

Military Operation Underway to Recapture Sancharak District

KABUL - Military operation is underway in Sancharak District of northern Sar-e-Pul province to recapture the lost areas from Taliban, officials said Tuesday. Governor of Sar-e-Pul province said that army, police, national directorate of security and the uprising civilians are taking part in the operation backed by air force. Mohammad Zahir said the operation kicked off on Monday morning and so far several villages including TaghaiKhwaja, DehMurda have been cleared of



militants. Clashes have reportedly occurred during the operation but officials have not yet released information about possible casualties. Taliban stormed Sancharak District last month and captured areas from security forces after clashes. The group launched a new wave of attacks, to the most part in northern part of the country, after announcing its so-called "Spring Offensive" in April. They have been able to seize areas from security forces but lost them back after suffering heavy casualties. (KP)

Three Children Killed in Baghlan Blast

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Early reports indicate that at least three children were killed and 15 others injured in a mortar explosion in northern Baghlan province, local officials said on Tuesday. The incident happened early Tuesday in Pul-e-Khumri, the capital of the province, after a group of boys found the mortar and started playing with it, officials at Baghlan hospital said. Officials did say however, that the death toll could increase. This comes less than a week after eight children died in a mortar explosion in Kabul. This incident happened when the children apparently found the unexploded device, believed to have been left over from the civil war, while playing at a construction site. (Tolonews)

26kg Narcotics Seized at Tajik-Afghan Border



DUSHANBE - 26 kilos of narcotics have been seized by Tajik border guards at the Tajik-Afghan border in Khatlon province. According to the press center of the Main Border Guard Directorate under the State Committee for National Security (SCNS), Tajik border guard on a routine patrol spotted a group of Afghan smugglers who were illegally crossing border river in the Panj district in early Monday morning. "When Tajik border guards tried to detain the trespassers, the latter opened fire at them. The border guards opened return fire and the trespassers were forced to re... (More on P4)... (16)

Gang of Kidnappers Busted after Killing Hostage in Balkh



MAZAR - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) has busted a gang of kidnappers in northern Balkh province. A statement released by NDS on Tuesday states that four members of the gang, Mohammad Ashraf, Mohammad Gul, Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Hakim, were arrested during a raid in Mazare-e-Sharif, capital of Balkh province. They had recently abducted Mohammad Dawoud S/O Abdul Rahman from the jurisdiction of Dehdadi District and demanded his family for 10 million Afghanis. Dawoud's family was unable to fulfill the demand after which kidnappers brutally killed him and buried his dead body in Qutan Shah Mahmood of ChaharKint District. They told NDS during initial investigation about the murder and exposed the location where they had buried the dead body. Dawoud's dead body was then recovered from Qutan Shah Mahmood village. A footage released by the spy agency shows four people identified as the arrested kidnappers who confess to their crimes. (KP)

Al-Qaeda Warns Saudi Arabia Ahead of Mass Execution

RIYADH - The global militant network of al-Qaeda on Tuesday warned the government of Saudi Arabia of consequences in case the planned mass execution is carried out, Reuters news agency reports. The group's affiliate in Yemen known as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) said it was aware of Saudi intentions to execute its members in Saudi prisons and pledged to carry out attacks in response. "We swear to God, our blood will be shed before



the blood of our captives, and their pure blood will not dry before we shed the blood of the soldiers of Al Saud," according to Reuters, the group said in a statement which was posted on Twitter and dated Tuesday. "We will not enjoy life unless we get the necks of the Al ... (More on P4)... (15)

Nangarhar Police Chief Survives Bomb Attack

KABUL - Fazel Ahmad Shirzad, provincial police chief survived a bomb attack while he was on his way to Achin district of Nangarhar. "Mr. Shirzad convoy was on his way to Achin district while he was attacked by a bomb in Amanullah Khan residential town area," AtaullahKhogyani, provincial governor spokesman said. Khogyani says no one was affected as a result of the incident while another source who wish not to be named says three civilians were injured as a consequence of this attack. Nangarhar is among the volatile districts in Afghanistan where the armed insurgent groups are actively operating in a number of its districts. (ATN)

