

# Ex-Taliban Webmaster Killed as Tensions Intensify Among Rival Groups

KABUL - A senior Taliban group member who was previously serving as the group's webmaster has been killed as tensions intensify among the rival Taliban groups. According to the local government officials in Kandahar, the ex-webmaster of the Taliban, Bashir Ahmad Rayan was killed almost two months after he was kidnapped. Provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Razaq has said Rayan was originally a resident of Qarabagh district of south-eastern Ghazni province and was actively working for the media wing of the group when he was abducted from



Kandahar province two months ago. He said Rayan has been murdered as a result of the intensifying tensions among Mullah Akhtar Mansoor and Mullah Mohammad Rasool supporters. According to Gen. Raziq, Rayan was a student of Kandahar university and was also writing for the Taliban group. The Taliban militants group has been mourning his death which comes as nearly 200 militants were killed as a result of an infighting that lasted for almost a week in Shindand...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Taliban Publicly Execute Alleged Killer of Trader in Nimroz

ZARANJ - The Taliban militants have publicly executed a man on the charge of kidnapping and killing a businessman in northwestern Nimroz province, local officials said on Wednesday. One official, who wished not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News the accused was executed in Hadi Faisal area between the Khashrod district of Nimroz and the Bakwatain of Farah on Tuesday afternoon. The source identified the victim as Haidar Khan, who was accused of kidnapping and killing fuel trader Abdullah Noorzai. He gave no further details of the extrajudicial killing. Gul Ahmad Ahmadi, a provincial council member, confirmed the incident. He said Haidar Khan was the leader of kidnappers who had abducted Abdullah Noorzai...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Faryab Governor Supports Municipality's Initiatives

MAIMANA - The governor on Wednesday stoutly supported new programmes of the municipality for cleanliness, beautification and environment production in Maimana, the capital of northern Faryab province. Governor Syed Anwar Sadat told Pajhwok Afghan News he had instructed other officials to cooperate with the municipality in the implementation of its initiatives to spruce up the city. Over the past few years, the municipality has executed several projects including graveling of roads, property



registration, cleanliness, construction of buildings, a fruit market, aslaughtehouse and shifting of garbage out of Maimana. Deputy Mayor Syed Ahmad Shah Ghyasi said since the reform process was yet to be set in motion, municipality employees continued working for low wages (4500 afghanis). He...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## US Air Force F-16 Fighter Jet Crashes, Pilot Safe

KABUL - United States Air Force F-16 fighter jet crashed on take-off near Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan this morning. The Pentagon said the pilot ejected safely and is being medically evaluated, reports TOLO News. Bagram Air Field is located northeast of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and is the U.S. military's main base of operations in Afghanistan. Coalition forces are securing the crash site, said Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook. Cook added that the cause of the accident is under investigation. There are 9,800 American troops still in Afghanistan as part of a training and advisory mission. *(ANI)*

## Policemen and Taliban Militants Suffer Casualties in Balkh Clash

MAZAR - The Taliban militants and Afghan policemen suffered casualties during a clash in northern Balkh province of Afghanistan, local officials. The incident took place in Charbolak district after a group of Taliban militants launched coordinated attack on the security posts. Provincial police chief Abdul Razaq Qaderi the gun battle continued until later this afternoon before the Taliban militants were forced to retreat. He said at least 20 Taliban militants were killed or wound-



ed during the gun battle which also claimed lives of at least 2 policemen. According to Qaderi, the Taliban militants were forced to retreat towards Faizabad district of Jawzjan province after their attack was repulsed by the security forces. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. This comes as a large military operation was...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## 11 Militants Killed in Kunduz

KUNDUZ - The ongoing crackdown against Taliban outfit in the northern Kunduz province has claimed the lives of 11 militants over the past 24 hours, an army spokesman in the province, Nasratullah Jamshidi said Wednesday. "The security forces have killed 11 armed rebels including a group commander Mullah Sabir in several villages outside provincial capital the Kunduz city and Dasht-e-Archi district since Tuesday morning," Jamshidi told Xinhua. There was no casualty on security personnel, the official said. Backed by gunship helicopters, the operations would last until militants are wiped out from the area, the official added. Taliban militants who had briefly captured Kunduz city in October and presently are active in some districts of Kunduz province, haven't commented. *(Xinhua)*

