

“Taliban’s Zabul Infighting Killed and Wounded in Hundreds”

KABUL - Hundreds of Taliban militants were either killed or wounded during last month's clashes between rival factions in southern Zabul province, officials and Taliban sources said on Saturday. The clashes between supporters of Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour and a top leader of a dissident group Mullah Mansoor Dadullah backed by Uzbek fighters broke out in early November after Dadullah refused to pledge allegiance to Mansour. Mansour became supreme leader of the insurgency after the founder and long



time supremo Mullah Mohammad Omar's death was announced in July this year. Dadullah was among several senior Taliban leaders who refused to pledge allegiance to Mansour. At the time, Zabul's deputy police chief Brig. Ghulam Jilani Farahi had told Pajhwok Afghan News the clashes first erupted in Arghandab district and later spread to Khak-i-Afghan and Dai Chopan districts. He had said 110 people were killed and as many wounded, with Dadullah and Islamic State fighters suffering the most casualties. Arghandab district chief Haji Momand Nasratyar...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Kiwi Immigration Minister's About-Turn Delights Afghan Interpreters

WELLINGTON - An Afghan interpreter suffering post-traumatic stress disorder may soon be reunited with his family after New Zealand's Immigration Minister Michael Woodhouse had a change of heart over his plight. Ajmal Ahmadi and other Afghan interpreters are delighted that Woodhouse confirmed this week they would be covered by the refugee family support category - meaning those without family can apply to bring them in immediately. The about-face came after lobbying by the RSA,

Hamilton lawyer Jane Walker and Stuff. The 44 interpreters were allowed into New Zealand under a special Cabinet deal and were not technically refugees. Although they had some rights other refugees enjoyed, such as immediate access to student loans and benefits, only spouses and children could come with them. For Ahmadi, who is single, that meant he was virtually stranded here with no family support. He has had trouble holding down a job because of his PTSD. He...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Afghan Returnees from Pakistan Endure Dire Conditions

KABUL - Sher Mohammed finds himself in makeshift camp in Kabul with his six children a year after the 2014 attack on the army-run school in Peshawar. Mohammed, like many other Afghan refugees in Pakistan, was forced to leave the country after living there for more than a decade. "I've lived and worked in Pakistan for more than 15 years now. I got married there and my children were born there too," Mohammed told Al Jazeera. "But now, here I am living in a camp with no future for me and my children. Peshawar was my home. I lived there almost all my life. Why are we getting punished for the crime we never committed?" The refugee camp situated in Charahi Qanbar, west of Kabul, has more than a thousand families living in mud houses and tents. The returnees from Pakistan started flooding the camps that were set up for internally displaced persons in Afghanistan who fled the war between the Taliban and the Western forces in their hometowns. Tehreek-e-Taliban attacked the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16, 2014, killing over 143 people, including 132 children. The Pakistani government announced an anti-terrorism plan that formulated 20-point agenda which included 'Registration and Repatriation of Afghan Refugees' in Pakistan by the end of 2015. Since then, incidents of police abuses against Afghans reportedly skyrocketed prompting Afghans to return to war-torn Afghanistan, according to Human Rights Watch. "The level of abuse on Afghan refugees has...*(More on P4)...(12)*

MRRD/NSP Completes 43 Projects in Badakhshan Province

BADAKHSHAN - National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Saturday said that 43 uplift projects worth Afs 56,466,055 completed in Baharak, Shuhada, Argo, Tagab, Warduj, Shahr-e-Buzurg, Kiran-wa-Munjan and Arghanj Khwa districts of Badakhshan province. NSP Provincial Manager in Badakhshan province said that the projects included construction of community centers, culverts, a gabion wall, protection walls, a bridge, a super passage, sidewalks, water supply networks, a wash, toilets, an irrigation canal, micro hydro power stations and graveling rural roads. Approximately, 6,789 families in various communities will have opportunity to gain access to basic human



needs upon completion of these projects. So far, NSP has executed 3,144 development projects in different sectors including transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, in Badakhshan while the work of another 355 is currently in progress. (PR)

