

Analysts Optimistic Over Islamabad Talks on Afghan Peace

KABUL - A number of Afghan political analysts have expressed optimism over what they call Pakistan's resolve to support the Afghan peace and reconciliation process. The statement comes a few days after Islamabad hosted a four-nation meeting aimed at mapping out a way forward to get the Taliban to the negotiating tables with the Afghan government - despite the insurgent group's unprecedented winter campaign of violence this year. Their ongoing battle, which usually ends in winter, has triggered alarm among the public who worry about the group's strength and abil-



ity to continue their war. As hope grows however over the resumption of stalled peace talks with the Taliban, analysts and leaders of various Afghan political parties have been rallying behind government but urge caution when negotiating with the group. "Four countries will determine the road map and then negotiations will be started but there are some elements who want to undermine the negotiations," said Mohammad Natiqi an advisor to the CEO. "Compared to other meetings, ... (More on P4)...(14)

Govt. Supports Family of Afghan Woman who Gave Birth to 5 Children

KABUL - The family of an Afghan woman who has given birth to a quintuplet has received financial aid from the government, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) said. According to MoWA, the husband of the woman was handed over AFN 30,000 in a bid to help the woman and the family to raise the quintuplets. A statement by MoWA said the Women's Affairs Minister Dilbar Nazari met with the husband of the woman and urged him to provide necessary care

for the children. She also called on provincial government in Samangan to help the family by providing all necessary support. News regarding the birth of the quintuplet emerged from the northern Samangan province of Afghanistan earlier in the month of August last year. The provincial public health chief in northern Balkh province Nour Mohammad Faiz earlier confirmed that the newborns are all baby boys and both the children and the mother are in better... (More on P4)...(15)

Gunmen Attack the Residence of Afghan Consulate Official in Peshawar

PESHAWAR - Unknown gunmen attacked the residence of an Afghan consulate official in Peshawar, the capital city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, it has been reported. According to the police officials, the incident took place in the early hour of Friday in the posh town area of Peshawar city. The armed men were on motorcycle and started firing towards the residence of consulate official Humayoun Yousufzai's house



around 2:00 am local time, a police official in the area Kashif Khan told the local media. He said the attack ended without incurring casualties and an investi-

gation has been launched as no group has so far claimed responsibility behind the attack. Khan further added that police have ... (More on P4)...(16)

British Soldier Who Smuggles Afghan Girl Cleared on Migration Charges

LONDON - A former British soldier who tried to smuggle a four-year-old Afghan girl into Britain at her father's request was on Thursday cleared of all charges related to aiding illegal immigration. A French court gave 49-year-old Rob Lawrie only a suspended 1,000-euro fine on a charge of putting the child's life in danger - by transporting her in a storage compartment of his van rather than on a child seat with a seatbelt. Lawrie, an unemployed father of four, had befriended the girl and her father in a squalid migrant camp in northern France. "Compassion was in the dock today and France sent out a message that compassion will win," he told reporters after the trial. Lawrie could have faced up to five years in jail and a 30,000-euro (\$32,500) fine for aiding illegal immigration, in a case that went to the heart of Europe's dilemma over how to deal with its worst refugee crisis since World War Two. But the judge said that considering the circumstances of the case it was enough to give Lawrie a warning with the suspended sentence. He will not have to pay the fine unless he commits another offence in France. A tearful Lawrie told the court he had acted on the spur of the moment, finally relenting after repeatedly refusing her father's requests that he take Bahar Ahmadi, known as Bru, to relatives just a few miles from his own home in northern England. "It was very cold ... the little girl, she fell asleep on my knees, and I couldn't ... (More on P4)...(18)

European Rights Body 'Deeply Concerned' at Danish Migrant Rule Reforms

COPENHAGEN - Europe's human rights and democracy body said on Friday it was "deeply concerned" at proposed changes to Danish immigration laws that make it harder for migrants to stay in Denmark. The proposals include using migrants' valuables to pay for their stay, delaying family members joining migrants for three years, allowing detention in some cases and adding "integration potential" as a condition for accepting asylum claims. Parliament is expected to vote on Jan. 26 on the proposals, which the United Nations has



also criticized. In a letter to Immigration Minister Inger Stojberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, said, "I have repeatedly stressed

that asylum seekers and immigrants should not be considered as criminals," he wrote, in reference to proposals to detain migrants in "special ... (More on P4)...(19)

