

# Afghans Welcome Second Round of Four-Nation Talks on Peace Process

KABUL - In the militancy-plagued Afghanistan, people from all walks of life have welcomed holding the second round of the four-nation talks on Afghan peace process to bring Taliban outfit into negotiating table and find political settlement to the country's protracted conflict. Aimed at working out a roadmap to find a political solution to lingering crisis in the country, the conference is attended by Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States of America opened in Kabul on Monday. "I am looking with optimism that the four-nation conference would eventually find ways for bringing Taliban



and government to negotiating table and bring to end the conflict in Afghanistan," a Kabul resident, Ahmad Wali told Xinhua. "The reason that I am hopeful about the four-nation talks on Afghan peace process is participation of the representatives from China and United States of America," Wali said, adding that presence of China and U.S. can bolster the peace process and ultimately ushers to peace in the country. Even a street vendor, Abdul Karim, in talks with Xinhua expressed support to the four-nation talks ... (More on P4)... (14)

## 1 Police Injured in Bomb Blast



PUL-E-KHUMRI - One policeman was injured as a bomb blast targeted a police vehicle in the northern Baghlan provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri on Monday, a local official said. "A bomb blast organized by militants struck a police vehicle in Shash-sadKoti locality of Pul-e-Khumri at around 03:20 p.m. local time, injuring the driver," acting provincial police chief Abdul Rashid Bashir told Xinhua. Without giving more details, the official said that investigation has been initiated into the case. (Xinhua)

## Desertions Deplete Afghan Forces, Adding to Security Worries

KABUL - Afghan Lieutenant Amanullah said he was ready to fight to the death to stop the Taliban making gains across the south of the country, where insurgents have already overrun a series of districts in their traditional heartland. In November, 15 months after joining up, he deserted, one of thousands of tired and frustrated soldiers who have shed their uniforms, seriously blunting the Afghan army's power to repel a growing militant threat. For Amanullah, everything changed late last year when, fighting on an empty stomach and without being paid for months, militants armed with



rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns attacked his base from all directions in a three-day battle. The final straw came when requests for reinforcements at the remote outpost went unanswered and colleagues bled to death around him because of a lack of medical care. When the ambush ended, he joined three ... (More on P4)... (15)

## Taliban Claim Rocket Attack near Italian Embassy

KABUL - The Taliban on Monday claimed responsibility for a rocket that landed near the Italian embassy and aid compound in Kabul on Sunday, wounding two Afghan security guards. The attack caused "heavy human and material losses", Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed in a WhatsApp message received by the ANSA newsroom in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. "Italy supported the United States invasion of Afghanistan," the message said. The officially verified toll of the explosion that set off a blaze at 21:30 Kabul time on Sunday night is of two injured Afghan security guards, who were hospitalized with non life-threatening injuries.

"A rocket hit ShashDarak Road near the Italian embassy, wounding at least one person," Kabul Police Chief Faridoon O-bidi told ANSA on Sunday. "A second rocket was neutralized," he said. Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said on his way in to a summit of EU foreign ministers Monday he did not believe the rocket was aimed specifically at Italian targets. "I believe Western diplomatic outposts and NATO were the target, not Italy (per se)," Gentiloni said. (ANSA)

## Gunmen Kill Security Guard, Torch Girls School in Kabul

KABUL - Unknown gunmen on Sunday torched a girls school and killed the school security guard in PD12, ArzanQemat area, of Kabul city. According to local residents the incident occurred early Sunday morning when unknown gunmen killed the security guard at Ahmad Shah Baba girls school before setting the school's library on fire. The is the first time a school has been torched in Kabul. "In the morning when we came to the school the security forces already



reached there and the security guard's body had been burned and for hours remained in the school," said Aqela Ahmad Shah Baba a school cleaner. But the incident is a matter of concern for the local residents and the school's students. "Early morning when we woke up for prayers, police and fire fighter vehicles were there and when I asked I found out that the school had been torched and the guard killed," said Amrullah one of the residents. "I am a student in second year ... (More on P4)... (17)

## Man Cuts off His Wife's Nose in Faryab

MAIMANA - A man has escaped to a Taliban-held area after cutting off his wife's nose in northern Faryab province of Afghanistan, local officials said Monday. Provincial police chief Syed AqaAndarabi said the incident took place late on Sunday in Ghormach district. He said an investigation has been launched with preliminary reports suggesting the man committed the crime due to family issues. The relatives of the woman said her condi-



tion is critical as her nose has been completely chopped off and she has to be immediately shifted from Faryab province to receive medical care. They said the husband of the victim managed to flee the area and has taken ... (More on P4)... (16)



Afghan border policemen take part in the police graduation ceremony in Herat province on Monday January 18, 2016. (Xinhua/Sardar Karimi)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

It seems as if everyone is in a tizzy over the storms appearing on the radar. Meanwhile, you're busy rounding up a search party to go out and locate all the potential rainbows. It's not that you are in denial of the danger lurking ahead; it's just that you can see the good in almost anything today -- whether it's there or not. Others may think you're acting recklessly.

