

Afghan War Will End only When NATO Leaves: Taliban Leader

KABUL - The leader of the Afghan Taliban said on Friday that a planned U.S. troop surge will not end the protracted war in the country and vowed to fight on until a full withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan. The remarks by Maulvi Haibatullah Akhunzadah came in a message ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan - something the Taliban do every year to rally followers. It also followed a horrific suicide car bombing claimed by the Taliban in Afghanistan's Helmand province that targeted Afghan troops and government workers waiting to collect their pay ahead of the holiday. By Friday, the death toll ... (More on P4)...(16)



Taliban Loses one of its most Senior Leaders in Takhar Province

TALIQUAN - The Taliban militants group has lost one of its most senior leaders during a military operation in northeastern Takhar province, the 209th Shaheen Corps of the Afghan National Army said Thursday. According to a statement by the Shaheen Corps, the deputy military commission chief of the group Mawlawi Shukoor was killed during the operations of the Afghan security forces being conducted under the name of Pamiir-8. The statement further added that Mawlawi Shukoor was ... (More on P4)...(17)

Taliban Release New Video of Kidnapped Professors

KABUL - The Taliban have released a new video of the two professors of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) they kidnapped in the Kabul last year. In a video clip obtained by Pajhwok Afghan News on Wednesday, the professors asked US President Donald Trump to negotiate their release from Taliban custody. Kevin King, a 60-year-old American, and Timothy John Weeks, a 48-year-

old Australian, were kidnapped by Taliban in August 2016. The professors said their captors had sought the release of their associates from Bagram and Pul-i-Charkhi jails in return for freeing them. One of the captives, Kevin King said: "Taliban are treating us well; they see us as guests, but the demand of any captives is freedom." He said the message was ... (More on P4)...(18)

Taliban's Shadow District Governor Killed by Own Guard in Jawzjan

KABUL - The shadow district governor of the Taliban group was shot dead by one his own guards in northern Jawzjan province of Afghanistan. According to the local government officials, the incident took place on Thursday in the relatively volatile district of Darzab. Provincial security chief Abdul Hafiz Khashi confirmed the incident and said at least five other militants were also killed in the attack. He said the attacker has apparently joined the ISIS ranks in Jawzjan province after killing the shadow district chief of the Taliban. The Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far. The security situation in Jawzjan province has started to deteriorate during the recent years with the rampant insurgency led both the Taliban and ISIS militants. The latest attack on Taliban district chief by his guard having links with the ISIS group reflects the ongoing rivalry among the militants which has so far claimed the lives of scores of insurgents while dozens more have been wounded. (KP)

Former HIA Commander Gunned Down in Logar Mosque Attack

PUL-I-ALAM - Unidentified gunmen gunned down former Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) commander and another civilian in a mosque in central Logar province, an official said on Thursday. The incident took place at around 10:00pm late on Wednesday night in Mohammad Agha district. District Administrative Chief, Naseer Afghan Ameen, told Pajhwok Afghan News two motorcyclists who covered faces with mask opened fires at



people in the mosque during the Taraveh prayer in Sarkhabad area. He said two people were killed and two others wounded. Sher Agha Kochai former HIA commander was among the dead. An investigation had been launched by police, he added. An eyewitness, Ahmadullah, said they were offering the Taraveh prayer when all of the sudden firing started. (Pajhwok)

Police Had no Arms while Clearing Protest Camps: MoI

KABUL - Police had no weapons while removing protest tents in the capital Kabul, where at least one protestor killed, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Thursday. A number of people erected several protest tents in the capital following a deadly attack on May 31 and the killing of a number of protestors in clashes with police on June 2. Eight of the tents were removed by protestors themselves a few days ago. One camp in the upscale neighborhood of Sherpur was forcibly cleared by police on Wednesday night. The demonstrators claimed two of their members were killed and four others wounded in Afghan forces; firing on Wednesday night. However, MoI spokesman Najib Dansih told reporters one protestor was killed 500 meters from the tent while police present in the area did not carry weapons. He said police carried sticks and shields while removing the protest tents. A joint delegation of MoI, NDS and the attorney general office has been tasked with investigating the killing. (Pajhwok)

'Impartial Body be Appointed to Probe Kabul Incidents'



KABUL - Civil society activists, expressing concern over increasing insecurity in the country, on Friday asked the government to appoint a commission for investigation into recent terrorist attacks in Kabul. About three weeks ago on May 31, a massive truck

bomb attack killed and wounded hundreds of people in Kabul, sparking an angry protest a day later. Three back to back suicide bombings ripped through the funeral for a lawmaker's son who was killed during the protest, killing seven people ... (More on P4)...(19)

All Options on Table for Jailed Terrorists, Says Afghan Government

KABUL - The Afghan government officials are saying that all options are on table for the jailed terrorists as the Taliban group has stepped up efforts for the release of the group's members serving in the jails. A presidential spokesman Shah Hussian Murtazawi told reporters in Kabul today that all options are on the table, insisting that the government will not compromise with the jailed terror-



ists. This comes as the Taliban group released a video of the kidnapped American University lecturers on Wednesday, demanding the release of its prisoners from Pul-e-Charkhi prison in Kabul and Bagram jail in return for the release of the two lecturers. The group had earlier warned ... (More on P4)...(20)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your heart is running the show today, taking you on a journey to an unfamiliar destination. Although you're a willing accomplice, you're not happy about giving up control of your agenda. In the final analysis, this sacrifice seems trivial, especially if you can establish a meaningful connection with someone special.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Aligning your intentions with a higher purpose sets the stage for emotional fulfillment. Spending time with someone you love isn't enough to bring satisfaction when your head and your heart are in conflict. Nevertheless, you crave harmony in your relationships. If your current situation falls short of your desires, don't let self-doubt limit the possibilities of what's to come.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might be worried about what you will uncover when you start asking questions today. Although you may consider remaining quiet for the sake of peace, there's too much at stake. Ultimately, you need to know the truth, even if sinking into your feelings brings up uncomfortable memories. There's no quick route in or out; this emotional journey will take time.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

