

Taliban Imposing Illegal Taxes on Truckers in Zabul

KABUL - A number of truck drivers said this week that the Taliban has started imposing illegal taxes on them in the Shamalzai district of Zabul province and when they cross the Durand Line and enter the district, they give 8,000 to 15,000 (Pakistani) Rupees to the Taliban and receive a customs receipt. "They have built camps there and are always there. We cannot tell them anything," said Rahimullah, a driver. The drivers also said border police and local police in the Shamalzai - Qalat road force them to pay money. "We cannot say no to the Taliban or government. They stand in our way and ask for money," said Abdul Shokor, a driver. Zabul provincial police chief, Mirwais Khan Noorzai confirmed Taliban takes



money from the drivers, but Taliban have not officially commented on the issue. "Taliban have not established a custom, they are thieves and sometimes come there and stand on the road," Noorzai said. Zabul provincial council meanwhile said Taliban takes money from 3,000 trucks that use the road through Shamalzai district. "In the regions out of government control, Taliban have established a custom and take 15,000 Rupees from every truck," said Assadullah Kakar, deputy head of the council. Shamalzai district is the most insecure district in Zabul province, which shares a 64km border with Pakistan. According to local officials, 34km of the border of the district is controlled by security forces, while the remaining 30km is controlled by Taliban. (Tolonews)

Afghans Deported from Europe Arrive Home



KABUL - Two more planes carrying Afghans deported from Europe landed in Kabul this week, failed asylum seekers sent back under an agreement between the European Union and Afghan government. The arrivals mean 248 people have been deported from Europe to Afghanistan this year, compared with 580 throughout 2016, said Hafiz Ahmad Miakhel, spokesman for the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations.

The number of Afghans deported from Europe is small compared to the thousands returning voluntarily, but deportations are rising and some migration experts say expelling people to a country where the government controls less than two thirds of territory amid a Taliban insurgency is wrong. Fifteen deportees arrived by chartered flight from Germany on Tuesday, while 19 landed on Wednesday from Austria and 10 from Sweden. Another flight, from Finland, is scheduled to arrive on Tuesday. (Reuters)

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Militants Involved in Major Target Killings Arrested

KABUL - Two militants involved in major target killings have been arrested by the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) personnel. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the two individuals were involved in the killing of three Special Forces of the Afghan National Police (ANP) forces. MoI further added that the two individuals were also involved in at least twenty terrorist attacks in southeastern Paktia province of Afghanistan. The ministry did not disclose further information regarding the exact location where the two individuals were arrested. According to MoI, the two men were also involved in some other criminal activities, including kidnappings and roadside bombings. This comes as the Afghan forces have been involved in the annual clearance operations conducted under name of Shafaq operations. However, the Minister of Interior (MoI) Taj Mohammad Jahid said two days ago that another major operation will be launched under the name of Khalid to retake the lost areas. The operations Khalid will also focus on counter-terrorism operations which will be conducted during the year as the Afghan forces are facing resurgent Taliban and threats posed by other terrorist groups including the offshoot of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) group. (KP)

Kapisa Policeman Shot Dead by Unidentified Attackers

MAHMOOD RAQI - A policeman has been shot down by unidentified gunmen in central Kapisa province, local official said on Friday. The policeman was gunned down in the Takhta Pul area of Heasa-2 district, where he was going to his duty station after visiting home at the weekend. Mohammad Osman Haqqar, the district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the assailants managed to flee after killing the police official. (Pajhwok)

7 Taliban Killed, 10 wounded in Shindand Battle

HERAT CITY - At least seven Taliban militants have been killed and 10 others wounded during a clash with Afghan forces in the Shindand district of western Herat province, an official said Thursday. Najibullah Najibi, the spokesman for the 207th Zafar Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash took place in Sarayak area of the district late on Wednesday. "The Afghan National Army (ANA) forces engaged the militants in Sarayak area and killed seven and wounded 10 others in the battle," he said. He added Mullah Khaliq Helmandi, a notorious Taliban commander, was also among the dead. "These militants had gathered in the area to launch attacks, but they were driven away," Najibi said, adding the troops suffered no casualties in the clash. Najibi said a roadside bomb the rebels had planted to target the Afghan forces in Sultan Abad area was also defused. (Pajhwok)

