

Dreaded Commanders among 28 Rebels Killed in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - Twenty-eight Taliban, including five notorious commanders, has been killed and 16 others wounded in an airstrike in southern Helmand province, an official said on Tuesday. Capt. Shakil Ahmad Tasal, deputy spokesman for the 203rd Maiwand Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News the dead Taliban commanders were Mullah Raqeeb, Qari Omer, Firdosi, Jahadullah,



and Bashir Agha. The air raid took place in the Bajaji locality of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, late on Tuesday. Tasal said the Taliban had gathered in the area to plan attacks on security forces, but they

were eliminated in the raid. Meanwhile, the governor's office said it was unaware of the air raids killing the Taliban. But Defence Ministry officials confirmed the strikes on in Helmand. The Taliban, without commenting on the Lashkargah airstrike, claimed in a statement on the group's website that several policemen had been killed and wounded in Kajaki district. Separately, ... (More on P4)... (18)

'I Had No Courage to Bury my Sons with own Hands'



HERAT CITY - A 70-year-old man, who lost his two sons to an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in western Herat province, says life has since been a burden and no one has assisted him during his life's difficult days. Rebel forces in Afghanistan started using the IEDs against former USSR forces who

invaded the country in December, 1979. And some three decades later, the devices became a weapon of choice for the Taliban insurgents against US and NATO forces who ousted the Taliban regime in 2001. During these decades of war, the roadside bombs proved one of the leading ... (More on P4)... (19)

Key Haqqani Network Terrorist Arrested in Logar Province

LOGAR - A key Haqqani Network terrorist has been arrested during an operation by the Afghan intelligence operatives in central Logar province of Afghanistan. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) said Sardar was an active member of the Haqqani terrorist network who was a skilled producer of Improvised Explosive Device (IED). NDS further added that Sardar was acting directly on instructions of Mawlawi Salim, a Haqqani terrorist network commander, to plant IEDs and coordinate terrorist attacks. Sardar was arrested during an operation in Mohammad Agha district and



the Afghan intelligence operatives confiscated 80 kg of explosives, two rifles with 4 magazines and 400 rounds of ammunition, NDS added. The anti-government armed ... (More on P4)... (20)

3 Members of a Family Gunned Down in Faryab

MAIMANA - Three member of a family have been killed by a Taliban-linked relative in the Khwaja Sabzposh district of north western Faryab province, an official said on Tuesday. District chief, Abdullah Masoomi, told Pajhwok Afghan News the overnight shooting took place in the Kosa Qala locality of the town at 11:00pm. Eng. Abdul Haq, a former foreign NGO worker, his wife and their 5-year son were gunned down by Habibullah, brother of his spouse and member of the Taliban movement. Masoomi linked the incident to family tensions. Abdul Haq had divorced his first wife some years back. Habibullah, his brother-in-law, had since been angry with Haq. Three other children of Abdul Haq -- aged between one to four years -- were shell-shocked by the killing of their parents, the official said. Habibullah, who joined the Taliban five months back, is heading a rebel group. A local resident said Haq worked as a technical assistant for a foreign organization, but for the past one month he worked in a shop and manufactured and repaired electronic transformers. (Pajhwok)

German Accused of Having Taliban Ties Goes on Trial

BERLIN - A 27-year-old man went on trial in Berlin on Monday accused of membership of the German Taliban Mujahideen (DTM) organization, Reuters reported. Sinan A. is believed to have travelled to the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan in September 2009, where he is suspected to have joined the organisation and fought against NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers. According to judge and Tiergarten District Court's spokeswoman Lisa Jani,



although the defendant's suspected actions happened outside of Germany, German law states that he can still be prosecuted for them at home, reported Reuters. "The defendant is accused of having been a member of a terrorist organisation, the 'German Taliban Mujahideen.' According to the ... (More on P4)... (21)

Local Customs a Barrier for Girls to Higher Education

KANDAHAR - "The main obstacle on our way to get higher education is the indecent traditions against women and illogical culture of families that opposing education for girls," 16-year-old girl student Khatira said. Studying in grade nine in Zarghona Ana Girl School in the southern Kandahar city, 450 km south of Kabul, Khatira lamented that many families don't like their daughters to get higher education. According to Khatira, many families regard getting higher education by girls in the southern region of Afghanistan as "stigma" and many parents tie the knot for their girls when they are in grade nine or



block them from farther schooling. "Although my family has no opposition to my study, I am afraid that living in the traditional environment can influence my parents one day to stop me from going to school," Khatira said. The residents of Kandahar and the neighboring Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces in south Afghanistan, where Taliban militants are active, deeply believe in tribal traditions and mostly prefer women to stay at home. ... (More on P4)... (22)

Married Woman Shot Dead for Eloping with a Man in Ghor Province

GHOR - A married woman was reportedly shot dead by relatives as she was attempting to elope with a man in western Ghor province of Afghanistan. A local official said the woman has been identified as Aziz Gul and was shot dead by relatives late on Monday night in Ahangaran area. The official further added that the woman was arrested as she was trying to elope and was shot dead by the relatives of her husband. No one has been arrested in connection to the murder of the women so far, the official added. This comes as a number of cases involving brutal murder of the women have

been reported in various provinces during the recent months. A teenage girl was burnt alive by her brother's wife in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan earlier last month, while three sisters were shot dead, allegedly by the militants in Logar province earlier this week. ... (More on P4)... (23)

