

# Drone Targets Burial Ceremony for Taliban Leader, 34 Killed

KHOST CITY - A drone targeted the burial ceremony for a slain Taliban commander on Friday afternoon in southeastern Khost, killing 34 militants, officials said. The incident took place at around 1:30pm in Bati Thanai area of the Alisher district, the deputy governor said. Abdul Wahid Patan said the Taliban commander had been killed a day earlier in artillery fire by security forces. Militants arrived in four pick up vehicles in the area where they had dug up a grave



for their slain commander. After offering his funeral prayers, the militants were burying the dead commander when a drone

hit them, the official said. Patan said there were no civilians among the dead as there were no civilian homes in the area where

the drone strike took place. The dead bodies of the militants were still lying in the area and their vehicles had torched. The slain commander was said to be affiliated with the group of a Taliban commander Momin Kuchi, but his name could not be ascertained. A security official in the area, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said he collected the remains of 32 militants with his own hands. He said security officials were busy collecting the dead bodies. (Pajhwok)

## PIN Suspends Operation in Afghanistan after Nine Workers Killed

KABUL - The Czech Republic's humanitarian organization People in Need (PIN) which was working with farmers has temporarily suspended its operation in Afghanistan after nine of its workers were killed in a midnight attack in northern Balkh province. People In Need announced that the organization has closed its activities in every region of Afghanistan and the step is taken due to security

reasons. PIN says that this was the worst tragedy in the organization's history. It has conveyed condolences to the loved ones of the fallen workers. "We hereby express our deepest condolences to the families of our colleagues, respect to their work, and we condemn this attack, unprecedented in its brutality," a message on PIN's website stated. PIN has also said that the

incident is unforgivable and its perpetrators must be dragged to justice. Unknown gunmen attacked a compound where workers of PIN were staying in northern Balkh province leaving seven staff members including a woman and two guards killed late on Monday night. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) in Afghanistan called the shocking incident a "War Crime". ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## 7 Wedding Guests Killed in Ghazni Roadside Blast

GHAZNI - Seven people were killed and several others were wounded on Friday when a roadside bomb ripped through a vehicle taking back guests from a wedding party in southern Ghazni province. The vehicle was full of guests returning from a wedding

when the blast took place at about 1pm near Noorzai area of the Andar district, the governor's spokesman said. Shafiqe Nang Safi told Pajhwok Afghan News another six people, including women and children, were injured in the blast. The wounded had been shifted to hospital, he

said, but had no information about their condition. Ismatullah Jamrudwal, a provincial council member, said all the dead and wounded were civilians, blaming the Taliban for the tragedy. The rebel group, however, has not commented on the incident so far. (Pajhwok)

## Drone Strikes Kill 17 Rebels in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - At least 17 Taliban fighters including a commander were killed in 2 drone strikes in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Friday. Col Hazrat Hussain Mashrafiwal, police chief, told Pajhwok News drone targeted Taliban militants travelling in two vehicles in haska-e-Meena and Chaparhar districts at 6:30



pm on Thursday. Moulvi Aziz a Taliban commander was also among the 17 killed. Meanwhile, Taliban

militants stormed a security check post on Thursday night, facing strong retaliation from security forces. Mashrafiwal said security forces detained a Taliban militant and their four vehicles. Separately, Police apprehended three persons accused of murder with a weapon in Dara Noor district. (Pajhwok)

## Militants Gun Down Religious Scholar in Farah

FARAH CITY - Taliban militants shot dead a religious scholar in an area near the provincial capital of western Farah province, an official said on Thursday. The victim, Mohammad Hassan, was visiting the family of a deceased person to offer condolences in Shekhan Karrez area 20 kilometres from Farah City, where he was captured by Taliban militants, the provincial police spokesman told Pajhwok Afghan News. Iqbal Bahar said the militants shot dead Mullah Mohammad Hassan on the accusation that he had informed the government forces about their attack on a World Food Programme convoy in Juwin district. The police spokesman said six Taliban militants were killed after they attacked the WFP vehicles. The Taliban have not commented about the incidents so far. (Pajhwok)

## 3 Killed in Lashkargah Car Suicide Bombing

LASHKARGAH - A policeman and 2 civilians were killed on Thursday when a suicide bomber ploughed his explosives-laden vehicle into a police check-post in the capital of southern Helmand province. Several people got injured in the car bombing that took place in the Do Lari area of Lashkargah at around 3:30pm, the provincial police spokesman said. Col. Farid Ahmad Obaid said he had no exact figures for casualties. But police chief Brig. Gen. Nabi Jan Mullakhel told Pajhwok Afghan News one policeman and two civilians were killed and one policeman and three civilians were wounded in the attack. An eyewitness confirmed Mullakhel's account. An official at the Emergency-run hospital said they had been delivered one dead body and five injured people at the hospital. (Pajhwok)

