

# British Govt. Decision on Afghan Interpreters Excoriated

KABUL - The Defence Committee of the British Parliament has urged the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to grant asylum to 200 Afghan interpreters who worked for UK forces during their mission in Afghanistan. In a letter sent to the MoD, the committee said many of the 200 Afghan interpreters had been threatened with death by the Taliban insurgents and needed security. "It was recently reported that at least one interpreter has been tortured and murdered after a failed attempt to flee the country," the letter said. "Others live in constant fear of their lives. Despite this clear and present



threat to their safety, the government continues to deny them asylum in the United Kingdom," it noted. The Defence Committee of the UK Parliament considered this to be "a wholly unacceptable way to treat proven friends and allies". The committee asked the MoD for a response over the government's rationale for not granting asylum to Afghan nationals, who courageously worked on behalf of the UK. Given the extreme danger these interpreters and their families face, the committee requested a response should be submitted before the house rose for the recess. (Pajhwok)

# Pakistan Border Guards Constructing Facilities in Paktia

GARDIZ - Local security officials on Thursday said a large operation was underway in the DandPatan district of southern Paktia province to combat militants in the region. Last Monday, militants attacked several border police posts in the district and took control of some of them. Later, border police and commandos conducted a major operation to retake control of the posts. Brig. Gen. Abdul BasirKhpalkwak, the 202nd Border Zone commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News around 70 rebels were killed and 35 others wounded during



the operation. Khpalwak confirmed the death of five border policemen, including a commander, and injuries to 10 others. He said 500 Taliban militants were aided by 1,000 Pakistani militia personnel. Some posts had to be abandoned because the number of militants was far higher, but they would be recaptured during the ongoing operation, he added. A provincial council member, Taj Mo...*(More on P4)...(17)*

# Afghani Dips Versus US Dollar, Fuel Prices up

KABUL - The Afghan currency dipped against the US dollar during the outgoing week in Kabul, where petrol, gas and flour prices went up and of sugar, gold and ghee dropped, retailers said on Thursday. The afghani depreciated against the greenback, money-changer Hajji Najibullah Akhtari said. He said the buying rate of a US dollar was 63.70afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees exchanged for 614afis. Last week's exchange value of the greenback stood at 56.95afis and 1,000 rupees at 562afis. At

the beginning of the current year, the exchange rate of a US dollar was 62.70 afis and Rs1000 equaled 600afis. The recent insecurity and presence of much money in the open market were factors behind the devaluation of the afghani, he said. According to economics reports published by Pajhwok, the value of a US dollar was 57afis in mid-March but now a dollar is exchanged for 63.70afis. Also during the week, flour rate aged up and prices of some other daily-use commodities declined. Food Traders

Union head Fazal Rahman said a 49-kilogram sack of Pakistani flour was sold for 1,370 afis against its last week's price of 1,320 afis. A 16-kg tin of Momin ghee cost 960 afis against last the week's 990 afis. A 49-kilogram bag of Pakistani sugar declined to 1740afis from 1760 afis. The price of a 24-kg bag of Pakistani rice remained stable at 1650 afis. Likewise, the prices of tea remained unchanged. A kilo of green tea accounted for 210 afis and the same amount of African black ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

# Ghazni Collision Leaves 1 Dead, 25 Wounded



GHAZNI - A 303 public transport bus driver was killed and 25 passengers suffered injuries when the bus collided head-on with a truck on the Kabul-Kandahar Highway in southern Ghazni province, an official said. The collision occurred in the vicinity of Aab Band district, Ghazni deputy governor Mohammad Ali Ahmadi told Pajhwok Afghan. He said the bus was on its way to Kandahar province when it crashed into the truck in Spin Band area of the district. The bus driver was killed on the spot and the 25 injured passengers included women and children, he said. Ghazni traffic department head MohammadullahAhmadi confirmed the accident, blaming it on drivers' negligence. He had no information about the condition of the wounded people but said they were shifted to hospitals by other passenger vehicles and family members. Baz Mohammad Hemat, the Ghazni provincial hospital director, said he was aware of the incident but no wounded person from the scene had arrived at the hospital so far. Rahimullah, a resident of the locality, said no government official visited the area after the accident and the wounded people were taken to hospitals by the passengers themselves. (Pajhwok)

# Air Strike Pushes Back Taliban from Raghistan Bazar



KABUL - Air strikes by the Afghan airforce on Friday succeeded in pushing back the Taliban from Raghistan Bazar in Raghistan district, Badakhshan, officials said Friday. Provincial police spokesman Chief Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai told TOLONews that the Taliban attacked the district late Thursday night and came close to the Raghistan district Bazar but as a result of air strikes pushed back the insurgents. Ahmadzai said that

