

Taliban Planned to Release Prisoners in Faryab

KABUL - Taliban militants had planned to seize the provincial capital of northern Faryab province and storm the province's jail to release prisoners. Brigadier General Dawlat Waziri, the deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Defense said in a press conference on Monday that Taliban militants launched a coordinated attack on Maimana from all directions yesterday and engaged in a heavy gun battle with security forces till this morning. He said security forces already had awareness of a possible Taliban attack and were well prepared to respond to it. "I can say hundreds of them got



killed and wounded in the gun battle," Brig. Gen. Waziri added. Brig. Gen. Waziri further said that security forces and civilians did not suffer casualties during the gun battle. But Sayed Abdul Baqi, head of Faryab's Provincial Council had earlier said that seven members of a family were killed and wounded in the clash. Taliban released nearly 1,000 prisoners, including their partners, in two attacks on jails in Ghazni and Kunduz provinces last month. (KP)

15 Militants Killed, Wounded in Anti-Daesh Operation



JALALABAD - Seven militants have been killed and eight others wounded in anti-Daesh operation in Achin District of eastern Nangarhar province. Daesh suffered the latest casualties in Abdulkhil area that is infiltrated by the militant group. A statement released by Colonel Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal - spokesman for the media office of Nangarhar's police HQ states that the security situation has been satisfactory in the areas cleared of militants. The statement further states that security forces detained seven suspected people, including a Pakistani national from other parts of Nangarhar province yesterday. Six residents of Achin District were detained with two Kalashnikovs, bomb and a transmission set from the jurisdiction of BatiKot District. The Pakistani national identified as Abdul Razaq was detained from the capital of Haska Mina District. Achin, BatiKot and Haska Mina are among the districts of Nangarhar province witnessing severe insecurity from the past few months. (KP)

Kunduz Residents Praise Troops for Ousting Taliban

KUNDUZ CITY - Traumatized residents from the embattled city of Kunduz on Sunday expressed their gratitude at being able to slowly return to normal after having gone in to hiding for most of the week following the Taliban's siege of the city on Monday. Families have started venturing out on to the streets in a bid to find food as some shops, bakeries and restaurants gradually open their doors for business. Other families who fled, and who are also starting to return, praised the security forces for clearing their areas of insurgents. Many say they hope they never have to go



through the ordeal again. "We are thankful to our forces for giving us the chance to get back our normal life but we are afraid that they [Taliban] must not come back," a woman resident of Kunduz said. TOLONews reporter Wali Arian who is reporting from Kunduz and who spoke with residents re-

Iran Condemns US Airstrike on Afghanistan's Kunduz Hospital

KABUL - Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Marziyeh Afkham strongly condemned the Saturday's US airstrikes on a hospital in Afghanistan's Kunduz province which resulted in death and injury of tens of innocent civilians, including women and children. Iran condemns US airstrike on Afghanistan's Kunduz hospital. A Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) hospital in the Afghan city of Kunduz was bombed early on Saturday, leading to the death of at least three people, with dozens missing, the international aid agency said in a statement. There were around 200 people in the hospital building when it was bombed, according to MSF. "This attack is irresponsible and unjustifiable," Afkham said condemning the US-led coalition attack on the Kunduz hospital. "Ignoring the basic rights of the oppressed people of Afghanistan who do not also consider their treatment centers as safe are among the interfering approaches of the US and the coalition," the foreign ministry spokeswoman added. Reiterating on the importance of restoration of tranquility and security in the neighboring Afghanistan for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Afkham went on to say, "We hope that the international bodies will seriously and resolutely fulfill their duties and take the necessary measures in order to prevent recurrence of such incidents (in the future)." NATO does not rule out the possibility that a hospital of Doctors... (More on P4)... (18)