Three Die in Takhar Gas-Bottle Explosion

KABUL - At least three people were killed in a gas-bottle explosion inside a health clinic in Taluqan city in northern Takhar province, officials said on Saturday. The spokesman for Takhar governor Sunatullah Temor said the incident took place in Taluqan city on Saturday morning. Doctors say the three people lost their lives as a result of injuries sustained during the blast, especially severe burns. (Tolonenews)

7 Afghan Soldiers Killed in Attacks within Day

KABUL - Seven Afghan army soldiers were killed during military operations and separate attacks across Afghanistan since early Friday, the country's Defense Ministry said Saturday morning. The Afghan security forces' casualties have risen recently as they have as-

sumed the full security charges from NATO and U.S. forces since January this year. The ministry said in a statement that several Taliban insurgents had been killed and injured and two militants arrested during cleanup operations carried out by...*(More on P4)...(14)*

22 Daesh Fighters Killed in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Local security officials said at least 22 Daesh fighters were killed in a recent clash with the Afghan security forces in Achin district in eastern Nangarhar province. Head of staff of border police of eastern zone, Ayub Hussainkhel confirmed Daesh fighters were killed in a conflict with security forces in Achin. He said eight Daesh mili-



tants were also injured in the clash. The Afghan security forces' military operation has been ongoing in Achin over the past two months in order to eliminate Daesh fighters in the area. (Tolonenews)



Afghan displaced children stand outside their tents in Ghazni province, eastern Afghanistan. More than one million people have to flee their homes due to conflicts in the country, according to officials. (Xinhua/Rahmat Alizadah)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your emotions burn hotter today with vulnerable Venus steaming up your 8th House of Intimacy, possibly making you slightly uncomfortable. It's not that you are unwilling to express your feelings; it's just the excessive intensity can overwhelm your agenda and pull you off track. This heart-centered planetary emphasis is signaling you to slow down and sink deeper into the dance.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Issues regarding matters of the heart may be a recurring topic of discussion now, even if the subject isn't light and easy. You grow more concerned with your most intimate relationships while loving Venus is sauntering through your 7th House of Others. You have little choice; it's time to delve into your subconscious so you can better handle the uncertainty of your changing feelings.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although you're eager to pursue your share of lighthearted fun, additional needs are beginning to surface today. Your intuition is telling you to spend more time twirling around right where you are now, rather than tap dancing all over the place. Don't worry; you still can find plenty of enjoyment without completely changing your tune. Just be certain your fancy footwork is connected to your heart and not just your head.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You respond favorably to the intensity of the emotional connections you make today. It seems as if the cosmos is resonating with your psyche now that sweet Venus is sparkling in your 5th House of Romance. But you are not interested in settling for anything less than you need, even if you want more than anyone else is able to give now.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your emotional needs may be more passionate than anyone realizes, especially if you hide your feelings when you are frustrated. Fortunately, you seem to fully appreciate your blessings today, but deeper down you hear your desires speaking from the recesses of your heart. Listen carefully to your inner voice because it can magically lead you to the happiness you seek.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Something could be bothering you today, even if you are busy indulging in the pleasures of life. Although your current malaise may not be strong enough to motivate initiating any significant changes, you still need to handle a surge of passion that has nowhere to go. Don't force resolution; delaying emotional decisions for a few days might be prudent. It's not easy to simply drop your guard on command.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You are more socially aware than others because you inherently understand the balance needed for harmonious relationships. However, your patience wears thin today as Venus puts you in touch with your own non-negotiable needs. Even if your strong desires are irrepensible, rely on your logical analysis over irrational intuition for the next few days. Sometimes it's necessary to place your feelings on hold while you take care.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Honestly expressing your desires demands your full concentration today. Thankfully, you can make excellent use of charming Venus as she graces your emotionally charged sign, softening the sharp edges of your passions. Maintaining a healthy balance in relationships is easier than ever as long as you think about your delivery before putting your feelings on the line.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your romantic inclinations begin to turn spiritual as you adopt a more altruistic orientation. Your longings extend beyond rational walls now, and it's best not to restrain them in a materialistic box while lovely Venus hangs out in your 12th House of Soul Consciousness. The emotional payoff could be well worth taking a risk, not that you need much encouragement in that department.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

