Taliban Trying to Overrun Andar District: District Chief

GHAZNI CITY - Administrative chief of Andar district in southern Ghazni province has said the Taliban strived to overrun the district and the group for this purpose planted landmines in areas used by public.

During an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News Mohammad Qasam Desiwal said the Taliban had been involved in fierce clashes with security forces in the district multiple times and there had been explosions often due to the landmines the insurgent had planted the target of which were usually common people.

"The militants planted landmines in the vicinity of schools, mosques and civilian homes that usually hit innocent people, including women and children," he said.

He claimed the provincial bomb disposal squad often worked late in the night until 10:00pm to defuse the bombs they discovered.

Desiwal termed improved communication and effectiveness of security forces which halted the attacks of Taliban for the district control.

He claimed the insurgents would suffer heavy losses if they tried to attack the district.

"The Taliban ...(More on P4)...(16)

Windies to Host Afghanistan in Historic Series

KABUL - Afghanistan will tour West Indies for an eight-match limited overs series next June, marking the first time the International Cricket Association (ICC) associate nation will face the Caribbean side in a full series.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board announced yesterday that the Asian side would play the Windies in five One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and three Twenty20 Internationals starting mid-June, but revealed no specific dates.

For the Afghans, it will be only their third full series against a Full ICC Member, following similar tours against Zimbabwe last year. ACB chief executive, Shafiq Stanikazi, said the tour would be a crucial one for them.

"This is a major series with very attractive teams featuring some of the world's best players," he pointed out. "We look forward to some very entertaining cricket in T20s and ODIs. On behalf of Afghanistan Cricket Board, I am very thankful to West Indies ...(More on P4)...(17)

ANP Officers Forced to Live in Bamiyan's Caves

BAMYAN CITY - Dozens of families of Afghan National Police (ANP) officers eke out a living each month and due to poverty are forced to live in caves around the Buddha statues in central Bamiyan province.

These families deal with untold hardships on a daily basis and have their homes in the mountainside as the salaries paid to the local ANP officers is not enough to cover daily expenses, they told TOLOnews on Wednesday.

Khadija, 54, is a Bamiyan resident who lives with her three children in one such cave.

She said her first husband was killed by the Taliban a few years ago. She then remarried – to a man who is serving in the ANP. According to her, they have lived in the cave for almost ten years. "We do not even have a proper area to take a bath; we live here throughout the year and face a lot of problems," she said.

Another woman, Halima, also lives in ...(More on P4)...(18)

Daesh Bomb Making Expert Held in Nangarhar Raid

KABUL - National Directorate of Security (NDS) has claimed the arrest of a landmine making expert associated to Islamic State (IS) or Daesh in the Kama district of eastern Nangarhar province,

A statement from the spy-network on Wednesday said Azizullah was captured in Tapur locality during a search operation.

During the raid security forces recovered two landmine, 12 kilogram explosives, six packs of different brand of explosives, two mobile phones and 29 electronic mine capsules.

In addition, security officials found leaflets and notebooks through which the IS agenda was being propagated. (Pajhwok)

Foreign Forces Gun Down ANA Officer in Parwan

CHARIKAR - An off-duty Afghan National Army (ANA) officer was shot dead on Tuesday night by foreign troops in the Bagram district of central Parwan province, a public representative said on Wednesday.

Provincial council secretary Haji Shamsulhaq Shaikhani told Pajhwok Afghan News the ANA officer, Gul Gulan, was based in Kabul.

Gulan, 25, a resident of Baba village in Bagram district, on Tuesday night wanted to visit his orchard and to irrigate the land when foreign forces opened fire at him.

According to Shaikhani, Gulan was riding a motorbike on his way to the orchard when foreign troops signaled him to stop but he didn't, so they opened fire and killed him. On Wednesday morning, Gulan's relatives and local people carrying his coffin arrived in the provincial capital and placed his body ...(More on P4)...(19)

7 Taliban Eliminated in Helmand Clash, Explosion

LASHKARGHA - At least seven Taliban have been killed and two others wounded in separate incidents of violence in the Marja district of southern Helmand province, an official said on Wednesday. Four Taliban were killed and two others wounded when they attacked security forces check-posts Tuesday night in Marja district, said Lt.Col. Mohammad Rasoul Zazai, spokesman for Maiwand military corps. Among the wounded rebels were the Taliban notorious commander Naqibullah, he said. Three more Taliban were killed in their own mine explosion they were planting.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) also claimed 11 Taliban were killed and two others wounded in Helmand's Marja district. Taliban have not commented about the incidents. The Taliban earlier siege Marja district for four months and planted landmines on key locations, but security forces broke the siege of Marja and opened the main roads for traffic.(Pajhwok)

School Torched, 4 Rebels Killed in Logar Clash

PUL-I-ALAM - A school was torched and four Taliban militants were killed during a clash in Baraki Barak district of central Logar province on Wednesday, an official said.

