

Balkh Children to Taliban: Don't Fire at Us

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Children in northern Balkh province on Sunday urged militants not fire bullets at them and the country leaders to provide them better education facilities.

A large number of schoolchildren were gathered in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital by Nihad-i-Mardomi or People's Institution to encourage them and bring a smile on their faces. The gathering was also managed and led by children.

The children delivered speeches, sang songs and appealed to the government to provide



education facilities and environment to them.

Nadim, a private school student, in her speech urged mili-

tants not to fire bullet at them.

"We are children, spray on with flowers not bullets, do you think about our future

when you destroy our school." Songs, bubble flying and other funny games were presented by children on the occasion.

Marjana, a six years-old girl at the event, said she was very happy today. "I want peace in my Afghanistan, I want to go to school and complete my learning," she said.

Najib Paikan, Nihad-i-Mardomi Institute head, said they organized the event for happiness of children.

He said the aim of the gathering to make it clear on all the warring sides that the Afghan children supported and wanted peace. The children should be allowed to live a peaceful and lovely life, he added.

Many girls painted walls of the... (More on P4)... (13)

Garment Factories Face Recession

KABUL - A big number of garment factories in Kabul industrial parks are facing a recession because their services are being given to foreign producers.

The Industrial Union says currently only \$15 million USD has been invested in Kabul's garment factories. Garment factories were one the high-income sectors in Afghanistan in past when they received military cloth and tailoring contracts, but now they do not have access to these contracts and are faced with hardship. According to officials of industrial union most garment services are being given to contractors



is foreign countries. "Contracts are mostly given to Chinese and Pakistani factories, while our country has enough capacity to produce those materials," said Abdul Rahman Faizan, deputy head of industrial union.

"The factory is not working now, because contracts are given to foreign factories. In the past years, ... (More on P4)... (14)

Three Districts in Paktika Still Isolated after 16 Years

KABUL - Residents in Paktika province have said that the routes connecting Wazikhaw, Tarwai and Warmamai districts to the center of the province have remained closed for the past 16 years since the insurgent Taliban were toppled from the power.

Local officials in Paktika have confirmed the situation and reiterated their commitment to use all available sources to reopen the routes.

"We confirm that these routes are closed for traffic. We are trying to open these

roads and establish check posts to prevent Taliban infiltration," said provincial governor Mohammad Ilyas Wahdat.

"Residents in these districts have been isolated for the past one and half a decade because all routes are closed and no one addressed the problems," said Afsar Khan Sulaimankhail, member Paktika provincial council. They accused the government of not addressing the plights of the residents in these three districts. In addition, Paktika provincial council members



have said that the route closure has also hindered the implementation of development projects including education opportunities

to the students and health services. "We have several times informed the responsible authorities about the ... (More on P4)... (15)

Three Taliban Commanders Killed in Kunduz Airstrike

KUNDUZ CITY - Three Taliban commanders and their 15 fighters were killed in Afghan forces airstrike in northern Kunduz province on Saturday night, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said in a statement on Sunday.

In addition, three insurgents were wounded in the airstrike, the ministry said.

"The airstrike was carried out in Imam Sahib district where Taliban commanders, Qari Mazloom, Qari Hejran and Farooqi, were killed," the



statement said. The insurgents were involved in terrorist attacks

in key areas of Kunduz, it added. There was no civilian

casualties in the airstrike, the statement mentioned. (Tolonews) (18)

15 Daesh Fighters, Policeman Killed in Nangarhar Incidents

JALALABAD - About 15 Daesh militants and one policeman have been killed in separate security incidents in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Sunday.

The governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News a drone struck a Daesh hideout in the Mamandari locality of Achin district on Saturday night.