Innocent Civilians Suffer Most in Heavy Fighting in Kunduz

KABUL - The fall of Kunduz city to the Taliban and the week-long clashes between government security forces and the insurgents in the counter-offensive had a devastating impact on civilians who have been left without basic services, food and potable water. Interviewed by Xinhua over the phone Sunday, Mohammad Harif, a resident of Kunduz city, said that Kunduz used to be the breadbasket of Afghanistan. "Now there is a shortage of food and city residents are hungry. The price of one piece of bread has risen from 10 Afghanis a week ago to 50 Afghanis today. City residents are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance," he said. On Monday last week, in a surprise attack, Taliban militants captured Kunduz city, some 250 km north of the capital Kabul. Three days after, on Thursday, government forces, backed by the U.S. military, launched a counter-offensive. Kunduz city police said that some 400 Taliban insurgents have been killed in the counter-offensive. Local health officials have repeatedly called for a ceasefire so that medical care can be given to people who have been injured as a result of the fighting. Police said that some 60 civilians, including local journalist Zabihullah Pashtunyar, have been killed and nearly 400 others wounded since the fighting broke out in the city with a population of about 180,000. "There is a shortage of blood and medicines at the Kunduz Regional Hospital. The hospital building is crowded with injured persons, some of them lying in walkways for lack of hospital beds," Harif said. He added that there is a need for an urgent... (More on P4)... (19)

Russian Foreign Ministry Slams U.S. Over Kunduz Hospital Attack

KABUL - Russia's Foreign Ministry has called for an investigation into an attack on a hospital in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz on Saturday, blaming the U.S. military for the deaths of more than 20 civilians. "We demand an immediate objective investigation into the events and the punishment of those responsible for the tragedy," the ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said



in an online statement published Monday. The attack on Saturday took place as Afghan government forces backed by U.S. air power

tried to retake Kunduz after it was captured by Taliban insurgents last week. Aid group Medecins Sans... (More on P4)... (17)

Two of Four Hostages Escape from Taliban in Kunar



ASADABAD - Taliban militants kidnapped four civilians from a village in eastern Kunar province but two of them escaped. Brigadier General Sayed Habib Sayedkhili, police chief of Kunar province said on Monday that militants went to Patan area of Noorgal District and kidnapped a father with three sons last night. He said two of the hostages ran away from insurgents late at night but two of them, father and son, are still in the custody of the militants. According to Brig. General Sayedkhili, these people are not government employees. Taliban had not commented on the report by the time it was filed but in several occasions the militant group has targeted civilians after accusing them of working for the government. Kunar which shares a long border with Pakistan is one of the restive provinces of Afghanistan. Local and foreign militants are operating in parts of this province, especially in the border areas with Pakistan. (KP)

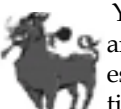
Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)



Expressing feelings that you might normally keep to yourself could destabilize a significant relationship today. Your inclination is to jump right in because you are all fired up about a particular issue-- even though you will likely encounter an icy reception from your audience. Tread carefully because your outburst may be motivated by fear instead of by love.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)



You may feel slightly contentious today and are quick to squabble with someone, if necessary, on your quest for personal satisfaction. Your ruling planet Venus is under intense pressure from provocative Pluto now, heightening your perceptions and activating your desires. Nevertheless, think again before you risk your emotional stability just to prove your point.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Your inquiring mind wants to know what drives others to seek power at work or in love. You may be ready to delve into the mysterious world of hidden feelings, a place that you often choose to avoid. However, you're willing to overcome your resistance now, even if you shudder at the thought of what you might encounter. You are on the right track and will surely feel a great sense of relief once you uncover the truth.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Strong emotional currents draw you into unfamiliar waters today, and you aren't necessarily a willing participant. Your attempts to maintain a healthy outlook can help you keep your head above the waves, yet you still might scare yourself now by sinking into the darkness of your subconscious. There's no reason to fight the process when positive change is your reward.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Managing your emotions is like an unsolvable puzzle today, especially if you're stuck in one particular way of viewing intimacy in relationships. Your love life might feel like an emotional minefield instead of the pleasure palace it's meant to be. As difficult as it is to see now, the real conflict is within and not with anyone else. Thankfully.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Relationship dynamics are particularly complicated now, especially if there are money problems in the mix. Keep in mind that resolution is easier once you accept the truth you previously tried to deny. Ironically, stress works in your favor today, motivating you to initiate overdue changes. Don't get sidetracked by your need to be right; no one wins if you choose to play the blame game. Fortunately.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Your desire for relationship stability finally gives way to the obvious need for change. Unfortunately, verbal communication might not solve all your problems because your emotions can be so passionate now that others question the validity of your perspective. Detach yourself from any desired outcome by simply stating your case and then letting it go. No matter what occurs next.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)



