

# Farah Residents Praise Security Forces for Defeating Taliban

KABUL - A number of Farah residents, civil society activists and religious scholars at a gathering on Friday praised the security forces for defeating the Taliban and pushing them back from Maimana city, the provincial capital. The residents said the efforts of the security forces in ousting the Taliban from outskirts of the city is appreciable and that they will not forget their sacrifices for the safety of Afghans. Religious scholars at the event said the security forces are defending the country against any kind of threats from insurgents and they have so far saved the Islamic and national values of Afghanistan. "The Afghan security forces have always defended their country against



threats posed by militants. This war is not an Afghan war; it is a strangers' war," said Mawlawi Sayed Mohammad, a religious scholar in Farah. Meanwhile, security officials in Farah said they have given a tit-for-tat response to Taliban attacks in the province and the soldiers have changed Farah into Taliban's grave. "Our security forces did well in our offensive against the Taliban. We gave a lesson to the Taliban that they will not forget throughout the history. It was the lesson that they [Taliban] have never witnessed anywhere in the country," said Gen. Asadullah Kohistani, commander of second regiment of 207 Zafar Corps. "The security forces fought the Taliban bravely... (More on P4)...(16)

## 2 Dead after Trucks Collide in Samangan

AIBAK - Two people were killed after two trucks collided in the capital of northern Samangan province, police said on Thursday. Police spokesman Lt. Munir Rahimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the accident took place in Rabatak locality of Aibak at around 2:00am Wednesday night. The two trucks crashed on the Baghlan-Samagan highway, leaving dead the two drivers and the vehicles destroyed. The police official blamed the tragic incident on reckless driving. (Pajhwok)

## Afghan, Pakistani Border Guards Trade Heavy Fire

KANDAHAR CITY - Afghan and Pakistani border guards have traded gunfire in southern Kandahar province, two provincial officials said on Friday. The fire exchange erupted last night when Pakistani soldiers opened unprovoked fire into Spin Boldak district, Zia Durrani told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said the 90 minutes cross-border fire was initiated by Pakistani guards when armed insurgents tried to cross into Spin Boldak from Amrat area across Durand Line. Afghan border police, having received a tip-off, ambushed the insurgents in Kanjusi Dara area. A fierce clash erupted between the militants and security forces. Durrani said the Pakistanis shelled Afghan security posts on the plea that many bullets shells had fallen close to their base, according to the police spokesman. ... (More on P4)...(17)

## Foreign Militants among 8 Killed in Kunar Airstrikes

KABUL - Eight insurgents, including foreigners, have been killed in US air strikes in a remote area of eastern Kunar province, officials say. Four foreign insurgents were killed in the area where Al-Qaeda has been active for years, Kunar Governor Wahidullah Kalemzai told Radio Azadi. But other officials were quoted as saying eight militants were killed, including two Arabs and four Pakistanis. The raids targeted Al-Qaeda leaders Faruq al-Qatani and Bilal al-Utabi. A day earlier, the Pentagon said US forces carried out precision strikes in Kunar, targeting Al-Qaeda's most senior leaders in Afghanistan. Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said: "We are still assessing the results of the strikes, but their demise would represent a significant blow to the terrorist group's presence in Afghanistan." (Pajhwok)

## NDS Confirms Death of Al-Qaida Leaders by Coalition Drone Strikes

KABUL - National Directorate for Security (NDS) on Thursday confirmed the death of three senior al-Qaida members following coalition forces' air strikes in an eastern province. "The Afghan National Directorate for Security confirms that Faruq al-Qatani and Bilal along with one other senior al-Qaida member were killed following drone strikes in Heelgul village, Ghazi Abad district, Kunar province Monday night (local time)," NDS, the country's intelligence agency, said in a statement. The air strikes were conducted in coordination with the NDS in the province, 180 km east of On Wednesday, the Pentagon said the U.S. forces conducted precision air strikes in eastern Afghan province of Kunar targeting two of al-Qaida's most senior leaders in the country. The NDS statement noted that al-Qatani was serving



as leader of al-Qaida terror network in Afghanistan and Bilal al-Utabi was serving as deputy head of the terror group. It said the death of the targeted men has been a big blow for the terror group, which has been a big threat for the security and stability of Afghanistan, the region and the world at large. The Afghan government troops were determined to targeting all terrorist groups across the country and spare no efforts to fight such networks. (Xinhua)

