

# Taliban Peacemakers to Face Action: Herat Police Chief

KABUL - Reports have emerged that mediators went to Herat province to get rival Taliban factions to agree to a truce. This comes after it was reported last week that two rival factions were embroiled in heavy clashes against each other - fighting that left at least a hundred insurgents dead and wounded. The fighting allegedly took place in Zerkoh village of Shindand district in Herat province and reportedly involved militants loyal to Mullah Akhtar Mansour and supporters of Mullah Rassoul. Speculation is



however rife that local Herat figures went to Zerkoh in an attempt to get the factions to seal a truce. However, Herat police say these mediators are enemies of the country. Herat police

have criticized this move as Afghan troops have themselves been caught up in heavy clashes with the Taliban around the country. "Those holding talks with the Taliban and pushing for a truce between Taliban rival factions in Zerkoh of Shindand have the status of an enemy," Herat police chief was quoted on Friday as saying. But Taliban envoys allegedly representing Quetta Shura visited Zerkoh in a bid to push for a truce between the rival factions and to get them to...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## NDS Detains Taliban Weapon Suppliers in Takhar

TALEQAN - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Thursday has detained five weapon suppliers of Taliban in north-eastern Takhar province. A statement released by the NDS stated that Abdul Samad S/O Haji Juldish, Hasibullah S/O Haji Noor Mohammad, Mohammad Gul S/O Juma Khan, Qurban S/O Sharif and Sediqullah were arrested during separate raids. According to the statement, the arrested terrorists were providing weapons and ammunition for the group who also had hand in planting landmines and a number of other terrorist activities. A footage released by the NDS shows an undetermined amount of Afghanis confiscated from the arrested terrorists. NDS press release adds that the cash was sent to them for buying weapons. Statements issued by NDS usually do not mention exact date of the achievement but they come after recent activities. *(KP)*

## 'Afghan Refugees Aren't Fleeing by Choice'

ATHENS, Greece - At the activist-run Notara refugee solidarity centre in the Exarcheia neighbourhood of the Greek capital, Javid sat with his wife and three children and retraced their departure from Afghanistan. Although Afghanistan has been at war since the United States invaded in 2001, the farmer only now decided to make the journey to Germany. The final straw came when local police officers in Kabul began threatening him following an intra-familial dispute in his neighbourhood. "I decided life in Afghanistan was too dangerous," he told Al Jazeera, adding that he sold his possessions and used his life savings to pay smugglers. "I have to protect my children. I have to make sure they survive - that's my job as a father." Javid and his family are among the more than 950,000 refugees and migrants from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere who have made the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea this year, according to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR). The second largest population arriving in Europe by sea, Afghan refugees make up an estimated 20 percent of all arrivals by boat in 2015. An August 2015 United Nations report found that in the first six months of the year Afghanistan witnessed a 23 percent spike in women's casualties and a 13 percent jump for children, compared with the previous year. Only 27 years old, Javid's face testifies to a far lengthier and more difficult life than most people his age. "Every day we lived war," he said. *... (More on P4)...(21)*

## Afghan Refugees Concerned over Failed Asylum Requests in Germany

BERLIN - Afghan refugees in Berlin raised concerns on Friday over not having their asylum requests approved by Germany. Afghan refugees said that Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's recent trip to Europe was not helpful and no improvements occurred in their situation. "My two friends went back to Afghanistan from Munich and my friend says our president said deport and deport," one of the Afghan refugees said. This year more than 16,700 refugees have been



repatriated from Germany and many more including Afghans are facing the risk of deportation. "My wish is I want to stay in Germany and start a new life for my family and myself and I am happy here," said another Afghan refugee. The vast number of refugees has become a major crisis for the EU in recent months. However EU officials repeatedly emphasized the need for joint efforts to address their issues...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Differences within Taliban Likely to Impact Their Political Future: Analysts