## Minor Girl Among 3 Killed in Sar-i-Pul Attack

SAR-I-PUL - Suspected Taliban killed three persons, including a minor girl, and injured her mother during an attack near the provincial capital of northern Sar-i-Pul province on Thursday, an official said. The incident took place on the Sar-i-Pul -Sozma road in the afternoon, said Col



Norullah Noorkhail, the public order police commander, who is in-charge of security on the road....*(More on P4)...(23)*

## Petrol, Gold Rates Down, Sugar up

KABUL - The prices of some daily-use commodities, petrol and gold edged down but that of sugar has jumped up during the outgoing week in Kabul, market sources said on Thursday. Fazal Rahman, the Food Traders' Union head, said a 50-kilo-gram sack sugar accounted for 1,620 afghanis, compared with 1,600 afghanis last week. He linked the hike in sugar price to its less imports and its rates in international markets. But he said that some other food items rates dipped down compare to the last week. He said that the price of 50 kg Pakistani flour declined from 1,250afis to 1,230afis, 16 liters of Momin ghee from 970afis to 950afis. He said 24 kg of rice was accounted for 1,550afis, a kg of Indonesian green tea was priced at 180afis and the same quantity of African black tea at 210afis, a 40-kg--same rates as last week's rates. But a retailer in the Dahani-Bagh area of Kabul, Khan Ali, sold a 50-kg bag of flour for 1,300afis, a 50-kg sack of sugar for 1,720afis and a 24-kg bag of rice for 1,800afis. He sold a 16-kg tin of Momin ghee for 1,030afis, a kilo of African black tea for 260afis and the same quantity of Indonesian green tea for 230afis -- higher than whole-

sale prices. The prices of fuel also remained steady but the rate of gas rose. A filling station worker in Wazirabad locality, Abdul Saboor, said a litre of diesel and petrol each cost 58afis, the same rate as last week's. Mohammad Sharif, a liquefied gas seller in Kolola Pushta neighbourhood, said the rate of one kg of gas jumped from 48afis to 50afis. The rate of petrol has also dipped down. Abdul Hadi the owner of Wazirabad fuel station accounted one liter of diesel for 42afis and the same quantity of petrol for 44afis compare to its last week's price of 45afis. A liquefied gas seller Mohammad Sharif in the Tamani area sold one kg of gas for 30afis, the same rate of last week's. Abdul Baseer, a jeweller in Lycée Maryam area, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold fell from 2,100 to 2,050afis and the price of same quantity of the Russian variety from 1,700 to 1,650afis. Moneychanger Ahmad Shah said the buying rate of one US dollar was 57.30afis, while 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 550afis. Last week's exchange value of the dollar stood at 57.20afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 574afis. (Pajhwok)

## 2 Suicide Bombers Shot by Police

KANDHAR CITY - At least 2 suicide bombers were shot by police after they launched an attack on a police check post in southern Kandahar province. According to local govt officials, the incident took place late on Thursday night in the 15th police district of Kandahar. Provincial governor spokesman Samim Khpolwak said one of the suicide bombers was shot dead while the second one was injured during the gun battle with the police forces. He said the injured suicide bomber managed to flee the area and police forces have launched an investigation regarding the incident. The Taliban militants group claimed responsibility behind the attack. Kandahar is among the relatively volatile provinces in southern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militants are actively operating in its various districts and often carry out insurgency activities. (KP)

## Five Taliban Insurgents Killed in Parwan Operation

CHARIKAR - At least five Taliban insurgents have been killed in a military operation in northern Parwan province in an ongoing operation over the past three days, local officials said on Friday. The operation was launched in Ghorband district of the province to clear insurgents and five Taliban insurgents have been killed so far, General Sakhidat Keftan, a commander of the 201st Selab Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA) said. "Several villages have been cleared in the past three days and the operation still continues to clear other parts of the district and provide security for the Kabul-Bamiyan highway too," he said. There were no casualties among civilians or military during the operation, he added. Ghorband district is considered insecure due to high levels of insurgent activities - including attacks on security forces' checkpoints. (Tolonews)