You're resigned to gamble on your heart today, especially if you think it's necessary to get what you want. You may feel as if you've run out of options and have no alternatives at your disposal. Romantic Venus is frazzled by fierce Pluto, provoking the expression of intense emotions. You're living in the realm of extremes now, with very little gray between the black and the white.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)



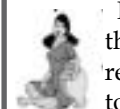
Your unspoken fears could have more of an influence on your relationships now than you realize. Nevertheless, you are driven to tackle complex issues, even when your common sense says there are no quick answers. The current challenges hold great potential for growth, but you can't just take the easy way out. You have a better chance of seeing things in their true light today if you try being less of an optimist and more of a realist.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)



It's not appropriate in the current emotional environment to apply the same managerial skills you might use to handle your business affairs. Your attempts at controlling the energetic flow could block the raw feelings that need to be expressed today. This is not the right time to be overly demanding or stubbornly stoic; instead, acknowledge any negativity, shame or guilt that may be clouding the picture.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)



Power struggles are likely if your dreams of the future differ from those closest to you. It requires extra work to find common ground today and the emotional discomfort that stems from social pressure tempts you to retreat from intense interactions. However, avoidance tactics won't lead to harmony in the future. Fortunately, the resistance dissipates if you move.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)



Although it might seem as if you're losing something dear to your heart today, nothing is actually being taken from you. It's just that relationship dynamics are shifting and you don't want to end up with the short end of the stick. However, you may be overreacting due to old fears or pointless insecurities. Don't waste your energy fighting against changes you can't control. Expressing your appreciation for others is the fastest method for calming.



Across
 1. Sleep in a convenient place, 5. Steeple, 10. Competent, 14. Sweeping story, 15. Related to tides, 16. Haul, 17. Humdinger, 18. Not arrogant, 20. Variant of an element, 22. Voluntary self-punishment, 23. Big fuss, 24. Signed, 25. Biometric identifier, 32. Double-reed instruments, 33. Deposits of ore, 34. Conceit, 37. Edges, 38. Hurdle, 39. Imperfection, 40. Donkey, 41. Cooktop, 42. Sugarcoat, 43. Amused, 45. Burn maliciously, 49. A high alpine meadow, 50. Perform surgery on, 53. Ambiguous, 57. Careful, 59. Midmonth date, 60. Blah, 61. An ancient Assyrian city, 62. Wreaths, 63. Cheers, 64. Spot, 65. Harvard rival.

Down
 1. Sandwich shop, 2. Creative work, 3. Storage cylinder, 4. Commutations of military service, 5. Daze, 6. A coniferous tree, 7. Actress Lupino, 8. Coarse file, 9. If not, 10. Flack, 11. Threshold, 12. Javelin, 13. Incited, 19. Pieces, 21. Poems, 25. Ancient marketplaces, 26. Nile bird, 27. French for 28. Flora, 29. French for «Red», 30. Lazybones, 31. Mesh, 34. Dash, 35. Stare, 36. Was indebted, 38. Delivery vehicle, 39. In a weak and flimsy manner, 41. Rehabilitation, 42. Big party, 44. Bar, 45. Drink made of liquor and water, 46. A drama set to music, 47. Pass-the-baton race, 48. Baby beds, 51. Orange pekoe, 52. At one time, 53. Decorative case, 54. Bright thought, 55. Head covering, 56. Being.

Yesterday's Solution
 alternate, banish, bone, broach, brother, bulk, classic, comment, crystal, cycle, dentist, dependable, duels, episode, fair, forge, fossil, funds, hopeless, horse, major, nasty, native, neap, pert, plan, poison, police, raise, rule, search, tread.

