

Mol, NDS Claim Attacks Clearly Originated in Pakistan

KABUL - The two security chiefs make it clear that some of the recent attacks on Kabul and in the country had been planned from across the border.

NDS chief Masoom Stanekzai said the Afghan government has handed a list of names over to Pakistan of people suspected of being involved in the recent attacks on Kabul.

Addressing a joint press conference with the Minister of Interior Wais Ahmad Barmak, Stanekzai said a number of people had been arrested in the past few days in connection with the attacks and that these suspects had given details about where they were trained and where attacks were being planned.

Barmak in turn said information gathered shows that attacks are being planned in Chaman area in Baluchistan in Pakistan and that the Afghan delegation to Pakistan handed over a list of madrasas where attacks are being planned.

This comes after the two senior government ...*(More on P4)...*(17)



Prisoners from Pakistan Were Common Afghans: Barmak

KABUL - Pakistan has handed over 'common Afghan refugees' to the Afghan government not real Haqqani Network militants, Interior Minister Wais Barmak said on Thursday. Pakistan Foreign Office said on Tuesday more than two dozen suspects belonging to the Taliban and their affiliated Haqqani network have been extradited to Afghanistan.

The handover took place in November last year just weeks after the maiden visit of Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa to Kabul.

Senior officials in Kabul once again accused Islamabad of providing shelter to the Afghan Taliban and Haqqani network following the string of terrorist attacks over the last few days in Kabul.

Interior Minister Barmak confirmed



to Pajhwok the delivery of 27 prisoners from Pakistan but said they were not members of the Taliban or Haqqani Network but common Afghan refugees who had been released.

Afghanistan Ambassador to Pakistan Hazrat Omar Zakhelwa after receiving news about the transfer of 27 militants to Afghanistan tweeted "This certainly is news to me! It would be a huge step forward in our important bilateral relations if this indeed happens."

"Pakistan continues to push any suspected TTA & HN elements to prevent them from using our soil for any terrorist activity in Afghanistan," Foreign Office spokesperson Dr Muhammad Faisal said in a tweet.

Barmak, who travelled to Pakistan along with spymaster Masoom Stanikzai with a message from President Ghani, said they clarified to Pakistani officials that the inmates handed over to them were common people. (Pajhwok)

Balkh Issue to be Resolved Constitutionally: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has said all steps are being taken in line with the Constitution and the affairs of Balkh province would be resolved through this way.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with elders, ulemas, influential figures, civil society activists and youth from Balkh province, who called on the president here.

The visiting members in their talks supported infrastructure development projects, including TAPI, Chabahar port, railways, expansion of transit routes, the launch



of air corridors, water management and transfer of energy from Central Asia to South Asia and

policies regarding the attraction of foreign investment.

"You are ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

Commissioners Divided on IEC Chief Nominee

KABUL - Despite the passage of three months since former Independent Election Commission (IEC) chief's removal, the electoral body members are yet to agree on electing a new chief. Former IEC chief Najib Ahmadzai was sacked by the president in November 15, 2017 following differences among the commission members. Two months back, on January 13, the President approved Sayed Hafizullah Hashemi as last member of the commission.

However, IEC commissioners have been unable to elect head

and other leadership members of the commission.

Some IEC officials, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the commission members were divided over nominee for the commission election chief.

One IEC official said three IEC members including Rafiullah Baidar, Sayed Hafizullah Hashemi and Abdul Baday-Sayad were nominated for the slot, but Hashemi withdrew in support of Baidar.

A number of commission members ...*(More on P4)...*(16)

UK Reaffirms Cooperation with Afghanistan

KABUL - UK's special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan Gareth Bailey has assured his country's continued assistance with Afghanistan in various fields, a statement said Thursday.

The statement from the Presidential Palace to Pajhwok Afghan News said Gareth Bailey called on President Ashraf Ghani at his office and both sides discussed bilateral cooperation, joint combat against terrorism, reforms and cooperation in various fields particularly in key infrastructure projects and expansion of trade and economic relations.

