

# Ahead of QCG Meeting, Zakhilwal Seeks Action Against Taliban

KABUL - A senior Afghan diplomat has urged the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG), which is due to meet this week, to declare the Taliban "irreconcilable" after their refusal to enter peace talks with Kabul. Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan Omar Zakhilwal issued the call during an interview with Xinhua news agency ahead of the four-nation group's meeting in Islamabad on May 18 to discuss ways of restarting the peace talks. Since the Taliban's public rejection of QCG's call for the resumption of peace negotiations, it will be the first meeting of the group. It last



met in Kabul in February and invited the insurgents to join the process by the first week of March. The QCG involving Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States had agreed on military action against the militants refusing to come to the negotiating table. The military action is the second option in the roadmap evolved by the group. "Now that the Taliban have publicly refused to join talks and opted for more violence, the second scenario is applicable," Zakhilwal commented, pushing for action against the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

## Govt. Used 560 Containers to Cordon off Kabul City

KABUL - The Afghan government overnight blocked off mostly all streets leading into Kabul city center - by using 560 shipping containers. Cranes were used to position the containers across main roads and side streets. According to one military source, the containers were rented at 4,000 AFS (\$58 USD) each for a 24 hour period. The source said that the cost to government was \$32,480 USD for 24 hours. Kabul city residents woke early Monday morning to the blockade, which had been put up overnight but had not been announced. Government moved to lock down the city so as to prevent demonstrators from reaching the presidential palace during a mass march Monday. However, despite ensuring security, the ... (More on P4)... (10)

## Noor Says He will Turn Balkh into Taliban's Grave

KABUL - Acting Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor on Monday warned Taliban that he will change Balkh into their grave if they refuse to lay down arms and quit insurgency. Noor, who is leading a clearance operation called Nawid 3 in Kushinda district in the province, said the militants have suffered heavy losses in the operation as nearly 40 of them have been killed so far. He also said that several villages were cleared of Taliban in the operation and that heavy and light weapons were



recovered by security forces. "I want to tell Afghanistan's enemies, the Taliban and their leaders that they must leave war and join the peace process and they must not come to Balkh with a goal of war. We are not those who make orders from behind their desks," Noor told TOLONews from the battlefield. He added that more than 20 militants were arrested ... (More on P4)... (6)

## Baghlan's Karkar Coalmine Cleared of Taliban

KABUL - National Directorate of Security (NDS) operatives carried out a night operation on the outskirts of Pul-e-Khumri city in Baghlan province, where they cleared Karkar coalmine of Taliban. The mine had been under the Taliban's control for the past few days. The coalmine was attacked by Taliban fighters a week ago. The building at the mine was under

their control and a number of employees at the coalmine had been taken hostage by the militants. Baghlan governor Abdul Satar Bariz, said: "The security forces succeeded in taking control of the mine's building after a few hours of clashes with militants. Taliban suffered heavy losses in this operation." Baghlan provincial council ... (More on P4)... (8)

## Notorious Daesh Commander Killed in Kunar Airstrike

KABUL - A notorious commander of the Islamic State, a terrorist group also known as Daesh, has been killed in an airstrike in eastern Kunar province, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) claimed on Monday. A statement from MoD said the raid was conducted in Wata-pur district by the Afghan Air Force, but the Afghan

National Army (ANA) explained US troops - using an unmanned aerial vehicle - carried out the strike. The 201st Selab Military Corps identified the Daesh commander as Shafiq, who was allegedly involved in deadly terrorist activities in the district, where Daesh has lately launched its activities. (pajhwok)

## Concerns Raised Over Insecurity Along Baghlan-Mazar Highway

KABUL - Travelers have voiced concerns over the growing insecurity along the Baghlan-Mazar highway. Drivers using this highway said insurgents have become increasingly active along the ChashmeShir stretch of the highway in Baghlan

province, resulting in accidents and less traffic on the road. These drivers have said the lack of security along the highway is making any form of travel really challenging. "We want the government to ensure security ... (More on P4)... (9)

## Left-out Children to Get Polio Drops in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Polio drops would be given to children earlier missed in previous campaigns in various areas of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Monday. The routine immunisation is carried out in all districts of Nangarhar, but some villages in Pacheragam, Haska Mena, Kot, Achin and Nazyan districts are left out due security concerns. Launching a four-day polio vaccina-



tion drive here, provincial public health director Dr. Najib Kamawal told Pajhwok Afghan News nearly 700,000 to one million children would be administered polio drops during the campaign. "Some 15,000 children are left out in routine immunization in a number of areas ... (More on P4)... (11)