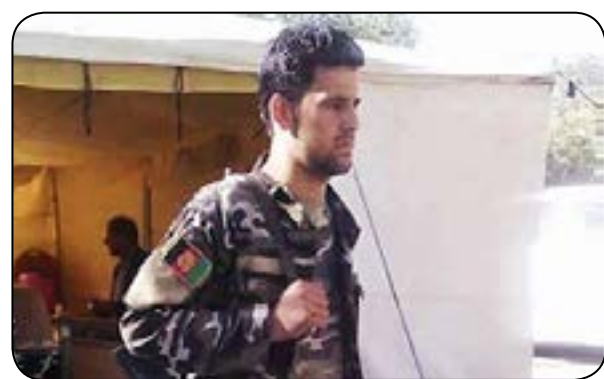
during the airstrike at least 30 Taliban were killed and that the bodies of 10 insurgents remain on the battle field. Three policemen were also killed and three others wounded in the clash, Ahmadzai added. Earlier Friday Rustam Khan District governor and a provincial council member said Raghistan district had collapsed to the Taliban. Taliban insurgents yet to comment about the attack. (Tolonews)

# Religious Scholar Shot Dead

KHOST CITY - Unknown gunmen gunned down a religious scholar during prayers in southeastern Khost province the wee hours of Friday, an official said. Col. Mohammad Yaqub, the deputy police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News MaulviLewan Gul Habibi, a popular scholar hailing from Haidar Khel area, was killed by two gunmen. The gunmen, he said, managed to flee the area. A police team had arrived at the scene and investigations were ongoing, Yaqub added. Nazar Mohammad, a resident of the locality, said the scholar did not have animosity with any group. It is also said MaulviHabibi was imprisoned in Bagram by the American forces for allegedly having links with the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

# Family of Slain NDS Officer Seeks Justice

KABUL - The family of an officer of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), who lost his life during indiscriminate firing by a number of youths on Masoud Day, said they want justice. They said the government must prevent such behavior of young people who drove through the streets of Kabul while firing weapons into the air. Meanwhile, those who have sustained injuries during Wednesday incidents said the government should not allow irresponsible people to create fear among the



citizens. Family of Aurangzeb, the dead NDS operative, lives in Barik Ab area in Kabul. His father said: "They called me yesterday and said that my son has been wounded...we came here...but they brought here his dead body." Aurangzeb was the only breadwinner in his family. "I had only ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

# Roadside Bomb Kills 2 Police, Wounds 3 in Ghazni



GHAZNI CITY - A roadside bomb killed two policemen and injured three others in southern Ghazni province on Friday, an official said. The early morning blast ripped through the police pick-up vehicle in Qala-i-Joz locality of Ghazni City, the provincial capital, Mohammad Ali Ahmadi, the deputy governor, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack, with the group's spokesman, ZabihullahMujahid, saying the hidden bomb hit a convoy of police and National Directorate of Security (NDS) vehicles, killing five and wounding

six others. The blast comes a day after five policemen lost their lives in a similar incident. (Pajhwok)

## Outlook Horoscope

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



Someone may perform such a convincing dog and pony show today that you're ready to drop everything and join the cause. However, don't sign on any dotted lines until you run through all the numbers and verify all the facts. Luckily, taking the time to do a proper analysis will quickly highlight any potential trouble spots with the story. Exercise caution and utilize your common sense.

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



You are still caught in a personal struggle, trying to find a happy balance between work and play. However, you may be more interested in planning your weekend activities now than fulfilling your obligations. Unfortunately, you can't sneak away to the beach today because your coworkers won't let you forget about your responsibilities.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You don't know how much longer you can hold out as you sit on the edge of your seat wishing for a bit of rest and relaxation. Although you try to rationalize your behavior today, the more you explain your intentions, the less people understand you. Naturally, it's a bit disconcerting when your words don't clearly communicate what's on your mind. Nevertheless, your silence can say more than you realize, especially your actions.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



It seems as if you're lingering in a dream state and have lost all sense of time. Frustration arises if your progress in the real world comes to a standstill. However, your current disorientation is just a temporary illusion caused by your mind playing tricks on you. Continue fine-tuning your plans while you still have time; your current efforts will pay off in the future.

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



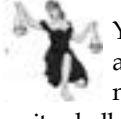
You're willing to try nearly anything to make the day fly by quicker because you're eager to return to your nest. You might even be in the mood to make some home improvements or acquire new furnishings this weekend. However, it's wise to weigh your needs against your cash flow before you start spending like there's no tomorrow. Watch your bank account or a domestic project could jeopardize.

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



You may be entangled in a complicated relationship situation today. On one hand, you feel emotionally available and are open to sharing your feelings with someone close to you. On the other hand, your words say one thing while your actions reveal a different story. Avoid overcompensating to defend yourself against imaginary adversaries, since you might not be seeing things as clearly as you think now.

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



Your well-kept secret or someone else's hidden agenda can have a strong influence on the dynamics of your day. Unfortunately, it may be quite challenging to put all the pieces together and make sense out of the current circumstances. After all, significant information is still missing and you're playing along without knowing the rules of the game. Paradoxically, sinking into the mystery might be the best way to coax the facts.

