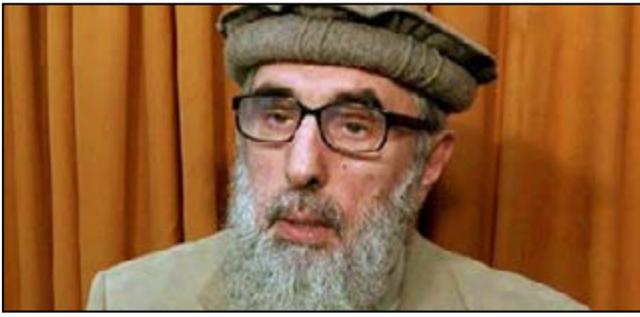


Analysts Negate Hekmatyar's Remarks on Taliban Leader

KABUL - Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hizb-e-Islami, condemned the killing of Taliban's top commander Mullah Akhtar Mansour, days after a US drone strike killed the elusive leader in the Pakistani territory. "I strongly condemn the joint operation carried out by the U.S and Iran which terrorized Mullah Akhtar Mansour," Hekmatyar said in a statement on Thursday.

In addition, Hekmatyar accused the Iranian intelligence of providing information about Mansour to ask for incentives from the United States.

"There are reports that the Iranian intel-



ligence had provided the U.S with the information about Mullah Mansour and the drone strike took place on the basis of the information provided by Iran," the statement read.

Hekmatyar said that "on the one hand we are carrying out the peace process; we also condemn this act of terrorism in the strongest terms and call the Iranian act big and unforgivable treason."

Hekmatyar went on to say, "Hizb-e-Islami wants the peace agreement which came out of the negotiations with the Kabul government to be finalized... (More on P4)...(17)

Blockade of Some Kabul Roads Created Problems for Commuters

KABUL - The residents of capital Kabul on Friday complained against the blockade of a number of roads saying they had been facing multiple problems while moving from one place to another, but security officials said blocking some roads were aimed at better security.

According to the residents besides the blockade of some vital roads for security reasons, some main roads of public transportation had been blocked due to the movement of key government officials for hours.

Aziz Rahman, a resident of Kabul city said that threats of some opportunists should not cause to block public and busy roads.

He said President Ashraf Ghani during his presidential campaign in 2014 had promised he would not let any roads blocked for government officials'... (More on P4)...(18)

Policewomen Gets Father to Leave Taliban

KABUL - Najiba Dalawar, a policewoman from Jawzjan province, said that she joined the police ranks after almost being shot for "collaborating" with government forces while being held in the Taliban's custody.

Twenty-year-old Dalawar has served as a policewoman for a year and is currently stationed at the Mazar-e-Sharif Police Training Center where she is undergoing three months of training.

Home for her is Sherbeg village in the district of Qushtapa of Jawzjan province.

Dalawar said that just over a year ago the Taliban kidnapped her after accusing her of collaborating with Afghan forces and kept her hostage for three days. During this time they wanted to kill her but with the help of tribal elders, she was released.

"Taliban took me and kept me for three days and nights then tribal elders told them that I am not a policewoman and then they gave a letter of guarantee [to this effect] to the Taliban and the Taliban released me and after that I came and I joined the police force," said Dalawar.

She said that at the time her father was collaborating with the Taliban and... (More on P4)...(21)

Analysts Criticize Iran for Sending Afghans into Syrian War

KABUL - While the Syrian conflict shows no sign of ending, reports have surfaced about the rise in casualties among Afghan nationals allegedly recruited by the Iranian government to fight for President Bashar Al-Assad of Syria.

The participation of Afghans in the Syrian war has elicited a strong reaction among social media users in Afghanistan. Recently nine Afghan soldiers killed in Syria were buried in Iranian cities of Mashhad and Yaz, sparking huge concern among Afghans.

Meanwhile, a number of analysts have said that the Iranian



government by exploiting the miseries of Afghans sent them to the Syrian war.

"Unfortunately, the Islamic Republic of Iran uses the refugees as political tools. Iran sends them to Syria as tools and they are killed over there," analyst Kako Jan Niazi said.

Pictures recently posted on social media show that two weeks ago, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei met... (More on P4)...(19)

12 Daesh Militants Killed in Nangarhar Drone Strikes

JALALABAD - At least a dozen Daesh fighters have been killed during separate NATO drone strikes in eastern Nangarhar province during the past 24 hours, officials said on Thursday.

Attallah Khogyani, the provincial government spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News one of the drone strikes took place in Sarobi village of the Achin district.

