

Thousands of Civilians Flee Fighting in Jawzjan's Aqcha District

SHIBERGHAN - Thousands of residents have been displaced as a result of overnight clashes in the Aqcha district of northern Jawzjan, an official said on Thursday.

Batoor Ashchi, the town's administrative chief, said the Taliban attacked Tabi, Aqcha Numa, Ariq, Orta and Jabbar Shaheed villages. Ten assailants were killed and 15 others wounded.

He added the insurgents fired dozens of mortar shells at the police headquarters building. One of them hit a civilian house, killing a 22-year-old man.

He said most of the shells failed to



hit the target and security officials escaped unhurt in the attack. But Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, claimed tens of security personnel had been killed in a group attack on the district police headquarters. He confirmed the loss of one fighter and said three tanks and a vehicle were also destroyed.

Asadullah Bahram, a resident of Aqcha, said: "Right now, I have come out of my home and would travel to Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province." According to Bahram, hundreds of families ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Taliban Say Won't Scuttle Efforts to Repair Power Pylon

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Efforts are underway to restore electricity supply to Kabul, cut off by the destruction of a pylon in northern Baghlan province, officials said on Thursday. Power supply from Uzbekistan to Kabul was snapped as a result of a Taliban attack on a pylon in Dandi-Shahabuddin area on the highway connecting Pul-i-Khumri with Kunduz province. Governor Abdul Sattar Barez told Pajhwok Afghan News Breshan Shirkat engineers had launch initial work to repair the pylon in the restive area -- currently the scene of a military offensive. The power supply would resume in a day or two, he hoped, saying the security forces were stationed in the locality to protect the technical team and prevent possible attacks by the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid -- in a telephonic conversation with Pajhwok -- assured the fighters ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Snow Blocks Roads in 5 Provinces, Including Salang Pass

BAMYAN/AIBAK - Heavy snowfall has blocked roads in five provinces in cold areas, including the strategic Salang Pass that connects central capital Kabul with northern Afghanistan. The busy Salang Pass was closed for traffic on Thursday night following heavy snowfall. The roads have been closed in central Daikundi and Bamyan provinces and some districts of Bamyan, Ghor, Maidan Wardak and Samangan provinces. In Bamyan, 60 centimeters deep snow has been recorded lashing valleys and the snowfall is continuing, according to Mohammad Reza Rafat, the natural disaster management authority head in the province. Roads be-



tween Bamyan and Daikundi provinces have been cut off in Qunaaq valley and the road from Bamyan City to Sighan district clogged in Aaq Robot valley, he said, adding that the road between Yakawland and Panjab districts was blocked in Shatu valley due to snowing. The road connecting Bamyan City with Yakawlang district has been blocked by snow in Daga area and the Panjab district road to second part of Behsud district of Maidan Wardak ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Prices of Gas & Petrol Down, Food items Stable in Kabul

KABUL - Prices of gas, flour and petrol declined during the outgoing week in Kabul, where gas rates varied from one neighbourhood to another, retailers said on Thursday. The rate of one litre of diesel came down from 37 Afghani to 33 Afghani and the same quantity of petrol from 44 Afghani to 40 Afghani, said a filling station worker in Wazirabad locality, Abdul Hadi. Mohammad Farooq, a liquefied gas dealer in Cinema Baharistan neighborhood, sold a kilogram of gas for 45 Afghani, compared with last week's price of 50 Afghani. Asked why he was charging a higher price than the one fixed by the government, he replied: "I'm selling quality stuff while the rest ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Kabul Residents Want Fun Places for Winter

KABUL - Kabul residents on Friday called for indoor venues to be established where they can have fun in winter with their families. The Kabul Zoo is the only place that Kabul residents visit with their families on their weekends, but it does not have any indoor facilities for visitors, especially children.