Taliban Local Leader Killed in Military Raid

GHAZNI - A Taliban local leader was killed along with seven of his comrades in a night raid operation in Ghazni province, the provincial police spokesman said on Thursday. "Based on a confirmed tip-off, a unit of Afghan Special Operation force conducted an operation against a Taliban hideout in Gilan district Wednesday night. Upon arrival of the force the militants physically attacked the squad with small arms. The security force returned fire, killing eight militants," spokesman Fahim Amiri



told Xinhua. A Taliban local leader named Mawlawi Hamidullah was among the killed, the spokesman said, adding several rounds of weapons and ammunition

was also seized by the security forces. Hamidullah was involved in several subversive activities in the province, some 125 km south of ... (More on P4)...(17)

A Decade Later, Canadian Diplomat's Death in Kandahar Remains Unpunished

OTTAWA - Ten years after a suicide bomber took the life of diplomat Glyn Berry, newly released documents depict a frustrating - and fruitless - search for justice in what proved to be the first shot in Canada's long, bloody combat mission in Kandahar. Hundreds of pages of heavily censored reports and memos, written in the aftermath of the brutal attack, spell out the exasperation Canadian officials felt with both the Afghan tribal justice system and later the indifference of the Karzai government in

pursuing the case. The family intends to mark today's sombre anniversary with a quiet celebration of Berry's life and legacy, his widow Valerie told The Canadian Press. "We remember the fun times we had together, the laughs, adventures, friends we made along the way, his witty banter and his steadfast willingness to do the right thing. He gave us so many fond memories and for that we can only be thankful." Berry, 59, was the political director of the provincial reconstruction base in the southern

Afghan city. He was returning from Kandahar Airfield after trying to meet local officials when his lightly armoured G-Wagon was struck by a bomb-laden vehicle on a busy thoroughfare at the edge of the city. Three soldiers were also injured in the blast, for which the Taliban claimed responsibility. A suspect who was thought to have organized the attack was arrested shortly afterward. But Pir Mohammed was released from custody on the assurance of local warlord and militia ... (More on P4)...(20)

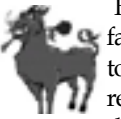
Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You are known for your willingness to run ahead of the pack, whether or not the Moon is visiting your impetuous sign. Nevertheless, the Aries Moon provokes you to say yes quickly now, without considering alternative paths. Meanwhile, the Moon's harmonious alignment to karmic Saturn in your 9th House of Future Vision requires you to find a more reliable route to success.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Handling the demands of your day-to-day affairs can be so exhausting now that you're ready to slip away for some much-needed rest and recuperation. But the more you try to retreat today, the more it seems as if others won't leave you alone. Everyone wants to chime in with their opinions on what you should be doing, so it's up to you to resist outside pressure by clearly establishing boundaries.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You may be much more interested in your social life than performing your job today, even if it is a busy workday. You're sorely tempted to take a long lunch or waste time in idle chatter with your coworkers. And even if you try and behave, you might still end up searching for other ways to fulfill your need for interpersonal interaction. Unfortunately, your boss or some other authority figure could step in and prevent you from escaping your duties.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



People may be genuinely surprised with your actions today because you're uncharacteristically eager to take charge at work. Although others think that you're reticent to be in the spotlight, you are more than willing to assume authority when you know exactly where you want to go. Just be careful not to indiscriminately share your feelings with anyone who might not have your best interests.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're currently dissatisfied with the family dynamics today, tempting you to escape into your dreams. However, withdrawing into fantasyland isn't a viable strategy for achieving long-term happiness. Thankfully, the courageous Aries Moon's presence in your 9th House of Adventure convinces you to make changes to create the excitement you seek.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Your coworkers might be operating with hidden agendas today. On the surface, they may continue to voice their support for you, even if you retreat in order to delve deeper into your own emotional process. However, you can't help but feel the pressure from their unspoken demands, prompting you to pull away even more now. One way to handle the current tension is to simply let others know that you just need some time alone.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



