

Taliban Capture Parts of Darqad District

TALUQAN - Following heavy clashes with security forces, the Taliban have seized parts of the Darqad district of northern Takhar province, an official said on Thursday.

Police spokesman Col. Khalil Aseer told Pajhwok Afghan News three Taliban fighters and an Afghan Local Police (ALP) member had been killed in the clashes.

He acknowledged the insurgents had captured Qamguzar and Qaghni localities of the restive district as a result of fierce clashes. SherDil,



a resident of the area, said the Taliban and security forces were locked in fighting. Both sides have suffered casualties, according to the resident, who did not have specific figures. Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed killing one ALP member and seizing another. The group said it had captured some areas of the district. Some two months ago, the militants overran Darqad, but the security forces retook the district a fortnight earlier. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Key Commander Killed in Faryab

MAIMANA - A key commander of Taliban, Mullah Ezatullah, was killed during a clash with police in the Daulatabad district of northern Faryab province, officials said on Friday.

Ezatullah was shot dead in a clash between the rebels and police on Thursday evening when the Taliban attacked a police patrol in Khairabad area of the district, the police spokesman, Syed Masoud Yaqubi told Pajhwok Afghan News.

While confirming the death, the district police chief, Col. Naimatullah To-

fan said that the corpse of Mullah Ezatullah was handed over to his family. Taliban have so far issued no comment regarding the death of their commander. Separately, a manager of energy and water department, was shot wounded by a motorcyclist gunman on Thursday evening in the Shirin Tagab district of the province, the administrative head of the town, Sayed Loqman said.

Faizullah Khumar was rushed to Afghan-Turk hospital in Maimana and his condition was stated to be stable, he said. (Pajhwok)

Fuel Prices Steady in Kabul Despite International Cut

KABUL - The prices of petroleum products remained steady during the outgoing week in Kabul despite their reduced rates in world's markets.

The price of a barrel of crude oil on January 5 was \$37.81, but dropped to \$30.56 a barrel on January 15.

After the lifting of international sanctions against Iran, the price of a barrel of the commodity went down and Thursday's price of the commodity stood at \$27.68 a barrel.

However, a fuel station worker in Shahri Ara area of Kabul, Ghulam Sakhi, said fuel prices remained unchanged dur-



ing the outgoing week. Sakhi sold a liter of petrol for 44 afghanis and the same quantity of diesel for 37 afghanis. Liquefied gas prices were different in different areas. Mohammad Sharif, a gas seller in Taimani area, sold a kilogram of the commodity for 45af, the same price as last week's. But Sayed Mohammad, a resident of Qarghai area, said the price of a kilogram of liquefied gas hovered between 45af and 40af in his area. "I ... (More on P4)...(19)"

National Outrage Erupts Over Taliban Attack on Tolo Staff, Protests Nationwide

KABUL - Afghans across the nation on Thursday led a chorus of condemnation against the Taliban attack on a minibus carrying staff members of Afghanistan's largest TV channel, TOLO TV, leaving seven employees dead and wounding 26 others.

Wednesday's attack on TOLO staff, which was unprecedented since the hard-hitting Taliban group started its insurgency in Afghanistan, has been followed by strong criticism among Afghan people, media organizations, activists and rights groups with many of them denouncing the act as an attempt to suffocate the media in the country. Elaborating on the importance ... (More on P4)...(21)

Cancer Diagnostic Centre Being Established in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - The public health director on Thursday promised a cancer diagnostic centre would be inaugurated at the Nangarhar Civil Hospital in Jalalabad next week.

While presenting an annual report on the public health situation, Dr. Najibullah Kamawal told a gathering that respiratory diseases had considerably increased in Nangarhar province.