"Today we came to Kabul Zoo. There is no proper place for entertainment during winter. The people do not have other alternatives to spend their off days with their families



and children," said Ehsanullah, a Kabul resident. Ghulabuddin Ghubar, a TOLONews reporter, said there are a number of fun places in Kabul but they are not suitable during winter. "There is no indoor winter fun place in Kabul. The available places in Kabul are not good for children and families," said Rafi, another resident of ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Abducted Child Killed in Farah; 4 Kidnapped in Nimroz

FARAH/ZARANJ - Kidnapped two days ago, an 8-year-old child has been found dead near the capital of western Farah province, while gunmen kidnapped four civilians in neighboring province of Nimroz, officials said on Thursday. The child had been kidnapped two days ago by unknown gunmen from Darabad village on the outskirts of Farah City and his dead body was recovered from a water well on Wednesday night in the same village,



deputy governor Mohammad Younus Rassouli told Pajhwok Afghan News. "The dead body was recovered after the National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel arrested three abductors who revealed the location of the corpse," he said. One of the detained kidnappers ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

5 Killed, 6 Injured in Kunar, Nangarhar Accidents

JALALABAD/ASADABAD - Five people were killed and another half a dozen wounded on Thursday in two separate road accidents in eastern Kunar and Nangarhar provinces,

officials said. A civilian van, heading from Jalalabad to Kunar province, skidded off the road and plunged into a river in Shash Tarai area of Noorgal district at 1pm, Kunar police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Habib Syedkhal told Pajhwok Afghan News. A woman was among three people died in the incident that left another three people ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Women Among 15 Injured in Wardak Collision

KABUL - Fifteen people were injured on Friday when a van and a car collided head-on on the Kabul-Kandahar highway in central Maidan

Wardak province. The collision occurred in Kashmiran area on the outskirts of Maidan Shahr, the provincial capital, the governor's spokesman, Nooryalai Himmat, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said nine people were slightly injured in the ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Explosives-Laden Car Chased, Seized in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - Police seized an explosives-laden car in southern Helmand province on Friday, but the driver had managed to flee, officials said. Police on Friday morning chased a suspicious car and captured it in Wali Karam Hadeera area of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, deputy police chief Col. Almas Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News. The driver wearing a suicide ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

10 Killed, 9 Wounded in Kapisa, Baghlan Operations

KABUL - Seven militants and three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed and another nine insurgents injured during separate clashes in central Kapisa and northern Baghlan provinces, the Ministry of Defence said on Friday. The casualties ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your natural tendency to run the show can be blown out of proportion today. Your ability to visualize the best way to complete a project tempts you to exert control over your coworkers. But you may be so certain of your plan that you miss what your associates are bringing to the table. Relaxing the rigidity of your single-mindedness will be a relief to everyone, including you.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your plans to embark on a great adventure have gone through plenty of ups and downs over the past couple of months. Following the twists and turns of your schemes has been an exhausting task for your friends. Finally, you can solidify your itinerary, but convincing others that your current decisions are final is another story.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The Twins are known for their gift of gab and keeping a conversation light and easy. But sometimes you can annoy people with your witty repartee that tap dances around the real issues. However, messenger Mercury's alignment with transformational Pluto pulls you into the underworld and compels you to talk about subjects normally hidden in the shadows. Don't waste this powerful moment searching for the nearest exit.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're sensitive to the perspectives of others even if they don't support your current actions. You might try to avoid an intense conversation today, but people won't leave you alone until you finally agree to engage. However, the process of honest dialogue can raise uncomfortable feelings that alter your basic assumptions about relationships.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You may have initiated an intense reevaluation of your lifestyle during the holiday season, revisiting your concerns throughout this month. Now it's time to make a commitment, focus your intentions and put a concrete plan into motion. But don't attempt to change too much all at once. Start small and don't backtrack instead of turning your life inside out and then falling back into old habits.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your need to be understood can make you quite aggressive in your communication today. You might not ask whether or not someone is interested in what you have to say; you just go ahead and share what's on your mind anyhow. However, you won't find satisfaction in spewing your intense reactions where they're not invited. You can still make your point; just take the time to confirm that your audience wants to go along for the ride before you grab the wheel.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You're not willing to let go of a piece of your past, even if you would be better off without it. In fact, you can be quite obsessive today, as if you need one last dance with nostalgia before moving on. Thankfully, you've reached a transition point and are already anticipating what comes next. However, there's no reason to force the process. Give yourself permission to sink into your memories.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might not be able to fight the urge to say what's on your heart. Even if you recently avoided the intensity of taking someone to task, it's nearly impossible to keep your feelings quiet today. Honesty is the best policy, but you will only make your life more difficult by being too blunt. No matter what news you have to share, it can be done in a constructive and compassionate manner.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your world will seem in perfect order today if your professional ambitions support your idealistic philosophy of life. But you may sense trouble brewing if your values are pulling one way while your career trajectory is otherwise aimed. Everything doesn't need to be in alignment just yet, but you must create a sensible plan that you can execute with finesse. Being true to yourself is essential, but the practicalities of everyday life cannot be ignored.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