Fifteen fighters were killed in the drone attack, he said,



adding civilians were not harmed in the raid. Meanwhile, three landmines planted by insur-

gents were discovered and defused by police in Khogyani and Batikot districts ... (More on P4)... (16)

Some Districts of Farah Covered with Poppy Crops

KABUL - Farah's district Bakwa, Khak-i-Safid, Bala Bulok, Gulestan and Peshrood are mostly covered with poppy crops, Ariana News correspondents and cameraman visited the most unrest place of Balabulok district Shewan village where its residents freely cultivate poppy in their village for years.

One of the farmers in Shewan village Badar said, "In the past both Government and Taliban used to come by and collect the poppy,

but now I collect myself sell it to the Narcotic drugs smugglers and I provide part of my cultivation to our Mullah as tithe. In bakawa district there are hundreds of Narcotic drugs production factories where cocaine, Heroin, Cristal are produced and International drug traffickers come by to purchase the wealthy phenomenon.

Farah Counter Narcotic Drugs Director Shafiqullah Dawran said, "There are a ... (More on P4)... (17)

Taliban Kills 6 Afghan Security Forces Near Kunduz

KABUL - Officials in Afghanistan's troubled northern Kunduz province say an overnight insurgent attack has left at least six national security force personnel dead.

Provincial police chief General Abdul Hamid Hamid told media Sunday a large group of insurgents stormed a security outpost near the provincial capital, also called Kunduz, causing the fatalities.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed its



fighters also overran the outpost and seized weapons and other equipment there. Meanwhile, the Af-

ghan Interior Ministry said airstrikes in the province's Imam Sahib district late ... (More on P4)... (18)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Your assertive nature lends itself to advancing with speed and force, but the addition of tactical prowess can put you at an even greater advantage. Your key planet Mars partners with calculating Saturn, giving you the gift of strategy when brute force isn't enough. Although the path is not without obstacles, you're able to keep your eye on your destination and adjust your course accordingly without losing too much momentum.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You may not realize how hard you've been working until someone points out all your accomplishments. You naturally gravitate towards flying solo on a project today because too much input from others dilutes the facts. Even if people mean well by adding their opinions to the mix, it's perfectly acceptable to thank them and move on so you aren't distracted for too long.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Picking one direction is the hardest choice of the day; you wish you could be two places at once to dip your toes in more experiences. Fortunately, your friends are likely to have more concrete plans and getting on board with them gives you a positive outlet for your energy. In the same way others help you focus your enthusiasm, you lend their rigid agenda the flexibility it needs to thrive. As Helen Keller wrote, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You're bound by your will to achieve today, and you can already hear the accolades you'll receive once you prove yourself successful. However, a hidden fear of failure may tickle the back of your mind as the fickle Gemini Moon sneaks through your 12th House of Secrets. Nonetheless, you can endure momentary swerves that uncertainty places in your path thanks to your increasing stamina.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're content to luxuriate in a sea of knowledge and drink it all in one sitting. Your insatiable craving for learning and experience drives you to throw yourself into an area of study while energetic Mars in your 9th House of Higher Education connects to industrious Saturn. You're envisioning just how far you can reach if everything goes your way.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You are a pro at getting to the bottom of a mystery, willing to dig after everyone else gives up. Your loved ones may not understand why you won't let something go today, but you don't want to let it slide when you think there's more to the story. Unclear relationship dynamics recently make finding the truth even more important to you now. Nevertheless, steamrolling someone isn't the way to uncover their true feelings; practicing compassion and kindness is key.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You're not quite sure how to bring up an important topic to someone you know well. Fortunately, you can start anywhere and solidify your position as you go; the most important step is the first one. Working together allows you to sort out issues that you might otherwise ignore. You possess the endurance now to commit to the discussion until both parties state their cases. It's up to you whether you make yourself a partner or opponent.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Teeth gritted and focus fixed, you're in it for the long haul. You're quite the utilitarian today, whether it's wrapping up loose ends or fitting a challenging workout into your schedule. However, mixed ideas about what to attack first may cause you to falter needlessly.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