A close friend or lover may initiate an unpleasant conversation today. Fortunately, you can manage the intensity of another person's fears now, because you recently fought a battle with your own demons and won. Although you don't have solutions to someone else's dilemma, you are fully capable of holding space for their process without overreacting.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You are stepping into transformational territory as you sort through your assorted emotions and try to learn the lessons being offered now. Your persistence uncovers new truths that alter your view of life and what you hope to achieve. The path you chose is not an easy one, but exploring behind the facade of surface appearances can change your perspective in ways you can't yet imagine. Difficult roads often

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You don't need any batteries today because your feelings are an endless source of power. Although you may experience a troublesome situation in love, you're able to maintain a healthy perspective and take everything in stride. But there's no room for denial now, so use your sharp logic to see beyond the camouflage and cut through the distractions. Oprah Winfrey said, "The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future."

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You're drawn into a complicated melodrama that raises a familiar issue. It's difficult to maintain emotional distance when feelings intensify today. You can become consumed by a friend's crisis because you're willing to offer a sympathetic ear and a strong shoulder. The current circumstances might remind you of another power struggle when you were not in control.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your power comes from your wizardly ability to undergo a surprising metamorphosis without missing a step today. You are the legendary phoenix that arises from the ashes as mysterious Pluto harmonizes with vulnerable Venus. Others might be afraid of such dynamic change, but you instinctively know that it's futile to resist these evo-

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your values may be brought into question today by someone who claims to have all the answers. But digging into the situation might reveal two very different views of reality. Although explaining your beliefs could be helpful, you must be careful to distinguish them from the hard facts. Adopting an objective approach enables you to avoid a needless argument and move on to something more constructive.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

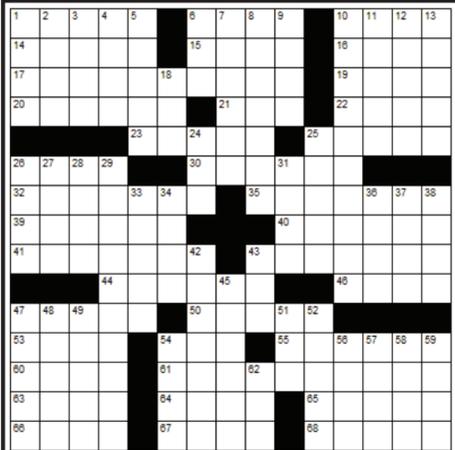
You are the champion of gentle persuasion today, but your sweet and sensitive nature doesn't mean you're a total pushover. No one can coerce you into relinquishing authority now, especially if you are operating from your heart. What others might perceive as stubbornness, you experience as conviction. But defending your position is a waste of time when you could be leading by example, instead.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A secret has a life of its own today, and may even be more important than what you share. Naturally, you're not required to tell everyone all your private thoughts; there are some things that are better left unspoken. Whatever you choose to say now, do it with consciousness. Deliberate communication is the cornerstone to a successful relationship as long as your intentions are aligned with your heart.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your perceptions are eerily accurate today and your feelings are powerfully intense. You want to share your perspective with your friends, but might not know how to approach a subject that others want to avoid. Unfortunately, the longer you wait, the more resentful you may become and your dissatisfaction could drown out your intended message. Open the conversational door gently now.



Across

- 1. Entry permits, 6. Rascalions, 10. Nobleman, 14. Without company, 15. Boyfriend, 16. 17 in Roman numerals, 17. A board with wheels, 19. Afflicts, 20. Inuit, 21. Petrol, 22. Phone, 23. Secret agents, 25. Feel, 26. Something that bulges out, 30. Braggart, 32. Set apart, 35. A fast Brazilian dance, 39. Erase, 40. A rational motive, 41. Demesnes, 43. Tooth doctor, 44. Comparison, 42. Alleviate, 47. A pinnacle of ice, 50. Cunningly, 53. Beasts of burden, 54. Estimated time of arrival, 55. Boat, 60. Fluff, 61. A young unmarried woman (archaic), 63. Winglike, 64. Alumnus, 65. Delete, 66. Depend, 67. Anagram of "Sees", 68. Waste conduit,

Down

- 1. Flower holder, 2. Varieties, 3. Saturate, 4. Against, 5. Appears, 6. Nigerian tribesman, 7. Scanty, 8. Sunshade, 9. Lather, 10. Make worse, 11. Birdlike, 12. Streamlets, 13. Fine thread, 18. Hit on the head, 24. Frozen water, 25. Seminal fluid, 26. Conceal, 27. Applications, 28. Exuviate, 29. An amusing remark, 31. Merchandise, 33. Loft, 34. Swarm, 36. Largest continent, 37. Sleep in a convenient place, 38. Initial wagger, 42. Female siblings, 43. Former North African ruler, 45. Andean animals, 47. Pertaining to the Sun, 48. Banish, 49. Kidney-related, 51. 56 in Roman numerals, 52. Affirmatives, 54. Border, 56. Arid, 57. Shredded cabbage, 58. If not, 59. Lascivious look, 62. Lyric poem,

Yesterday's Solution



balance, burden, catch, celebration, challenge, chuckle, completion, curves, dance, doles, doubt, elate, elite, erupt, extra, gear, humor, irony, meeting, nine, nodes, orate, pale, peon, person, plunge, receive, return

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