

At Least 9 Civilians Lose Lives in Clashes in Paktia

GARDEZ - At least nine civilians have been killed during clashes between security forces and Taliban in the Zurmat district of southeastern Paktia province, an official said on Wednesday. Zurmat district chief Kaftan Ekhlas confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News heavy fighting had been ongoing between the rebels and security forces in for the past three days. He acknowledged that two women and seven men had been killed during clashes do far. "The civilians were killed by a mortar shell fired by the militants and a roadside bombing." Clashes are still underway in



some parts of the district. Col. Fazal Khuda, the 203rd Thunder Corps spokesman, also verified firefights in the district over the past three days. The fighters had suffered heavy ... (More on P4)... (18)

Crown Accused of Sitting on Evidence that would Clear Decorated Afghan Vet

OTTAWA - One of the most decorated veterans of Canada's war in Afghanistan will face trial later this year on a charge of breaching bail conditions, even though he alleges Crown prosecutors have proof of his innocence. Former master corporal Collin Fitzgerald, of Morrisburg, Ont., was arrested by a police tactical team in summer 2014 and accused of being in the vicinity of his former home in nearby Iroquois when it burned down

in a fire that appeared to have been deliberately set. Fitzgerald was not charged in connection with the fire, only for breaking bail conditions on a previous charge, which required him to remain at his parents' home in Morrisburg and have no contact with his ex-wife. As part of its pre-trial investigation and disclosure, Fitzgerald said the Crown presented his lawyer with cellphone records that showed he was at his parents' home and on the phone at the time

police allege he was at the fire. Separately, his lawyer also has a statement from the person who was on the phone with Fitzgerald, as well as video surveillance records of the family home, which show he didn't leave the house on the night in question. "It's complete malicious prosecution," Fitzgerald said in an interview. "The Crown has a target on my back because of my interaction with them, my cries for help, which were not made in the... (More on P4)... (19)

About 30 Taliban Insurgents Killed in ANA Operations

LASHKARGAH - Local officials in the Southern Helmand province said on Wednesday that nearly 30 Taliban insurgents were killed in clashes with Afghan security forces in the past two days. The clashes took place after the insurgents attacked police headquarters and police outposts in Kajaki district of the province, officials from the police media office in Helmand said, Tolonews reported. In addition, more than 30 others were injured. Meanwhile, Abdul Majid Akhundzada, a



member of the Provincial Council of Helmand said that the clashes started two days ago in the district and so far five policemen have been injured. "The security forces have tactically moved back from some parts of the district," he said. In addition to this, heavy clashes are underway between Taliban insurgents and security forces in Chenarto district of Southern Uruzgan province. ... (More on P4)... (20)

Elder's Wife Kills Rebel Who Injured Her Spouse



TIRINKOT - The wife of a tribal elder shot dead a Taliban fighter who attacked and injured her husband in central Uruzgan province, an official said on Wednesday. The rebel shot injured Hajji Ghani using a pistol fitted with a silencer on Tuesday evening when the influential tribal elder was offering prayers at a mosque in Khero Karez area on the outskirts of Tirinkot, the provincial capital.

Deputy provincial police chief Rahimullah Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News area people had arrested the attacker before police could reach the scene. He said Ghani's wife came with a Kalashnikov assault rifle and sprayed the Taliban fighter with bullets, killing him on the spot. Hajji Ghani, a close ally of former president Hamid Karzai, was taken to southern Kandahar province for further treatment after first medical aid in a Tirinkot hospital. (Pajhwok)

Man Stabs Spouse, Father-in-Law to Death in Herat City



HERAT CITY - A man in western Herat City has killed his wife and father-in-law and critically wounded his mother-in-law, an official said on Wednesday. Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, provincial hospital spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place around 8:00am in Jada-i-Abresham locality of the 9th police district. Sherzai said they had re-

ceived the dead and wounded. The autopsy showed a girl and her father were killed as a result of stabbing. Initial investigations suggest the incident happened due to a family dispute. Security officials could not be reached for any comments. According to local officials, since the beginning of the year, nearly 20 women have been killed in the province. (Pajhwok)

New Road Project Launched in Laghman

MEHTARLAM - Construction work on nearly a nine-kilometre road was launched in eastern Laghman province on Wednesday. The road, 8.8-km long and 8-metre wide, is being constructed in Omarzai area on the outskirts of Mehtarlam, the provincial capital. Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi, who inaugurated the road's construction, said the project was estimated to cost 102 million Afghans being provided by the Ministry of Public Works. He urged local people to support their elected-government in every sphere. A tribal elder from the area, Hajji Shireen Agha, happy over the road project, asked the government and the construction company to complete the road in a timely manner and maintain quality work. (Pajhwok)

Car Bomb Kills 4 Including CID Chief, Injures 41

KABUL - At least four people including the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief for Paghman district in Kabul were killed and 41 others wounded in a suicide car bombing incident on Wednesday, said Kabul police. Kabul Police Chief, Abdul Rahman Rahmani confirmed the incident and said two of the dead were civilians including a woman. The incident happened when a suicide bomber crashed his car into the district police headquarters building and detonated



his explosives. Most of the injured, who had sustained small injuries, have been discharged from the hospital after receiving some medical treatments, the police chief added. (Tolonews)

4 Local Police Injured in Balkh Roadside Bombing

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Four local policemen including their commander were injured on Wednesday when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in the northern province of Balkh, an official said.

The explosion took place in Bargah area of Chamtal district during a security operation supervised by the acting governor, Atta Mohammad Noor, a security official told Pajhwok Afghan News on the condition of anonymity. He said commander Tofan was among four local policemen injured in the blast.

