

# Senate Shows Solidarity with Media after Taliban Threats

KABUL - A number of members of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) on Sunday denounced the recent Taliban threats to TOLO and 1TV channels and called it an attack on freedom of speech. Referring to the crimes committed by the Taliban in Kunduz, the senators stated that the Taliban's threat against media outlets is an attempt to hide the crimes they committed in the northern city - which fell to the insurgent group about three weeks ago. Last week, the Taliban issued a statement in which it declared TOLO and 1TV channels as their "military targets". They also is-



sued death threats against the staff working at these two media outlets. "The Taliban's threat against two TV channels is an attack on freedom of speech and democracy," Deputy Chairman of Senate Mohammad Alamlzadyar said. "We strongly condemn these threats." They called on the security agencies to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of media groups and the lives of journalists. "We praise the work being done by the media in delivering information to the people," Senator Anarkali Honaryar said. "We want the government to take serious measures..." (More on P4)...(16)

## Kidnapped German Aid Worker Released After Two Months



KABUL - A German aid worker who was kidnapped two months ago in Kabul has been released, German officials confirmed on Sunday. The woman was released on Saturday and is reportedly in good health condition. The aid worker, who has not been named, was abducted outside her office in the city center in August. She works for the German development organization GIZ, according to officials. Meanwhile, the German Foreign Minister Frank Walter-Steinmeier, on a visit to Tehran, said he was 'very relieved' at the news. He thanked the Afghan government and the country's security forces for their help in securing her release but did not give details. The incident marked the second abduction of a GIZ aid worker since April, after an employee of the agency was kidnapped in the northern province of Kunduz. He was released after 40 days in captivity. (Tolonews)

## 12 Migrants Including Afghans Drowned off Turkish Coast



ANKARA - 12 migrants, believed to be from Afghanistan and Syria, have been drowned off the Turkish coast near the town of Ayvacik which is a few kilometers from the Greek island of Lesbos. Turkish coastguard officials said on Saturday that the refugees were trying to reach to Lesbos Island but their boat sunk. The boat was carrying a total of about 35 people but others were rescued, said a coastguard official.

"The coastguard made an announcement saying a boat carrying Syrian migrants had sunk ... and we went to the area to help them. We pulled out six bodies," fisherman Sezer Simsek said, adding that his boat had been able to rescue four people. Thousands of Afghans flee the country because of increasing insecurity, poverty and unemployment every month. They take dangerous routes in order to reach to Europe for a better life but sometimes they face tragic incident and die on the way. (KP)

## 3rd Social Media Summit Kicks off in Kabul

KABUL - The Afghan Social Media Summit 2015 (ASMS2015), which is the third summit on social media, is being held in Kabul's Bagh-e-Babur from October 18-20. Over 1,000 participants and speakers from all over Afghanistan and abroad gather for the 3-day national event with the goal to connect and grow the burgeoning Afghan social media community. ASMS2015 is organized by Impassion Afghanistan, an Afghan company, was Afghanistan with the support of the U.S. Embassy and media partners, in-



cluding Pajhwok Afghan News. #ASMS2015 is organized by Impassion Afghanistan, the country's first digital media agency. Impassion Afghanistan, an Afghan company, was founded to help world-changing organizations increase impact through social media and mobile technology. For the first time, Impassion Afghanistan will bring the Afghan Social Media Awards - this will be a glittering award ceremony of the results of online public voting of the very best social media content. (More on P4)...(17)

## Army Captain Receiving Highest Honors for Taking Down Suicide Bomber



KABUL - President Obama will award the nation's highest military honor to Florent A. Groberg, a former Army captain who tackled a suicide bomber to protect a group of senior officers in eastern Afghanistan.

Groberg, 32, is to be awarded the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on Nov. 12. He will be the 10th living recipient to be honored with the medal for actions in Afghanistan. A naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in France, he graduated from Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, Md., in 2001 and the University of Maryland in 2006.

Two years later, Groberg joined the army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2009 and engaged in firefights as part of a unit known as Task Force Lethal.