## Karzai Wants Gula, Symbol of Afghan Beauty, Freed

KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai on Friday asked Pakistan to immediately release Nat Geo's fabled girl Sharbat Gula -- now an ailing woman. FIA agents arrested the green-eyed Gula during a raid on a house in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Tuesday for fraudulently acquiring a Pakistani Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC). The woman, who made



headlines around the globe in 1984, has been accused of illegally acquiring Pakistani identity documents with the complicity of three officials a few years back to avoid ... (More on P4)...(18)

## 4 Involved in Fake Currency Business Detained in Kabul

KABUL - Four individuals have been detained on charges of involvement in the fake currency business in Kabul, the intelligence service said on Friday. The detainees planned to sell fake currency, including 446,000 afghanis and 5,000 US dollars in the capital, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said. A statement from the spy service said the men were positively identified and arrested by intelligence operatives before they could sell the fake currency. The detainees were identified as Adam Khan, son of Zadrán, Abdul Karim, son of Mohammadzoy, Shaheen, son of Sher Agha, and Abdul Basir, son of Abdul Ghafar. However, the agency did not say when the men, who have confessed to their crime, were arrested. (Pajhwok)

## President Lacks Full Authority in Decisions: Kuchi

KHOST CITY - The uncle of President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday said his nephew 'lacks full authority to make independent decisions.' Abdul Qayum Kuchi said this while addressing a gathering at the government guesthouse in Khost City, the capital of southeastern Khost province. Organized by the governor's office, the gathering was held in support of the government and to assess people's problems. The un-



cle of President Ghani said there were elements within the government who were trying to collapse the system at the behest of foreign intelligence agencies. "We have many opponents, within the system there are people who want ... (More on P4)...(19)

### Outlook Horoscope

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



The energetic imbalances of the day have your name written all over them. Everyone seems to be reminding you that it's your high-strung nervous system that's wacky, not the world. But you already know better than to push the blame back on others. Consciously channeling your energy toward a work project or a creative endeavor enables you to achieve impressive results.

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



The temptation of embarking on an amazing adventure is particularly enticing now, but most of you Bulls might still prefer to stay home where your creature comforts are readily available. Nevertheless, the idea of doing something extraordinarily different lingers in the back of your mind, even if you choose not to share your thoughts with anyone.

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



You are bursting at the seams with restlessness, making it a chore to concentrate on work today. But your jumpy nerves must be contained so you can follow through on your commitments. There are two possibilities; blow off your obligations and let the chips fall as they may or use your willpower and refocus on the task at hand. Thankfully, you possess a deep reserve of determination now if you're willing to make the effort.

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



If something seems too good to be true today, it probably is. Thankfully, you're able to retreat from the unrelenting pressure of making choices while indulgent Venus in your 6th House of Daily Routine creates a stressful square with intoxicating Neptune. Although you are so optimistic that you could gloss over the facts now.

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



You appear more committed than ever to accomplish your objectives today, but your strong intentions could backfire if you're not flexible in your methods. Changing circumstances prompt you to realize that finishing your work will be more challenging than you thought. Anxiety may lead to panic.

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



You are willing to go the extra mile in order to demonstrate your competence in everything you do. But unknown forces seem to be messing with your progress, requiring you to work even harder to get anything done at all. Don't get discouraged or you might lose precious ground. Keep a positive attitude today, no matter how many lemons life hands you now. Your unwavering focus on your goals will prove what you can do once you make a solid commitment.

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



Plans involving someone else might unravel today when a coworker or partner goes rogue without prior notice. Once you recover from your initial shock, you must decide what to do. Your goals may remain the same, but your route needs to change since the old path is gone. The sooner you let go of the idea of a creative collaboration, the sooner you can get down to business.

