

Taliban Seen Behind Tribal Clash over Nangarhar Stone Deposit

JALALABAD - Heavy weapons were used when two tribes clashed over ownership of a mineral deposit in Sherzad district of eastern Nangarhar province on Monday, officials said.

The Sherzad district chief, Haji Malik Hassan, told Pajhwok Afghan News the early morning clash took place between Shalakeel and Isakhel tribes over a previous stone deposit locally called 'Showkani.'

He said the two sides used heavy and light weapons, including rockets and machineguns, but there were no casualties on either side.

Hassan claimed the Taliban militants were behind the clash as they provided weapons to both the tribes. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*



Faryab Education, HR Officials Sentenced to Jail

MAIMANA - A primary court has sentenced the education director of northwestern Faryab province to one year and four months in jail and the human resource head to eight months.

Ghulam Sakhi Bayan, director of department, and Islamuddin Hatimi head of human resource, had been arrested by the Attorney General Office (AGO) on charges of corruption and misuse of authority.

A source, who declined to be named, said the accused were ordered jailed at the end of an open trial on Monday. Both denied the allegations leveled against them.

However, the court awarded Sakhi a jail term of one year and four months and sentenced Hatami to eight months in prison.

On the other hand, Firoz and Muslima, employees of the Administrative Reform and Women Affairs Department, were fined 12,000 afghanis each in connection with misuse of authority. (Pajhwok)

Paktika Residents Unhappy with New Kabul Bank Services

SHARANA - Some government servants and common people allege the New Kabul Bank branch in southeastern Paktika province has failed in providing services to clients who face numerous problems.

Shah Mahmood, a resident of Sharana, the provincial capital, said there was only one bank branch in the city and that was the New Kabul Bank.

"Tens of military and civil servants wait for long hours outside the New Kabul Bank Branch and sometimes due to technical issues and rush, customers are not allowed to enter the bank," he complained.

Mahmood said common people did not feel comfort in the presence of military personnel as they feared rebel attacks on them.

A local policeman, Adul Razaq, said the New Kabul Bank had been unable to provide best services to its customers. "Policemen, teachers, businessmen and common people come to the bank, but no one get timely services." "Every day, dozens of people wait from morning to evening, but many return without their work being done. Irregularities waste time and ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Prices of Gold, Sugar & Ghee up as Afghani Falls

KABUL - The prices of gold, sugar and ghee rose following a decline in the Afghan currency value, market sources said on Monday.

Moneychangers said one US dollar accounted for 69.1 afghanis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 646 afghanis this week against last week's rates of 68.41afs and 635afs. Mohammad Nader, a member of the Sara-i-Shahzada Moneychangers Union, told Pajhwok Afghan News the afghani dipped after the



Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) announced invalidating old banknotes. On February 1, DAB said banknotes that with sticky tap or glue, colours, stamps or faded colour, would be invalidated after Aug 23. Nader said people were changing their banknotes and the process increased the circulation of the bills in the market but pushed down the currency value. ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

ANA Troops Desert 4 Check-Points in Ghormach

MAIMANA - Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel deserted four security check points in Ghormach district of northwestern Faryab province after being surrounded by militants, officials said on Monday.

An official, wishing anonymity, said the ANA troops after being besieged left their posts on Sunday night and took refuge at the ANA battalion in the district. "These posts are now controlled by the Taliban." Ahmad Javed Baidar, Far-



yab governor's spokesman, did not confirm if the posts had been vacated, but said their location in Gormach district was 'improper' and 'unnecessary'.

He said new security checkpoints would be established in sensitive areas of the district with the launch of an operation. The ANA personnel abandoned the check-posts after they had warned of ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

ANSF Thwart Militants Plan to Carry out an Explosion in Kabul City

KABUL - The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have foiled a plot by the anti-government armed militant groups to carry out an explosion in Kabul city.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials in the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said a large Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted under a culvert was discovered before the militants manage to detonate it. The officials further added that the explosives were seized from the vicinity of Proja-e-Jadid area in the vicinity of the 11th police district of the city.