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Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Revealing a deep dark secret from your past to someone you love seems like a wonderful idea today until you open your mouth to speak. Your intention is to create a deeper level of trust, but your words might have the opposite effect now. Although you are not responsible for anyone else's reaction to your disclosure, some things may be better left unsaid.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You may feel as if you're bumping up against a wall when someone opposes your plans today. What bothers you most is that the objections seem more emotional than logical, and you don't know how to respond. Stop and take a few breaths before going any further. Paradoxically, your best offense might be a temporary retreat, giving the other person time to reconsider their position.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



A recent setback might have slowed you down, but now you have a possible solution in mind. You're eager to change direction on your project today, only to lose steam later in the day and wonder if you're even on the right track. Don't let self-doubt prevent you from testing your strategy in the real world even if someone's lingering negativity is still problematic.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



ou long to pack your bags and head home, but your persistence at work could pay off sooner than you expect. The power of your convictions is not in question; however, you prefer to defy authority through passive aggression rather than open conflict. Thankfully, life is not an either/or proposition. You may not have to do battle at all if you firmly hold your goal in sight without faltering.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Although you might not know how your plans will come together today, you sense that miraculously somehow they will. Your firm belief in your own ability to save the day is your greatest strength now, yet it can be wasted unless you do something about it. Unfortunately, there may be additional people involved in your dreams, but you can't rely on them at this time.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



People are thrilled to work with you today because you appear to be so flexible in your approach to getting things accomplished. However, they may be in for a surprise when they realize how set in your ways you actually are now. Adapting to someone else's style makes sense sometimes, but obstinately sticking to your plan is currently essential to reach your goals. Don't compromise for the sake of political expediency. Determination trumps destiny now.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Interactions with others test your core beliefs today as you attempt to find common ground and establish mutual long-term goals. Unfortunately, you may be persuaded to give in too quickly so you can maintain peace and harmony. However, you might not be able to control your anger later if you don't speak up for your values now. Succinctly state your non-negotiable standards and go from there.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You are standing in your power today which could make others quite uncomfortable. Most people do not want to experience your emotional intensity, especially if it interferes with their progress at work. Nevertheless, it's not in your best interest to hide your feelings so someone else can avoid a sensitive issue. Naturally, it pays to be kind in your delivery, but honesty is still the best policy.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Your coworkers might be so sweet to you today that you don't trust anything they say. However, they may be speaking the truth, even if you are clinging to failures that belong in the past. Although a certain amount of skepticism is healthy, it doesn't have to be the main focus of your current strategy. If someone with a joyful attitude waltzes into your life, dance with him or her until the music stops.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



It's easy to be annoyed with someone whose scattered approach at work distracts you from your regular routine. You like to jump in and help if people need it, but not when they are wasting time while expecting you to bail them out. The political dynamics on the job are quite delicate now and need to be sorted with care.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



It doesn't matter how charming you seem to everyone else today, you might be unsure of your own self-worth. You could accomplish great things yet still feel empty if you suffer from low self-esteem. Rather than expecting others to provide you with the missing ingredient in your life, search for it within your own heart.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You may be quite chatty today even if you have little of substance to say. Fortunately, you don't want to engage just anyone; you need to feel emotionally safe while interacting with another person, whether or not you're discussing something important. But filling the silence with your endless rambling is not fulfilling for anyone, including you. Don't wait until you tire of your own voice.

Across

- 1. Pup, 6. Back, 10. Male undergrad social club, 14. Celebrate, 15. Carve in stone, 16. Emanation, 17. Turf, 18. Pear-shaped instrument, 19. Expectation, 20. Sis-sy, 22. T T T T, 23. Carton, 24. Bay window, 26. Walk quietly, 30. Pierced, 32. Nonsense, 33. Medications, 37. "Smallest" particle, 38. Terror, 39. Owl, 40. Waterproofed canvas, 42. A swindle, 43. Ancient Roman magistrate, 44. Directed, 45. Nobles, 47. Type of snake, 48. Mother, 49. Exotic dancer, 56. Ends a prayer, 57. Absent Without Leave, 58. Craze, 59. Brass component, 60. Cozy corner, 61. Declares, 62. Leisure, 63. Sounds of disapproval, 64. Chatty.

Down

- 1. Envelop, 2. Sister and wife of Zeus, 3. Not odd, 4. Gave temporarily, 5. Hedonist, 6. Unwind, 7. Decorative case, 8. Does something, 9. Empty talk, 10. Fussy, 11. Indian mon, tary unit 12. Disney mermaid, 13. Makes lace, 21. Suffering, 25. Record (abbrev.), 26. Not this, 27. Greek letter, 28. Impoverished, 29. Sobriety, 30. Wish granter, 31. Norse god, 33. Shopping center, 34. Religious sisters, 35. Behold, in old Rome, 36. Not bare-foot, 38. Powerful, 41. Contribute, 42. Gondolier, 44. Hit on the head, 45. Female demon, 46. Portents, 47. Defrauds, 48. Labyrinth, 50. 2 2 2 2, 51. A chess piece, 52. Overhang, 53. Again, 54. Knights, 55. Not difficult.

Yesterday's Solution



amusement, around, beatnik, color, comfort, contain, could, dash, dream, dull, floe, flute, found, gush, inside, meat, mete, nature, pompous, pore prevaricates, proper, recent, reek, regain, return, scheme, search, seen, settle, shale, signal, slate, slattern, smear, soup, special, sped, style