KABUL - A strategic split among Taliban leaders following the announcement of the death of their reclusive leader Mullah Omar has been confirmed by sources close to the group. Mullah Omar's mysterious death was followed by a major backlash within the group after Mullah Akhtar Mansour, once a close aide to Mullah Omar, was appointed as his successor. Sources close to the Taliban and analysts believe that the division within the group will likely impact its funding and the Taliban's economic and military reputation as well as their future political contributions in Afghanistan's political sphere. As fresh moves for the resumption of stalled peace talks between Taliban and the Afghan government gathers momentum, it is not yet clear which of the factions will sit at the peace talks tables. "Foreign circles support these factions and maintain ties with Taliban. Also there are certain countries that pursue their own objectives by supporting a particular faction of Taliban to ensure their interests," head of Helmand peace committee Fazel Bari Fayaz said. *... (More on P4)...(20)*

## Khyber Air Strikes: at Least 23 Suspected Militants Killed, Several Injured

PESHAWAR - At least 23 suspected militants were killed in air strikes carried out by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in the Rajgal area of Khyber Agency's Tirah Valley close to the Pak-Afghan border on Tuesday. "PAF jets struck hideouts of the militants in Tirah valley," said a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations. The statement further added that six hideouts of terrorists were destroyed



while 10 suspected militants were also injured as a result of precise air strikes. Khyber Agency and North Waziristan are among Pakistan's seven semi-autonomous tribal districts near the Afghan border, rife with homegrown insurgents and foreign militants. The tribal...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Terrorist Turf War will Result if Daesh Takes on Taliban in Afghanistan

KABUL - Fears have been raised about the presence of Daesh in Afghanistan, but the strength of the Taliban prevents the group from gaining ground there, noted Pakistani journalist Rahimullah Yusufzai told Sputnik. Despite reports that Daesh has expanded into Afghanistan, the strength of the Taliban there and a lack of popular support mean the group will prove unable to gain a grip in the country, Peshawar-based expert on Afghan affairs Rahimullah Yusufzai told Sputnik. Although several hundred people in



Afghanistan have joined Daesh, Yusufzai said there is not much support there for the terrorist group, or its idea of a caliphate. "People may want Sharia Islamic law, some people may support the Taliban, but I think public support for Daesh is still not...*(More on P4)...(23)*

### Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Trailing behind the pack isn't your usual style, but today you find odd satisfaction in letting others take the lead. However, the longer you're not first in line, the more restless you grow. The Moon's afternoon shift into your action-packed sign is your cue to reassert your command. Unfortunately, you can come on so strong that you encounter push-back.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

There is a welcome sense of contentment in the air as your workmates acknowledge your contributions today. However, their words of appreciation might only whet your appetite for more recognition. Unfortunately, you can become stuck on your desire for fame or fortune now, prompting others to withhold further support.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Keeping up a steady pace at work can be a challenge for you flighty Twins, especially if you feel emotionally detached from your family and loved ones. Your weariness may be taking its toll on your outlook, especially if you've been pushing yourself too hard recently. Don't slack off on meeting your obligations today, even if you're ready to throw in the towel. Accomplishing your goals now means you'll be ready to ride the incoming wave.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're finding your groove in the workflow today, but little annoyances keep surfacing that distract you from your appointed tasks. At first, it's easy to take all the interruptions in stride; your positive attitude is your saving grace. But like the straw that broke the camel's back, you too have your limit. Tread carefully, or your emotions might lead you right to the edge if you let them.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your optimistic nature prompts you to take on more responsibility than is wise today. Although you hit the ground running, it quickly becomes apparent that you might be losing ground instead of gaining on your goals. Nevertheless, your confidence level makes a big difference in how much you actually accomplish. Set aside any concerns about failure versus success.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Satisfaction is elusive today because it seems as if people keep moving the finish line as soon as you have it in sight. You think you're progressing toward an agreed-upon goal, only to discover that the destination has been changed without your knowledge. Just know that none of your efforts are wasted, even if you take a circuitous route to completing a job. In a day or two, you will see the silver lining in the cloud when you look back at your current frustration.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You might be slightly disappointed when your ideas are unsupported at work today. Nevertheless, you can make great progress working alone behind the scenes. Although you often prefer the companionship of collaboration, a solo performance now prompts great reviews later on. Set aside your personal feelings and nagging insecurities.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