A feeling of purpose impels you to stay off the couch and use your physical energy for the collective good. Action-hero Mars warms up in your 5th House of Fun while being coached by stern Saturn, adding a slightly serious tone to recreational activities. Fortunately, even when you play to win, it's all in good fun at the end of the day. Keeping competition friendly is more uplifting for all involved. In life there are no winners or losers, just different ways of playing the game.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You're happy to finally have a chance to tackle chores around the house, even though lingering brain fog is trying to pull you off course. Thankfully, your fierce drive to get things done easily overcomes the fuzziness, and you may even want to add some extra things to the line-up since you're on a roll. Paradoxically, the less you have on your list the more you'll get done.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You're ready to shake off the blahs from the past few days and do something that feels productive again. What begins as a reflection on how your short-term efforts support your long-term goals could turn into a marathon of planning when organizational Saturn helps brazen Mars manage your 3rd House of Information.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Getting out of your own way is always your choice. It may seem like you need to stay in the contemplation phase a bit longer before shedding your insecurities and stepping up to the plate. However, once you commit to believing in yourself, it's like boarding a cosmic elevator that lifts your confidence steadily higher. The first move is the hardest, but you won't regret making it in hindsight.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Across and Down crossword clues. Across: 1. Nothing (British), 5. Clods, 9. Relating to aircraft, 13. Food thickener, 14. Chafes, 16. 62 in Roman numerals, 17. Abominable Snowman, 18. Not last, 19. Foundry, 20. Religious splinter groups, 22. Explodes, 24. Ancient units of liquid measure, 26. Seminal fluid, 27. Rouse, 30. Rattle, 33. Chewing noisily, 35. Fall color, 37. In what way, 38. Makes changes to, 41. Be unwell, 42. Make improvements, 45. Beverages, 48. Laud, 51. Aircraft engine enclosure, 52. Parental brother, 54. Rubber wheel, 55. Jingles, 59. Compacted, 62. A D-Day beach, 63. Utilize, 65. How old we are, 66. Fog, 67. Parisian subway, 68. V V V V, 69. Sore, 70. Where a bird lives, 71. Sea eagle. Down: 1. Negatives, 2. Curved molding, 3. An observation tower, 4. "Heavy" hydrogen, 5. Not on, 6. Dry, 7. Fees for buses, 8. Scheme, 9. Annual book of information, 10. Way out, 11. Anger, 12. Anagram of "Silo", 15. Leaf opening, 21. Break, 23. Roman emperor, 25. Anagram of "Ties", 27. Dull pain, 28. Chew, 29. Terminate, 31. Rival, 32. Disney mermaid, 34. Defraud, 36. If not, 39. 2,000 pounds, 40. Immediately, 43. Risqué, 44. Eat, 46. Corrosive, 47. Deprive through death, 49. Vamoose, 50. 1 less than a dozen, 53. Gladden, 55. Russian parliament, 56. Ear-related, 57. Deep cut, 58. Knights, 60. Observed, 61. Anagram of "Sees", 64. A parcel of land.

Yesterday's Solution crossword clues. Across: 1. BESOIT, 2. SCAB, 3. CASE, 4. ALLOW, 5. NONE, 6. OPAL, 7. AILITZ, 8. GRALL, 9. NAVE, 10. UNDERWORLD, 11. FROG, 12. PATU, 13. APIARY, 14. SKAT, 15. HOP, 16. MITD, 17. PEER, 18. OUTS, 19. PEDAL, 20. APRICOT, 21. THEMAGE, 22. STOLE, 23. SEAL, 24. CREE, 25. AID, 26. ALLI, 27. ENDS, 28. BEEFTE, 29. REDO, 30. ONCE, 31. CONNECTIVE, 32. GOR, 33. BLUE, 34. TODAY, 35. TULA, 36. MISS, 37. EROSE, 38. HEEL, 39. POTTS, 40. TOLES.

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