56 Insurgents Eliminated in Security Operations: MoD



KABUL - Fifty-six fighters have been killed and 33 others wounded in security operations in different parts of the country, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) claimed on Friday. While rejecting the assertion which came in a press statement from MoD, the Taliban said they had killed and wounded dozens of security personnel in fresh attacks. During operations over the past 24 hours, the ministry said at least nine insurgents were detained. The dead included 22 regional Taliban commanders, the MoD statement added. The offensives were conducted in Kapisa, Nangarhar, Paktia, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Herat, Farah, Faryab, Kunduz and Helmand provinces. Fifty landmines were defused, two vehicles and 35 trenches were destroyed by the security forces. The ministry said nothing about casualties among the security forces. On the other hand, the Taliban claimed killing 35 security personnel and wounding 13 others in different provinces. (Pajhwok)

Bid to Smuggle 6 White Lions to Pakistan Frustrated

KANDAHAR CITY - Border guards have seized six rare lions that were being smuggled to Pakistan in the Spin Boldak district of southern Kandahar province, a police official said on Thursday. A suspect was also arrested at the zero-point on the border by the guards, who seized the caged wildcats from a Kamaz truck, the provincial police spokesman said. Zia Durrani told Pajhwok Afghan News the bid to smuggle the lions to the neighboring country was frustrated on Wednesday evening. The detainee is currently under investigation. It remains unclear where the wild animals -- three males and as many fe-

Taliban Mortar Kills 5 Civilians in Takhar

TALOQAN - Five civilians were killed including women and children in a mortar strike blamed on the Taliban in Khwaja Bahaudin district of north-eastern Takhar province, officials said on Thursday.



Police official Mahfuzullah Akbari told Pajhwok Afghan News insurgents stormed a local police check post in Lala Guzar area of Khwaja Bahaudin district. He said the insurgents fired mortars at the checkpoint and one of the shells struck a civilian home, killing five members of a family, including women and children. He said another three people wounded in the incident had been evacuated to hospital by police. Akbari said security forces suffered no casualties and repulsed the attack. Provincial police spokesman Maj. Khalil Aseer confirmed the incident and the casualties. A resident of the locality, Naseer, said militants attacked a check post under commander Malik Tatar. He said Tatar was not a formal commander who spearheaded illegal armed individuals who had established their post near civilian homes. The Taliban have not yet commented over the attack. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

The waters of doubt can corrode even the strongest of iron wills. You may feel like life's flow is carrying you away from your long-term goals today as Saturn the Tester issues a harsh reminder of the distance between you and your ultimate destination. You instinctively fight the current with all your might, but the smarter option is to tread water until you're out of the emotional rapids.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

The shadow of uncertainty darkens your doorstep, causing you to question recent choices. You start to wonder if you've fallen prey to a mirage even if your social life has recently been a source of support and inspiration. However, your concerns may be the real illusion today when the Sun's square to suppressive Saturn in your 8th House of Intimacy projects a fear of rejection into your world.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The weight of someone else's expectations could feel like they're too much for your shoulders to bear today. You may have been trying to emulate an individual you admire in order to advance on the professional front, but you know what they say: never meet your heroes. Although a good role model can serve as inspiration, a series of pages taken from another person's book does not a novel make. Incorporate your own intuitive observations into your plan for success.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You may be stretched to your emotional limits and it appears like nothing short of a miracle can bail you out. But an extreme reaction today will seem more proportional in the near future. It could feel like your daily efforts will never be enough to deliver you to the heights you dream of as you see how your habits are impacting your grand plan. Although you are a summation of what you do each day.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your quest to find yourself takes you many places, but you may have lost your way today. Perhaps you wandered off and ended up in someone else's brambly forest, leaving you wondering how you landed in this mess. But before you launch an emergency flare, calm down and review your journey. Mentally retracing your steps will be easier in the coming days.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your tendency to over-analyze lends a sense of urgency to everything today, making it imperative to discipline your mind from the start. Allies start to look like enemies if you stare for too long; you could feel like you must retreat to your fortress and change your battle plan completely. However, input from other people may strengthen your position, whether by challenging you with a new perspective or offering assistance for the next phase of execution.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