Six Islamic State fighters were killed in the attack that also destroyed a bomb-rigged car belonging to the militants, he said, claiming the dead militants had crossed into Afghan-



istan from Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal region of Orakzai.

Civilians suffered no casualties in the precise drone strike, the gubernatorial spokesman said. The Ministry of Defence also confirmed a number of Daesh

Officials Concerned Over Presence of Taliban in Parwan

KABUL - Local officials in central Parwan province have said they are concerned about what they call a huge presence of Taliban in parts of Parwan including areas near Parwan-Bamiyan highway.

Parwan governor Mohammad Asim told TOLONews that nearly 500 Taliban fighters live mostly in Siagard and Sheikh Ali districts.

"There are Taliban rebels in Siagard, Shinwari and parts of Sheikh Ali districts [in Parwan]. According to our informa-

tion, their number ranges from 400 to 500," he told TOLONews. Meanwhile, head of Parwan provincial council, Ghulam Bahaduddin Jelani, spoke of the presence of a number of Taliban fighters along Parwan-Bamiyan highway, which is located near Siagard district.

He said insecurity has badly affected the economy of the people and government.

"No doubt, Parwan is one of the strategic places. They are in Siagard ,... (More on P4)...(22)

6 Bus Terminals Being Constructed in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MTC) has approved construction of six bus terminals in eastern Nangarhar province and the construction process is expected to be launched soon, officials said on Thursday.

Nangarhar governor's spokesman Attallah Khogyani told Pajhwok Afghan News the announcement was made by transport officials during a meeting chaired by Governor Saleem Khan Kunduzi.

Nangarhar transport



department head Mohammad Ayub Sharafat told the meeting that the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation had approved funds for the terminals in 1395 solar financial year.

He said four terminals would be constructed in areas falling in Jalalabad City, the provincial capital, and another two terminals in the Torkham Township.

As soon as land for the terminals was placed... (More on P4)...(23)

Gold Price Goes Down, Flour up in Kabul

KABUL - The price of the Arabian gold has decreased while that of flour increased during the outgoing week in capital Kabul, market sources said on Thursday.

Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, told Pajhwok Afghan News the price of one gram of the Arabian gold went down from 2,300 afghanis to 2,250 afghanis and the same quantity of the Russian variety stood stable at 1,900 afghanis, registering no change compared to last week's price.

In food items, the price of only flour has increased. Food Traders Union head, Fazal Rahman said the rate of a 49 kilograms sack of Kazakh flour increased from 1,250af to 1,280af this week. He linked the hike in flour price to a decrease in imports.

But he said a 49-kg bag of Pakistani sugar cost 2,250af, 24-kg of Pakistani rice 1,600af and 16 liters of Shahista ghee 1,050af, the same prices as of last week's.

A shopkeeper in Kabul Market, Haji Rahmatullah, sold a kilogram of... (More on P4)...(24)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



It's like you walked through a revolving door and have stepped out into a parallel universe. Relationship dynamics feel very familiar, as if you were here once before. Paradoxically, an emotional transformation that occurred in the beginning of the year is resurfacing and demanding your attention now.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



A partnership that endures the tests of time is worth its weight in gold to you Bulls who crave consistency. As the pace of change began to speed up in the last couple of months, you may have nostalgically longed for a return to a simpler life. Although familiar interpersonal patterns are drawing you back into the past.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You don't mind playing games at work in order to stay in touch with your support network. However, sometimes office politics grow so complicated that even you can't figure out which strategy makes the most sense. You might have thought you were out of the deep water and riding a trajectory that will carry you to the heights of success. Instead, you may need to jump back in the fray now even if you're unsure you are up for the job.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Perhaps you started a creative path early in the year, only to put it on the backburner when your attention was required elsewhere. No doubt you're busy trying to keep up with your current responsibilities. You are being handed a chance to revisit the project you left behind as a reward for your hard work.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You enjoyed a certain amount of freedom from domestic responsibilities over the past couple of months. However, family matters are once again calling and you must respond accordingly. Don't begrudge anyone else just because you would rather be pursuing your own goals rather than serving others. Nevertheless, the depth of feeling that can arise from taking care of the ones you love.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Everything seems to be more urgent today and you might not be able to sustain the faster pace. In fact, you could be running from one small crisis to the next without making progress on your list of things to do. Oddly enough, you're still optimistic about catching up and getting ahead of the game. Thankfully, you possess the ability to create emotional distance in order to be analytical without bias.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