A close friend or coworker may seem too pushy for your refined taste today while the impudent Aries Moon visits your 7th House of Others. Unfortunately, you could overreact by emotionally withdrawing from the unpleasant situation. Thankfully, a lunar trine to stern Saturn enables you to clearly set the limits you need to feel comfortable. Just remember, relationships require give and take.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You can't sit around twiddling your thumbs while the irrepressible Aries Moon is wildly activating your 6th House of Work. But you could be so enthusiastic about plowing through your chores today that you rush ahead with your next task before you map out the smartest approach to managing your resources.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



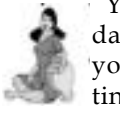
You might mistakenly believe that everything would be great now if people just gave you some breathing room and didn't expect so much from you. It's tempting to resent those who rain on your parade by wielding their authority or withholding their approval. Unfortunately, your resistance only reinforces your negativity. You can improve the dynamics in a flash by changing your assumptions.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Personal issues demand your attention today, especially if you recently have been lost in your work-related responsibilities. Luckily, this is a great time to clean up matters at home while serious Saturn harmoniously trines the Moon in your 4th House of Domestic Affairs. Unfortunately, you might believe you will arrive at your destination faster by taking a few unauthorized shortcuts along the way.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You may be running around in circles today, without having much to show for all your efforts. Instead of compulsively continuing to spin in motion, stop for a while so you can reconnect with your center. Of course, adopting a more practical approach will help your cause, but restarting slowly at first is the real key to gaining traction.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Taking a methodical approach is the best way to tackle a financial problem that's been bothering you lately. Unfortunately, attempting to solve your dilemma by initiating aggressive action gets you nowhere fast while retrograde Mercury is in the picture. Thankfully, the Moon's emphasis on your 2nd House of Money harmonizes with calculating Saturn today. Don't shift the blame for a difficult situation onto anyone else.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68.

Across: 1. Dishes of shredded cabbage, 6. Sneaker or pump, 10. Arithmetic, 14. Tortilla chip, 15. Klutz's cry, 16. River of Spain, 17. Abstinence, 19. Drudgery, 20. Move unsteadily, 21. South southeast, 22. Digestive juice, 23. Relaxes, 25. Shouts, 26. Rectum, 30. Loan shark, 32. Disquiet, 35. A childhood disease, 39. Ancient ascetic, 40. On the beach, 41. Hollywood hopeful, 43. Craftsperson, 44. Obtaining, 46. Annoyance, 47. Lure, 50. Kings of the jungle, 53. Don, 54. A high alpine meadow, 55. Loutish, 60. Therefore, 61. Temple, 63. Place, 64. Leer at, 65. Gloomy, in poetry, 66. Not more, 67. Glance, 68. Marsh plant.
Down: 1. Hissy fit, 2. Alley, 3. Dull pain, 4. Iota, 5. Not drunk, 6. Drunkard, 7. Lifting devices, 8. Nocturnal arboreal marsupial, 9. Feudal worker, 10. Belonging to a club, 11. Agitated, 12. Quaver, 13. Gaps, 18. Fury, 24. A type of large sandwich, 25. It makes dough rise, 26. Mimics, 27. Where a bird lives, 28. Constellation bear, 29. Resembling snoring, 31. Back, 33. To untwist, 34. Stink, 36. Fail to win, 37. Historical periods, 38. Dispatched, 42. Cultivated land, 43. In the past, 45. Agile, 47. Inhabit, 48. Creepy, 49. Enclosures, 51. Neither, 52. Smooths, 54. At the peak of, 56. Anagram of "Fear", 57. Chilled, 58. Smelting waste, 59. Not there, 62. Startled cry.

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid with words: agent, banjo, beauty, bother, breakfast, closet, croon, deem, emotional, estimation, familiar, funeral, glory, goal, grime, indication, island, lend, loan, myself, never, night, passenger, prism, record, right, screen, script, secure, slum, specimen.

Word search grid with words: MYSELF, TSVGE, MECLGRHFLOLSE, DLRKUGWUJGOTA, SPECIMENCRRIU, BAENNSAERIYMT, RSNVDBLROMMAY, ESCRIPTAONENTW, AECICRHLNEEIB, KNLGAIKNCDOVO, FGOHTSEAAGENT, AESTIMRECORDH, SREMOTIONALQE, TGTWNFAMILIAR.