

# Afghans Optimistic of Peace Overture in Islamabad

KABUL - A number of residents of capital Kabul expressed optimism that talks between Afghan government and Taliban in Islamabad would pave way for reconciliation in the country while some termed such meeting useless and wastage of time. A delegation of Afghan government held face-to-face talks with a Taliban delegation in Murree--- a tourist resort close to Islamabad--- last night, a well-placed source had said.



The talks continued on Tuesday, the source said, adding that a four-member Afghan government delegation had held extensive round of talks with a three-member Taliban delegation. The names of participants from both sides were kept secret, however, it was reported that Deputy Foreign Minister Hikmat Khalil Karzai, President Advisor Haji Din Mohammad and members of the High...

## Body of Woman Killed by Husband Found in Baghlan

MEHTARLAAM - The body of a woman named Tahira allegedly killed by her husband was found at her house in northern Baghlan province this week, local officials said on Wednesday. The Director of Baghlan's provincial Women's Affairs Department, Khadija Yaqin, has maintained Tahira was murdered by her spouse. "We urge the security forces to arrest and punish those behind Tahira's killing," she told TOLONews on Wednesday. Tahira's sons say their mother went missing four days before they traumatically found her body in their house on Tuesday night. Ahmad, Tahira's son



told TOLONews that he and his brother spent four nights without either of their parents. "We were trying to find our mom," he said. "After four nights, suddenly my brother slipped when his foot touched the body of my mother, which was under the floor..."

## 9 Militants Dead in Nangarhar Drone Strike, Clashes

ASADABAD - Nine insurgents have been killed and 8 wounded in US drone strike and clashes with security forces in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said Wednesday. Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the unmanned aircraft fired a missile which left four militants dead and two wounded on Tuesday



evening in Bati Kot district. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) coordinated and provided clue for the drone at-

tack, he added. Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashraqiwal, provincial police spokesman, said the drone strike left a dread Taliban commander Qari Rafiq dead on Tuesday in Haska Mina district. Dozens of Taliban fighters had been killed in five drone strikes during the last two days in Nangarhar. A source in the NDS wishing

## Farah Border Police Commander Dead in Mine Blast

FARAH CITY - Afghan border police commander and his guard have been killed in a landmine blast in Western Farah province, an official said on Wednesday. Abdul Rahim Haidari, Pishkoh district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News Juma Gul, the border police commander, was killed when his car struck a roadside mine near border with Iran. Mohammad Musa, a resident of the locality, said Juma Gul was on his way back after meeting border police when his car hit a roadside mine. No group has so far claimed credit for the attack. (Pajhwok)

## 3 Civilians Killed, 2 Injured in Kapisa Fight

MAHMOOD RAQI - At least three members of a family, including women and a child, have been killed and two others wounded when a mortar struck civilian population during exchange of fire between militants and Afghan Local Police (ALP) in Tagab district in central Kapisa province, an official said Wednesday.



Intense firefight erupted between ALP and militants in Tuterkhel and Shah kot areas, residents said. Ah-

mad Shah, a resident of the area, told Pajhwok Afghan News a mortar shell...

## Mammoth Rally Held in Support of Security Forces

SHARAN - Scores of people in southeastern Paktika province held a huge rally to express solidarity with security forces and offered to fight alongside Afghan security forces for peace and stability in the country. Hundreds of residents, civil society activists and government officials participated in the rally with participants holding placards inscribed with: "Death to Pakistan and Long Live Af-

ghanistan." The protesters chanted anti-Pakistan slogans following reports that Pakistani troops moved to construct post deeper inside Afghanistan territory. Niamatullah, deputy head of provincial council, said: "We will not allow Pakistani troops to use our soil anymore for constructing check posts or to create insecurity. We now know our enemies and thousands



of young Paktika people are ready to fight side by side with security forces against anti-Afghan elements." (Pajhwok)

## Three Terrorists Detained in Kabul

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency - has arrested three terrorists in capital Kabul. A statement issued on Wednesday by the NDS states that the group was sent to Kabul after receiving two months of terrorist training. The statement identifies the terrorists as Gawhar Rahman S/O Rahman Adina, Mohammad Zakir S/O Mohammad Sharif a resident of the Wardoj District of Badakhshan province and Mohammad Halim S/O Ghulam Habib a resident of Pul-i-Khumri the provincial capital of Baghlan province. NDS statement adds that the group has been trained for suicide bombings, using weapons and making bombs. According to the statement, the group has confessed to its link with terrorist activities. (KP)