Baraki Bark district chief Mohammad Rahim Amin told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash erupted when the rebels carried out coordinated attacks on several security checkpoints in Cheltan area of the district in the morning at around 5:00am. The clash ended around 12pm.

Four Taliban fighters were killed and another four insurgents and four Afghan soldiers were injured during the clash,

he said. Governor's spokesman, Salim Saleh, confirmed the clash and said both sides had suffered casualties. However, he did not provide exact figures. Logar education department spokesman Shapoor Arab said a school had also been torched in Cheltan area as a result of the clash.

"A rocket fired during the fight hit a secondary school in Cheltan and the resulting fire ...(More on P4)...(20)

7 Afghan Soldiers Martyred in the Past 24 Hours: MoD

KABUL - At least 7 soldiers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces were martyred during the counter-terrorism operations in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said.

According to a statement by MoD, the ANA soldiers lost their lives during the countrywide operations that led to the elimination of at least 53 militants

"The Afghan National Army (ANA) forces are prepared for all kinds of devotion and with all force to maintain security and comfort for the people of Afghanistan," a statement by MoD said, adding that 7 Afghan soldiers were martyred during counter-terrorism operations against the internal and foreign terrorists.

The statement by MoD further added that 23 of the militants were killed in Kunduz province, 13 others were killed in Helmand, and 6 others including 2 ISIS loyalists were killed in Nangarhar province. "At least 8 terrorists ...(More on P4)...(21)

Outlook Horoscope

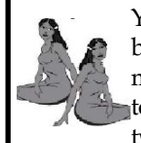
Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're passionate about helping your friends any way you can today. You might go out of your way to nurse someone who isn't feeling well or attempt to solve a problem for a colleague. However, you must be careful about asserting yourself so vehemently that your behavior seems aggressive without you realizing it.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

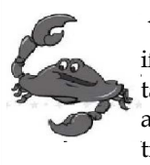
You could set yourself up for disappointment today by expecting your friends to come to your rescue. It may seem obvious, but your chances of receiving the support you seek are negligible unless you actually ask for help. However, you might make the mistake of assuming that others know you so well that you don't have to say a word; they should just intuitively sense what you need.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



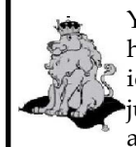
Your words have the power to heal today, but they also have the power to hurt as communicator Mercury forms a stressful aspect to vulnerable Chiron. The difference between a positive message and a negative one has less to do with the words you use than it does with your attitude. Although your thoughts are often restless, you can be as steady as a rock now when it comes to setting the agenda for the day.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Your listening skills are legendary; it's as if you can find meaning from the momentary silences between the words. The more attentive you are now, the more information you derive from what's not being said. Thankfully, your psychic powers are especially strong today as long as you know when to be quiet and simply observe the energy of others.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You might choose to make a big deal about how much you support someone's great idea. However, you're likely to be more judgmental now that the Moon and Venus are locked into an uncomfortable square. Rather than trying to undo a pattern in another person's life, observe your reactions without doing anything drastic yet.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're not completely upfront with your feelings today. You know that there is more going on behind your polite smile than you care to share with anyone. Paradoxically, the less you say, the more people understand you. Some thoughts don't fit into the regular flow of conversation and forcing the subject can do more harm than good. Pick your discussion topics carefully and save the others for a rainy day.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may feel a bit confused at work today, making it difficult to set goals and put a long-term plan into action. Even if you are clear about which direction you're heading now, you might wonder if you'll ever achieve success when it comes to your worldly ambitions. Fortunately, as you work on resolving your own issues of self-esteem, you can positively impact others with your willingness to grow and change.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Sometimes your creativity flows naturally, but you may experience a mental block when trying to express yourself today. One way to get the energy moving again is to shake up your routine. Approaching your work from an entirely different angle could be the catalyst you need in order to get back in a groove of productivity.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Childhood memories could seem so real today that they strangely influence the present moment. You may remember a time when you felt misunderstood or rejected by your family. Although you can't go back and change the past, you can use these recollections to fuel your relationship dynamics now. Instead of approaching an emotional confrontation with a sense of dread, access your compassion to help others resolve their personal pain.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