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



Surprisingly, hidden agendas are out in the open today. It's like you were happily working in a dark room and then suddenly a bright light is turned on without warning. Don't waste energy denying what everyone can see in plain sight. Instead, embrace your dreams with such gusto that others can't help but support your aspirations.

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



What you see is not what you get today. Your future appears promising while the Moon dances with propitious Jupiter in your 11th House of Long-Term Goals. But erratic interference can temporarily waylay your dreams of Utopia. Nevertheless, it's not as bad as it seems at first if things fall apart. Don't squander your energy by trying to stop the inevitable. Instead, laugh when the house of cards tumbles down.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



It's rather effortless to remain emotionally detached from a specific outcome at your job because you can see things from multiple points of view now. However, unpredictable Uranus squares warrior Mars in your methodical sign, indicating your professional trajectory could change in ways you can't imagine. Avoid the trap of playing it safe by holding onto the past.

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



People may be annoyed with you today because your behavior is so unreliable. But their cautionary words or emotional manipulation won't alter your actions. You are being informed from a deep and resonant place within your subconscious. You're tired of feeling like there's something more beyond the comfortable rut of daily repetition.

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



Working as part of a team can be a mixed blessing now. Others seem to have their minds made up and you don't necessarily agree with them. In fact, you might feel as if your core values prevent you from supporting the current direction of the group. Although speaking your truth will be inconvenient and messy, it is necessary to clear the air so everyone knows exactly where you stand.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66.

Across: 1. Step, 6. Austrian peaks, 10. Sharp projections, 14. Eagle's nest, 15. Assistance, 16. Away from the wind, 17. Music director, 19. Soft drink, 20. Record protector, 21. Cheery, 22. Make a sweater, 23. Santa's helpers, 25. Outbuildings, 26. Plate, 30. Ring around the nipple, 32. Footstool, 35. Mound of glacial drift, 39. Goober, 40. Shorttail weasel, 41. To shelter closely, 43. Gist, 44. Statement, 46. Absorb written material, 47. Territories, 50. Army vehicles, 53. Char, 54. What we sleep on, 55. Beginning, 60. A sharply directional antenna, 61. Squadron, 63. Beige, 64. Male deer, 65. Clean between teeth, 66. Not us, 67. Misprint, 68. Mixture of rain and snow.  
Down: 1. Checks, 2. Genuine, 3. Sea eagle, 4. Assistant, 5. Look closely, 6. "Eureka!", 7. Account book, 8. Delighted, 9. Agile, 10. Pneumatic hammer, 11. Without company, 12. Very cold, 13. Chairs, 18. Snake-like fish, 24. Delivery vehicle, 25. Aspersions, 26. Numbskull, 27. Bit of gossip, 28. Knife, 29. Money paid for a service, 31. Mining finds, 33. Contemplates, 34. "Smallest" particle, 36. Connects two points, 37. Ancient Peruvian, 38. Require, 42. Stateliness, 43. Barely manage, 45. Porter, 47. Heretofore (2 words), 48. Stretch, 49. Tidal bore, 51. Detachable container, 52. Rides the waves, 54. Finest, 56. Cultivate, 57. Blackthorn, 58. If not, 59. Exam, 62. In the past.

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid with words: antelope, basis, blare, blast, blather, bleat, blew, bored, college, comet, curse, deface, dismal, emblem, flame, flashy, forged, gaudy, gloomy, iron, leech, male, misty, money, oblivious, outburst, patch, purify, ated, shouts, stark, start.

Word search grid with words: BLEAT, BLATHER, BASIS, SQUEECH, RMG, STARK, MEYOGNB, FLAME, OREWLLDL, GBRDCANTELOPE, ALTSLOSDAEOAM, UAHBMRJMRGMTX, DSHOUTSMYEYCF, YTOBLIVIOUSHL, SATEDWBORDEEA, CURSEVEHICLES, OFORGEDEFACEH, PURIFYCEMISTRY.