

80 Rebels, 5 Security Men Dead in Ghazni Clashes

GHAZNI CITY - Eighty Taliban militants and five security personnel were killed during clashes in the Giro district of southern Ghazni province, the governor said on Tuesday.

Another 110 militants and seven security men sustained injuries during the clashes, Abdul Karim Matin told a press conference here. He said some 300 rebels laid siege the district and launched attacks from 17 different directions last night. Reinforcements had reached the district and airstrikes were carried out last night targeting the attackers, he said. Matin said the insurgents had been



pushed back and the situation was now under control, denying casualties to civilians.

Deputy provincial council chief Ismatullah Jamradwal said the rebels had many times attacked Giro district and were finally able to capture two police posts and were trying to capture the entire district. The public representative said Giro residents were facing many problems and the government should address them.

Yar Mohammad, a resident of Giro district, told Pajhwok Afghan News the conflict had been...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Gardez Gets Park; Mosque, Seminary Inaugurated

GARDEZ - The construction work of a family park was kicked off, while mosque and a seminary were inaugurated in Gardez, the capital of south-eastern Paktia province, an official said on Tuesday.

The entertainment park would be constructed in five acres land in Shahr-i-Naw area of Gardez, Governor Nasratullah Arsalan told a gathering at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The construction work of the park would be completed in one year at the cost of 22 million Afghanis, he said, adding it will have seven separate places for entertainment.

Separately, a mosque and a seminary were inaugurated in the eastern part of Gardez. The two projects were built at the cost of 32 million Afghanis.

The two projects for common welfare were funded by Haji Mohammad Gardezi, a local businessman. The mosque was equipped with all facilities included a library and had the capacity of 600 people. As many as...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Taliban's Multipronged Attack on Tirinkot Repulsed

TIRINKOT - Dozens of Taliban fighters stormed the provincial capital of central Uruzgan province from several directions last night, sparking clashes that continued on Tuesday, officials said.

One security official said at least 62 attackers suffered casualties in the ensuing clashes with security forces in Tirinkot.

Deputy police chief Col. Abdul Qawi told Pajhwok Afghan News over the telephone that a police check-post commander was killed in Monday's night



clashes. In his brief chat with Pajhwok, Qawi said he himself was engaged in the clashes and had no information about the situation in other areas. He said the attackers

sustained heavy casualties. Another security official, who wished go unnamed, said the Taliban stormed the provincial capital from multiple direction at 2am...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Mother Dies of Heart Attack on Hearing of Son's Death

KABUL - The mother of Shir Ahmad Salangi, deputy police chief of PD2, died on Monday of a heart attack after learning of her son's death in the twin bombing in Kabul.

Both son and mother were buried on Monday in Parwan province.

Salangi's mother died of a heart attack after she heard that her son had been killed in the bombing outside the ministry of defense on Monday afternoon. According to a relative, another of her son's, Shir Ahmad, was killed almost a year ago in Helmand province.

Monday's twin bombing killed a number of high-ranking officials including, Salangi; Mohammad Zaman, Presidential Protection...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Taliban a Threat to Baghlan's Key Highways: Locals Officials

BAGHLAN - Members of the Baghlan provincial council on Tuesday raised concerns over ongoing threats by the Taliban against some strategic highways in the northern Baghlan province.

Amid rising violence by the Taliban in the area, council members have said there is an urgent need for government to take more comprehensive security measures to curb the problem.

"The lack of government concentration and in general the negligence of local government have paved the way for the Taliban to launch attacks

on Kabul-Baghlan, Kunduz-Baghlan and Mazar-e-Sharif-Kunduz highways. So far up to ten civilians have been wounded as a result of these violent incidents," said Mohamad Zarif Zarif, a member of the Baghlan provincial council.

In addition, council members accused the local administration of withholding information from the people. They said despite the fact the Taliban is threatening the lives of motorists and passengers, the local administration is reluctant to stop them from traveling on the roads when clashes are underway between security



forces and insurgents. "We live like hostages; roads towards Kunduz are blocked and there is no security on the route toward Mazar-e-Sharif. War...*(More on P4)...(23)*

2 Children Killed, 13 Wounded in Wardak Blast

KABUL - Two children were killed and more than a dozen wounded when an unexploded ordinance went off near their school in Jaghatu district of central Maidan Wardak province, an official said on Tuesday.

Rahmatullah, the school headmaster in Aryab village, said the bomb left over from the decades old conflict exploded near the school on Monday.

He said two children were killed and 13 others were wounded in the blast. The victims were aged below 14 years.