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

You Bulls are counted among the most sensible folks of the zodiac kingdom. There is an integral part of your personality that doesn't like to be confused or misled for any reason. You want to know exactly what's going on all around you. Thankfully, you're attuned to subtle vibrations and open to the spiritual truths revealed to you today. Don't just take the easiest path now.

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

Your fantasies seem so unbelievably real today that you are tempted to enthusiastically agree to every plan you hear. It's as if you aren't paying close attention to the instructions you're given and can't count on your cleverness to figure out how long a job should take. In fact, it's tricky to determine your limits on several fronts now. Thankfully, you can rely on a trustworthy ally to provide the objectivity you currently lack.

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

Keeping your personal feelings separate from the global tensions that continue to simmer and thicken is quite a struggle today. You're operating on the ideological premise that humanity is an extension of your brothers and sisters. It's as if the world's pain and suffering is all happening within your own immediate family.

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

Your life seems to make more sense today as some of the larger pieces of the puzzle fit into place. However, you can't shake the notion that you're just fooling yourself and there are other issues you should be addressing now. Your unsettled feelings contribute to the uneasiness that nags at your current well-being. Nevertheless, you're resigned to perform your assigned role in the wider scheme of things.

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

Your most proficient rational analysis won't help you solve your current dilemma, but you are caught in the trap of thinking it should. It's impossible to use logic to break out of the binds of logic. You must experiment with poetry, music, dance or any other creation the imagination conjures up. You might not like it, but you're going to have to trust something beyond words. Taking a leap of faith makes you more anxious than you want to admit.

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

Your expectations are blown out of proportion today, setting you up for disappointment. Although the day may not unfold according to your plans, you might decide that denying the dissonance is easier than confronting it. Nevertheless, assuming an adaptable attitude allows you to accommodate changes in your schedule by modifying your agenda accordingly.

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

Interpersonal dynamics are more complex than they seem now. But your extrasensory antennae are so attuned to invisible mysteries that you won't be fooled by the physical world. Nevertheless, you still may try to step around the scary shadows if you're frightened or confused by what you don't understand. There's no time to waste clinging to the familiar because you're feeling insecure about the future.

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

The larger the wheels, the easier they seem to spin. The bigger your ideas, the easier it is for you to get totally lost in them today. Be cautious because you're treading on treacherous ground. You may adopt altruistic causes based upon your current beliefs. You might even think that everything is ethical and on point, but you can deceive yourself now, especially when it comes to spiritual matters.

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

Life presents you with a test today to see how far you can stretch reality without breaking it. How fast can you go without hitting the brakes? Although you might be worried that things will get worse before they get better, you have the power to turn your day around. Concentration and hard work pay off now, especially if you let common sense act as your guide.

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

You have an ideal vision for the future and it concerns you that everything is so far off from your perfect picture. In fact, you may feel quite isolated now, because you can't relate to how people are treating your home planet, other animals and even each other. You're dismayed by the state of humanity but you don't have a quick and easy solution.

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

You're constructing a bridge to your dreams, but you must do it one stone at a time. Unfortunately, the ground beneath your feet isn't very stable. Thankfully, the foundation is strong enough to support you even if the earth shifts. You're expanding your range of possibilities like a child blows up a colorful balloon, but you can't tell where the limits are now. You might not find satisfaction if you always believe the ideal solution is right.



**Across**  
1. A flat mass of ice, 5. Chopin composition, 10. Pimples, 14. City in Peru, 15. Type of mushroom, 16. Plunder, 17. Colored part of an eye, 18. Deadly nightshade, 20. Shreds, 22. First, 23. Direction, 24. Pedal, 25. Adverse, 32. Wavelike design, 33. Homeric epic, 34. A sizeable hole, 37. Fowl, 38. Beside, 39. Novice, 40. Mineral rock, 41. Go on a buying spree, 42. Cars, 43. Walkers, 45. Anaglyph, 49. Eastern Standard Time, 50. Obese, 53. A four-sided spinning top, 57. Massive, 59. Killer whale, 60. Goad, 61. Unsophisticated, 62. Standard, 63. Arid, 64. Pilfer, 65. Disgorge.

**Down**  
1. Flutter, 2. Former Italian currency, 3. Leave out, 4. Eastbound, 5. Fertilized egg, 6. Foot digits, 7. Website address, 8. Sandwich shop, 9. Dash, 10. Polish monetary unit, 11. Classical Greek, 12. Anagram of "Talon", 13. Not fresh, 19. Cut into cubes, 21. Overhang, 25. Part of an ear, 26. French for "Black", 27. Blaze, 28. Angered, 29. Without company, 30. Ties, 31. Delay, 34. Falafel bread, 35. Press, 36. Throw, 38. Mock, 39. Instruction fees, 41. Thread holder, 42. Backside, 44. Male hawk, 45. Temporary lodgings, 46. Love intensely, 47. Of lesser importance, 48. Lyric poem, 51. Transgressions, 52. French for "State", 53. Opera star, 54. Let go, 55. Beige, 56. Disabled, 58. Hasten.

**Yesterday's Solution**  
accuse, apple, arctic, blast, bunny, chorus, cost, crime, curd, destroy, drown, essential, forever, fright, hates, improve, inmates, kitchen, ladies, mode, novice, paints, people, person, rescue, rest, ride, said, slit, smoke, stare, surveillance