The statement added Bailey extended con-

dolences over recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan on behalf of the British government and people to President Ghani and people of Afghanistan.

Ghani expressed gratitude to the UK and appreciated the kingdom's years-long cooperation with the government and people of Afghanistan.

Ghani once again slammed terrorism as a serious menace for all nations and the world should take joint action against the ugly phenomenon. Terrorism supporters should be suppressed in order to prevent the spread of terrorism to other countries of the world, he added. (Pajhwok)

Trump: Safe Havens in Afghanistan, Pakistan will be Eliminated

KABUL - Trump's foreign policy dictates that the US administration would provide commanders with the authority and resources needed to fight insurgents. In a statement issued by The White House on Tuesday night, President Donald Trump's administration made it clear that it will go after insurgent safe havens in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In a foreign policy document, the White House said: "President Trump's conditions-based South Asia Strategy provides commanders with the authority and resources needed to deny terrorists the safe haven they seek ...*(More on P4)...*(19)



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries Although some people might think you are overreacting today, you're not going to let anyone tell you what you can and can't do. Unfortunately, this means you could spend time in a nose-to-nose confrontation with someone in authority. Fortunately, your key planet Mars energizes interactive Mercury.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You can quickly assess a difficult situation and reduce your options to a few with the best potential today. But upon deeper analysis, each possible path seems to run into unavoidable roadblocks. Luckily, you can compensate for expected trouble if you see it in time. Although flexibility doesn't always come naturally to you, you could surprise others with the speed of your adaptability now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini You're so enthusiastic about your latest idea that you can't see how unrealistic it is. Although you may encounter resistance, you might choose to ignore all the constructive advice you receive now. Ironically, your distraction from the simple truth of the situation could work in your favor because you have the potential to overcome obstacles that would normally stop you in your tracks. Sometimes, reality shows up with a final judgment.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Your day is like a blank canvas, waiting to be filled in with your activities. Your anticipation grows as you put the various pieces in their places. You have high hopes today, and don't want to blow it by scheduling too much. Unfortunately, you could leave yourself enough downtime that you waste your momentum.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo Everybody has a different opinion about what you should be doing today, but no one seems to care about your preferences. Put your foot down early in the day to salvage your agenda before it becomes unrecognizable. Although it could even feel as if you're fighting for your survival, it's not that serious.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept 22)



Virgo You're known to be cool under pressure, even if your nervousness gives away your unexpressed stress. However, you might not be able to contain your concern if you suspect someone of undermining your work today. Your dilemma is you don't know how to determine if your suspicions are based on fact or fallacy. Fortunately, you won't need to dig for answers now.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Something isn't quite right today and you may be unhappy, even if you can't put your worry into words. You want the tension to abate but it's difficult to solve a problem that eludes description. Thankfully, your patience enables the topic of a discussion to address your unexpressed emotions and, magically, you're able to find your voice.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio Your frustration may reach a tipping point today if you can't find a way to express your pent-up emotions. You might be disappointed with someone's lack of effort to talk about an unresolved issue. You don't like being put in the position of initiating a discussion about a sensitive subject, but it seems to you that people always wait for you to take the lead.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius Someone may be upset because they think you're avoiding the reality of a situation. Actually, there could be truth to their assumption, because temporary denial is easier than confronting the facts today. You can discern the top of a distant mountain, making it easy to envision a straight line to your destination. But ignoring the rivers that must be crossed to get there now.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn Your motives are not clear to others today, leaving them wondering why you're so quiet. It's obvious that you are in the process of hatching a scheme, but you're not saying much about it at all. However, your intent is not to be secretive since there's really nothing to hide. It's just that you have big ideas brewing now, and you're wary of dissipating the energy.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

