

Death Toll from Taliban Infighting in Herat Climbs to 100

HERAT CITY - The death toll from clashes entering a third day on Wednesday between two rival Taliban factions in the Shindand district of western Herat province has climbed to at least 100, local officials said. Herat officials on Tuesday said 30 militants had been killed on both sides after the clashes between fighters loyal to Taliban supreme leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour and a splinter group leader Mullah Mohammad Rasool broke out early on Monday in various areas of the Shindand district. Jailani Farhad, the Herat governor's spokesman,



told Pajhwok Afghan News the clashes between Mullah Sammad aligned to Mansour and Mullah Nangialai loyal to Rasool had so far left at least 100 dead and the clashes were still ongoing. Farhad said Mullah Nangialai lost 60 fighters and Mullah Sammad 40 and scores of others had been injured but their exact number was not yet known. He said the Afghan forces also engaged the fighting militants and attacked them with mortar shells which caused casualties to a number of insurgents. Meanwhile, ...*(More on P4)...*(17)

10 Daesh, Taliban Gunmen Killed in Nangarhar, Balkh

JALALABAD/MAZAR-I-SHARIF - At least 10 militants have been killed and another 21 captured alive during separate operations in eastern Nangarhar and northern Balkh provinces, officials said on Wednesday. A statement from the 201st Selab Military Corps in Nangarhar said security forces launched clearing operations in Rodat and Kot districts on Wednesday at 11am. Four Daesh or Islamic State (IS) fighters were eliminated and a fifth captured alive and some weapons were recovered, the statement said, adding that civilians and the

security forces suffered no casualties. Separately, Six Taliban militants were killed and another 20 were apprehended in northern Balkh province, an official said. The governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces destroyed a terrorist training centre in Kishindih district during the operation code-named "Khursheed-21". He said militants had been receiving training at the centre before being sent to other parts of the province for terrorist attacks. Security forces also confiscated a ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

Govt. Slammed as Celebratory Fire Claims Lives of 2 Children

JALALABAD - Two children have been killed in celebratory gunfire over Afghanistan's victory against Scotland in the overnight ICC World Twenty20 game in Nagpur, officials said on Wednesday. Following a tough fight, Afghanistan thrashed Scotland by 14 runs in the final over. The highlight of the event was a strong partnership between Mohammad Shahzad and skipper Asghar Stanikzai. At the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, Shahzad smashed 61 off 39 deliveries while Stanikzai hit an unbeaten 55 to help Afghanistan post a formidable total of 170 for the loss of five wickets. Cricket



fans, expressing jubilation over the national team's first T20 World Cup victory, danced and fired gunshots in different parts of the country. The wild celebrations stretched into dawn. In Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, two children were killed in happy

fire, the governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News. The boys were aged eight and 12. But police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal confirmed the death of only one child in the gunfire. "We aired a ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

15 Taliban Insurgents Killed in Uruzgan

TRINKOT - At least 15 Taliban insurgents were killed in a military operation in central Uruzgan province on Tuesday, 205 Atal Military Corps said in a statement on Wednesday. In addition, eight other insurgents were injured. The operation - under the name of Toofan 53 - was launched in Meyando, Sheen Ghola and Darshang areas of Dehrahood district to clear the area of insurgents, read the statement, adding that the operation is still ongoing. The statement said that security forces also discovered weapons and explosive devices during the operation. However, the statement did not provide any details on casualties among the security forces. *(Tolnews)*

Militants Abduct 11 Civilians in Sar-e-Pul



SARIPUL - Armed militants, presumably Taliban fighters, abducted nearly a dozen civilians in Sayad district of the northern Sar-e-Pul province on Wednesday, a member of provincial council said. "A group of armed Taliban intercepted a vehicle in Qaflatan area of Sayad district today morning and took away 11 commuters

of the vehicle to unknown location," Mohammad Ali Hakimi told Xinhua. Taliban militants have yet to claim responsibility. Police are yet to make comment on the report. Armed militants in the past also abducted civilians in Saripul, Zabul, Faryab, Ghazni and other provinces of the conflict-hit Afghanistan. *(Xinhua)*