The wounded students were evacuated to hospitals in Sayedabad district, Maidan Shahr, the provincial capital, and Kabul Emergency hospital. A security official and a resident of the area, Habibullah, confirmed the incident.*(Pajhwok)*

Woman Among 2 Killed in Paktika Roadside Bombing

SHARANA - Two persons including a woman were killed and another two were wounded in a roadside bombing in the Matakhan district of southeastern Paktika province on Monday, police said.

The blast took place in an area between Khor Kachi and Marayan localities, the district police chief, Abdul Wadood, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said the hidden bomb ripped through a tractor-trolley killing a woman and a man and injuring two others.

The police official accused the Taliban of emplacing the landmine on the road. A resident of Khor Kachi area,



Atta Mohammad, told Pajhwok Afghan News the blast took place at about 9am. He also confirmed the casualties. He said the injured persons had been shifted to the civil hospital in Sharana, the provincial capital.

The blast took place a month after a similar blast killed two persons on a tractor-trolley in the same district.*(Pajhwok)*

Heratis Claim Gas Prices Double in 2 Weeks

HERAT CITY - Some residents of the western province of Herat on Monday complained about what they said 'a 50 percent' increase in liquefied gas rate due to government's lack of control over prices.

The residents said the price of a kilogram of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) hovered between 30 afghanis and 40 afghanis two weeks ago in the provincial capital, Herat City. Monday's rate of the same quantity was 55af and 60af.

The residents questioned how the gas prices suddenly doubled, blaming the artificial increase on government's negligence. "If the government has no control over prices, they will increase even more," said Abdul Haq Muradi, who lives in Mukhabirat Road locality in Herat City. He told Pajhwok Afghan News

gas prices increased from 30af to 60 af, a 50 percent hike, within two weeks, but the government paid no attention.

Aziz Ahmadi, another resident in the 8th municipal district, said local officials were unaware about the hike in gas prices and no action from the government was expected until the gas prices hit the roof.

"Purchasing gas is really difficult for impoverished families, the government should look into the matter," said Feroz Ahmadi, another resident.

However, a gas seller, Wakeel Ahmad, said they purchased gas from traders against high prices and they had no choice but to sell it that way. He said the price of a gas cylinder had also increased from earlier 350af to 570af.

Samim Ghwasi, a gas importer, said gas imports from...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Solutions to problems at work that recently eluded you are now ripe for the harvest. The transformative nature of cryptic Pluto in your 10th House of Career can reveal your assumptions about people who previously held power over you. Your old ways of relating to authority are no longer relevant. You can't go back to the safety of the past; commit to what's ahead, rather than clinging to what you once had.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your creativity is cooking up a storm today while powerful Pluto harmonizes with the illuminating Sun in your 5th House of Self-Expression. Refining the skills required to manifest your desires demands unwavering concentration, yet your complacency makes it easy for social distractions to derail your best-laid plans. Fortunately, your determination allows you to cut through the clutter.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your coworkers might fall into the trap of underestimating your power now. However, you can shock others with the depth of your understanding and your unrelenting persistence. But there is no reason to be concerned about anyone else's judgments; you are working with a deep emotional reserve and can accomplish more than anyone thinks. In fact, the old motto of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is your rallying cry today: "The difficult we do immediately."

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're feeling your oats now that the radiant Sun is reinforced by its regenerative trine to ruthless Pluto. But rather than putting your physical resources to the test, the methodical Virgo Sun advises you to conserve your strength for the long haul. Luckily, unrelenting Pluto in your 7th House of Companions indicates that collaborating with others fuels your passion to work even harder.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

It seems as if everyone is suddenly eager to drop their previous positions and cooperate with you today. But you may overestimate someone's abilities or underestimate the resources needed to finish a project. A little discernment prevents you from wasting your time chasing rainbows across rugged terrain.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're longing to color outside of the lines today. In fact, your creativity can have a profound impact on others when you simply show up and be yourself. Although you might not have a specific goal in mind now, the willful Sun in your sign forms a smooth trine with passionate Pluto in your 5th House of Romance, enabling you to make a lasting impression on someone you admire. Nevertheless, an overly rigid plan could be your downfall.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You might not want to follow the well-meaning advice of others who encourage you to risk more than you're willing now. Thankfully, your keen intuition will successfully guide you with a mix of faith and focus. This is a time for a spiritual renewal as the discerning Virgo Sun in your 12th House of Destiny trines evolutionary Pluto.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

