

Taliban Collecting Taxes from All in Ghazni



GHAZNI CITY - The Taliban have been collecting money what they call 'tax' from media outlets, businessmen and common people in southern Ghazni province, government officials and affected people

claimed. Farid Umari, in charge of Ghaznavyano Private Television, told Pajhwok Afghan News he recently handed over 200,000 Pakistani rupees to the Tali-

ban in tax. "Initially the Taliban were demanding 400,000 afghanis but later they cut the amount half 200,000 rupees, which I gave them happily," he said. Umari did not ... (More on P4)... (13)

Parents Complain to UN Over Detention of Teachers



KABUL - The parents' committee of Afghan-Turk schools on Monday called for an end to the oversight by the security forces on the movement of all those teachers who were last week detained during a raid in Kabul. Although reports surfaced on Sunday in the media that two of the five individuals had been released, it is said that still one Turkish teacher and one Turkish restaurant owner are under house arrest. On Monday, the parents' committee of Afghan-Turk schools filed a complaint letter to the office of United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMA). "Undoubtedly there is pressure from the Turkish side on our government, but the resolution of the issue must be ... (More on P4)... (14)

NDS Employee, Civilian Killed in Laghman Explosions

KABUL - Two people, including a National Directorate of Security (NDS) agent, were killed and six others wounded in two separate blasts in eastern Laghman province on Monday, officials said. Sarhadi Zwak, the governor's spokesman, said the intelligence operative succumbed to his injuries in hospital after the blast in the Gomeen area of Mehtarlam. He was injured in the blast on his way to office. Another blast took place an hour later in the same area, according to Zwak, who said a civilian was killed and six children were injured. The wounded were taken to hospital for medical care. The militants have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)



District Police Chief Killed in Badghis

QALA-I-NAW - The district chief of Aab Kamari district in Badghis province, Abdul Rasoul, was killed in a clash with Taliban insurgents on Sunday night, officials confirmed on Monday. Two other policemen were wounded in the same incident. The clash took place after a group of Taliban insurgents attacked a police post as Rasoul was on his way to support the forces, provincial police chief, Abdul Raouf Taj said. (Tolonews)

Nimroz Court Sentences 2 Kidnappers to Death

ZARANJ - The appellate court in southwestern Nimroz province on Monday sentenced two persons to death and another two co-accused to 16 and 29 years in prison in the kidnapping and killing case of a nine-year-old boy.

Judge Syed Abdul Qayyum Kamali, head of the appellate court, handed down the capital punishment to Abdul Malik and Shah Mohammad for their direct involvement in the kidnapping and killing of Hameedullah.

Two other individuals, who played the role of communicators between the kidnapers and father of the abducted boy, were sentenced to 16 and 29 years in prison. The judge said the verdicts were not final and could be challenged.

According to the judge, the four-member group kidnaped the 9-year old from Zaranj, the provincial capital, and demanded 40 million toman and 650,000 af-



ghanis in ransom.

The father of the slain boy said he arranged the ransom amount but the kidnapers killed his sons.

Of the convicts, two were paternal cousin of the victim. The father, Habibullah, said: "I am not satisfied with the ruling because it has no ground for implementation."

Abdul Malik, who kidnaped and killed Ha-

meedullah and was sentenced to death, said everything was done by his brother.

Unhappy with the kidnapping and killing of the boy, Malik said he was satisfied with the court decision. He added the court ruling on him would set an example for others.

But Shah Mohammad, who was also sentenced to death, said he did not agree with the decision of court and would seek justice. (Pajhwok)

Paktika Justice Director, Prosecutor Held on Bribery Charges

SHARAN - Intelligence agents have detained the director of justice along with a prosecutor on bribery charges in southeastern Paktika province, a source said on Monday.

An official told Pajhwok Afghan News on the condition of anonymity that the National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel arrested Justice Director Maulvi Ibrahim and Prosecutor Safer Ahmad red-handed while receiving bribes.

He said: "Two people having a land dispute had been

asked by the justice director and the prosecutor to pay 100,000 Pakistani rupees in bribe. They were nabbed while receiving the bribe." He added the detainees were being interrogated.

Rahim Khan, familiar with the sordid deal, said: "The officials had given their clients an appointment at a shop. They were detained immediately by the NDS operatives."

The provincial justice department refused to comment on the issue.

"Abdul ... (More on P4)... (15)



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You are ready to begin a new chapter of your life. The time for unrealistic dreaming is over; you must take your big ideas out of the realm of fantasy now and give them structure in the real world.