MoI Probing Video Clip of Torturing Kandahar Man

KANDAHAR CITY - The Ministry of Interior on Wednesday said it was investigating a video clip showing a man being severely tortured by police in Panjwai district of southern Kandahar province. But Kandahar police officials said the video circulated on social media was two years old and policemen involved in the incident had already been punished. The video clip shows a man tied to the back of a police vehicle with a rope is dragged on the road. A number of policemen, Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and some other people in civilian clothes are seen standing around the man. "Panjwai District 34" is written on the police vehicle's backside. "Tell the truth, who are your friends?" could be heard repeatedly in the video. The clip drew a strong reaction from Afghan social media users who condemned the incident as against the law. Some social media users said police whose duty was to enforce the law should not break the law themselves. They said police should not practice torturing suspects to extract forced confessions because ...*(More on P4)...*(24)

Afghan Forces Kill 7 Militants in Northern District

TALUQAN - Seven militants have been killed and three others injured as cleanup operation has been continuing in Darqad district of northern Takhar province with Taluqan as its capital over the past couple of days, provincial police spokesman Abdul Khalil Asir said on Wednesday. "Government forces have killed seven Taliban rebels and injured three others in Darqad district," Asir told Xinhua but declined to furnish more details. The operation would continue until elimination of militants in the area, the official asserted. Taliban overrun Darqad ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

Kam Air Starts Direct Commercial Flights to Bamyan for the First Time

KABUL - A commercial airline has started direct flights between Kabul and the central Bamyan province, the local officials said Wednesday. The first flight by Kam Air carried passengers from capital Kabul to Bamyan province using Saab 340 aircraft, a Swedish twin-engine turbo-prop aircraft that can carry up to 40 passengers. Deputy provincial governor Mohammad Asif Mubaligh welcomed the opening of the new route to Bamyan province by Kam Air, saying the local authorities are hopeful that the move



will encourage other airlines to start services in this province. Speaking during a ceremony for the launch of the flights by Kam Air, Mubaligh said the start of the flight will also help reduce the ticket

fares. Bamyan is located in central parts of the country and is among the relatively peaceful provinces where terrorist related incidents are rarely reported. However, the main ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

Iranian Citizen Released in Nimroz after Spending a Month in Captivity

ZARANJ - An Iranian national, who was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen a month ago in northwestern Nimroz province, was freed on Wednesday, a senior police official

said. Syed Reza, a transit truck driver transferring goods from the Abbas Port to Nimroz, had been abducted while coming out of a public bathroom in ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

4 More Insurgents Eliminated in Chardara Offensive: Police

KUNDUZ CITY - Four militants were killed and two others wounded in ongoing military operation in the Chardara district of northern Kunduz province

on Wednesday, an official said. Police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangal Bagh, told Pajhwok Afghan News the slow-paced ...*(More on P4)...*(23)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your life already seems to be in high gear and the cosmic intensity ratchets up another notch today. The moody Moon's return to your sign adds an emotional charge to the next couple of days, prompting you to react without restraint. Remember, everyone else isn't as boisterous as you are now, so be gentle and patient while continuing to express your feelings with passion.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

A hidden feeling is the critical ingredient in an emotional stew you are cooking out of sight as the evocative Moon slips into your 12th House of Secrets. It's crucial to pay attention to the littlest details or they could have a negative impact on your interactions with others. Remember, it's best to catch any potential problems before they manifest and not after.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You crave more social activity now, but you must be careful that you're not too aggressive in the pursuit of fulfillment. You can quickly exhaust others since they might not be wired to communicate at the same frenetic speed as you. Rather than blindly charging ahead, visualize blinking yellow warning lights at every interaction. Proceed with caution without coming to a full stop. You possess the power to upset the apple cart today.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