It is yet not clear who was the target of the militants but the roadside bombs are frequently used to target the security and government officials as well as the security forces personnel. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far. This comes as the anti-government armed militant groups have been attempting to carry out large attacks across the country, including the key cities and provinces as they attempt to expand their insurgency. The militant groups carried out some large attacks in Kabul city including a coordinated attack on ...*(More on P4)...(20)*



Taliban's Designated District Governor Arrested in Ghazni

KABUL - Mirwais was a designated district governor of Taliban for Zankhan district in Ghazni province, provincial officials said.

Afghan forces have arrested Mirwais, Taliban's designated district governor for Zankhan district in the central Ghazni province on Monday, local officials confirmed.

The designated district governor of Taliban was arrested in a military operation conducted by the Commando Unit in Zankhan district - in the northeast of Ghazni province, said Mohammad Mustafa Mayar, the acting provincial police chief.

He said two other insurgents were arrested during the operation.

"Clashes occurred between security forces and insurgents in Deh Yak, Zankhan (districts in Ghazni) and in the outskirts of Ghazni city in which 12 Taliban (fighters) including four Pakistani nationals were killed and eight others were wounded," he told TOLONews on Monday. "Four Afghan security forces were also killed in the clashes and five others were wounded." He said the clashes happened in the past 24 hours. Taliban has not yet commented on this report.

Figures by the Ministry of Defense from last month show that the Afghan Security and Defense Forces are currently fighting against militants in at least 15 provinces. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

 Aries You're just fine with the fact that playtime is over. There is plenty of work to do now; you have a plan in mind and can't wait to get started. However, the time for impetuous behavior is over. Thankfully, your ability to follow through on whatever you start is reinforced by the sweet trine between energetic Mars and persistent

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

 Taurus You are at home in the earthy element of the cosmic energy today. Steady Saturn is like a keel on your ship that enables you to navigate tumultuous waters without danger of capsizing. No job is too big now, because your reawakened sense of stability raises your confidence and allows you to perform with superhuman re-

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

 Gemini You might be fighting against the tides that insistently pull you toward your unfulfilled obligations. You don't want to admit that you must set aside fun and games so you can reprioritize your life. However, the chickens of ambition have come home to roost and you can't ignore them any longer. Stop wasting precious energy by resisting the inevitable today.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

 Cancer Concentrating on mundane matters all but ensures positive results today. Whether you're paying bills, cleaning your office or simply making a to-do list, focus on the details. Leaving no stone unturned cultivates success, especially when it comes to financial issues. But this is not the time to get lost in dreams of material wealth;

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

 Leo A looming deadline, a demanding boss or an inflexible schedule can force you to dramatically alter your behavior today. Although you normally enjoy expressing yourself without restraint, you feel even freer now when you're working within challenging constraints. You are acutely aware that there are guideposts and warning signs,

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

 Virgo You may think you are stepping into new territory today, but it's a very familiar landscape. Thankfully, you can relax now because your schedule seems more predictable in the days ahead, and there shouldn't be any surprises to turn everything upside down. But this is not a time for rest and relaxation; to the contrary, you must stay on task while there are fewer distractions.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

 Libra You often strive to find a balance between extremes, but thankfully, you can stop your juggling act today. It takes little effort to set a sustainable rhythm now, allowing you to accomplish your work-related goals while also leaving time for friends and family. However, you may be so content with how your day is coming together

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

 Scorpio You are possessed with a take-no-prisoners attitude now, and woe to those who block your progress. Karmic Saturn is collaborating with warrior Mars in your 10th House of Status; it's your destiny to claim victory, whether it's about climbing the ladder of success, finishing a project or meeting a deadline.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

 Sagittarius Your optimism is transforming into realism today. Recent overconfidence fades as the unavoidable truth imposes itself on you. But this attitude adjustment feels healthy because you know where you stand now, and what you still must accomplish to manifest your dreams. Ironically, confronting the facts enables you to return to your fantasies with a clear conscience.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

