

Creation of Militia Groups will Derail Peace Talks: Experts

KABUL - Political analysts believed creation of militia groups to fight insurgents would only serve interest of individuals and harm peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban. After 14 years of insurgency, Taliban and the Afghan government held first round of direct talks in Murree, a tourist resort close to Islamabad. High ranking government officials included President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, who



stepped up efforts for peace talks, were optimistic that negotiations would lead to lasting peace in the country. In the changing scenario, incidents of insecurity were on the rise and some circles had been trying to arm former Jihadi commanders under pretext of fight against Daesh and other militant groups in order to sabotage peace talks. Political analysts, however, believe history showed that creation...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Gang of Kidnappers Busted in Helmand

LASHKARGAGH - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency has busted a gang of kidnappers in southern Helmand province. A statement issued by NDS on Sunday states that the gang was arrested from the jurisdiction of Helmand's provincial capital of Lashkargah. According to NDS statement, the nine member group was functioning under the leadership of Abdul Manan S/O Faizullah. The statement further states that the group was involved in several cases of kidnapping for



ransom and robberies. The group has confessed to their crimes, the statement adds. Statements issued by the National Directorate of Security usually do not contain the exact date of the achievements but they come after recent activities. *(KP)*

48 Militants Killed in Military Operations

KABUL - 48 militants have been killed in newest military operations across the country, Ministry of Defense announced on Sunday morning. A statement issued by the ministry states that these insurgents were killed in different parts of the country in past 24 hrs. The statement adds that 20 militants were also wounded during these operations and 12 others detained by the security



forces. The press release issued by the MoD further states that 5 soldiers from the ANA have embraced martyrdom during these operations. This comes

as heavy clashes have been erupting between Taliban and security forces in different parts of the country including Badakhshan. During these clashes Taliban recently seized a military base from security forces in Wardouj District of Badakhshan province. But spokesmen of MoD have said that the militants are not in the position to hold an area longer. *(KP)*

7 Dead, 8 Hurt in Groups Infighting in Zabul

QALAT - At least seven armed militants were killed and eight others wounded in a clash between two insurgents' groups in southern Zabul province, an official said on Sunday. Fawad Askari, police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the clash erupted late on Saturday in Arghandab district. Both groups, he said suffered heavy casualties and the firefight was still ongoing. He, however, did not name the local and foreign militant groups whereas Arghandab district chief said that an intense gun fire erupted between Daesh and Taliban in the area. No group so far commented on the fight. *(Pajhwok)*

Militants Cut Power Supply Lines in Faryab

MAIMANA - Taliban have cut power supply lines in northwestern Faryab province, which plunged the entire area into darkness, an official said Sunday. Sayed Abdul Salam Nazhat, Dawlat Abad district chief, told Pajhwok



Afghan News that militants blew up an electricity tower in Shaikhha area of the district last night, disrupting electricity supply to Maimana City, the provincial capital and four other districts... *(More on P4)...(19)*

11 Killed in Daesh, Taliban Fighting

JALALABAD - As many as 11 fighters have been killed in a gun battle that sparked between Daesh and Taliban rebels in eastern Nangarhar province, an official has said on Sunday. Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraiqwal, provincial police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News 11 militants had been killed after intense gun battle flared up between Daesh and Taliban fighters late on Saturday in Deh Bala



and Gurguaray districts. Shah Mehmood, a resident of the locality, said that the gun battle erupted in the area last night and both groups used

small and heavy weapons against each others' positions. Daesh tried to retreat Taliban back from a strategic location in the area, he added. Both groups suffered heavy casualties but he had no exact number. No group has commented so far on the firefight. Hundreds of Taliban had been killed in clashes between Daesh and Taliban militants in Achin, Sherzad, Khogyani and Chaparhar districts. *(Pajhwok)*