## Fight with Taliban Kills 15 Security Troops

KANDAHAR - A late night gunbattle with the Taliban killed at least 15 members of the Afghan security forces in the volatile southern Uruzgan province, an official said on Wednesday. The fighting took place late Tuesday during an operation to reopen an important highway in the province, said Mohammad Nabi Niazo, the Dihrawud district police chief. Taliban gunmen had blocked the highway between Dihrawud and the provincial capital, Tarin Kot, for almost four days, he said. Following the deadly firefight, Afghan



forces have retaken control of the road, Niazo said. Eight members of the security forces were wounded during the operation. However, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi told The Associated Press that the battle for control of the highway is still going on. The insurgents often exaggerate their battlefield prowess. Niazo had no information of any insurgent...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Joint Initiative Aims to Protect and Increase Ixobrychax alpestris Population in Kabul

KABUL - A joint initiative has been launched with an aim to protect and increase the population of ibex in the outskirts of capital Kabul. According to reports, Kabul's Khak-e-Jabar district was once home to a large population of ibex but the number has significantly decreased due to hunting of the species by local residents. However, a joint initiative has been launched

by United Nations Development Program in Afghanistan and the local residents to protect the species and increase its population in a bid to increase the beauty of the...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Provincial Prosecutor Gunned Down in Samangan

AYBAK - Unknown armed men, obviously Taliban militants gunned down a prosecutor and injured two others in Samangan province when armed militants opened fire on his car in Dara-

Suff Payan district of Samangan province in the morning killing him on the spot and injuring two of his bodyguards," district governor Ahmad Mabariz told Xinhua. He...*(More on P4)...(23)*

### Outlook Horoscope

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

You're ecstatic about sharing your ideas today, expecting others to either wholeheartedly agree with you or just keep their opinions to themselves. But even if you are on the right track, your know-it-all approach could upset people who are threatened by your apparent lack of humility. Fortunately, you can quickly smooth out potential bumps in the road before you reach them

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

It seems as if someone is trying to coerce you into accepting more responsibilities than you want now, but you might be unable to say no without causing static. Your resistance may stir up more negativity than just swallowing your pride and doing what's expected of you. But don't be too self-critical if it's a struggle to get motivated today. However, once your head is in the game, keep up

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Being open-minded should be easy today, especially if the weight of responsibility is lifted from your shoulders, releasing your self-doubt with it. However, reality gets in one last punch that could land you in a challenging situation if you unwittingly start a discussion that pushes people's buttons. You may end up unleashing more emotional drama than you intended. Nevertheless, sticking with the process might lead to a resolution sooner

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

There are specific activities you would prefer to be doing now and you're not interested in waiting for someone's approval. However, your current impatience might exacerbate a fundamental disagreement between you and a coworker. Thankfully, it can be healing to discuss issues that you have been avoiding for the sake of convenience. There is no reason to

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

You are on an energetic roll, but your intensity can land you in trouble today. Even if it seems like the big pieces are falling into place, you still may push harder than is necessary. Unfortunately, your eagerness could provoke others to resist your progress if you're trying to make up for lost time. Someone might even attempt to dull your sparkle just to

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

You wish you could keep your feelings quiet today, but someone might lure you into their personal melodrama without warning. You may grow annoyed with the entire situation, provoking you to express yourself in an unrestrained manner. Unfortunately, you can lose your temper so quickly that you don't even realize what's happening until the deed is done. It's completely unnecessary to turn a difficult interaction into a major crisis by

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

Everyone's attention appears to be directed toward someone else today, but your feelings need to be acknowledged, too. Typically, you thrive on being supportive of your friends and coworkers, but now you realize you must stand up for yourself. Say whatever is required to make your wishes known. Although you might not reach satisfaction by being fully recognized, at least you will feel satisfied that you at-

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

You can't help but grow agitated if someone seems to hurry you along today. You might choose to deliberately postpone your forward progress for a while in order to assimilate all the recent changes. Nevertheless, it's not always possible to avoid your current commitments. People are counting on you to do your part, so you may need to wait another day or