## Police Officer among 6 Dead in Road Mishap, Security Incidents

CHARIKAR - A police commander and his bodyguard were killed in a militant attack while another man died in a road accident in central Parwan province, an official said Wednesday. Separately, three people were killed and four others wounded in a car crash in western Herat province. Mohammad Masum Farzaee, Bagram district police



chief in Parwan, told Pajhwok Afghan News that police commander Wali Ullah was seriously wounded but one of his...

## Judge Among 4 Wounded in Ghor Bombing

FEROZ KOH - A judge was injured along with three other officials during a landmine blast in the western Ghor province on Wednesday, authorities said on Wednesday. Maj. Mohammad Zaman Azimi, a senior security official, told Pajhwok Afghan News Judge Qazi Atta Mohammad was on his way home when the explosive fixed to a motorbike went off. Qazi and three other officials got wounded in the blast, he said, adding that police have started investigations to nab culprits. Dr Zalmi, a medic in Ghor hospital, said that four wounded persons had been brought to hospital, with one of the wounded was said to be in critical condition. (Pajhwok)

## Unknown Gunmen Abduct 3 Engineers in Badakhshan

JALALABAD - Unknown gunmen have abducted three construction engineers Tuesday in north-eastern Badakhshan, local official said on Wednesday. The kidnapping occurred in Yaftal district when the engineers were on the way to work, head of Pro-



vincial Council, Abdullah Naji Nazari said. The tribal elders were trying to secure their release, he said. But the security officials refuse to comment on the incident. However, no group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for abduction. (Tolonews)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

The promise of romance inspires you to take a risk with your heart today. However, your passions move to the back burner as the day wears on, so express your feelings in the moment if you believe they are more than just a passing fancy. Although your emotions cool off by mid-afternoon, your thoughts grow more rebellious as mental Mercury creates sparks with irrepensible Uranus in your sign.

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

You're already planning ahead as you consider the merits of starting a new project. Circumstances require you to tie up loose ends before moving forward. Although progress may be slow, clearing your plate early in the day makes room for the exciting changes waiting in the wings. However, the moody Moon's return to your sign conjures up unresolved feelings from the past.

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

Ingenious ideas are flying around fast and furious, but your reactions aren't quick enough to grab one as it speeds by. Try as you might, the most brilliant speculations slip through your fingers and vanish into thin air. Instead of repeatedly attempting to prolong fleeting moments, a totally different strategy is advised. There's no need to capture the muse; allow your thoughts to ebb and flow without intervention.

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

Although Crabs are often known for hiding in their shells, you're likely to be the one to take center stage today. In fact, you can stand out in a group as well as anyone else as long as you are playing to a friendly crowd. Fortunately, your originality and scintillating wit are apparent as clever Mercury in your sign creates a magical quintile with brilliant Uranus.

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

People depend on your inspiration for guidance. Oddly enough, your growing popularity comes at a time when you want nothing more than to retreat into the privacy of your lair. You're weary of all the drama and deserve a break. The good news is everyone will survive the temporary loss of your leadership because they know you will return to the fray soon enough.

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

You may assume there is safety in numbers, prompting you to actively seek support from your social network. Ironically, you might actually be the one who is nurturing someone else's dreams. Fortunately, everyone benefits from your need to be a valuable part of a larger group. As much gratification as you gain from responding to the needs of others, the real gift is the spiritual growth you experience when you listen to your own heart.

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

Making steady progress at work leaves you with a feeling of deep satisfaction. But prepare for unusual things to occur when you take time to communicate your ideas. Fortunately, others are receiving your message with open minds now, increasing the odds of a favorable outcome. However, you're particularly effective when you don't say everything, leaving your audience wanting more.

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

All work and no play is your motto. Even the most arduous tasks could lead to a good time. However, you might grow weary of the emotional constraints that go along with climbing the professional ladder. At some point in the near future you may realize that your personal connections with people are more important to you than any job promotion.

