

Taliban Attack Kills 19 Police in Uruzgan

TRINKUT - At least 19 policemen have so far been killed and 31 others are missing in a 16-day long clash between Taliban and special forces in Uruzgan province.

Uruzgan representative in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) Mohammad Hanif Hanafi, has confirmed that 19 policemen have been killed. He said that over the past sixteen days, 54 police posts have fallen and another four are currently under siege. "According to my information 15 policemen were killed in Khas Uruzgan and 31 other policemen have disappeared, it is not clear if they are in the



custody of Taliban, or if they have been killed or are alive. And four other policemen were killed in oth-

er districts," said Senator Mohammad Hanif Hanafi. According to Hanafi, a police commander commit-

ted suicide out of fear of being taken hostage by the Taliban after his police officers were killed.

Residents of Uruzgan are meanwhile extremely concerned about the state of security in their province and, along with tribal elders, have asked the Interior Minister and Chief of Army Staff - who visited Uruzgan province on Thursday - to take serious steps towards security the province.

"It has been fifteen days of war in Uruzgan and there are posts that have no water, no food and no bullets and also our martyrs have not been transferred yet," one of the tribal elders said. Heavy clashes are reportedly ongoing...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Food Prices Down in Kabul as Afghani Reverses Trend

KABUL - Following an increase in the value of Afghan currency against dollar, the prices of necessary food items and gold edged down during the outgoing week in capital Kabul, market sources said on Thursday.

Moneychanger Mohammad Amin said the buying rate of one US dollar was 59.50afis against last week's 60.50. While 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 565 afis against last week's 581afis. The afghani has gradually declined against US dollar during the past two years. Afghanistan Central Bank officials had said the decline in the Afghan currency would be tem-



porary and people should not worry about it. Fazal Rahman, head of Food Traders' Union, said that rise in the value of afghani against foreign currency caused reduction in prices of necessary food items. According to his information, the price of 50-kilogram of bag...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Kidnapped German Citizen Released in Kunduz: Police

KUNDUZ CITY - A German national kidnapped by gunmen from Kunduz-Baghlan highway has been released from a hideout in northern Kunduz province on Friday, provincial police spokesman said. Sayed Sarwar Hussaini told Pajhwok Afghan News that German national Stephen, employee of an NGO known as GTZ, was abducted by armed men one month back. He said that Stephen was res-



cued unhurt in a joint operation by special unit of Afghan National Police (ANP) backed by National Directorate of Security (NDS) from a hideout in Chardara district. He, however, did not make it clear whether the rescued man was abducted by Taliban gunmen or other illegal armed groups. He said that police had started investigation to know who were behind his kidnapping. *(Pajhwok)*

Former Jihadi Leader Assassinated in Kabul

KABUL - Former jihadi leader Maolawi Syed Maqbol was assassinated Thursday night in Deh Sabz district of Kabul, officials said Friday. Humayun Aini, 119 police helpline chief, said a group of unknown gunmen shot dead Syed Maqbol in Ali Khail area of Deh Sabz district when he was on his way home from mosque. The attackers were riding on a white Toyota Corolla and fled the area.

Police have started an investigation into the incident. No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack. Syed Maqbol was a famous commander during the jihad against the Soviet Union in Pol-e-Charkhi area of Kabul. This comes after unknown gunmen recently killed eastern Paktia province appellate court chief Najibullah Sultanzoi in Kabul city. *(Tolonews)*

6 Taliban Detained in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Officials in eastern Nangarhar said on Friday Afghan security forces arrested six Taliban, including a dreaded commander, in Ghanikhel district of the province, the governor's spokesman said. Ahmad Zia Abdulzai told Pajhwok Afghan News that security forces detained the insurgents, including a notorious commander Mirdad, in a raid. He said that weapons and ammunitions had been also recovered from the arrested men. Separately, Afghan security forces nabbed another insurgent in Jalalabad City, the provincial capital. The detained insurgents confessed to committing crimes. However, Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. *(Pajhwok)*

Taliban Push Daesh Back from Khak-I-Safid District

FARAH CITY - The Islamic State (IS) or Daesh fighters have been pushed back of Khak-i-Safid district in western Farah province by Taliban insurgents, an official said on Thursday. Abdul Khaliq Nawrozi, the district administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the two groups had been fighting since last week in Kala Mazar locality. Both sides suffered heavy casualties, he said but he had no exact figure into fatalities. "Finally over 100 Daesh fighters retreated from this district to Anar Dara," he added. Nawrozi said some days back also Maulvi Abdul Malik, and Abdul Razaq two Daesh commanders escaped...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Suicide Bomber Training Centre Unearthed in Zabul