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

These are exciting times, but you could be so steadfast in your beliefs now that you waste energy defending your position. Instead of worrying about the future, try experiencing the present. Thankfully, you can sidestep an unnecessary conflict today by toning down your rhetoric. A sweeping generalization or an unsubstantiated accusation might do more harm than good. Be persistent in the pursuit of your goals and

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Although you might be preoccupied with a personal problem today, the actual situation probably isn't as critical as you think. Your current emotional insecurity can unexpectedly overwhelm your rational outlook, tempting you to run home to hide away from everyone's judgmental glances. But the real message now is about holding your ground rather than throwing in the towel. Write your own script instead of playing a part

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

Consider ditching your previous plans and starting from scratch today. Acting in a totally spontaneous manner empowers you to be extremely creative and, ultimately, more productive than following a preconceived agenda. Don't be concerned with what others think about your rebellious behavior now, even if you face emotional objections to your new strategy. The discussion might grow heated in the

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

Developing an amazing idea just isn't enough to make your day memorable; you must include others in your planning now or you won't have the resources to reach your goals. Everything could fall apart at the seams if you don't involve your friends or coworkers. Nevertheless, discussing the alternatives with your peers prior to making a final decision improves the odds for your success. Fight against the tide and don't act impulsively today; listen to

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-62.

Across: 1. Hoop, 5. Brazilian dance, 10. Anagram of "Cabs", 14. Sea eagle, 15. Cornered, 16. Roman robe, 17. A decorated dart, 19. Was indebted, 20. Mineral rock, 21. Panorama, 22. Exchange, 23. Consume, 25. Driller, 27. Lyric poem, 28. Winter melon, 31. Habitual practice, 34. Twice twenty, 35. Nigerian tribesman, 36. Sailors, 37. Juliet's love, 38. Flat-bottomed boat, 39. A high alpine meadow, 40. Squandered, 41. Adolescents, 42. Passageways in mines, 44. Put clothing on, 45. Sad song, 46. Residue fragments, 50. Go by car, 52. Utilize again, 54. Except, 55. Part in a play, 56. Gem of the month, 58. Afflicts, 59. Eagle's nest, 60. Away from the wind, 61. Smudge, 62. Donkeys, 63. Sharp intake of breath.

Down: 1. Jazz style, 2. A kind of macaw, 3. Not outer, 4. Directed, 5. Hit, 6. Appear, 7. Defrost, 8. Criticized, 9. American Dental Association, 10. A level in a building, 11. The trait of lacking courage, 12. Matured, 13. Invited, 18. Avoid, 22. 3, 24. Clothing, 26. Savvy about, 28. Houses, 29. Black, in poetry, 30. Impresses, 31. Salt Lake state, 32. A period of discounted prices, 33. Armored nocturnal mammal, 34. Counterfeits, 37. Telephoned, 38. Transmit, 40. Cable, 41. Notes, 43. Disinvest, 44. Plates, 46. Good-looker, 47. African virus, 48. Graphic symbols, 49. Precipitous, 50. Blah, 51. Agitate, 53. Makes a mistake, 56. Bleat, 57. Children's game.

Yesterday's Solution: bodily, boon, bred, classy, dejected, eager, eerie, exhausted, expel, extend, feeble, fell, field, ginger, gusto, hall, harpsichord, helix, humor, issues, metal, piano, pollen, quill, rancor, rear, round, scary, scope, scroll, shaft, spend, spigot, spleen, sport, spruce.

Word search grid with letters F, S, H, A, R, P, S, I, C, H, O, R, D, E, S, P, I, G, O, T, Q, U, I, L, L, E, E, E, E, E, I, M, E, T, A, L, D, P, R, B, X, R, A, N, C, O, R, O, N, O, B, L, H, O, I, G, D, A, R, U, C, R, L, O, E, A, E, I, E, E, C, O, S, O, D, L, D, R, U, J, L, R, S, R, F, M, N, Y, E, I, G, S, S, F, I, S, S, U, E, S, T, N, L, U, T, P, P, Y, X, H, T, S, C, F, F, Y, S, E, I, R, L, J, X, A, E, X, P, E, L, T, D, A, M, U, E, L, J, F, I, E, L, D, O, C, N, O, I, C, E, D, S, T, A, L, K, S, P, O, R, T, D, E, N, W, H, O, R, L