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



You are naturally quite picky about whom you rub elbows with, but your growing circle of friends is still a significant part of your world. You may want to retreat from the crowd today to establish healthy boundaries, but don't disappear too fast because you're likely to receive intangible benefits from just hanging out with your peers.

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



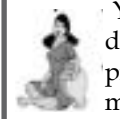
The spotlight is shining on your career now as your concern for your workmates creates an open environment which is more fulfilling for everyone. Reexamine the obstacles that stand in the way of your success, but remember that the resistance is as much within your head and heart as it is anywhere else. Acknowledging your fears is the first step to overcoming them. Being honest about your feelings sets a positive tone for the entire group.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You continue to do your best at meeting your professional expectations, but you might wonder now why you try so hard. You're less concerned with your day-to-day obligations and more inspired by long-range planning. Nevertheless, problems may still arise if you let important details slip. There's little allowance for slacking today so don't get caught dawdling at the water cooler.

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

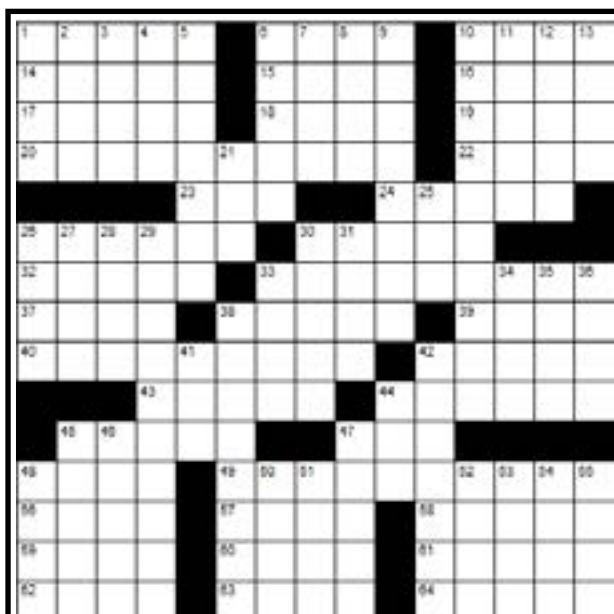


You may be lured into a complex emotional drama today and it could interfere with your productivity at work. Your performance might suffer if you are captivated by a spiritual philosophy, a metaphysical topic or an unconventional idea. However, you can glide your way through the unfolding circumstances as long as you maintain clarity about your priorities.

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



A friend or coworker could wind up on your doorstep and present a problem to you as if it were yours alone to solve. This unfair request may stir up your anger, making it difficult to express your feelings openly. Thankfully, there's probably an easy-to-find resolution for nearly any potential conflict now, even if there seems to be no immediate solution. It's not disagreement that keeps people apart; it's a lack of communication.



### Across

1. Pincer, 6. After-bath powder, 10. Vipers, 14. Long-necked bird, 15. Dwarf buffalo, 16. Greek sandwich, 17. Lingo, 18. Cease, 19. Smile, 20. Tendency, 22. Regrets, 23. Born as, 24. Toots, 26. Instant, 30. Units of paper, 32. Smell, 33. Cattails, 37. Big party, 38. Small drum, 39. Greek letter, 40. Sicknesses, 42. A ring-shaped surface, 43. Chills and fever, 44. Wimbledon sport, 45. Wand, 47. Latin for "Peace", 48. 8 in Roman numerals, 49. Emphasize, 56. Cocoyam, 57. Filly's mother, 58. A directional stroke on a violin, 59. Adolescent, 60. False god, 61. Way to go, 62. Probabilities, 63. Stitches, 64. Go in.

### Down

1. Fellow, 2. German for «Mister», 3. Therefore, 4. Coil, 5. Aerial, 6. Thigh armor, 7. Against, 8. Plunder, 9. S. American amphibious rodent, 10. Raid, 11. A thick sweet liquid, 12. Jimmies, 13. Male offspring, 21. Mesh, 25. Large flightless bird, 26. Wise men, 27. By mouth, 28. Gangster's gal, 29. Emissions, 30. Yokels, 31. L L L L, 33. Headquarters, 34. Warning device, 35. Decorative case, 36. Back talk, 38. Earthquake waves, 41. Conceit, 42. The feel of a surface, 44. Buff, 45. Stayed, 46. Assisted, 47. Rinds, 48. Quash, 50. An abandoned calf, 51. Gloat, 52. Atop, 53. Border, 54. Carry, 55. Pitcher.

### Yesterday's Solution



anger, attack, bitter, border caper, civilian, conceal, cowards, cripple, crush, depression, destruction, dismay, fare, fires, gavel, giant, hiding, mail, memory planes, plaza, plots, prevent, resolve, revenge seize, sneak, tower, trade, world.

