

Key Taliban Commander Joins Peace Process in Badakhshan

FAIZABAD - One of the Taliban's military commanders in Badakhshan, Qari Maharab, along with his 25 fighters, has joined the peace process.

Maharb said he was the intelligence commander for both local and foreign terrorists in Badakhshan.

According to him, 11 years ago he received military and religious training at terrorist centers in Pakistan. He then started carrying out anti-government and insurgency activities along with fellow fighters in Wardoj district of Badakhshan.

"Eleven years ago I got lessons in Pakistan and for seven years I



have been with Taliban and I was on all Taliban's battle frontlines," Maharab said.

He said he played a key role in the collapse of many parts of Badakhshan, especially in the collapse of Yangan and Wardoj districts.

Mahrab also admits that he had a role in shooting and beheading a number of government forces.

"I was Taliban's Hajji pilgrimage head and I participated in Taliban battles and I noticed that my followers' minds were being diverted and they were acting against Islam. Then we joined the government," said Mawlawi Anamullah, the group's Hajji pilgrimage head.

Mahrab... (More on P4)... (19)

Safia Ferozi, Goes from Refugee to Military Pilot



KABUL - From a childhood as a refugee, Capt. Safia Ferozi is now flying a transport plane for Afghanistan's air force as the country's second female pilot, a sign of the efforts to bring more women into the armed forces.

Along the way, the 26-year-old Ferozi also married another pilot, who flies in the same unit supporting army ground forces. They are part of a small Afghan air force that is trying to take a greater role in fighting the Taliban insurgency.

"When I wear military uniform, I really, really feel proud of... (More on P4)... (20)

4 Workers Killed as Wall Collapses in Kabul

KABUL - Four people died and three others injured in a wall collapse incident in capital Kabul on Wednesday, an official said.

Col. Agha Sherin, deputy chief for the fourth police district, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in a warehouse belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at around 10am.

He said the 100-meter long wall collapsed when workers were busy digging its foundation in order to reconstruct it.

All the dead and injured were workers and police were investigating the incident, Sherin added.

ICRC spokesman, Ahmad Ramin Ayaz, said four workers were killed when the wall of one of ICRC warehouses collapsed.

He said a private company had been awarded the contract to reconstruct the wall and ICRC and police were investigating the nature of the incident.

"ICRC saddened over the incident and shares its sympathies with the victims' families," he added.

Eyewitnesses also confirmed the death of four people and said the wall was three meters high and several meters long. They said it was an old wall and its base was partially damaged. (Pajhwok)

2 Militants Killed in Paktia Airstrike



KABUL - Two militants were killed and a heavy gun was destroyed following an airstrike in Paktia province on Wednesday, the command of Afghan Special Forces said.

"A vehicle carrying a heavy gun was targeted by an airstrike in Zurmat district, Paktia province this morning. Two militants were killed and the vehicle along the heavy weapon was destroyed following the raid," it said in a statement.

No civilian was hurt by the attack in the province, some 100 km south of Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, the statement noted.

The Afghan security forces had beefed up security operations recently as militants were attempting to take territory and consolidate their positions ahead of winter in the mountainous country.

The Taliban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

Laghman Clash Leaves 5 Civilians Wounded

MEHTARLAM - Five civilians were wounded during a clash between Taliban and security forces in eastern Laghman province on Wednesday, an official said.

Sarhadi Zwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the gun-battle erupted in Omarzai locality of Mehtarlam, the provincial capital, early this morning.

He said the injured individuals included four of a family and the fifth one was a 12-year-old boy, who was wounded when the Taliban-fired mortar shell landed at their house.



The wounded have been evacuated to the provincial hospital, said Zwak without providing further information about their health condition. The Taliban group is yet to comment over the clash. (Pajhwok)

Shah Shaheed Bombing Memory Still Haunts Victims

KABUL - Sixteen months after a deadly explosion in Shah Shaheed area of capital Kabul, families of the victims are still in shock and suffering from mental and psychological problems.

The families ask the Taliban not to play with people's lives in such a brutal way to achieve their goals.

On August 7, 2015 a truck full of explosives was detonated in Shah Shaheed neighborhood, killing 32 people and injuring 400 others, a local representative, Shah Mohammad Zia, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said some of the affected families had received cash

aid from the government, but the government did not reconstruct buildings damaged by the powerful blast.

He said families of the victims still haunted by bitter memories of the attack and they still suffered from depression and mental problems.