The power of planning can be a blessing or a curse depending on how you use it. Unfortunately, merging your daily schedule with bigger objectives seems impossible and you could feel overworked and under-rewarded today. However, it's difficult to see past what's right in front of you now, and determining the best time-management strategy is likely to go poorly.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might believe that your creative approach will transcend ordinary requirements for success now. But when the heavy realization of your lack of resources sets in, you worry your faith was ill placed. However, your emotions are an intoxicating elixir that can trick you into thinking that only the cynical can win the game of life.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You may want to rip off your rearview mirror and never look back, but your past could have a lot to teach you about where you're going. When a formidable Sun-Saturn square triggers your 4th House of Roots, you're required to address emotional patterns and childhood conditioning that lurk in your subconscious. Whether you integrate emotional discoveries or eliminate excess baggage.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your inherent discipline makes it nearly impossible to accept anything less than procedural excellence. However, life is more than a static blueprint; three-dimensional living involves coloring outside the lines sometimes. Although time management is valuable, there's a lot to be said for going with the flow today. Instead of allowing panic to create fearful reactions that limit your choices, take a step back to explore your options.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your natural awareness of social justice makes it hard to justify your need to be your own individual island. You may feel guilty for believing you must nurture your own desires when there are world problems that require selfless service to solve. But the truth is that society is made up of a group of individuals, each doing his or her own part; variety is what makes the world go round.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

An authority figure may stand in the way of your plans today, making you doubt your choices. You might feel as if you're under personal attack for just being yourself when severe Saturn issues a harsh reprimand to the sensitive Pisces Sun. But what is really being called into question is whether or not your attitude is supporting your ambitions for success. It's too early to lose hope, even if you placed false faith in your ability to achieve your objectives.

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66					67				68					

Across

- Celtic language, 6. Copied, 10. Unit of cut wood, 14. Small boat, 15. Malleable, 16. Double-reed woodwind, 17. Happening, 19. Person, place or thing, 20. Close, 21. Pelt, 22. Greek cheese, 23. Clairvoyants, 25. Part of a stair, 26. Breezed through, 30. Palpebra, 32. Evoking sadness, 35. Illness, 39. Street person, 40. Swordsman, 41. Taxonomic group, 43. Barbed wire is one, 44. Hard glossy coating, 46. Cocoyam, 47. Good person, 50. Jump for joy 53. Not tame, 54. Dip lightly, 55. Journey, 60. Largest continent, 61. Creator, 63. Scheme, 64. South American country, 65. Ancient Greek marketplace, 66. Religious offshoot, 67. Biblical garden, 68. Not lemons.

Down

- Computer symbol, 2. Dash, 3. Ancient Peruvian, 4. Not sweet, 5. Seasonings, 6. Reverence, 7. Fry in a pan, 8. Exempted, 9. One who colors cloth, 10. Self-assurance, 11. Double-reed instruments, 12. Way to go, 13. Monetary unit of Macedonia, 18. Type of whiskey, 24. Snake-like fish, 25. Ascended, 26. Contributes, 27. Henhouse, 28. If not, 29. Child or grandchild, 31. Vitality, 33. Deceptive maneuver, 34. Urine component, 36. Corrosive, 37. Transmit, 38. Therefore, 42. Besmirched, 43. Grippe, 45. Lose validity, 47. Trades, 48. Passageway, 49. Of a pelvic bone, 51. 56 in Roman numerals, 52. Anagram of "Talon", 54. Numbskull, 56. A sharply directional antenna, 57. "Smallest" particle, 58. Pierce, 59. Historical periods, 62. Pistol.

Yesterday's Solution

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