"We are going to create a cancer diagnostic centre at the hospital to provide nationwide services for cur-



ing the disease. We have sent some doctors to Turkey for training and 16 machines have been brought to the province," he said. Earlier, Afghans would go abroad for the treatment of different forms of cancer, but with the availability of the facility at home, people would avail the services in their own country, he added. The director said the Public Health Department, having received the facilities, ... (More on P4)...(22)

NDS Arrests 8 Haqqani Terrorists in Connection with TOLO TV Attack

network terrorists in Hussainkahl village of Bagrami district of Kabul province who are suspected of having been involved in the attack on TOLO TV staffers on Wednesday.

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) arrested the Haqqani terrorist network members during a special operation in Hussainkahl village of Bagrami district, the NDS said in a statement on Friday.



The terrorists are apparently associated with Haqqani and plotted Wednesday's attack on employees of TOLO TV, the statement read. The NDS works day and night to thwart threats posed by the terrorist ... (More on P4)...(20)

Interior, Defense Ministries Denounce Attack on Tolo TV Employees

KABUL - The ministries of defense and interior on Thursday strongly denounced the deadly attack on TOLO TV employees and said it was a violent act against humanity. The acting defense minister, Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai,

on Thursday morning paid a visit to Emergency Hospital in Kabul in order to inquire after the health of those injured in the suicide blast. Stanekzai strongly condemned the attack and said that attacks on innocent civilians indicate the Taliban's weakness. He said the Afghan security forces will leave no stone unturned to ensure the safety of media organizations and their staffers. "The Afghan security forces will exert their utmost effort ... (More on P4)...(23)"

NGO Condemns Killing of Seven Media Workers

GENEVA - The Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) on Thursday strongly condemned the Wednesday attack on a minibus in which seven media workers from Afghan TV channel TOLO were killed, just months after the Taliban declared the network a legitimate "military target". PEC also urged the international community, on the eve of the Paris meeting organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the safety of journalists, to take concrete steps to bring the perpetrators of heinous attacks against media and journalists to justice. According to the organization, the latest suicide bombing attack against the TV minibus in Kabul brings the number ... (More on P4)...(25)

UNSC Denounces Attack on Journalists in Kabul

WASHINGTON - The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) strongly condemned Wednesday's terrorist attack against media persons

in Kabul. Expressing their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and Government of Afghanistan, the members of the Security Council strongly denounced the fact that this heinous crime, beyond attacking ... (More on P4)...(24)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You've been surfing the waves of change with such concentration that you forgot to give much thought to what you will do next. Now that you have a little time to contemplate life, you can begin to see how much has already shifted at the workplace. Nevertheless, tread lightly today; there are still more twists and turns ahead.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your perceptions are as sharp as a razor today, making it unlikely that anyone will pull the wool over your eyes. Oddly, you may be able to hear words in your brain before they are actually spoken; it's almost like you possess x-ray vision of the mind. Be careful how you wield this temporary superpower, for inappropriate usage will only get you into more trouble than it's worth.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might see a power play unfold right before your eyes at your place of work -- and it appears to be aimed at you. Don't worry about your counter-move; just do whatever you can to minimize the pressure today. Avoid direct confrontation at all costs, for it won't lead you to a better situation now. Even if you can just delay the showdown until next week, things will work out better in the long run.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your partner or lover may raise a sensitive subject today. Your opinions are strong, making it nearly impossible to avoid an intense conversation about an important matter as verbose Mercury runs into passionate Pluto. Your only viable strategy is to stay focused on what's real. No matter what kind of emotional distractions are brought into the equation.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Although harmony at work might be elusive now, a bit of emotional intensity won't slow you down. Your highest priority is to reestablish the balance of your life so you can improve your overall perspective. A large part of your attention is concentrating on the big picture now. Nevertheless, it's imperative to also focus on the drama in front of you.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Mischief could be your cup of tea today while chatty Mercury and relentless Pluto scheme in your 5th House of Spontaneity. All interactions take on a greater significance and you can't seem to turn the intensity off. The problem is that what starts out as simple entertainment may quickly turn into a cut-throat competition. Although you might believe that your survival is at stake now, it's not.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You are your own greatest distraction now, yet you might choose to keep your thoughts quiet. Your newly formed ideas aren't anyone else's business so there is no need to share them with others. Even if you don't reveal the nature of your inner world today, give yourself permission to explore it on your own. Muster up the courage to go wherever your imagination takes you.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

