

Uruzgan Taliban, Security Forces Lock in Intense Clashes

TRINKOT - Taliban militants stormed several security forces positions, which led them to intense battle with security forces in parts of central Uruzgan province, a security official said on Monday. The 1st Lt. Niamatullah, police chief of Khas Uruzgan, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "The firefight erupted when Taliban fighters were planning to carry the dead bodies of their companions." However, he did not have exact figure into casualties. Niamatullah said authorities should focus provide them with equipments to bolster



security of the district to avoid any untoward incident. Mohammad Nayab, the governor's spokesman, said insurgents attacked 8 security check posts at 3:00 am Sunday night, which lasted for 3 hours. 3 militants were killed in the ensuing battle. Separately, the spokesman said militants shot Abdul Halim dead, principal of Shah Zaman School in Uruzgan and abducted the teacher of the school. On their website, Taliban confirmed the clashes with security forces in districts in Uruzgan did not say about casualties. (Pajhwok)

37kg of Narcotics, Alcoholic Drinks Seized



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Police on Monday claimed foiling an attempt to smuggle 37 kilograms of narcotics and alcoholic drinks by arresting two persons in the capital of northern Balkh province. Two men were detained on Sunday evening in the limits of Mazar-i-Sharif on the Kabul-Balkh highway, the provincial deputy police chief told Pajhwok Afghan News. Col. Abdul Razaq Qaderi added the drugs and the beverages were recovered from a car bearing a registration number from western Herat province and were destined for Mazar-i-Sharif from Kabul. He said a third person had been arrested for smuggling alcoholic drinks

in a truck a day earlier. He said 132 bottles of alcoholic beverages were recovered from the truck and the detainee confessed to his crime. Mazar-i-Sharif residents said they were happy with the seizures and asked police to launch a campaign against smuggling of drugs and alcoholic drinks. Mohammad Salim, a resident of the 3rd police district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that no one could deny that some people used alcoholic drinks in the city. He questioned the production and arrival of such drinks in the city. "If the drinks are produced here or being smuggled here from outside in both cases the security forces are responsible." (Pajhwok)

Herat Shopkeepers Go on Strike

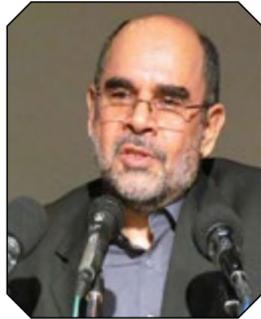
HERAT - Hundreds of shopkeepers in western Herat province on Monday went on strike, denouncing sharp rise in taxes. Ghafoor, a shopkeeper, said around 300 shopkeepers had closed down their shops to protest the rise in taxes. He told Pajhwok Afghan News that taxes on each shop in Shahr-e-Naw locality had



risen from 250 afis in a year to 6,000 afis. "The new tax law is unfair and we have no means to pay increased taxes." He accused the government for not taking into consideration the trembling economic situation of the country, saying they would continue with their strike until their demands were met. Azizzullah, another protester, questioned: "On what basis we need to pay extra taxes? What has the municipality done to us that they ask us for tax?" Ahmad Faqiryar, Herat deputy mayor, said the decision was taken by the council of ministers. (Pajhwok)

Thousands of Afghan Students Study at Iranian Universities: Nour

QAZVIN - Afghan Ambassador to Tehran Nasir Ahmad Nour said on Monday that some 11,000 Afghan students are studying at Iranian universities. Speaking to reporters, he said fortunately there exist good grounds for expansion of relations and to bring the two nations closer. Sharing historical and cultural commonalities, the



two countries can broaden cooperation at international conventions, he said. Active presence of Afghan students at the Iranian universities is regarded as invaluable assets for both countries, he said. Educated youths can help explore untapped potentials and the God-given natural resources in Afghanistan, he said. (IRNA)

Badakhshan's People Received 5.25MT Soya Products

FAIZABAD - Nutrition & Education International (NEI) conducted a "train the trainer" session in the remote area of Badakhshan province. Twenty-five local women were trained on soybean nutrition and how to integrate soybean products to enhance the diet. The participants learned how to cook soy Qorma and other delicious foods. These women will train 500 other village women and distribute soy flour (5.25 metric tons) and soybeans (5.25 metric tons). Our... (More on P4)...(20)