A number of families whose houses were destroyed or their relatives killed in the incident had left the area and did not return to their homes, Zia said.

Mohammad Nasim, 60, who lost a young daughter and two nephews to the truck bombing, said it was a huge... (More on P4)... (21)

5 Policemen Dead in Attack on Shah Walikot Post

KANDAHAR CITY - Armed insurgents stormed a security check-post in the Shah Walikot district of southern Kandahar province, killing five policemen and wounding three others, an official said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred on the Kandahar-Uruzgan highway in Shah Walikot on Tuesday night. The district chief, Haji Abdul Ghani, told Pajhwok Afghan News the rebels attacked a newly established point in Kandos-



ar area. He added the attack resulted in the killing of five policemen and injuries to another three and the rest of police personnel at the station were pushed back to another post.

The attackers also had suffered casualties, he believed, but... (More on P4)... (22)

30 Militants Eliminated, as Many Hurt in Herat Firefight

HEART CITY - Thirty Taliban have been killed and as many wounded during a clash with security forces in western Herat province, an official said on Wednesday.

Heavy clashes between security forces and rebels were underway over the past three days in Zirkoh locality of Shindand district, Farhad Jailani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

At least 30 insurgents, including a notorious commander



Mullah Basir, had been killed so far and another dreaded commander, Mullah Kamran, was among 30 other rebels injured in the gun battle, he said, adding security forces and civilians had suffered no casualties. However, the Taliban's spokesman, Zabihullah... (More on P4)... (23)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You may be wondering if you're heading in the right direction now, or if you should just scrap it all and try something new. The sensitive waxing Moon wants to make something grow, but the Sun is high and mighty in philosophical Sagittarius and won't concede to just anything. On top of this inner conflict, you're one quip away from provoking an argument with anyone who rubs you the wrong way.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your sense of purpose is at odds with your delicate emotions today, and you may find yourself just wishing this inner dilemma could be over. Aggressive Mars crosses paths with mental Mercury, straining your thinking and shortening your fuse. You simply can't deal with people getting on your case now, and you prefer to adopt a more detached perspective as your ruling planet.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There's a fork in the road, but which way should you go? You've taken a mental stroll down both paths to explore all your options, but you're having trouble coming to a solid conclusion on which direction is best. To make matters worse, hot-headed Mars is busy picking fights and your brainy ruler, Mercury, is all too willing to take the bait. You may find yourself sharp-tongued and edgy today.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're not sure if a fledgling idea can stand on its own yet, or if it needs more incubation time before it's ready to be released into the world. The last thing you want is to see something you've carefully cultivated be shot down, yet you're not certain of your next move. Better safe than sorry is your motto, but is that always true? You may consider asking a friend for some objective advice on your situation.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Wise cracks from a partner might provoke your ire today, yet you may find yourself too exasperated to even retort. Honestly, your mind is elsewhere as the boisterous Sagittarius Sun intimidates the fragile Pisces Moon. You act confident on the outside, but you might feel doubtful and a little scared about your position.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're treading cautiously today as you doubt the stability of the ground beneath you. It seems like one wrong move could be a big mistake, so you may agonize over this uncertainty for much of the day. This uncomfortable state of mind tempts you to latch onto the smallest of details, clinging to fruitless arguments. It's a tense situation on all fronts, but there is a bright side just around the corner.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Something is out of whack today, and everyone acts as if they're ready to defend their opinions at the slightest provocation. The tender Pisces Moon puts you in touch with your emotions, but your optimistic bubble might be easily burst now. However, your artful ruler, Venus, is here to deliver some much-needed diplomacy and help you maintain the peace, both within yourself and with those you love.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Verbalizing what you want is a significant challenge today. The haughty Sun clashes with the moody Moon, causing uneasiness and a lack of clarity in which direction to take. Irritation sets in as passive-aggressive remarks fly in all directions, and you might just want to give the cold shoulder to anyone who tries to start an argument.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You don't expect your emotions to get in the way of progress today, but sorting out all your options is tricky when you're hoping for a particular outcome. Arguing with yourself and others isn't going to help, but it seems unavoidable as word-smith Mercury is challenged by contentious Mars. Emerging from the turbulent atmosphere, affable Venus steps into unflappable Aquarius.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