An all-too-familiar dilemma requires you to choose between pushing ahead and retreating to safety. Unfortunately, today's contradictory cosmic signals won't help you pick the best strategy. On one hand, the assertive Aries Moon encourages you to take your idea to the next level. On the other hand, you don't want to be left high and dry as several planets in watery Pisces stimulate your fear.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You may try to ignore an inner voice telling you to take life more seriously these days. Perhaps you already decided it isn't worth fighting the inevitable. Additionally, you might believe that everything will run its course and you won't have to work so hard if only you could let go. But you can't change a somber disposition overnight if there are valid reasons for your feelings.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Circumstances require you to muster up your courage today and be emotionally expressive in a way that might be uncomfortable for you. You're usually capable of logically analyzing the task at hand to arrive at the most efficient way to reach your goal. However, staying in your head won't get you where you want to go now. Thankfully, exploring your feelings allows you to enter a magical space where time slows down.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You can't get in the final word on nearly any conversation today, and the more you try to make yourself heard, the less likely anyone will listen. External logistics demand that you initiate action, but nothing you do now seems to alter the overall tone of the day. Nevertheless, you can modify your attitude which creates the potential to change everything.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might find yourself in trouble today because you start one thing after another after another, finishing the day without much to show for all your running around. You must perform a tricky dance now, but fortunately, you can turn this chaotic energy to your advantage. Visualize yourself wearing blinders as a reminder to narrow your field of perception.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Although you're restless to spread your wings today, you still may feel like the eternal optimist who believes you can deliver on every promise you make. But it's hard to turn your brain off from all its random wanderings, even if you have a wonderful play day for you and friends on your schedule. Thankfully, you possess an overabundance of creativity that can help you get whatever you want.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You're right in the thick of things trying to discover a solution to a complicated problem. What makes this challenge even more difficult today is that you're clearly missing an intrinsic part of the puzzle and are hesitant to take sides until you have a clear picture constructed from the facts. Acknowledging that it's hard to come up with useful answers now lessens the pressure.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

The notion of breaking out of a restraining situation is an exhilarating thought these days, but it may be wiser to wait a while longer. If you decide to turn your life inside out now, it could take a while for everything to settle back down. But even if you are committed to finding an effective way to operate within the current limitations of your schedule.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Taking a long hard look at your finances is top priority now, but unfortunately, this isn't just about balancing your checkbook. You are being pushed to decide how you will optimize your current gains and move into the future with an attitude of prosperity. However, it's time to be practical about your life. Don't make a problem more important than it is today; just put your energy toward getting your fiscal world in order.



Across
1. Ear-related, 5. Plot of land, 10. A rigid circular band, 14. Office fill-in, 15. Oarsman, 6. Beige, 17. According to custom, 19. Cards with 1 symbol, 20. East southeast, 21. Washing machine cycle, 22. Redden, 23. Remedy, 25. Precipitous, 27. Belief, 28. Featuring, 31. Japanese wrestlers, 34. An object, 35. Snake-like fish, 36. Module, 37. Cause to happen, 38. Scottish hillside, 39. Groceries holder, 40. Wrap, 41. Flavor, 42. Operating doctors, 44. Mayday, 45. Territories, 46. A prominent attribute, 50. Wand, 52. Inclines, 54. Soak, 55. 64 in Roman numerals, 56. Judge, 58. ___ vera, 59. Redress, 60. Anagram of "Sage", 61. Female chickens, 62. Vermin

Down
1. Different, 2. Make fun of, 3. Insert, 4. Consumer Price Index, 5. Cliché, 6. Anagram of "Arson", 7. Cobblers' tools, 8. Heavenly, 9. Attempt, 10. Doctor, 11. Residents, 12. Mining finds, 13. Shove, 18. Amount of hair, 22. Large mass of ice, 24. Violent disturbance, 26. Armored vehicle, 28. Corroborates (archaic), 29. Tidy, 30. Delight, 31. U-boats, 32. Two-toed sloth, 33. Movement, 34. Interpret, 37. Stop for a horse, 38. Strong fiber, 40. Observed, 41. Browned bread, 43. Orchards, 44. Detects, 46. Lose consciousness, 47. Habitual practice, 48. Anagram of "Store", 49. Excrete, 50. Ho-hum, 51. Spindle, 53. Prima donna problems, 56. Chart, 57. British rule in India.

Yesterday's Solution
administer, advise, agent, antler, budge, cheer, diatribe, elixir, energy, erme, fidget, fudge, gaudy, handle, human, imbue, leer, legs, lend, major, minute, nape, party, petite, president, prig, provide, ration, rear, register, rite, sets, share, site, speak

