events in your everyday life, magnifying your awareness of what you are lacking in the romance department. Your internal chatter is loud, tempting you to share your current desires with others. Nevertheless, it may be wiser to keep your running commentary to yourself because you can't calculate someone's reaction.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You would rather do nearly anything today other than what's expected of you. Curious Mercury is agitating your key planet Venus, distracting you with one enticing possibility after another. You can play all the various scenarios through your mind a hundred times, but you still may not be able to make any of them work well enough to justify dropping your previous commitments.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your rash behavior surprises your friends and family, especially if you lose your cool today. Everyone might think you're acting irresponsibly, but you could see things quite differently. You are giving a great deal of thought to your current options and are willing to risk your emotional security for the chance to rock your world. Ultimately, you must follow your instincts and hope others will admire your originality and courage down the road.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Toss out your inhibitions today as you dream about an exciting journey to someplace far away. It really doesn't matter whether or not you actually pack your bags and go anywhere; the sense of freedom that you feel when envisioning your exotic escape makes it all worthwhile. But as bold as you can be within the imaginary realms.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You are integrally connected to your deeply rooted feelings today, but you're frustrated because you can't express your desires in words. Your passions run strong and your emotional reactions are so extreme now that it may be in your best interest to remain quiet rather than burdening others with your drama.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are so enthusiastic about your personal and business relationships today partly because you understand how they are supporting your goals. Nevertheless, you're also acutely aware you're not totally free to say what's on your mind, for you could easily upset the status quo if you do. Even if you are tempted to ask for what you want, it may be prudent to wait until next week.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

There's way too much chaos in your world today, leading you to take matters into your own hands. However, the more you try to quiet things down, the noisier they become. Exerting your will over others is a dead-end strategy that won't bring you satisfactory results. Although you're tempted to look outside of yourself for answers, it's much more effective to elevate your attitude than to change anyone else's.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You aren't thrilled about the current restraints on your self-expression -- you have a lot to say today, but can't seem to find the appropriate channel to get your thoughts out. Fortunately, feeding the flames of your hope acts like a magnet, attracting the right people who can help you make some positive changes.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're walking through a metaphysical minefield today, making it critical to uncover the potential trouble spots in your current plan before you reach them. However, the sooner in the day you revise your calendar to make time for contemplation and prayer, the better your chances of keeping the rest of your schedule intact. Fixating on an arbitrary goal is an exercise in futility now.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your heightened expectations drive you to take every moment of your life more seriously now. However, you want others to admire how self-contained you are in your approach to getting things done. Resist the temptation to break a few minor rules in order to catch someone's eye. Shortcuts seem to work for everyone else, but your safest route to success is taking the tried and true path to your destination.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A highly inflated view of your finances today encourages you to lead an extravagant lifestyle. In particular, it's wise to avoid an impulsive purchase of something you covet but, in all honesty, could do without. Don't squander your money on material distractions when there are more important matters to address. A practical mindset to managing your cash flow is less fun.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

The stars in your eyes twinkle brightly as you step outside of your regular comfort zone today. Something wonderful is afoot, and you're eager to accept an invitation to shine on center stage. Tread lightly; you could upset the security that you worked so hard to achieve by gambling your future on a risky venture now. There's no simple answer to your predicament, so reconsider all options carefully before saying yes.

Across

1. Sir, in India, 6. Reflected sound, 10. Resorts, 14. Colonic, 15. Part of a comparison, 16. Long ago, 17. Smug, 19. A single time, 20. Anagram of "Steals", 21. Conceit, 22. False god, 23. Anagram of "Dimes", 25. Dish, 26. Doe, 30. Stops, 32. Witness, 35. Baffle, 39. Found in most mouths, 40. Consecrate, 41. Smiled contemptuously, 43. Perform surgery on, 44. Thin, 46. Anagram of "Wort", 47. A small mallet, 50. Improvise, 53. Food thickener, 54. Ripen, 55. Loutish, 60. Dad, 61. Indifferent, 63. Send forth, 64. Not more, 65. Negatively charged particle, 66. On the left or right, 67. Immediately, 68. Enumerates,

Down

1. Religious offshoot, 2. Dwarf buffalo, 3. Skirt lines, 4. Rapsallions, 5. Anagram of "Blade", 6. And so forth, 7. Cheddar or edam, 8. Executioner, 9. Savvy about, 10. Party pooper, 11. Chinese "bear", 12. Cravat, 13. Inscribed pillar, 18. Beer, 24. Frozen water, 25. Tubular pasta, 26. Specks, 27. Black, in poetry, 28. Feudal worker, 29. Rejuvenate, 31. A cleansing agent, 33. Not urban, 34. Swerve, 36. Teller of untruths, 37. "Do others...", 38. Goulash, 42. Fishing net, 43. A wise bird, 45. Black Sea port, 47. Gawks, 48. A long-legged S. American bird, 49. Insipid, 51. Charged particle, 52. Anagram of "Balsa", 54. Afflicts, 56. French for Finished or Done, 57. Nile bird, 58. Notch, 59. Female chickens, 62. Eastern, Standard Time.

Yesterday's Solution

alone, arthritis, assert, attraction, award, brawl, cars, chart, chick, crack, crawl, delivery, desert, engineer, glass, great, hitch, image, injure, lent, litera, ture, mangle, music, pizza, screen, sitar, snob, stark, stiff, stork, stretch, tail, tangles, torch, trail,

SCREENVPIZZAR
TANGLESTRETCH
RTBALONEMNQHZ
ATOGREATUGLAW
IRNGLASSSIIRD
LASSERTIINTTE
MCRAWLTICEEWL
STARKIDESERTI
TICBRAWLTRASV
IOMHITCHOVVTE
FNTAINJUREUOR
FRMNGCRACKRRY
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