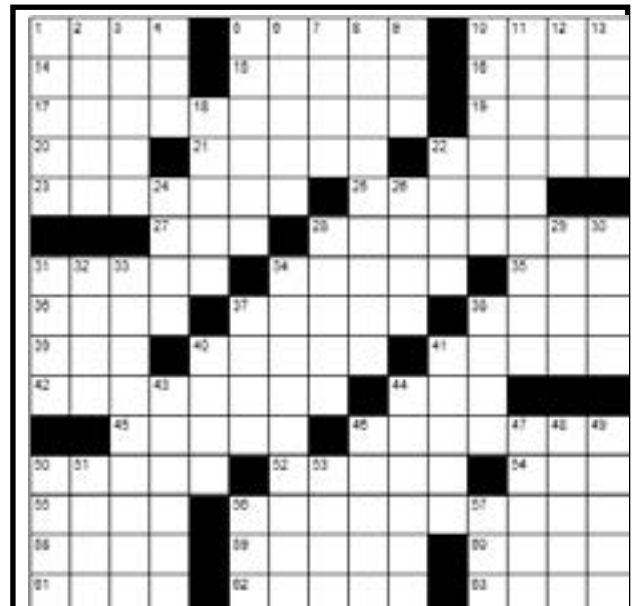
Decisions must be made, but clarity is lacking as even the steadfast are contending with doubt today. You just want some time alone to think, but you may find yourself defending your position against the most minor oppositions, cluttering your mind with irrelevant ideas. Thankfully, amiable Venus moves into progressive Aquarius, making it easier to take a step back and disengage from avoidable issues.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

An irritating vibe buzzes in the background today as everyone seems to be on edge and itching for a fight. Surprisingly, you're not quite sure what stance to take to avoid trouble. However, the Universe has a gift for you in the form of delightful Venus gracing your sign with her presence. The Evening Star blesses you with an extra dose of magnetism and significantly enhances your unique charm.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

It may feel like people are out to get you today and you must thicken your skin just to make it through the day without losing your cookies. Try not to take sarcastic remarks and snarky banter too personally, as everyone is dealing with their own brand of insecurity. While you're not alone in feeling anxious and tense, alone time may be just what you need as vulnerable Venus takes up residence in your 12th House of Meditation.



Across

1. Heap, 5. Demolish, 10. Send forth, 14. Arab chieftain, 15. Garbage, 16. Portuguese folksong, 17. Renunciation, 19. No charge, 20. Regret, 21. Fragrant oil, 22. Test versions, 23. Durations, 25. Substantial, 27. Born as, 28. Serve badly or harm, 31. Cougars, 34. Ganders, 35. Accomplished, 36. Module, 37. Come up, 38. Grasp, 39. Zero, 40. Hoar, 41. Englishman, 42. Sunroom, 44. Possessed, 45. Tidy, 46. Exceedingly harmful, 50. Attune, 52. Indian millet, 54. One or more, 55. A collaborative website, 56. Cures bacterial infections, 58. Biblical garden, 59. Bird poop, 60. Be worthy of, 61. An amount of medicine, 62. Aromatic solvent, 63. If not.

Down

1. A type of necklace, 2. Suffuse, 3. Flax fabric, 4. Before, poetically, 5. Bandage, 6. Nonglossy photos, 7. Largest continent, 8. Most tempestuous, 9. Female chicken, 10. Decadent, 11. A sacrifice for one's beliefs, 12. Bright thought, 13. Foot digits, 18. Fence "doors", 22. Headquarters, 24. Annoying insect, 26. Being, 28. Anagram of "Dimes", 29. Wicked, 30. Countercurrent, 31. Jest, 32. Pearly-shelled mussel, 33. Pressed linseed residues, 34. Goober, 37. Diva's solo, 38. Conceal, 40. Fuss, 41. Hawaiian veranda, 43. Of mountainous areas, 44. Seaport, 46. Salt water, 47. Deadly, 48. Pieces, 49. French school, 50. Blown away, 51. Prank, 53. Salt Lake state, 56. Eon, 57. Mineral rock.

Yesterday's Solution

advice, attempt, attend, corner, delay, detect, entry, fight, final, fork, history, hostilities ignore, inevitable, infamy, invent, leaf, mall, peril, perish, politician, press, radar, sank, sentry, ships, short, spin, state, sweep, talent-teak, test, time, wail.

PHIPFUGSHIPSA
OEDNRIADVICET
LRREEEGDETECT
IWAIVLVSORTNE
TIXDLAISTQELM
ISGQAYYTHLARP
CDWNMRSSANKTT
IOYAOCITIBNSA
AMFTKROFAELWT
NNSSEEERVTCET
IIMPNGNNKEEE
HOSTILITIESPN
WEAPONSENTRYD