KABUL - Security officials arrested four militants, recovered 570 kilograms of explosives after smashing a training centre in southern Zabul province, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said in a statement on Thursday. The facility located in Qalat City, the provincial capital,



was being used for training of suicide bombers, the statement said, adding the detained individuals had hand in recent suicide attacks in Qalat City. Three days back, around 70 people were killed and wounded in a suicide car bombing that targeted the provincial council offices. *(Pajhwok)*

Iranian Spy Escapes from Nimroz Jail

ZARANJ - An Iranian spy has escaped from prison in southwestern Nimroz province after taking advantage of prison visiting hours, officials said on Thursday. The man, who had been sentenced to fifteen (15) years in jail on the charge of spying for Iran, escaped from jail a day earlier, a security official said on condition of anonymity. A police official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the fugitive was a resident of western Farah province, but did not name him. He had served two years of his jail term. *(Pajhwok)*

Goods worth Afs 200m Lost in Market Fire

KHOST CITY - Property worth 200 million afghanis turned into ashes after a huge fire swept through a wood market overnight in the capital of southeastern Khost province, an official said on Thursday. Khost Mayor Karamat Khan Khpalwak told Pajhwok Afghan News the fire broke out on Wednesday night shortly after 9pm in a furniture market and quickly engulfed the entire market. He said 195 shops and all furniture inside had turned into ashes and initial investigation estimated the losses at 190 million afghanis. Besides wood and furniture, he said, all carpentry equipment and machines had destroyed in the blaze. Crime branch police official Col. Guldad Mandozai said their investigation showed the fire was caused by a gas cylinder. "In order to properly

investigate the cause of the fire, we have constituted a seven-member team," he said. A fire bridge official Saifullah told Pajhwok Afghan News they reached the scene few minutes after the fire erupted, but the blaze continued increasing. He said they were able to somehow control the fire at about 2am last night, but could not put it out entirely until Thursday morning with spraying water. He said they were joined by water tankers belonging to the Afghan National Army and the municipality in controlling the fire. A white-bearded affected shop owner, Rozi Khan, said he reached the scene when his shop had gutted. "There were wooden doors, windows, timber and carpentry machines worth 3.5 million Pakistani rupees. But you can see only ashes now." *(Pajhwok)*

From Conflict to Peace, Arghandab Now a Picnic Spot

KABUL - Once the frontline of Afghanistan's war, the southern province of Kandahar is finally experiencing a semblance of peace with residents even able to enjoy peaceful picnics in the infamous Arghandab district. According to one resident, Gul Mohammad Yarana, Arghandab - an area previously



plagued by deadly battles between security forces and insurgents - has in recent times become an important leisure

area for locals. "The Taliban were living here and no one could come here at ease...*(More on P4)...(23)*

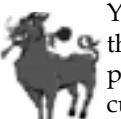
Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Your plans begin to fall in place today as you gather more information about your partner's vision of the future. However, you need more time to find common ground since you still have important details to work out. Unfortunately, you can't apply everything you discover now, so store what you learn for later when you can use it.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You might have big expenses on the horizon that require you to spend more than you planned. Naturally, you Bulls like to feel secure about your monetary situation but lingering concerns may be plaguing you now. The incisive Scorpio Moon's shift into your 7th House of Others brings someone into your life who can help you make wise financial decisions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You are at a fork in the road and may feel pressured by someone to choose one path or the other. However, this urgency is a bit of an illusion now, so continue incorporating new data and reconsidering your strategy for a while longer. However, be certain your words convey exactly what you mean since you could come across as a know-it-all rather than as a thoughtful person.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



One cycle in your life is coming to a close and another is about to begin. However, you can't start your next adventure until you tie up the loose ends from the previous one. Review your recent experiences so you can decide what you want to carry with you into the future. You have an opportunity to express what's in your heart today, choose your words wisely.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Your confident nature usually empowers you to navigate your way through the most trying situations. It's not that you have all the answers; you just have a knack of turning mountains into mole hills once you state your intentions. However, you may want assistance now that interactive Mercury aligns with the Sun in your 11th House of Networking.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You have a plethora of possibilities to ponder now that the Sun and Mercury are in cahoots traveling through your 10th House of Public Life. But don't get tricked into thinking you must map out your entire future today, since you're likely to change your mind more than once. Instead of stressing out about your ambivalence, luxuriate in the additional time at your disposal to search for answers.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Money matters are on your mind today as the provocative Scorpio Moon slips into your 2nd House of Personal Resources. Perhaps someone owes you money or maybe you need to discuss the details of a financial arrangement with an expert you trust. Either way, you can solidify your future by thoroughly reviewing your current economic picture and making much-needed minor modifications.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Although you might not typically wear your emotions on your sleeve, your feelings are transparent now to anyone who takes a second look. Unfortunately, you're not in the mood to involve others in your emotional process today, prompting you to deny that anything is wrong. But just because you're fully capable of handling your problems by yourself, it doesn't mean you should.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