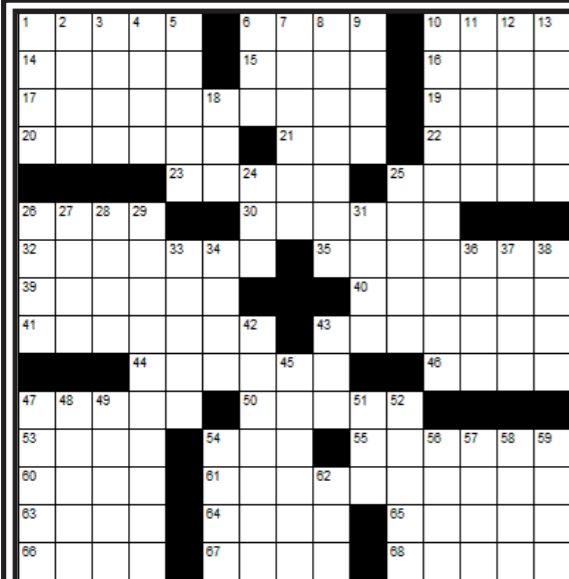


Aquarius It's fun to be the social ring-leader today as long as your day doesn't turn into an out-of-control three-ring circus. There may be complicated issues at play, even if they're not in the open. Unfortunately, hidden emotions work against you and your best intentions. However, eloquent Mercury is your ally while visiting your friendly sign, so when in doubt, talk about your

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You might start the day thinking you can blast your way into the future, but brute force is not a viable strategy. Your assertive manner riles up opposition to your ambitious goals now. Instead of relying on your current confidence to power your momentum, involve others in your activities by sharing your visions. When people hear you speaking with passion, they will rush to your support.



Across

1. Shame, 6. Hairdo, 10. Not hard, 14. Hyrax, 15. Caribou, 16. River of Spain, 17. From the inside, 19. Period, 20. A Japanese feudal baron, 21. 59 in Roman numerals, 22. Labyrinth 23. Master of ceremonies, 25. Doorkeeper, 26. Go on horseback, 30. Coming, 32. Relating to urine, 35. Competitor, 39. Casual eatery, 40. Spectator, 41. A reversion to the state, 43. Blight, 44. Unfurl, 46. Blackthorn, 47. Vice ____, 50. Spats, 53. Decorative case, 54. A Buddhist temple, 55. Narcotic, 60. Big party, 61. In all, 63. Mimics, 64. Sleigh, 65. Fruit of the oak tree, 66. Where a bird lives, 67. Combustible pile, 68. Verse,

Down

1. Corrosive, 2. ___ fide, 3. Against, 4. Appear, 5. Lofty nest, 6. American Dental Association, 7. Cut down, 8. Remedy, 9. African antelope, 10. Dressmaker, 11. A religion based on sorcery, 12. Immobilized, 13. Laser printer powder 18. French for "Name", 24. Islet, 25. Loosen, as laces, 26. Country bumpkin, 27. Colored part of an eye, 28. Platter 29. Fanatic, 31. Covetousness, 33. Sporting venue, 34. Lion sound, 36. Absent Without Leave, 37. Roman emperor, 38. Tall woody plant, 42. Completely 43. Santa's helper, 45. Rubbish, 47. A strict vegetarian, 48. French for "Storehouse", 49. Governs, 51. Mist, 52. Lance, 54. Stinging insect, 56. Skin irritation, 57. Greeting at sea, 58. School session, 59.

Yesterday's Solution

RADIANT PROW GESSI
ELEMENT RITPE OMIT
AGAIN ICES NADA
MANAGEMENT TIER
LAP EARLS
MILLEU TERRA
ALERT SYLLABLES
REAR SPRAY AIDE
EXPLATION UNDER
TWTITS UNDONE
GIANT BRAC
AUNT GHRONICLER
MINI HEIR DROVE
OLEO ERNE EERTE
KERIN SAGS DWELL
bacon, barrel, block, catch cause, choice, event everywhere, experience flan, formal, goals impact, increase, launch leis mouth, nets, never, notice, organic patch, pattern, phone, picture

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