Herat Road Mishap Leaves 1 Dead, 13 Wounded

HERAT CITY - One passenger was killed and 13 others injured when a car overturned on Herat-Farah highway, an official said Sunday. The governor's spokesman Ehsanullah Hayat told Pajhwok Afghan News that a passenger bus overturned in Gulistan area last night. One passenger died and 13 others including a woman and three children wounded in the accident, he said, linking the accident to reckless driving. Herat civil hospital spokesman Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai confirmed receiving one dead body and 13 injured. He said 15 people injured in different road mishaps were shifted to the hospital on Saturday. *(Pajhwok)*

Floods Wash Away Hundreds of Homes in Jawzjan

SHIBERGHAN - As many as 700 houses in Qarqin and Khame Ab districts of northern Jawzjan province have been damaged following heavy floods, an official said on Sunday. Deputy Governor Abdul Rahman Mahmoodi told Pajhwok Afghan News floods submerged homes where a number of families were in dire need of relief



and assistance. He said 500 homes in Qarqin and 200 homes in Khame Ab districts were damaged due to floods and the resident

fled to Shiberghan, the provincial capital and neighboring Balkh province. Mohammad Rasoul, the... *(More on P4)...(20)*

6 Dead, Hundreds of Houses Damaged in Badakhshan Floods

FAIZABAD - At least six persons have been killed and over a hundred homes washed away by flash floods in northeastern Badakhshan province, an official said on Sunday. Syed Abdullah Humayun Dihqan, director of Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), said floods wreaked havoc in the Sei village of Kofab district on Saturday.



Women and children were among the dead, he said, adding that 130 homes, farm lands, and orchards had been destroyed in the floods. He said representatives of emergency response committee were would hold a meeting today to discuss... *(More on P4)...(21)*

US Drone Strike in Nangarhar Leaves 5 Rebels Dead

KABUL - At least five suspected militants were perished in a US drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province near the Pak-Afghan border on Sunday, an official said. Police Chief Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraiqwal told Pajhwok Afghan News the unmanned aircraft targeted militants onboard a car in the



Chaknoro locality of Lalpura district. A Pakistani insurgent was among the five dead rebels, he added. Militants, however, have yet to comment on the airstrike. *(Pajhwok)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You're on a roll, talking up a storm with everyone you meet. Your enthusiasm is stimulated by your lofty visions of the future. Unfortunately, you could easily over-extend your reach, lose your balance and fall off your unicorn. It's not easy to gain mastery of your own energy when you're so passionate about life, but it's certainly worth the effort.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Your future seems too uncertain for your liking, and you're willing to take drastic measures to put your life back on stable ground. You may attempt to plan your day in great detail because you prefer to know exactly where you are going. Unfortunately, the lines on the map keep shifting today, making it impossible to determine a reliable route.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Someone's larger-than-life drama could give you a colossal headache now. Normally it's you that's bouncing off walls, but today the restlessness of others keeps pulling you off center. You really don't want to be a buzzkill and spoil everyone's fun, but you might try to rein it in so you can redefine your limits. Don't worry if you have to play the role of a parental figure for a while.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



A total stranger may enter your life with a get-rich-quick scheme or a magic love potion, but if it sounds too good to be true, it most likely is. Whatever you do now, don't fall for blind optimism or naive idealism when it comes to money or love. Ironically, big ideas might inspire others, but you're more successful if you handle your life in bite-sized increments today.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Your optimism is a wonderful asset as long as you know when to stop believing your own hype. Unfortunately, you might be so dazzled by your brilliance today that you lose your ability to make sound decisions. However, taking yourself out of the center of every plot widens your perspective and reveals a whole new spectrum of possibilities.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You might see the advantages to being left to your own devices today, but you also desire close companionship. Naturally, you can't choose to wear your invisibility cloak if you also want to be noticed on the social scene. But others can be so wrapped up in their personal dramas that you get dragged along for the ride. If you make your intentions known right from the start, you won't get washed away by someone else's emotional tide.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You may be talking a good game now, but doubt and confusion could be lurking behind your show of bravado. Even if you're passionate about a specific goal, you might not be able to turn your ideas into something practical. Making a concrete plan work should be simple business but it's not today because as soon as you get close to your objective, it loses its sparkle.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You're setting an exemplary example at work these days, but following through with your inspiration may be trickier than motivating others to join your cause. You might be tempted to start a project but your thinking is a bit warped, especially with respect to your long-term goals. Ultimately, it's easier to encourage someone else today than it is to manifest your own visions.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