The unit, part of the 4th Infantry Division from Ft. Carson in Colorado, was involved in heavy fighting across the eastern province of Kunar to help establish stability by 2010. Groberg returned to the area in 2012 as the leader of a personal security detachment for a colonel. (Agencies)

## Kabul University Launches First Women and Gender Studies Program

KABUL - It's what many Afghan women were denied by years of war and Taliban repression. That includes opportunities to get an education, not to mention chances to explore fully what women do and can offer their society. On Saturday, the movement toward more opportunities for Afghan women took a step forward with the launch of a master's degree program focused on Gender and Women's Studies at Kabul



University. The program is the first of its kind in all Afghanistan, where many girls have been - and, in some cases, still are - prohibited from getting any education at all, much less one probing issues related to their gender. "Women ... (More on P4)...(18)

## Officials Arrest Seven Alleged Child Soldiers in Badakhshan

KABUL - Security forces have arrested 12 insurgents in Wardooj district in Badakhshan, seven of whom are allegedly "child soldiers", local officials said on Sunday. In footage sent to TOLONews, which was reportedly taken two weeks ago when Wardooj fell to the Taliban, at least three of the detained fighters appear to be below the legal age of 18. Officials have not however given any details regarding the alleged child soldiers or of their ages. However, the acting

governor of Badakhshan Shah Waliullah Adib confirmed that the use of child soldiers in Badakhshan is a common practice by insurgents. He said there are many child soldiers in their ranks but he was not able to give exact figures. Security forces have however since retaken control of Wardooj where at least 23 insurgents were reportedly killed after security forces launched a clearing operation. In addition, 32 security force members were also killed in the battle. ... (More on P4)...(19)

## Bodies of Taliban Killed in Kunduz Sent to Their Families

KABUL - Baghlan police chief Abdul Jabar Purdeli on Saturday said the bodies of scores of Taliban fighters who were killed in the Kunduz battle by security forces have been handed over to their families. He said insurgents killed were mostly from Baghlan

and that key figures and commanders of the Taliban were among the dead. Purdeli said the highest casualty toll recorded during the battle was of insurgents. "Most of whom were from different districts of Baghlan," Purdeli ... (More on P4)...(20)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

Relationships hold great potential now, but only if you remember that you're seeing everything through a subjective filter. Distinguishing your dreams from the actual events in your life may be more complicated than you realize today. You don't have the whole picture yet, so don't make any promises you will regret later. Ask questions and listen closely to the answers.

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

You start out the day with so many choices that you could feel slightly lost. In fact, sorting out all the possibilities may be so overwhelming that you throw your hands up in the air and walk away in frustration. You might even set aside the facts in favor of pursuing your desires today. Ironically, this ill-conceived strategy can actually work for you now as long as you remember.

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

Although you're able to put your faith in a friend or partner today, it takes more than one person's optimism to get you through the day. An emotional drama can become quite convoluted, especially if someone's feelings contradict yours. The good news is you don't have to agree on every issue; instead of focusing on the differences, concentrate on the similarities.

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

Even if you are feeling under the weather today, you can still rely on your performance skills to successfully execute your agenda. Imagine reaching your goal and then discuss your vision with others as realistically as possible. Painting the details of your plan in your mind's eye helps you get started but you must take the next step and verbalize your ambitious ideas to launch your dream.

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

You might be pleasantly distracted by a flirtatious encounter today. However, confusion stems from your inability to untangle your desires from the reality of the interaction. It's nearly impossible now to tell where the hard edges of truth crumble into the creative fabrications of your imagination. There's no harm in a little romance as long as no one's feelings get hurt, including yours.

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

Let go of the smallest details today because they will not matter much in the long run. Try to loosen your grip on your daily routine; going along with the flow can have an immediate beneficial effect on your self-esteem. An authoritative approach naturally invites backlash. However, a hands-off style prompts your friends to be more encouraging of your goals, which increases your optimism.

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

Your artistic creativity may be soaring to great heights now, but you must consciously stretch to reach for your vision with all your heart. However, even if you're not aesthetically inclined, you can still use your charm to get what you want today. Tread carefully and pay attention to the feedback you receive from those who have your best interests at heart.

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

You are standing at the threshold of a dream now, but you can't tell where it will ultimately carry you. Subconscious streams of messages are flowing into awareness and you might wish to act quickly on what you envision. But this isn't the time to just ride the currents of your imagination. Practice controlling your mind so you can take your creativity to the next level.

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

You may be confused about what's true today. Your smartest strategy is to suspend judgment now if you cannot tell what is real. Just accept your perceptions as you would if they were scenes in a movie, without feeling any emotional attachment. The bad news is hasty decisions you make might have to be reconsidered in just a few days. Wait until reality sets you gently back on the ground before choosing your new direction.

#### Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)

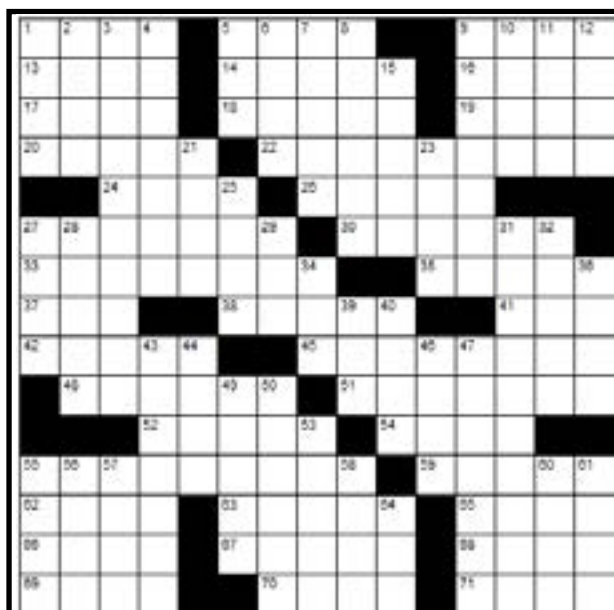
Your contributions around the home are acknowledged by those close to you today, even if you aren't working very hard. Ironically, being appreciated for your extra efforts presents a problem if you don't think you deserve the recognition. Meanwhile, your current positive attitude tempts you to overextend your reach, especially if everything is looking rosy.

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

Your mind is roaming to the distant edges of your imagination today, dreaming of exotic lands and traveling to other galaxies. Luckily, there's no reason to deny your desires since you are hearing the call of a great adventure -- and this is a perfect time to respond. Extrapolate on your most fantastic thoughts and use them to write the next chapter in your life.

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

You may be feeling pressured to let go of an impossible dream today, but it's tempting to hold on to your sweet fantasy no matter what anyone else says. Nevertheless, you might suddenly waver and conclude that a more practical approach will serve you better. However, anything is possible now, and your visions could actually begin to materialize if you accept them as real. Don't sell yourself short.



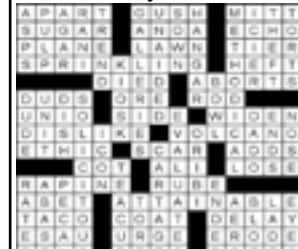
#### Across

- 1. Winglike, 5. Pitcher, 9. Russian emperor, 13. Guy, 14. "Bolero" composer, 16. Dogfish, 17. Apothecary's weight, 18. Lissome, 19. Corpse, 20. Flower part, 22. Decrements, 24. Fastens, 26. Clairvoyants, 27. Wrench (British), 30. Donnybrook, 33. Surpass, 35. Chocolate-flavored coffee, 37. Anagram of "Ail", 38. Enlighten, 41. Not bottom, 42. Plunks, 45. Someone's foot, 48. Grab, 51. Ask someone to marry you, 52. Angers, 54. Avid, 55. Reproduce, 59. Anagram of "Space", 62. Not low, 63. Without company, 65. Wild goat, 66. Type of sword, 67. Geeks, 68. A flat mass of ice, 69. Noxious plant, 70. A musical pause, 71. Cravings.

#### Down

- 1. Contributes, 2. Attraction, 3. Alteration, 4. Stays behind, 5. Historic period, 6. Tail motions, 7. Iniquities, 8. A change for the better, 9. Hot sauce, 10. Dirty air, 11. Assistant, 12. Beams, 15. Pariah, 21. Gave temporarily, 23. Baby buggy, 25. Arid, 27. A cleansing agent, 28. Tugs, 29. Disencumber, 31. Punishable, 32. Footwear, 34. A sizeable hole, 36. Church alcove, 39. Dandy, 40. An English royal house, 43. Scorched, 44. Blend, 46. Foot digits, 47. Determine, 49. Tidy, 50. Doctor, 53. Shop, 55. Expresses relief, 56. Fully developed, 57. Curved molding, 58. Terminates, 60. Hireling, 61. Former lovers, 64. Eastern Standard Time.

#### Yesterday's Solution



affront, appoint, apron, arrive, aware, badge, below, bounty, cane, chair, charm, clamp, cliff, effort, encyclopedia, fame, favor, finale, frisk, grease, harbor, honey, joker, laughs, lever, moxie, naval, nervous, nymph, peter, phase, plaza, rage, shack, them.