This workweek began on a positive note and ends on another one just for good measure. You're riding a creative high while the imaginative Pisces Moon completes her visit to your 5th House of Self-Expression. Thankfully, your associates are currently more accepting of your special skills and give you the leeway to attack a project in your own unique manner.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Although it's nearly impossible to sustain a high level of enthusiasm all day, no one will notice that you're experiencing doubt. Still, you don't want anyone to know you're covering up a dance with low self-esteem today. Nevertheless, you feel vulnerable while the Sun in your optimistic sign squares the elusive Pisces Moon as she hides out in your 4th House of Security.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

It's confusing when everyone seems to be saying different things at the same time; you don't know what to make of it all. You thrive when you're working with the facts and standing on solid ground, but today the truth is hard to find and the earth beneath your feet feels like quicksand. Paradoxically, your clash with reality is less about your external world than about your internal terrain.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You might feel like an outcast today because your values seem vastly different from those of your coworkers. But focusing on the gulf that appears to be growing between you and your peers doesn't lead anywhere useful; it only adds to the discord and mayhem. Instead of magnifying the conflicts, seek common ground wherever you can.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your sensitivity may get the best of you today, especially if you can't find ways to establish boundaries when needed. It's a gift to be so compassionate that you always want to help others. But there's a point at which this blessing can become a curse -- and it's up to you to learn how to navigate around this delicate edge. Fortunately, practice makes perfect; don't expect a major epiphany to change your attitude overnight.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for clues.

Across: 1. Test, as ore, 6. District, 10. Stigma, 14. Tropical vine, 15. A step on a ladder, 16. Lack of difficulty, 17. Inexpensive, 19. Pot, 20. Dependable, 21. Poor, 22. Drudgery, 23. Cut, 25. Utilizers, 26. Skirt lines, 30. Silver, in heraldry, 32. Snob, 35. Competitor, 39. Declare with confidence, 40. Spectator, 41. Hopelessness, 43. Blight, 44. Attack by plane, 46. Not fast, 47. Eagle's nest, 50. Faked out an opponent, 53. Colored part of an eye, 54. Female sib, 55. Showy, 60. Deliver a tirade, 61. Irregular, 63. Being, 64. Praise, 65. Sacred hymn, 66. Backwards "Reed", 67. Margarine, 68. Trades.  
Down: 1. "What a shame!", 2. Sieve, 3. Not in danger, 4. Dwarf buffalo, 5. Front or back lawns, 6. Genus of macaws, 7. Latex, 8. Make larger, 9. Matured, 10. Dressmaker, 11. Small boat, 12. Active, 13. Bobbins, 18. Coloring agent, 24. Big wine holder, 25. Loosen, as laces, 26. A person who is in charge, 27. If not, 28. A young lady, 29. Daughter of a step-parent, 31. Covetousness, 33. Angry, 34. Blend, 36. Absent Without Leave, 37. Roman emperor, 38. An old spelling of "True", 42. Revolutionary, 43. Startled cry, 45. Type of grass, 47. Broadcast, 48. Delete, 49. Washing machine cycle, 51. Dawn goddess, 52. Drops, 54. Alone, 56. Schnozzola, 57. A Freudian stage, 58. Gangly, 59. Shade trees, 62. Pother.

Yesterday's Solution: again, ahead, black, cheek, digit, drive, fancy, goes, guts, happy, hers, honor, improvement, louder, matron, medal, minder, mouse, nasty, packet, player, pleasure, poach, ration, rote, royalty, scare, shell, stack, stare, stories, syrup

Word search grid with letters H, U, P, O, A, C, H, W, R, E, N, C, H, O, L, V, K, G, D, H, E, K, O, S, H, Y, N, T, O, D, A, Y, S, C, R, Z, T, E, J, O, I, P, F, I, M, A, T, N, S, O, E, P, R, M, A, A, N, L, A, O, A, Y, R, K, L, J, A, C, N, B, M, I, H, D, R, I, V, E, G, T, K, C, A, T, S, T, A, U, E, P, A, W, U, E, Y, A, S, I, H, H, P, S, L, S, O, M, T, R, E, G, T, I, E, C, P, A, U, R, U, J, S, I, R, O, Y, A, L, T, Y, R, L, O, U, D, E, R, M, E, D, A, L, E, E, D, O, M, I, N, D, E, R, S, C, A, R, E, M, T, I, M, P, R, O, V, E, M, E, N, T