## Taliban Bar Charkh Education Officials from Duty

PUL-I-ALAM - Taliban militants have warned education officials of the Charkh district against attending offices, an official said on Monday. Provincial education department spokesman Mohammad Shah Pur Arab told Pajhwok Afghan News that the insurgents a day earlier banned all education officials from performing their duty, bringing to a halt their activities. He said efforts through tribal elders had been launched to resolve the issue. Charkh district education officer Qurban Shah said the Taliban had told all district education officials to avoid attending office. "The Taliban have some demands which are beyond my authority to meet, that's why they have asked me and other officials to stay home." The Taliban also confirmed the issue. The group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the Charkh district education ... (More on P4)... (12)

## 4 Afghan Police Personnel Killed in Bomb Attack

FARAH - Four Afghan police died following an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack in the country's western province of Farah on Monday, the provincial government spokesman said. "Four police personnel martyred following an IED attack in Lash-wa-Juwayn district. The unit was on routine patrol when their vehicle touched off the IED planted recently by the militants along a main road in the district bordering Iran," Mohammad Nasir Mehri told Xinhua. The police vehicle was destroyed in the explosion which occurred in the morning, the official added. The Afghan security forces' casualties have risen recently as they struggle against a surge in attacks by Taliban militants and other anti-government fighters. In a separate development, an Islamic State (IS) local leader named ShafiqAbas was killed after Afghan army launched an airstrike in Watapour district of eastern Kunar province earlier on Monday, the country's Defense Ministry said in a statement. (Xinhua)

## Pro-Rassoul Faction Declares Jihad on Mansour Clan

KABUL - Dozens of Taliban militants have been killed in serious clashes between rival factions after the pro-Mullah Rassoul faction declared Jihad against the pro-Akhter Mansour group on Monday. The pro-Mullah Rassoul faction, who declared Jihad (Holy war) against their rivals - the main faction of the Taliban led by Mullah Omar's successor Akhter Mansour - labeled Mansour a puppet of the Pakistani Intelligence Service (ISI). Reports have



emerged of massive fatalities on both sides after they engaged in fighting in Ghor and Badghis provinces. On Monday, pro-Rassoul fighters announced allegiance to him by hoisting white flags and accused Mullah Mansour of being an ISI tool, vowing to fight his men ... (More on P4)... (7)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

You see yourself in a mirror no matter where you look today. Once the Moon enters relationship-oriented Libra, every interaction with someone seems to point you back to your own thoughts and feelings that you know all too well. However, you can't help but wonder if you are missing information that could help you break out of your current rut.

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

There's a lot to do at work and you can't wait to get started. Unfortunately, there may be pesky unresolved issues about a recent event, preventing you from moving on to more enjoyable tasks. Think of today as a transitional phase; there's no need to jump into your current obligations all at once. You'll do better in the long run if you take the time to process your feelings first.

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

It's wonderful how quickly your interpersonal landscape can shift when you accept that which you cannot change. It might seem as if you were recently trying to outrun an oncoming storm and now the sky is finally free of clouds. Although some conflicts may not disappear overnight, your laid-back attitude makes it easier to enjoy what the present moment has in store. Even if you don't have time to do something just for the fun of it.

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

Although the intensity of a conflict at work may diminish today, it doesn't disappear completely. Your tried-and-true tactic of withdrawing from an unpleasant situation goes a long way to minimize the emotional pressure. Unfortunately, your retreat doesn't fix the underlying issue. Naturally, if you're only on the periphery of someone else's argument.

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

Unavoidable work commitments complicate your pursuit of pleasure today. Although the current obstacles may be real, it helps to recognize that your attitude can have a profoundly positive impact on the course of events. Unfortunately, widening your perspective is not as simple as it sounds, even if you try to maintain objectivity.

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

You continue to face delays and must still overcome more challenges while so many planets are stuck languishing in retrograde. And although your trials may not be quite over, at least you see opportunities on the horizon to make progress again. You can hear the future calling, but it's still necessary to achieve stability in the present moment before initiating the next phase of your personal development.