People just don't seem to understand your motives. You have an abundance of great ideas and plenty of energy. In fact, you may be climbing so high in the atmosphere now that you must fly solo because no one can keep up with you. Stop trying to include others on your adventure; you'll soar to greater altitudes than ever before when you accept that you're on your own. The sky is the limit if you are brave enough to go it alone.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



You might not put a lot of faith into your intuition as a general rule; you prefer making decisions based on the hard cold facts. However, your psychic radar is picking up on all kinds of warning signals today and it's advantageous to listen. Obviously, you can choose to shut down your imagination, ignore your hunches and pay the price later.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Normally your associates lean on you because even if you are an out-of-the-box thinker, your conclusions are usually quite rational. However, you might waffle on an investment today because you're not thinking clearly, especially when it comes to your finances. Don't allow your mind to wander too far, but keep your thoughts to yourself if you do drift off track.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Utilizing your creativity in the workplace may be necessary for your personal fulfillment today. You have the good fortune to be able to daydream in vivid colors and wrap-around sound. But your penchant for fantasy only gets in the way of success now unless you can turn your liability into a valuable asset by transforming your regular routine into an exciting game. If you love your job, you'll never work a day in your life.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Across: 1. Twin sister of Ares, 5. Store, 9. Food thickener, 13. Hue, 14. Caps, 16. Flexible mineral, 17. Dull pain, 18. First Hebrew letter, 19. Foment, 20. Not first or second, 22. A woman priest, 24. Fowl, 26. Anoint (archaic), 27. Not success, 30. Assembles, 33. Whole numbers, 35. Slow down, 37. 52 in Roman numerals, 38. In a gay manner, 41. Directed, 42. Overact, 45. On the payroll, 48. Conundrum, 51. Souvenir, 52. Goliath, 54. Gentle, 55. Offered resistance, 59. Moses' brother, 62. Modify, 63. Crown, 65. Carry, 66. Run away, 67. Provide with a permanent fund, 68. Arab chieftain, 69. Small slender gull, 70. Sort, 71. A style of design.

Down: 1. French for "State", 2. Wealthy, 3. Abstinence, 4. Germless, 5. Calypso offshoot, 6. Assistance, 7. A drama set to music, 8. Hem trimming, 9. Tyro, 10. Scoff at, 11. Cards with 1 symbol, 12. Rodents, 15. Absolute, 21. Medication, 23. Untidy one, 25. Remnant, 27. Dossier, 28. Japanese cartoon art, 29. Historic period, 31. The same backward as forward, 32. Shooting sport, 34. Female sib, 36. Cocoyam, 39. Flee, 40. Anagram of "Lyme", 43. Fasten, 44. Auspices, 46. Dogfish, 47. Connected by kinship, 49. Not glossy, 50. Consecrate, 53. Sycophant, 55. The yarn woven across, 56. Doing nothing, 57. Layer, 58. Let go, 60. Ear-related, 61. Roman emperor, 64. Reverence.

Yesterday's Solution: abuse, block, class, coals, coax, connection, crown, cusp, depth, display, flesh, floats, fudge, gravity, leap, lumber, medium, niece, obverse, packet, pails, pilot, plane, poles, press, purchase, shame, space, stark, temperatures, trance, unify, wade, waste, world, yearn.

CONNECTIONETFL
LBBCNSWPACKET
CULVITCAABUSE
GRMOEADPSEFSM
YROBCRSEGLHP
EDAWEKSDPMEAE
AIBVN RUEUTSMR
RSUNIFYIREHEA
NPLOTDNPCWT
PLANE EYNHOLOU
EAYIMBAOALARR
GYQZLRVXSESE
FLOATSPRESSDS