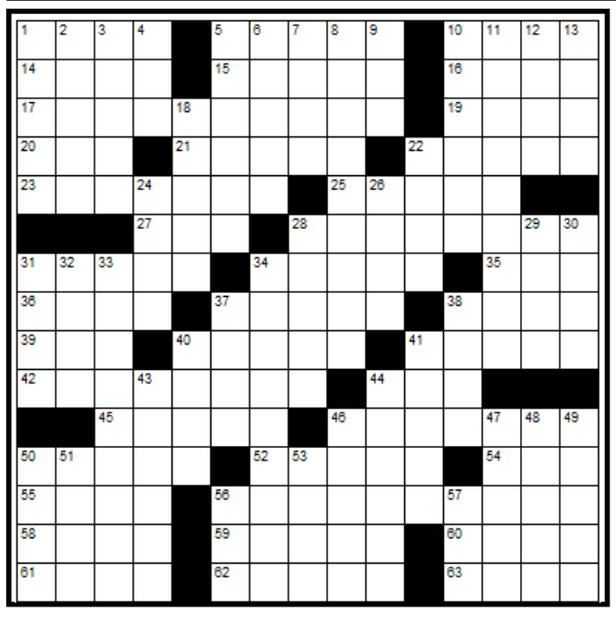
You might have suffered as a youngster because of communication struggles within your family. Even as an adult, you may still contend with issues around cultivating emotional connections with those you love. Although a current misunderstanding could stimulate a cascade of memories, you have a chance to elevate your self-esteem and let go of any old patterns that continue to hold you back.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Although you appear quite animated in your interactions with others today, your spirited style might actually be camouflaging a painful issue. Emotional wounds from your childhood may still do a number on your sense of self-worth. Paradoxically, acknowledging your insecurities is a strength rather than a weakness.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your drive to become a healer in your own right may be motivated by remembering experiences of rejection. Learning how to assimilate your personal history into your current circumstances is a continuing source of emotional growth. Taking a risk within a relationship now might seem like a daunting task, but you possess a strength of conviction that enables you to tell the story about your wound in a way that helps others.



Across

1. Rabbit, 5. Lava, 10. Dirty air, 14. Chills and fever, 15. Tapestry, 16. Melody, 17. A sport involving a ball and a net, 19. Killer whale, 20. Mineral rock, 21. Clothes washer in Asia 22. More peculiar, 23. A large warship,,25. Mooch ,27. A high alpine meadow ,28. Ham pered, 31. Compel, 34. Owl sounds,35. Large flightless bird ,36. Greeting at sea , 37. Anklebone, 38. Dry, 39. Do it yourself, 40. Anagram of "Sneer", 41. "Beau ___", 42. Lather, 44. Chief Executive Officer, 45. Optical maser, 46. Social deportment, 50. French for "Our",52. Quickly , 54. C,55. Diva's solo , 56. Gem of the month, 58. Marsh plant, 59. Winged, 60. Winglike, 61. An amount of medicine, 62. Heretofore (2 words), 63. Mousses.

Down

1. Mayhem, 2. Ancient Greek marketplace, 3. King, 4. Snake-like fish, 5. Tumult, 6. Leafy shelter, 7. Seize,8. Malevolent , 9. American Sign Language, 10. Heavy and filling food, 11. Killers, 12. A single time, 13. Equipment 18. Ancient Roman magistrate, 22. Probabilities, 24. Risqué, 26. Picnic insects, 28. Gaps, 29. Send forth, 30. Guy, 31. Crazes, 32. Buckeye State, 33. Copyright payments, 34. Bannisters, 37. Not false, 38. Many millennia, 40. Being, 41. Segments of DNA, 43. A ceremonial procession, 44. Seal of approval, 46. Not glossy, 47. French school, 48. Kidney-related, 49. Clairvoyants, 50. An aromatic ointment, 51. Chocolate cookie, 53. Beseech, 56. Bleat 57. Children's game.

Yesterday's Solution

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

activate, mount, back, bait, banana, bicker, bread, clump, come, crumb, drain, effect, entire, fickle, finicky, front, graze, grope, grumpy, hail, heart, leaf, mercy, murmur, noise, paper, portion, roast, seem, sentence, shake, silly, skill, spear, spies, taken.

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