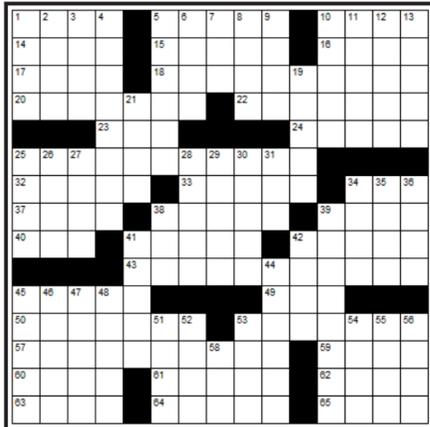
 Capricorn You are operating with an acute sense of purpose today. Your vision is wide and your reasoning is wise, empowering you to make well-informed decisions that will influence your future in a positive manner. Little effort on your part is required to analyze a situation now, make an efficient plan to fulfill your objectives and effectively

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

 Aquarius You can make more progress than you expected today, as long as you're willing to work with others. At first, it might seem as if the collaboration process might slow you down, but a negative outlook will not serve you well in the long run. Instead of attempting to sprint to the finish line on your own, imagine what you could accomplish if you moved

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

 Pisces Your imagination is hard at work at the service of your need to obtain concrete results today. On a very practical level, there's no time for day-dreaming when you are so inspired to impact the world around you. Thankfully, your coworkers are on board with your agenda; in fact, they may play an instrumental role in your mission as they remind you of specific facts just when you need them most.



Across

1. Blowgun missile, 5. Instrument indicators, 10. Distinctive flair, 14. Affirm, 15. Fool, 16. Make do, 17. Celebration, 18. Snakelike, 20. Liberty, 22. Besmirched, 23. Black bird, 24. Notions, 25. Fertilizing, 32. Wall climbers, 33. An electronic musical instrument, 34. Muzzle, 37. Territory, 38. Gorillalike, 39. One who accomplishes, 40. Antlered animal, 41. Display, 42. Hindu for "Mister", 43. Making longer, 45. Zest, 49. Annex, 50. Empower, 53. Interrupt, 57. Daughter of a step-parent, 59. Murres, 60. Fastens, 61. Anagram of "Amend", 62. Tumbled, 63. Evasive, 64. Surpass, 65. Autumn,

Down

1. To cast aside (archaic), 2. Affirm, 3. Learning method, 4. Chirped, 5. Renounce, 6. As just mentioned, 7. What we breathe, 8. Cuts off, 9. Flower stalk, 10. Toward the outside, 11. France's longest river, 12. Breathing problem, 13. Requires, 19. Whinny, 21. Speaker's platform, 25. Heap, 26. Egg-shaped, 27. Connection, 28. Type of poplar tree, 29. Fastening, 30. Map within a map, 31. Greatest possible, 34. Mongolian desert, 35. Many millennia, 36. Hot rum drink, 38. Card with one symbol, 39. Flakes of dead skin, 41. Small slits, 42. What we sleep on, 44. Hairstyle, 45. "Beau ___", 46. Loosen, as laces, 47. Metal, 48. Slightly intoxicated, 51. Large luxurious car, 52. Brother of Jacob, 53. Accomplishment, 54. Component of urine, 55. Tablet, 56. Gangly, 58. Explosive

Yesterday's Solution

ACROSS: 1. AIDS, 2. NIMS, 3. GAGE, 4. CLIP, 5. OPTIUM, 6. GRES, 7. MESA, 8. TERRA, 9. DENIS, 10. EXTRA, 11. NEGOTIATE, 12. RIMS, 13. SERAC, 14. EMANATE, 15. SILICA, 16. RICHARD, 17. GLOGS, 18. GAG, 19. ROTOR, 20. NAP, 21. OTHER, 22. CREDEENZA, 23. STRIKE, 24. BARCLIER, 25. EPIGOS, 26. PUPP, 27. PLUMMELLED, 28. BITCH, 29. ETUI, 30. LADIES, 31. PILE, 32. LAST, 33. SIGMA, 34. SOAR, 35. THEE, 36. REED, 37. ENDS

case, catch, child, circle, cling, colt, commission, draft, drift, elder, emote, endive, expand, feed, fisherman, frontier, funding, melt, mist, pilot, polish, polls

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