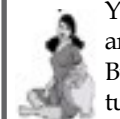
Your life would be much simpler now if everyone around you would stop changing their minds. It seems as if others are telling you what they want one minute, and then saying something completely different the next. However, they would probably remain consistent if they actually knew what they wanted today. Luckily, you don't let fickle people get under your skin.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Your schedule has been unusually erratic with mischievous Mercury backtracking in your 6th House of Routine. You may be wondering when your daily life will calm down and return to normal. It's not that you can't handle whatever surprises come your way, but even you even-keeled Goats can grow irritated if people shirk their duties today.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

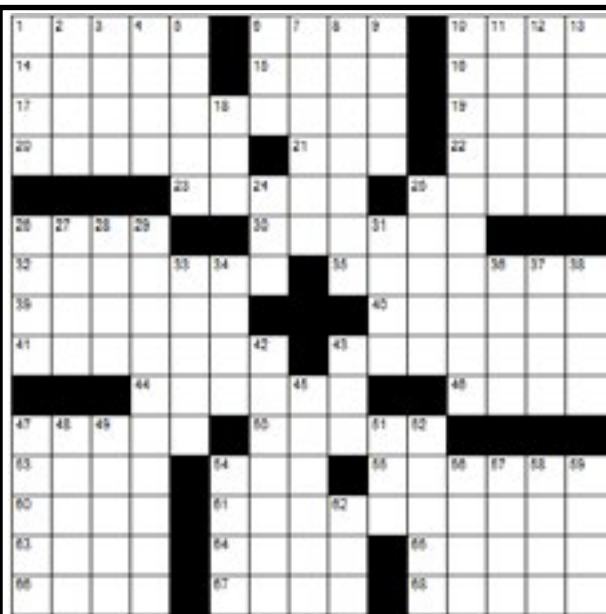


You may have plenty of projects in process now and even a few new prospects on the horizon. But you can't say yes to every intriguing opportunity that knocks on your door today as clever Mercury, ardent Mars and the brilliant Sun cluster in your 5th House of Creativity. Fortunately, you can make substantial progress if you tap into the cosmic energy without being pulled every which way.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Sorting out the most practical thoughts from all the noise is tricky while chatty Mercury connects with the Sun. It's even more complicated today because everyone seems to have something contrary to say. Nevertheless, you can still glean good advice if you carefully filter the opinions from the facts. Thankfully, you'll gain clarity over the days ahead, enabling you to have a better handle on what people want.



Across

- Expectorates, 6. Vagrants, 10. Taxis, 14. Unit of weight for gems, 15. Leave out, 16. Monster, 17. A cosmic cataclysm, 19. Natural satellite, 20. Slogan, 21. Belief, 22. Not amateurs, 23. Put forth, as effort, 25. Slow down, 26. Close violently, 30. A Native American tent, 32. Madman, 35. Spackle, 39. Incongruous, 40. Give confidence to, 41. Roman household gods, 43. Aerial, 44. A ring that seals, 46. Consider,, 47. One more than 6, 50. A part of the small intestine, 53. Snip, 54. Ribonucleic acid, 55. Emanating from the center, 60. Backside, 61. Nonphysical, 63. Give temporarily, 64. Accomplishment, 65. Wall climbers, 66. At one time (archaic), 67. Cocoyam, 68. Crates

Down

- Fraud, 2. Dad, 3. Press, 4. Diplomacy, 5. Look at with fixed eyes, 6. Lad, 7. Referee, 8. Error, 9. Flower stalk, 10. Compacted, 11. Ancient Greek marketplace, 12. Creek, 13. Feel, 18. Lenient, 24. And so forth, 25. Monster, 26. Faux pas, 27. Attraction, 28. Nameless, 29. Administration, 31. Scheme, 33. Moon of Saturn, 34. Frosts, 36. Melody, 37. Sea eagle, 38. 500 sheets, 42. Peeled, 43. Consumed food, 45. Jubilant, 47. Not fresh, 48. Mistake, 49. Entry permits, 51. A large vase, 52. Wizardry, 54. Go on horseback, 56. Opera star, 57. Nile bird, 58. Away from the wind, 59. Not more, 62. Big fuss.

Yesterday's Solution



absolute, amaze, challenge, cycle, dance, danger, duet, fable, first, gout, great, grown, magic, majority, military, ministry, payload, perception, prediction, quest, raisin, rare, route, rude, rules, sane, scene, sorry, squeak, stage, stroke, tense, travel, trot, vole,

