

Snowfall Adds to Displaced Families' Problems



KABUL - The first snowfalls in Kabul created new problems for dozens of displaced families living under tents in the city. Same is the story of displaced families on other parts

of the country. The families have migrated to Kabul from insecure parts of the country. TOLONews reporter Nabilla Ashrafi, who met with

at least 30 displaced families in Kart-e-Parwan area in Kabul, said they 'really need help in terms of materials to keep them warm in the cold weather'. Some of the families ...*(More on P4)...*(14)

Taliban Capture Faryab's Baloch Area, Security Posts

MAIMANA - The Taliban have captured Baloch area and two security posts in Sherin Tagab district of northern Faryab province, an official said on Friday.

The security official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban attacked two security posts manned by uprising forces on Thursday night.

The militants killed an uprising commander and captured Baloch area, bringing to an end a three-month old siege, the official said. He said the Taliban had surrounded the posts over the past three months and the uprising men had been demanding weapons and bullets, but no one paid heed.



Finally after coming under attack, the uprising forces abandoned the posts and allowed the insurgents to capture them. A local influential figure, Daud, also lashed out at the provincial government for not coming to the aid of the besieged uprising forces in three months.

Faryab deputy police chief Col. Mohammad Naem also confirmed the fall of the posts and Baloch area into Taliban's hands. Pajhwok

Heavy Casualties Inflicted on Rebels, Claims Army Commander

GARDEZ - Heavy casualties have been inflicted on militants and a large quantity of weapons recovered from them in an air-and-ground offensive in the southeastern zone of the country, a military official claimed on Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Shaoor Gul has, the Thunder Corps commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces had switched from a defensive to offensive approach. The insurgents have been weakened with the help of the Afghan Air Force (AAF). He said six Humvee vehicles the fighters had snatched in an attack on Janikhel district had been recaptured. Six more military vehicles including tanks were destroyed in the Musakhel district of Khost. "The enemy was trying to create security problems in Zurmat and Janikhelo district. But the security forces have beaten them during operations in different areas with the



support of AAF," the commander added. Gen. Shaoor Gul said more than 1,000 Taliban attacked the Andar district of Ghazni province but were beaten back following a prompt response from the security forces. The fighters suffered heavy casualties, he said. The militants also suffered huge losses in security operations in Qarabagh, Giro and Maqor districts of Ghazni, as well as Jaghatu, Diamirdad and Jalrez districts of Maidan Wardak, he continued ...*(More on P4)...*(16)

Don't Release Taliban Spokesman, Court Tells Pak Govt

PESHAWAR - The federal government has been restrained from releasing former Pakistani Taliban Ehsanullah Ehsan without court permission. Peshawar High Court (PHC) Chief Justice Yahya Afridi on Wednesday directed Deputy Attorney General Musaratullah Khan that investigation should continue against Ehsan. The court expressed dissatisfaction over comments filed on behalf of the defence ministry on a petition challenging a ...*(More on P4)...*(15)

Uruzgan Female Prisoners Get Separate Cell



TARINKOT - A separate cell for female prisoners has been inaugurated at the central prison in Uruzgan province, an official said on Thursday. Deputy Police Chief Abdul Qavi Umari told Pajhwok Afghan News that earlier the women inmates were kept in rented houses. "Now a separate cell for woman prisoners has been opened in the central prison and has related facilities," he said. Col. Abdul Wali Sapi, in-charge of the central jail in Tarinkot, said policewomen had been hired to serve as guards at the women's cell. One of these prisoners, Nazia, who has been sentenced to two years in jail, spent six months of her jail sentence at the house of a policewoman. She felt secure after being transferred to the new facility. "In the house, I was afraid someone may harm me." (Pajhwok)

Hundreds Flee Sar-I-Pul's Tabar Area, Clash Continues



SAR-I-PUL CITY - Hundreds of families have fled homes as clashes between security forces and Taliban militants continued in Tabar area of Sancharak district in northern Sar-i-Pul province on Thursday, officials said. The massive fighting has so far displaced nearly 500 families from the district, Zabihullah Amani, the Sar-i-Pul governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News. A survey team was dispatched to the area on Thursday for assessing the situation of the displaced people, he said. Earlier, a security official had told Pajhwok that the Tabar area fell to Taliban's hands after Raees Karim, a local uprising leader, ...*(More on P4)...*(17)

12 Militants Killed, 6 Injured In 24 Hours: MoD

KABUL - A dozen militants have been killed and six others wounded during security operations in various parts of the country in past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defense said on Friday.

A statement from the ministry said the operations were conducted during the pe-

riod in Nangarhar, Paktika, Kandahar, Farah, Faryab, Baghlan, Jawzjan and Helmand provinces.