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

You probably feel much more optimistic today, even if you're weary from relationship struggles. But you don't want your hope for good times ahead to distract you from the work that needs to be done now. You may be concerned that your emotional vulnerability will lead to further disappointment, but you're also happily anticipating the potential of major breakthroughs.

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

It may seem as if an ongoing interpersonal conflict is finally subsiding now, but minor trouble spots continue to flare up for a while. Fortunately, you can rely on flights of fancy to weave fragments of fantasies into a new vision for the next chapter of your life. Don't worry if your current dreams aren't very realistic; there is still plenty of time to come up with a more concrete action plan.

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

You are anchored to reality today through your professional relationships and your social connections. Normally, your natural ability to envision the future can pull you away from the practical aspects of the here and now. However, common sense prevails now because your friends won't let you drift too far away. Allow time to dream, but don't forget to return to Earth. Remember, the mighty oak was once a little nut who held its ground.

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

You're quite clear about your objectives today, but you might not be sure how to reach them. Part of your problem is that people may appear to be working against you if you are too ambitious in the pursuit of your success. Avoid confrontation; open conflict won't help you in the present moment. Instead, keep your eyes on your destination and continue to aim in that direction, even if your progress is limited.

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

Your life continues to feel like a rollercoaster ride, yet you're aware that the potential for positive change is increasing day by day. Your anticipation grows as the future approaches, but you're not sure what will happen next. Ironically, if you try to fill in too many details too soon, you could end up delaying your progress. Rather than obsessing about what's around the bend.

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

It warms your heart if someone you admire is advising you to reach for your dreams. The support of a friend or co-worker might be the tipping point if you're sitting on the fence, waiting for a sign. Unfortunately, rash actions won't likely take you where you want to go today. It makes more sense to use other people's encouragement to improve your plans without executing them just yet.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-64.

Across: 1. Hairdo, 5. Cooks, 10. Blips, 14. Countertenor, 15. Large body of water, 16. A Freudian stage, 17. Casket, 18. Inimical, 20. Any unspecified person, 22. A breed of dog, 23. Rechewed food, 24. Squalid, 25. Kill, 32. Banquet, 33. Christmas song, 34. Not bottom, 37. Deliver a tirade, 38. Exploded stars, 39. Fizzy drink, 40. Mineral rock, 41. Pertaining to the moon, 42. Relating to audible sound, 43. Captivity, 45. Nonpoetic writing, 49. French for "Summer", 50. Phonograph disks, 53. Fighter, 57. A formal charge of wrongdoing, 59. Possess, 60. Wail, 61. TV, radio, etc., 62. Cards with 1 symbol, 63. Agile, 64. A stone fragment, 65. Exam.

Down: 1. Taxis, 2. Hodgepodge, 3. Bit of gossip, 4. A prediction, 5. Leaps, 6. Skin disease, 7. Hemp, 8. Hearing organs, 9. Trim, 10. A velvety fabric, 11. An independent film company, 12. Went white, 13. Cunningly, 19. Artist's workstand, 21. Dethrone, 25. Hairdo, 26. Char, 27. Rational, 28. Graphic symbols, 29. Pertaining to the oceans, 30. A kind of macaw, 31. Foot digit, 34. Anagram of "Note", 35. Norse god, 36. Agreement, 38. Religious sister, 39. Moderately, 41. Lascivious looks, 42. Bristle, 44. Pertaining to the spring, 45. Petitions, 46. Summary, 47. Come to pass, 48. Thick, 51. Dikes, 52. Stair, 53. Be agitated, 54. Shoestring, 55. Nights before, 56. A musical pause, 58. Actress Lupino.

Yesterday's Solution: allow, arbor, attractive, bask, brain, brown, carob, corroborate, count enchant, endure, evening, extensive, facial, have, kidney, knockout, night, party, restaurant, shawl, slang, stalk, start, tire, tolerates, tube, tulip, variant, variety, versatile, vest.

Word search grid containing words like ATTRACTIVE, ESCAPE, WHITENESS, FACILITY, PARTY, BRAIN, AET, EVENING, GRWR, NHR, VENDURE, OODGYE, KRCVDBLBITTS, NSHAWLOKNEBUT, OARARKCIRLA, CTNBRTKROWOIU, KITOSTALKUWPR, OLCRSVARIANTA, UEXTENSIVESTN, TOLERATESTART.