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You wish you were free to say whatever you want, but you realize that your chances of finding happiness are greater if you keep things to yourself. You want to be accepted for who you are. Thankfully, you understand that reaching your goals is more important than how you get there and you're willing to moderate your aggressive approach to appease others.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You're a formidable opponent, even if you prefer to steer clear of conflict. Your unwavering patience can wear someone down who stands in your way. You gain strength from your ability to avoid arguments, even if there are obvious differences of opinion. Gentle persuasion brings the results you seek without having to raise your voice or push anyone's emotional buttons.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You are reluctant to share your feelings, but your quiet acceptance of a close friend helps to create a more harmonious atmosphere. It's apparent there's nothing to be gained now by effusive rants. Enjoy the peaceful energy while it lasts, but remember that it might just be a temporary eye of a hurricane. Don't worry about justifying your goals to anyone; you are well equipped to tell your story as long as you're not in a rush to prove your point.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Someone might be secretly pulling the strings from behind the scenes to manipulate the current course of events. However, you aren't willing to give up your power now until you try to bend reality in your direction. Interacting with others is challenging if you believe you don't know the whole truth. But rather than wasting time attempting to uncover anyone's hidden agenda.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You have a clear sense of what's possible and what's not and your generosity of spirit plays a significant role in achieving your goals. Your charm is readily apparent while Venus is sparkling in your 1st House of Personality. You can successfully push the edges of the current stability by taking a calculated risk. Thankfully, decisions about money or love will likely turn out for the best.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You possess a sharp clarity of mind today that breaks through the fog, allowing you to feel confident about an important choice you must make. You can see your life unfolding and you know what to do to create the future as you envision it. However, it is a mistake to think your current decision is the final one because logical Mercury is still retrograde in your 10th House of Status.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Managing your relationships may require kid gloves today as you attempt to balance your need to express yourself with your desire to sidestep conflict. You want to be amongst friends now, but not at the cost of losing some facet of your self-identity. Thankfully, you are a force to be reckoned with now as authoritative Saturn harmonizes with resourceful Venus.

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



It's apparent to you that a special relationship is more complicated than it seems to everyone else. You know what you need, but you may be hesitant to agitate things in a way that could disturb the status quo. Fortunately, you are blessed with trustworthy friends who may not tell you what you want to hear, but their honest opinions are sound, nonetheless.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Your friends and relatives may grow weary of your avoidance tactics today because it's clear you don't want to be pinned down. Although you prefer to keep your options open, people are pressuring you to tell them your opinion without talking in vague generalities. Don't let your current resistance to making a commitment turn your closest allies into unexpected enemies.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Your desire to find pleasure today may not be obvious to everyone else. However, your ruling planet Saturn is basking in the warmth of delicious Venus, encouraging you to share the sweetness of life with those you love. However, don't ignore your current responsibilities. Although Venus motivates you to follow your heart now, you still have a difficult time letting go of your obligations.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You may be quite serious about relationships today as responsible Saturn trines romantic Venus in your 7th House of Others. Nevertheless, you still want to be seen as someone who knows how to have a good time. Your current emotional fulfillment depends on finding a middle path. Your best strategy is to inspire your friends to join in your creative pursuits.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You know more than you are saying today, but no one can get you to spill the beans while the Moon is hiding out in your 12th House of Secrets. Perhaps someone told you something in confidence, or maybe you haven't yet put your developing ideas into words. Either way, your friends appreciate your trustworthiness because they understand that you will divulge what is necessary when the time is right.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66.

Across: 1. Voting districts, 6. Analogous, 10. Anagram of "Tine", 14. Of a pelvic bone, 15. Alley, 16. Midmonth date, 17. A type of biologist, 19. Encircle, 20. Greek god of darkness, 21. Female sib, 22. A flexible pipe, 23. Hemorrhage, 25. Express audibly, 26. Feathery scarves, 30. Putting surfaces, 32. Lively tempo, 35. Untanned hide, 39. Mountain range, 40. Charred, 41. Terminal stage care, 43. Bedclothes, 44. Inuit, 46. Being, 47. Tilt, 50. Elder, 53. Canvas dwelling, 54. A gesture of assent, 55. A musical composition, 60. A sharply directional antenna, 61. Powered by electricity, 63. Not odd, 64. Thorny flower, 65. Cadge, 66. Arid, 67. Savvy about, 68. Serpentine. Down: 1. Fermented grape juice, 2. Winglike, 3. Liturgy, 4. Apply, 5. Scour, 6. Total, 7. Emperor, 8. Business executive, 9. Catches, 10. African holly, 11. Fool, 12. Brusque, 13. Fruity-smelling compound, 18. American Sign Language, 24. Conceit, 25. Not married, 26. Hit hard, 27. Hodgepodge, 28. Beers, 29. Snakelike, 31. Leisure, 33. Grain to be ground, 34. Torture device, 36. Colored part of an eye, 37. Lairs, 38. Border, 42. An apparition, 43. Lad, 45. Humble, 47. Infections of the eye, 48. Depart, 49. Ire, 51. Eastern Standard Time, 52. Standards, 54. Roman emperor, 56. Midday, 57. Dwarf buffalo, 58. Clock sound, 59. Sore, 62. Chief Executive Officer.

Yesterday's Solution: A crossword puzzle grid with the solution filled in.

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