In Kandahar, nine Taliban rebels were killed in the Shah Wali Kot district and their weapons seized, the statement said. Two armed militants were

killed in Pushtrod district of Farah province and one was killed in Barmal district of southeastern Paktika province where six other rebels were wounded and an arms cache discovered. During the past 24 hours, six clearing and 16 commando operations in five provinces, the Defense Ministry statement said. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You may lack good judgment today as your common sense goes flying out the window. Ironically, this isn't as bad as it sounds because acting on an impulsive decision might be just the thing you need. If you have been patiently waiting for a better time to take a calculated risk, the Sun's happy trine to radical Uranus in your sign could be your ticket to success.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You typically like to know the consequences of your behavior before you make your move. However, sometimes it's impossible to predict what the future will bring, no matter what you do. Although you can't see around the next bend, you intuitively understand that time is running out, motivating you to initiate action before the window.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini A fateful conversation with a friend can take you down a rabbit hole today. You assumed you were heading one way, only to discover a new world of possibilities on a different trajectory. But don't push the start button just yet, even if everything looks wonderful. If a change of direction is a good idea now, it will make even more sense after the holidays. In the meantime, continue your research and refine your strategy.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Your excitement about starting a new project or possibly switching jobs adds a touch of instability to your world. You know that a change of routine is overdue, but you're not sure if this is the right moment to turn your life upside down. The timing of your transition is less important than your attitude about it.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You believe you can do anything you set your mind to today -- and maybe you can. Your perceptions are sharp and your logic is sound. You are so ahead of the game now that you don't even need to create a plan; you just know what to do next as each moment happens. In fact, a rigid schedule or a demanding routine could dampen your enthusiasm.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo You would rather think about a dream holiday now than actually leave the comforts of home. Maybe it's the time of year or, perhaps, you just don't want to venture too far from those you love. Nevertheless, you can derive great joy from travel fantasies, mental excursions or the study of anything that broadens your perspective on the universe.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Your friends are not the source of responsible advice now. In fact, they may be encouraging you to do the crazy thing you have secretly dreamed about for a long time. But you always find a logical reason to avoid taking such a big risk, especially if you're considering doing something with no socially redeeming value.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio You might be wise to hide your credit cards or ask a trusted friend to keep them for a few days, so you're not tempted to buy something on a whim. It's all too easy to justify a discretionary expenditure now, but spending a large chunk of money on a new car, television or camera doesn't make any sense while Mercury is in its final days of a retrograde cycle.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius There's no holding you back today, nor should anyone try. In fact, you are being blasted into the future as electric Uranus forms a superconductive trine to the radiant Sun in your 1st House of Self. You are wired for sound, neurons are firing in your brain, things are happening at warp speed, and your world is popping. The distance between cause and effect has grown infinitely small. This is your chance to merge with the flow of time, itself.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You may be pleasantly surprised with your own whimsical outlook on life today. Although you are still concerned about making your mark in the world, you long to set aside your ambitions and let loose now. However, you might worry about others judging you harshly if you act irresponsibly. But everyone deserves to have fun.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius The future shows itself in brief flashes today, as if your cosmic connection is downloading bursts of information and then going offline. Your key planet Uranus harmonizes with the Sun in your 11th House of Hopes and Dreams, juxtaposing time and space. You might momentarily forget where you are now, but you won't lose track of where you are going.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces Although your imagination is one of your favorite places to play, it is just an annoying distraction today. Your primary concern now is your overall path while here on planet Earth. But questioning your life's purpose is not just pie-in-the-sky dreaming. You want to have a positive impact on your world and the people in it. You might be wondering where you will be in five years or even next month.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across
1. Treaties, 6. Remote, 10. Apply, 14. Almost, 15. Fail to win, 16. Monster, 17. Treacherous, 19. Desire, 20. Antacid, 21. Explosive, 22. Ale, 23. Typewrote, 25. Sleights, 26. Credit or playing, 30. Conceive, 32. Shoulder board, 35. Rampaging, 39. Bear the expenses of, 40. Rye grass, 41. Demesnes, 43. The easing of tensions, 44. Casual eatery, 46. Being, 47. Author Mark _____, 50. Submerged ridge of rocks, 53. Somersault, 54. Rechewed food, 55. Makes amends, 60. Cartoon bear, 61. Mix with impurities, 63. Chair, 64. A style of design, 65. Radiolocation, 66. 3, 67. Killed, 68. Gladden, ,

Down
1. Dad, 2. Cain's brother, 3. Stopper, 4. A soft porous rock, 5. Supporting column, 6. Anagram of "Ail", 7. Paid for something, 8. Apart, 9. A musical pause, 10. Crossbar on a wagon, 11. Yield, 12. Exhorted, 13. Ales 18. Do it yourself, 24. A sizeable hole, 25. Brown ermine, 26. Formally surrender, 27. Mimics, 28. Flat float, 29. Indestructibility, 31. Adjutant, 33. Language of ancient Rome, 34. Visual organs, 36. Hotels, 37. Catches, 38. Delight, ,

Yesterday's Solution
ARSE CARGO BEDS
BEAR AVIOLIO AQUA
ATTAINABLE RUSH
FRY NINES TRASH
TORRENT OUSELTY
SPLIT BRUER ZOO
TOLL BLOTTS MEOU
ELF PRUNE COSTS
PLEURISY TAG
SNOOT BEMESINE
LICTUS EGOLE TAG
CAYS TROGLODYTE
OGLE AERTE ALAS
NEED UDDER BELT

ability, actor, agony, alone, amazing, angry annoy, before, bigger country, custard, dual exciting, foreign, fresh fright, glass, great, guest, heard, illustrate, ingredient, major nadir none, owner, rang

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