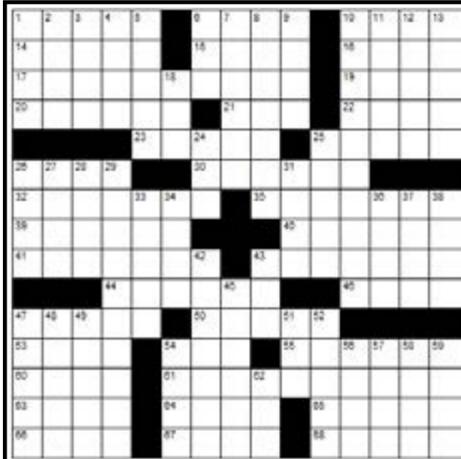
It's your intention to be evenhanded while dealing with difficult political dynamics at work today. However, your patience is growing thin and your true feelings might overwhelm your strategic thinking. Even your best-laid plans can fall apart as circumstances change in unexpected ways. Work with your current intensity, but don't let it get the best of you.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You have a lot on your mind today, but might choose to keep most of your opinions to yourself. Although you put a lot of effort into maintaining a sunny disposition on the surface, some folks will still see through your pleasant veneer. Ultimately, it's less awkward to reveal your thoughts, especially since honesty is so important to you. Even if people have a hard time with your ideas at first, they will get over it eventually.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You may find yourself in the middle of a squabble with friends today, and it's possible that your disagreement stems from divergent values. However, it's tricky to maintain a close relationship now if your likes and dislikes seem so vastly different. Chances are you've covered this ground before, but don't let its familiarity pull you into the same conclusions as the previous rounds.



Across
 1. Acted presumptuously, 6. Hairdo, 10. Gait faster than a walk, 14. Sisal, 15. Lascivious look, 16. Gown, 17. Drug addiction, 19. Wild goat, 20. Off course, 21. Veto, 22. Misplaced, 23. Adjust again, 25. Days of the month, 26. Defecate, 30. World, 32. Sympathy, 35. Sidelong, 39. Hit the sack, 40. Lower the capability, 41. Disentangle, 43. Ideal, 44. Sexual desire, 46. Past tense of Leap, 47. One who poses, 50. Naked models, 53. Mimics, 54. East southeast, 55. Sheepskin, 60. Stitches, 61. Donor, 63. By mouth, 64. Start over, 65. Avoids, 66. Not, 67. Poems, 68. Raise.

Down
 1. Early 20th-century art movement, 2. How old we are, 3. Awestruck, 4. Always, 5. Macedonian monetary unit, 6. Beer, 7. Herbaceous plant, 8. Performance, 9. African antelope, 10. Involving three parties, 11. Android, 12. Overweight, 13. Schoolbooks, 18. Coloring agent, 24. Secret agent, 25. Discourage, 26. South American country, 27. Portent, 28. Chooses, 29. In a non-hurting manner, 31. Nil, 33. Path, 34. Parsley or sage, 36. Anger, 37. At the peak of, 38. Gave temporarily, 42. Flaxseed, 43. Detachable container, 45. Charisma, 47. A worker of stone, 48. A drama set to music, 49. Type of vacuum flask, 51. F, 52. Gash, 54. River of Spain, 56. Reflected sound, 57. Decorative case, 58. Defrauds, 59. At one time (archaic), 62. Dawn goddess.

Yesterday's Solution
 aides, aloft, available, beret, broach, built, clip, clock, condescend, condition, crease, custom, design, devil, eagle, fever, flame, loquacious, lose, mantle, middle, minus, never, outdoor, piece, plane, point, pride, prime, sole, speak, square, taboret, tower.