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

Sharing responsibilities at work lightens your load on one hand but also brings an additional layer of complications on the other. You can't escape the fact that the more people working together also means multiple strategies to reach a common goal. Accordingly, you may need to be flexible enough to incorporate the best ideas of the group into your pre-conceived plan.

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

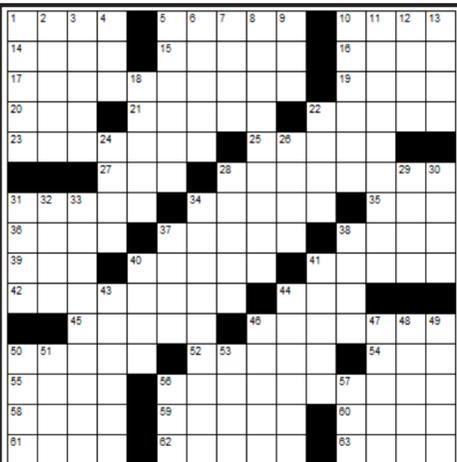
There's little chance of sidestepping relationship drama today so don't let a sudden emotional interaction catch you off guard. Thankfully, you are more likely to respond without losing your footing if you have a clue as to what's coming. Although you might prefer to postpone a difficult discussion, the more honest you are from the beginning, the better the outcome.

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

You might want to spend the day basking in relationship bliss, but you have professional promises to keep. Your personal life may be sweet these days, but it could distract you from the real challenge at hand. Luckily, you can deftly manage both the personal and business ends of your life but it will take extra charm and finesse to juggle everyone's demands.

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

You may experience a lack of support as you try to express your unique brand of creativity today. In fact, it could even seem as if others are purposefully thwarting your efforts or belittling your talent. Unfortunately, a temporary retreat won't likely be a productive one. Although it's understandable if your feelings are hurt now, don't waste time putting credence into anyone else's negativity, real or imagined.



#### Across

- 1. Temporary worker, 5. Beautify, 10. Not legs, 14. Wings, 15. Television, 16. Transport commercially, 17. Baffling, 19. Rational, 20. An uncle, 21. Pee, 22. Lukewarm, 23. Illness, 25. Fancy dresses, 27. Prompt, 28. Male singing range, 31. \_\_\_ and lows, 34. 4-door car, 35. Excavate, 36. Hodgepodge, 37. Patter, 38. Italian for "Wine", 39. Dowel, 40. Hides, 41. Contests of speed, 42. Extolling, 44. A sizeable hole, 45. Some tides, 46. A style of roof, 50. Bonkers, 52. Russian emperors, 54. Letter after sigma, 55. Goddess of discord, 56. Causing irritation, 58. Sage, 59. Muse of love poetry, 60. Module, 61. Docile, 62. Banana oil, e.g., 63. Honey insects.

#### Down

- 1. Recorded, 2. Lacquer ingredient, 3. Female horses, 4. Liveliness, 5. Reluctant, 6. Confederate States, 7. Norse god, 8. Rebels, 9. Holiday drink, 10. Nod, 11. Rapturous, 12. Short skirt, 13. Hurried, 18. Hawaiian feasts, 22. Identical or fraternal, 24. Reflected sound, 26. By mouth, 28. Existence, 29. 1 less than 10, 30. Prima donna problems, 31. Expect and wish, 32. Holly, 33. Excessive largeness of stature, 34. Elderly unmarried women, 37. Gambol, 38. Tanks, 40. Remain, 41. Washing machine cycle, 43. Renter, 44. Sitting room, 46. Not glossy, 47. Redress, 48. Bog hemp, 49. Songs for two, 50. Colorful salamander, 51. Murres, 53. Immediately, 56. Born as, 57. A type of large sandwich.

#### Yesterday's Solution

BOARD: ESNE WITLL ALLEY NOON IDES RISEN NAIL LEAK KOOKABURRA DOIDS MEI REELS STYMIE AUGER LITLAC PERENNIAL EDER LURIO DEODI DEMAGOGIC ISLES GOOSE ASESSES

angel, awake, bling, brick, candy, cent, close, dream, entertain, event, every, expert, failure, fudge, glade, grade, lace, lover, massage, nonsense, pang, peace, plane, please, rough, scat, seal, season, silent, square, stair, stalk, stick, stories, substance, sweat, tiptoe, whisper.

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