ACB and Alokozay Group Sign Cooperation Agreement

KABUL - Afghanistan's Cricket Board (ACB) and Alokozay Group on Monday signed a 10-year cooperation agreement for the improvement of local cricket. Miriwas Seyal announced at a press conference that the Alokozay Group will sponsor the ACB to the amount of \$1.3 million annually for the next 10 years. He said the aim was to support the sport in Afghanistan and provide grounds that can help turn national teams into winners... (More on P4)...(21)

7 Wounded in Kandahar Suicide Attack

KANDAHAR CITY - A suicide bomber blew himself up close to a police vehicle, leaving two border policemen and five civilians wounded on Monday in southern Kandahar province, an official said. Samim Khpalwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the suicide bomber was on foot and attacked a police vehicle on the outskirts of 1st police district in Kandahar



City, the provincial capital. The injured were instantly shifted to a local hospital. A security official said the apparent target of the attacker was Ismat Afghan, chief of border police chief, who remained unhurt in the attack. Taliban have not commented on the incident as of yet. (Pajhwok)

Nawa District Chief Gunned Down in Ghazni

LASHKARGAH/GHAZNI CITY - Taliban militants gunned down the Nawa district chief on Monday afternoon on main highway in Maqur district in southern Ghazni province, an official said. Brig. Gen. Mohammad Hakim Angar, Ghazni police chief, told Pajhwok Af-

ghan News Haji Manaf Khan was travelling in his car from Kabul to Helmand when gunmen sprayed his car with bullets. There were three people in the car but only the district chief was killed in the attack, he added. Col. Pacha Gul Bakhtiar, a senior police officer, confirmed the attack.

A source in Ghazni wishing anonymity said the district chief was seriously wounded in the attack in Shajoi area who succumbed to his injuries on his way to hospital in Maqur district. However, militants have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

Detained Teenage Bomber Paraded



KUNDUZ CITY - Security forces detained a teenage would-be suicide bomber before he could strike a military base in northern Kunduz province, officials said on Monday. The 13-year-old, Mirwais, son of Mahiuddin, a resident of Kunduz City, the provincial capital, had been tasked by Taliban militants with carrying out a suicide attack on the Bagh-i-Shirkat military base. He was arrested by Afghan National Army and intelligence personnel after he visited the area, said Kunduz Governor Muhammad Omar Safi. Parading the boy before journalists at a press conference here, Safi said the Taliban wanted to use the boy in staging a terrorist attack on the military base, but they failed. Expressing his concern over the

use of children in suicide attacks by Taliban, the governor claimed the militants were training more than 20 children in Qala-i-Zal district for staging terrorist attacks. He said such acts by the insurgents were against child rights. Mirwais is actual resident of southern Kandahar province. His family sent him to Pakistan's Karachi city for religious education two years back. He told reporters that his teacher beat him and forced him to carry out a suicide attack on the military base. He said his teacher claimed some insiders at the base would help him reach his target. He also said about 20 children were currently being trained to become suicide bombers. The mentors included women, he said. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your mind is racing at a million miles a minute; the thoughts go flying by so fast that you can't hold onto any one of them. More is going on than you realize. It's not time to turn a dream into reality now. Mercury's retrograde in your 3rd House of Information gives you a chance to let the "what-ifs" come and go at their own pace without any need to make major decisions or initiate action just yet.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your most ingenious money-making schemes probably look better on paper now than they do once you try to put them into motion. But don't throw the baby out with the bath water; there may be a real jewel buried amongst a pile of half-crazy ideas. Keep mulling the various possibilities around in your mind. Don't get lazy and let one go because it's not perfect.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may experience moments of dread now when you start to believe that time has run out and you've missed a once-in-a-lifetime chance. You are tempted to bring others into your drama today as if they might have the answer to your current dilemma. But don't fall victim to a momentary flash of panic; instead recognize the trap of Mercury retrograde as it turns up the intensity on your analytical process.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Capturing the magic of your imagination these days is a challenge worth rising to as cerebral Mercury back steps through your 12th House of Spiritual Mystery. Schedule time to meditate, dance or listen to music so you can sink beneath the superficial noise in your head and into the creative waters of your subconscious. But you may not get tangible results overnight.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