A new perspective on your finances enables you to revisit decisions you made earlier this year. Although parts of your strategy may have unfolded exactly according to your plan, you couldn't possibly anticipate every challenge that would need to be overcome. Fortunately, you are blessed with a second chance now to incorporate what you learned over the past few months.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



It may have seem as if last year's challenges were behind you but recent events suggest that there are still a few remaining ghosts to put to rest. Don't worry; this is not a permanent return to the past. You have made more headway than you realize on your path to achieve your long-term goals. It's just that you won't be free to manifest your dreams until you tie up as many loose ends as you can.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You might feel as if circumstances are out of control and your attempts to manage them are restraining your forward progress. Naturally, you don't like covering old ground again; your imperative is to move full speed ahead. However, something very special awaits your discovery if you have enough courage to investigate the shadows that trail along behind you.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Sometimes you think that social engagements are merely distractions that deter you from accomplishing your goals. However, the story is more complicated now as you find yourself spending more time with people who can actually increase your efficiency along the way. Nevertheless, it's a fine line that must be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

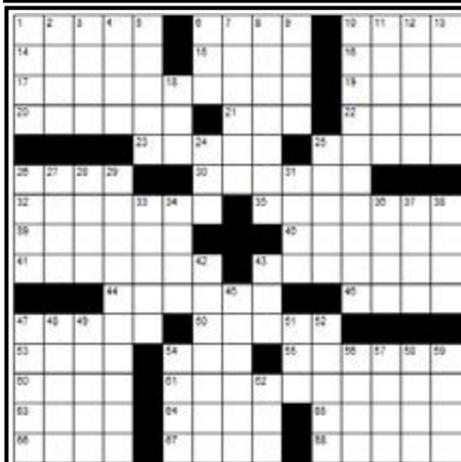


Although a recent conflict with an authority figure might be resolved on the surface, a deeper battle continues out of sight. Your position on the matter is quite clear to you, but others may not share your perspective. Instead of wasting time trying to prove you're right, look within yourself to discover your role in perpetuating this struggle. Avoid your natural tendency to intellectualize the dilemma or analyze the dynamics.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



It's time to resurrect a discarded dream that inspired you back in the beginning of this year. But perhaps you were subsequently required to redirect your focus to more mundane matters. Upon reconsideration, it turns out that your previous plans might not be as unrealistic as you once thought. There is no need for action today, but it is crucial to start the process of refining your vision.



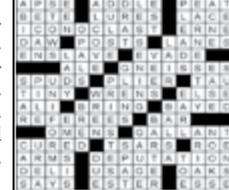
Across

1. Excrete, 6. Chums, 10. Purges, 14. Odd-numbered page, 15. Type of sword, 16. Beige, 17. Cause to glow, 19. Jetty, 20. Record player, 21. Not her, 22. Genuine, 23. Hair net, 25. Transport, 26. Chills and fever, 30. Womb, 32. Advise, 35. Mark for misconduct, 39. Be a snitch, 40. Lay bare, 41. Impassive, 43. Stableboy, 44. Threaten, 46. Where two pieces meet, 47. Lance, 50. Arbor, 53. Words, 54. Female deer, 55. Fronting, 60. Against, 61. Illogical, 63. Tropical tuber, 64. Engineering school, 65. Ill-gotten gains, 66. Distinctive flair, 67. District, 68. Garden tool.

Down

1. Anagram of "Sire", 2. Lady's escort, 3. Behold, in old Rome, 4. Sun, 5. Notes, 6. Spelling contest, 7. Outcome, 8. Chose, 9. Appear, 10. Acts as an agent, 11. Less friendly, 12. Gloomy, in poetry, 13. Bad-tempered, 18. Put clothing on, 24. Not in, 25. Exhaust, 26. Does something, 27. Satyr, 28. "Do others...", 29. Appraisal, 31. Start over, 33. Canker sore, 34. Low-fat, 36. Govern, 37. Notion, 38. School session, 42. Worker, 43. Cut down, 45. Compel, 47. Condition, 48. Prison-related, 49. Spare, 51. Eastern newt, 52. Train tracks, 54. Devil tree, 56. Masterstroke, 57. Ancient Peruvian, 58. An aromatic ointment, 59. Delight, 62. "Eureka!".

Yesterday's Solution



adapt, again, avoid, begin, check, create, custom, daughter, deal, drape, dress, eject, entitle, gully, heart, hungry, incredible, institute, intensive, island, manage, millions, model, murder, prove, rare, shine, short, silence, sirs, spud, table, threat, winner.