But the governor's spokesman, Munir Farhar, said he was unaware about the blast,



saying security forces were conducting search operations in Chahar Boldak and Chamtal districts. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Nothing is gained by turning every molehill you encounter into a mountain. The problem is you're viewing the world through a magnifying lens that's set to high power, and even the tiniest details assume epic proportions now. Obviously, it's challenging to navigate a path when it's nearly impossible to discern which things are the most important.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You need to stretch a bit further to grab the wonderful opportunities for self-expression and personal growth that are calling your name now. However, you must be careful about wandering down the garden path with over-the-top expectations. Others may suggest ideas that sound perfect, but they might prove less beneficial once put into action.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your home life may be a rich source of love and support as you present an image of abundance to your family. Regardless of the professional opportunities knocking at your door now, your personal life remains your top consideration. In fact, you might be contemplating the purchase of a new house or remodeling your current residence. In any event, keeping your priorities straight is wiser than just automatically.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your circles of communication are growing as a new wave of fascinating people flows into your life. However, you may encounter significant resistance that originates from your own unexpressed fears. Luckily, your current optimism outweighs your nagging concerns. Your dreams of the future are fueling your desire to get it right in the present moment.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You are more determined than ever to acquire what you believe you deserve from life, but you might want to check yourself before you get your priorities twisted. Dreamy Neptune opposes excessive Jupiter in your 2nd House of Resources now, inflating the importance of money and material possessions. Nevertheless, the real significance of these worldly traps is not found in their dollar value.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Relationships are your primary source of inspiration these days, but they may also be the cause of too much confusion. Most likely, you will experience some of both feelings today as ephemeral Neptune attracts the clouds of illusion and the mists of fantasy. Luckily, your penchant for personal growth can overcome even the murkiest of situations now. It's going to take more than a little fog to make you drop anchor.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Big things are happening for you now, but not necessarily in the outer world where they can be seen. Your transformation is occurring in the spiritual and metaphysical dimensions, even if you're not consciously aware of it. Nevertheless, frustration about your lack of progress may set in if you're feeling lost at work. Don't worry; the very same lessons you are learning now will pay off in ways that you can't yet imagine.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your path to emotional satisfaction is being paved in social realms now as working and playing with others take on a greater importance. But your current popularity can be slightly disorienting if your personal needs are subsumed by the agendas of those around you. Don't let the unknown rattle your confidence. Focus on the potential camaraderie you can experience today instead.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Do you know what it feels like when you're stopped at a traffic light and the car next to you has huge speakers with the bass turned up outrageously high? Everything shakes and reverberates, fraying your nerves and offending your ears. The volume on your life is so loud now that it may keep you from fully enjoying the goodies that are waiting on your doorstep. But you can't soundproof your life.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your friends and coworkers don't know you as well as they think they do. Although they might see your industrious side, they're surprised with your current disinterest in racing to the top of the next summit. Nevertheless, you're more driven to explore the meaning of life now than to reach the next level of success. Thankfully, you don't need to sacrifice your worldly ambitions to pursue spiritual goals.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You are usually quite clearheaded about your direction, your values and your skills. However, it's more complicated to get a handle on your life now for reasons you can't fathom. Even if you stand directly in front of a full length mirror and gaze for a long time today, you're still not going to capture an accurate picture of who you are or what you are worth.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You will likely receive the help you want if you can overcome your insatiable need for perfection now. In fact, nearly all one-on-one encounters are already destined to be more fulfilling than normal. However, there is danger afoot; your imagination may be spinning out of control and it's tough to know which feelings to act on. If you come on too strong, your motives could be easily misinterpreted.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for clues.

Across clues: 1. Stop for a horse, 5. Exploded stars, 10. Flutter, 14. Not his, 15. Small African antelope, 16. Hindu princess, 17. Disgraceful, 19. At the peak of, 20. Ribonucleic acid, 21. Graven images, 22. Display, 23. Ointment ingredient, 25. Of a pelvic bone, 27. Record (abbrev.), 28. A daily evening church service, 31. Wanderer, 34. Make improvements, 35. Japanese apricot, 36. Bucolic, 37. Skating jumps, 38. Permits, 39. " the season to be jolly", 40. Female internal reproductive organ, 41. Not last, 42. Completely, 44. Spy agency, 45. Unreactive, 46. Military quarters, 50. Manacles, 52. Habituate, 54. Alkaline liquid, 55. Murres, 56. Teen, 58. Adolescent, 59. Blockages, 60. Relating to urine, 61. Where the sun.

Down clues: 1. Vortex, 2. Reddish brown, 3. Keyboard instrument, 4. American Sign Language, 5. Scandinavian, 6. Heavenly hunter, 7. Six-stringed instrument, 8. In an opprobrious manner, 9. Female sib, 10. Donnybrook, 11. Recent arrival, 12. Shortly, 13. A hollow cylindrical shape, 18. Lubricated, 22. A region of SE Pakistan, 24. By mouth, 26. Focusing glass, 28. Manicurist's board, 29. Catches, 30. Essence, 31. Anagram of "Tine", 32. Norse god, 33. Baffles, 34. In an uplifted manner, 37. Affirm, 38. Teller of untruths, 40. Mining finds, 41. Infernos, 43. Child, 44. Gentle stroke, 46. Protrusion, 47. Alarm, 48. Faultfinder, 49. A two-masted sailing vessel, 50. Adorable, 51. Component of urine.

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle with answers filled in.

Word search puzzle with a grid of letters and words hidden within.