It may be impossible to ignore the difference between what's right and what's wrong today. You're ready to jump on your soapbox and speak your mind, but people still might think you are sitting on the fence now. However, there is nothing uncertain about your beliefs. In fact, it's wise to remember that your decisions are not as simple as you think.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You feel the urge to make a public stand about something that's ubiquitously important to you. But remember, you are treading on unstable ground while trickster Mercury is busy hooking up with shadowy Pluto. Thankfully, your determination won't let up no matter the amount of resistance you run into now. However, you can perpetuate your dreams if you fly under the radar today.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

The missing ingredient to your secret sauce of success now is mental intensity. The emotionally potent Mercury-Pluto conjunction falls in your ambitious sign, making you a formidable force to be reckoned with today. But ironically, you might be overly worried that other people's arrows of thoughts will be able to pierce even your toughest armor. Although your impulse may be to attack first.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You can say things with the utmost care today yet your words might have totally unexpected effects. Unfortunately, others may not hear you clearly while mischievous Mercury is still retrograde, blurring the boundaries between you and those in your immediate environment. You might read the situation wrong because you overlooked an important piece of information.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Social activities seem to be lingering long past the holiday season. You may have assumed that the rowdiness would gradually settle down, but the flames are fanned back to life each time they do. The intensity of your interactions with others might even surprise you today. Try going along with the group instead of taking on the entire community. Wait until next week when Mercury turns direct before you make a scene you will later regret.

Across

1. Gestured, 6. No, 10. Whip, 14. Any compound of oxygen, 15. Makes a mistake, 16. Within, 17. Catastrophe, 19. Novice, 20. Jubilant, 21. French for "Summer", 22. Send forth, 23. French for "Queen", 25. Districts, 26. Read superficially, 30. A symbol of disgrace, 32. Temporary, 35. Relating to a wedding, 39. Required, 40. Gunk, 41. Part mortal and part deity, 43. On the other hand, 44. Spotted cat, 46. Hearing organs, 47. Related to tides, 50. Cringe, 53. Module, 54. Estimated time of arrival, 55. Part of a tea service, 60. Cab, 61. Instructions, 63. Pearly-shelled mussel, 64. Sleep in a convenient place, 65. Earthenware jar, 66. Observed, 67. 1 1 1 1, 68. Publicizes.

Down

1. Interlaced, 2. Angle of a leafstalk, 3. Brand of credit card, 4. Modify, 5. Discourage, 6. Mesh, 7. The far east, 8. An important nutrient, 9. Feudal worker, 10. Written material, 11. Japanese cartoon art, 12. Stripes, 13. Owl sounds, 18. Citrus drink, 24. Belief, 25. Enough, 26. A region of SE Pakistan, 27. Leg joint, 28. Bit of gossip, 29. Drugs, 31. Spurt, 33. Kingly, 34. False god, 36. Notion, 37. Food thickener, 38. Not more, 42. Verbiage, 43. Expression of surprised admiration, 45. Lacking refinement, 47. Ballet skirts, 48. Absurd, 49. Confederate States, 51. And so forth, 52. Barf, 54. Cocoyam, 56. Breezy, 57. Defecate, 58. A single time, 59. Sounds of disapproval, 62. S.

Yesterday's Solution

alley, aloft, ample, arose, burden, church, class, cola couch, croak, diorama, fascia, guilt, gusts, hoar, lade, mantle, method, niche, organ, picket, prohibit, ration, regime, regulation, relief, remorse, scene, seat, sect, shelf, stela, story, stripe, sullen, take.

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