A strong dose of purpose and perseverance today enables you to have your way without being pushy to achieve your aims. A superconductive Sun-Pluto trine blesses you with the power of precision rather than brute force. Although you may have recently tried yet failed to make an impression.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You are capable of accomplishing more than you ever dreamed possible today. The dedication of the hard-working Virgo Sun in your 10th House of Public Responsibility is supported by a trine from powerful Pluto, blessing you with an apparently infinite reserve of vitality and the commitment to deliver on your promises. But tread carefully, since poorly managed energy will not last forever.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

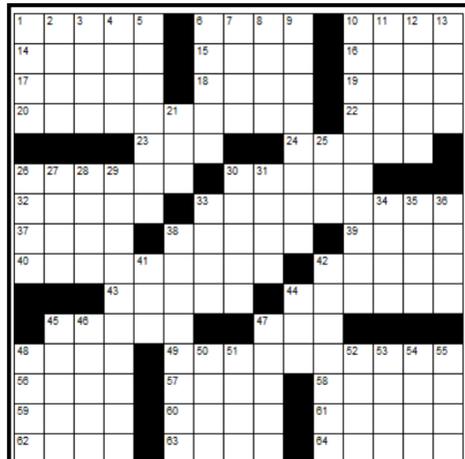
It's tempting to seek security in what you know, rather than facing the unknown. But the greatest potential for positive change does not always come from taking the safest route. Furthermore, waiting to initiate action is not a smart idea. Luckily, you may feel invincible while the Sun in your 9th House of Adventure trines fierce Pluto. But uncertainty will soon creep back into the picture.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

There is more potential packed into the present moment than you realize. Thankfully, you can work behind the scenes quite effectively while the industrious Virgo Sun in your 8th House of Shared Resources conspires with obsessive Pluto. Completing a job is more crucial than gaining attention today. Be as specific as possible when you focus your intention, for the power of precision can help make your dreams come true.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Compassion, sentimentality and a vivid imagination are your trademarks. However, giving people too much leeway today can weaken your position. While your soft-heartedness is admirable, you risk wasting resources if you scatter your gifts indiscriminately. Fortunately, a confident Sun-Pluto trine activates your 7th House of Relationships and empowers you to be a more effective leader.



Across

1. A dish of tomatoes and greens, 6. Assist in crime, 10. Curved molding, 14. Excuse, 15. Magma, 16. Places, 17. Snouts, 18. Handle, 19. Scheme, 20. Distressing, 22. Sexual assault, 23. Spelling contest, 24. Blockade, 26. Gossamer, 30. Abominable snowmen, 32. Orderly grouping, 33. Fortresses, 37. Capelin, 38. Shrewd, 39. Notion, 40. Resembling torpidity, 42. Declares, 43. Violent disturbances, 44. Turns away, 45. Desert plants, 47. Lyric poem, 48. Vagabond, 49. Prodigious, 56. Egg-shaped, 57. Legal wrong, 58. Bird poop, 59. A style of design, 60. If not, 61. Finally (French), 62. Celebrity, 63. Absorb written material, 64. Relaxes.

Down

1. Found on most beaches, 2. Balm ingredient, 3. Speech disorder, 4. Cain's brother, 5. Refuse, 6. Seaweed, 7. Stinging remark, 8. Wicked, 9. A wall hanging, 10. Domineering, 11. Internment camp, 12. French for "Storehouse", 13. Feudal worker, 21. Confederate soldier, 25. 3 in Roman numerals, 26. Taxis, 27. By mouth, 28. French cheese, 29. Water-soluble pigment, 30. Americans, 31. Sea eagle, 33. Pace, 34. Smell, 35. Colorful salamander, 36. Back talk, 38. Religious residence, 41. A sizeable hole, 42. Retaliator, 44. Citrus drink, 45. Desire, 46. Hemp, 47. Chose, 48. Boxes for bricks, 50. Lacquered metalware, 51. Constellation bear, 52. A ridge of sand, 53. Clods, 54. Module, 55. Male offspring.

Yesterday's Solution

abashedly, aborts, abcess, adage, apple, baboon, bible charge, determinate, does, east, economy, elaboration, elects, ensign, first, goat, gongs, grant, greet, hand, karat, mote, nasal, north, odoruous, onion, other, range, rents, short, shrug, sire, spoon, stage, stand.

E N S I G N R E N T S D O
E L E C T S A A D A G E T
C H A R G E S S N O R T H
E B I B L E S T A G E E
A C G V O G A E A L E R R
B D O D O R O U S R T M P
A F N N A D A N S L E I Y
S A I K O G K T G R A N T
H B O R U M R A I S N A S
E S N R S O Y S H O R T T
D E H K B T A P I R N E A
L S X A H E Q B A B O O N
Y S P O O N A P P L E J D