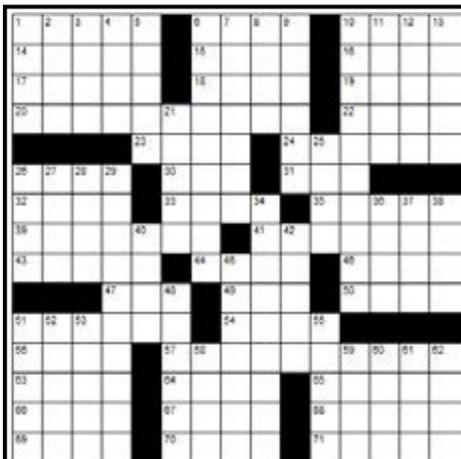
You may feel pressured to go along with the changing dynamics of an evolving relationship now. But you grow more anxious when you start to realize how much is actually beyond your control. Letting go of your agenda is easy if you are secure in your own world. But you could overreact out of fear today, attempting to keep your social calendar from falling apart.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Receiving accolades for your work makes you feel extremely proud of your recent efforts. Nevertheless, you might still be left hungering for more recognition and support today. Ultimately, success has less to do with the judgment of others than your own sense of accomplishment. There's no need to be dependent on anyone else's approval now if your contribution to the greater good comes from your heart.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

The fog is lifting and you find yourself standing out in the crystal clear sunlight of awareness. Your vision of the future is unobstructed now and you can see your destination in the distance. Unfortunately, not everything ahead is as stress free as you wish. You can't help but notice the uphill battle that's still between you and the lovely horizon. The good news is that it's always better to base decisions on the facts and not on illusions.



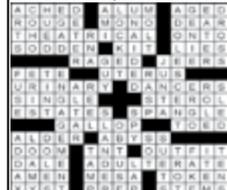
Across

1. Water balloon sound, 6. Terminates, 10. Breaststroke, 14. A kind of macaw, 15. Protective ditch, 16. Bygone era, 17. Contests, 18. Portend, 19. Three-handed card game, 20. A diplomat of the highest rank, 22. French for "Head", 23. Nobleman, 24. The first event in a series, 26. Voucher, 30. Fury, 31. Flee, 32. Pledge, 33. Shocked reaction, 35. Speaks, 39. On the other hand, 41. Workaday, 43. Female demon, 44. Blend, 46. Bright thought, 47. Faster than light, 49. Crimson, 50. Domesticated bovine animals, 51. Sleeping sickness carrier, 54. Applications, 56. Iridescent gem, 57. Culinary art, 63. Central area of a church, 64. Pot, 65. Motherless calf, 66. Midmonth date, 67. TTTT, 68. Betel palm, 69. To tax or access.

Down

1. Epic, 2. Baby buggy, 3. Young sheep, 4. Region, 5. Thigh armor, 6. Abash, 7. Pastas, 8. Carpenter's groove, 9. Unsaturated alcohol, 10. Organized, 11. Aroused, 12. Angry, 13. Gauge, 21. Type of antelope, 25. A Maori club, 26. Hood, 27. Laugh, 28. Bit of gossip, 29. Improbident, 34. A woman priest, 36. Adriatic resort, 37. Was cognizant, 38. Oceans, 40. Dines, 42. Law and, 45. Members of a governing board, 48. Smooth, in music, 51. Quinine water, 52. Garden tool, 53. Roof overhangs, 55. Soft drinks, 58. Again, 59. Standard, 60. Curved molding, 61. Flexible mineral, 62. 365 days.

Yesterday's Solution



abatement, balloon, blimp, burly, char, cream, delight, describe, exploration, exposition, field, flight, frond, hatch, heater, lend, lent, lunch, moist, pilot, pole, round, sever, spark, spell, spine, spray, table, taste, team, tend, tine, tore, trend, vehicle.