Of course, this transition won't happen overnight. Your current aspirations can take months or even years to bring to fruition.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus Although you may feel the pressure of life, you're aware you've been preparing for this moment for a long time. Nevertheless, it can be disconcerting when you realize how much is at stake now. Thankfully, you know in your heart what you need to do. Taking the easy way out might bring you a measure of relief in the moment.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Changing your strategy may seem impossible now because so many recent decisions have already set you on a certain trajectory. You might even feel tired from all the recent challenges. Fortunately, you will soon be able to see the results from your past efforts. Although you are turning a significant corner, it may take a few weeks before you gain enough perspective to clearly determine where you are.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer It might seem as if your work is never done, but if you continue to concentrate on fulfilling your current obligations, you will soon begin to see the fruits of your labor. You might believe that someone close to you is being particularly critical of your work, causing you to doubt recent choices.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo It feels as if an opportunity is slipping away and you must start a new endeavor immediately. However, it's wiser to take some time to contemplate your current position and where you wish to go in the weeks and months ahead. It might seem counterproductive to waste valuable production time when you're already facing too many deadlines.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept 22)



Virgo Accepting an invitation to collaborate on a project or to join a cause close to your heart is not something you take lightly. You are quite concerned about overcommitting your time when your life already seems so busy. Nevertheless, you are not one to avoid responsibility, even when it means shouldering an extra burden. The simple fact is you will survive if you do not finish everything that's on your to-do list today.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Your family ties are an important part of your life, even when you are away from home. However, other people's expectations can crimp your style now, leaving you less time to fulfill your obligations at work. Paradoxically, you may feel shortchanged if you need to cancel personal plans.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio A freight train of emotional intensity may be running down your track today, and you can't decide whether to jump on board or leap out of the way. You're no stranger to riding powerful passions; in fact, you often seek out extreme experiences in your quest to live life to the fullest. Nevertheless, you are a bit more calculating in your approach now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius The entire world seems to be moving one way while you are in a contrary frame of mind. Just recently, other people appeared to be more interested in having fun when you were uncharacteristically somber. But the tables are turning, and you can feel the joy creeping back into your life as everyone else is growing more serious. Ironically, your spirit might continue to lighten, even if you assume more responsibilities in the weeks

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn Sometimes it takes karma a long time to come around, yet this is exactly what's occurring in your life now. Although everything you do today has the potential to change your destiny, ripples of your past behavior are activating current events. Well-tended geese may appear laying golden eggs, while untended responsibilities might come back to haunt you.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius Big changes are rolling through your life now, but the real impact may be occurring deep within the shadows of your imagination. Everything might seem normal on the surface but even your closest friends won't necessarily realize the intensity of your inner quest. It's likely too early to talk about your dreams and you're quite comfortable flying solo anyway.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You might surprise others now as you narrow your focus and set very specific goals. Your pragmatic approach to managing your life could even seem out of character. However, your dreams are bigger than ever, and you're weary of seeing them slip away before you make them real. You are standing at a point of no return today, with fantasies behind you and your shining future ahead.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60.

Across: 1. Empower, 7. Covet, 13. Breakfast food, 14. Instructing, 16. Speaks, 17. Hard-headed, 18. Former boxing champ, 19. Tenfold, 21. Explosive, 22. Plate, 24. 1 1 1, 25. Feathery scarves, 26. Alright, 27. Terminates, 28. Make unclear, 29. Cleave, 30. Eon, 31. Gander, 32. Something that delays or hinders, 35. Anagram of "Wanes", 37. Female sib, 38. Study hard, 42. Chooses, 43. Stair, 44. Protagonist, 45. French cheese, 46. Soil, 47. Tale, 48. Donkey, 49. Befuddled, 52. Petrol, 53. Relating to the chest, 55. Rat or mouse, 57. Walkway, 58. Freeload, 59. Sell, 60. Move unsteadily.

Down: 1. S. American country, 2. Weblike, 3. Craftsperson, 4. Spelling contest, 5. Piecrust ingredient, 6. If not, 7. Curtains, 8. Noblemen, 9. On the left or right, 10. Hotel, 11. Raucous, 12. Capture, 14. Dumbfounded, 15. Obtains, 20. Line dance, 23. Add water, 25. Marred by discolored spots, 27. Dines, 28. French for "Good", 31. Shocked reaction, 33. N N N N, 34. Weight loss plans, 35. Love unquestioningly, 36. A part of a broadcast serial, 39. Chemical agent, 40. Settle, 41. Beast, 43. Comparison, 45. Flying mammals, 46. Sticker, 49. Prostitute, 50. At one time (archaic), 51. Numbskull, 54. Scarlet, 56. Female deer

Yesterday's Solution: ALEX SLAB BUBS, JAVA OILED UNAU, AGES TAIGA STABE, RENTS REGULATED, HEAD NABOB, UNARMED RECOIL, MARKERED CONIC, BID UNITY GNU, OVENS PILFERER, IDEOMIC SERVANT, TULLIP MEET, SHOWGIRLS ERICA, TARO ARETE TALC, ALAR CUBBIT ETAT, VOLK SERE DIENS

PRISONSHOWERD
HNAICISYHPSLI
GPZJHKENOTSQM
ULHOTANYRAEWA
OAEUAZZIPSNLG
NNARESPUHCTAE
ETRNRRTOR TINP
NOTABYRARNADF
MMVLNTFFFALS I
OOHISTORYYFDCG
ONGSSUBOARDAU
LEGTNTYCOONPR
BYGDTTRACKXME