The danger of thinking about the future is expecting it to arrive in the present. Your mind is so active now that it's difficult to shut off your imagination - and the fantasies look so wonderful that you want them to come true today. Consciously take a few steps back from your own mental machinations while Mercury is retrograde in your 11th House of Goals.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You may be frustrated by your lack of progress at work, especially if you didn't receive that promotion or raise you wanted. You're inclined to share your emotions with one of your colleagues, but this open communication could backfire on you. Others might even see you as overly ambitious or self-indulgent if you reveal your feelings. Don't close down your heart, but keep it protected from needless drama.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You want to proudly announce your plans for the next chapter of your life. You might have dreams of climbing the tallest mountain or crossing the widest desert. Or, perhaps, you're ready to crack the books and earn the degree you've always wanted. However, it's too soon to talk about your ambitions; if you do, you could unintentionally dissipate the energy.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You are entering a planetary power zone where your ideas carry extra weight, but the emphasis on your thoughts is not without possible pitfalls. Becoming caught in a cycle of doubt can spiral out of control unless you consciously intervene. Mercury is retrograding through your 8th House of Transformation, inviting you to reassess the efficacy of your deepest emotional patterns.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

It might seem as if someone is picking a fight with you, but you may be extra sensitive to other people's words today. It's likely that you could jump to a faulty conclusion or misinterpret a message as communicator Mercury dances backward through your 7th House of Partners. Don't be overly concerned if you find yourself having the same conversation again and again as you try to untangle a misunderstanding.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your uncharacteristic inattention to details can cause your best-laid plans to go awry now. You might have too many commitments that spread your energy too thin. Or you could just be so eager to begin a project that you make fast assumptions instead of doing the research. Don't let your ambition get the best of you while mental Mercury is retrograding through your 6th House of Service.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Words come easily to you today, prompting you to express your heart in a romantic manner. But you have so many wonderful visions that it's nearly impossible to pick just one and run with it. Consequently, you may get frustrated with your inability to share your emotions. Unfortunately, your angst could even close down the flow of positive feelings.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your hypersensitivity presents you with an irreconcilable dilemma today. You may know how someone close to you feels even before they tell you. It's as if you can actually hear their thoughts when messenger Mercury is moving backward in your 4th House of Family. No matter how strong your psychic radar is now, it's still crucial to check out your hunches instead of just assuming they are right.



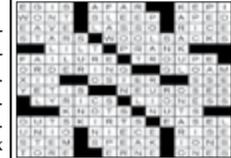
Across

- Sandwich shop, 5. Jeans material, 10. Pile, 14. Atop, 15. Genus of heath, 16. Cocoyam, 17. Oceans, 18. Relax rules or guidelines, 20. Slight, 22. Frying pan, 23. Lenient, 24. Loamy deposit, 25. Distracted, 32. Fools, 33. Alleviated, 34. Diminish, 37. Barely managed, 38. Jump for joy, 39. Adhesive, 40. Gender, 41. Jeweler's glass, 42. Angry, 43. Appraisals, 45. Send, as payment, 49. Gorilla, 50. Snob, 53. Refrain, 57. Deplorable, 59. If not, 60. Bit of gossip, 61. Less friendly, 62. Part in a play, 63. To tax or access, 64. Gowns, 65. Sow,

Down

- Powdery dirt, 2. Type of sword, 3. Give temporarily, 4. Offended, 5. Luxurious, 6. Anagram of "Sire", 7. Pen part, 8. Frosts, 9. Assign a grade, 10. Greetings, 11. Ancient Roman magistrate, 12. Woodcutting tools, 13. Verse writers, 19. Suffered, 21. Horse feed, 25. Midmonth date, 26. Microwave (slang), 27. Pinnacle, 28. Connection, 29. Brownish gray, 30. Small islands, 31. Animal doctor, 34. Distinctive flair, 35. Backside, 36. Honey insects, 38. Dawn goddess, 39. Welcomers, 41. Language of ancient Rome, 42. Rapsallions, 44. Swords, 45. Museum piece, 46. Gladden, 47. Acts out without words, 48. List components, 51. Blend, 52. Meal in a shell, 53. Away from the wind, 54. Balm ingredient, 55. Small island, 56. Require, 58. Top part of an apron.

Yesterday's Solution



alone, always, breathe, chimes, choose, claim, credit, emotion, fares, figurative, flower, foist, grant, grocery, hear, jacket, knock, living, ocean, owner, people, periods, plane, reaper, regular, ring, routs, ruse, saints, seem, seen, shag, share, sheep, slat, somewhere, strip, sword, tense, tough, wear