Taliban Shadow Governor Killed

KABUL - MawlawiBaz Mohammad, district governor of Taliban for Sancharak District of northern Sar-e-Pul province, and MawlawiQamarud-din, group's military commander, killed in a military operation, Ministry of Interior said in a statement on Tuesday. "The two important fighters of Taliban were killed in a precise raid in the village of DehMordah of Sancharak District yesterday," states the statement. With their death, the security situation of Sancharak and other parts of Sar-e-Pol prov-



ince would get better, the statement adds. Military operation in Sancharak was launched on Monday after Taliban seized some villages from security forces. Meanwhile, police have detained four landmine planters of Taliban with landmines in southeastern Paktia province. The group planned to furnish landmines on public highway in Machalgho area of Ahmad Abad District on Monday. (KP)

Armenia to Grant Asylum to Afghans

YEREVAN - The Armenian State Migration Agency is considering the matter of granting asylum to Afghans ShokatAminzai and SediqhollahAlizadeh, who had crossed the Turkey-Armenia border, Head of the agency, GagikYeganyan, Armenian media reported Tuesday. "The Afghans have petitioned to us on the matter of being granted asylum," Yeganyan said. "We have launched [respective] administrative proceedings, and according to procedures, we are examining the petition." To note, however, the case of these Afghans is in court, as they are charged with ille-



gally crossing the Armenian border. According to the indictment, ShokatAminzai had reached a preliminary agreement with SediqhollahAlizadeh, and they crossed the Turkish-Armenian border on October 6. But they were apprehended by the Armenian border service officers. (Armenia News)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Excitement mounts as you consider every angle of a creative project today. You're eager to get started, but you can't figure out how to organize all your ideas. Your reactions are so swift now that you inadvertently overwhelm others while sharing your plans. Think before you speak because you probably sound more outrageous than you realize. Keep your audience in mind and tailor your delivery accordingly.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Rather than spinning your wheels and going nowhere fast, channel your energy into creating a joyful environment, instead. The showy Leo Moon visits your 4th House of Home and Family, inspiring you to redecorate around the house to take your mind off more complicated issues at work. Nevertheless, you can't stop the flow of your thoughts.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Discerning the fine edge between a brilliant thought and a crazy one today is nearly impossible as rational Mercury trines wild Uranus. However, there's really no need to waste too much time worrying about slipping over the edge as long as you maintain your sense of humor. Keep your feet on solid ground; remember, it's not necessary to share every amazing idea that crosses your mind.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Burying your unrealistic thoughts won't make you happy today, but neither will indiscriminately telling them to anyone who will listen. Nevertheless, your outrageous schemes may get the best of you if you cannot come up with a plan to harness the power of your imagination. Instead of allowing your dreams to drift aimlessly, discuss your dilemma with a clever confidant.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Big bold action may be necessary for you to find emotional satisfaction today as the Moon dances her way through dramatic Leo. Luckily, you are primed for a stellar performance even if you're concerned about other parts of your life. Instead of pretending that everything is fine now, set aside your defenses and just share your story with someone you trust. Although the show must go on.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

There are many disparate facets of your life coming together now, and you would be wise to connect the dots between the apparent coincidences. You have a chance to create a special kind of magic simply by focusing on the relationship between separate events. Analytical Mercury is busy filling your head with one idea after another today. But rather than trying to rationally explain every thought, just find a way to weave the strands into a single tapestry.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your best friends remain true to you through thick and thin, and they quietly cheer you on as you express your creativity today. They seem to appreciate your authenticity and admire you even more when you are doing what you love. Thankfully, you enjoy shining for others, so this can be a fantastic win-win situation. Stretch into new territory by using your colorful imagination to create a special memory for everyone.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Circumstances may necessitate that you publicly display your emotions in ways that normally would make you uncomfortable. Nevertheless, you are willing to stand up for your beliefs today, and being vulnerable is just part of the package. Nevertheless, wait until you are fully ready before making a serious commitment.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You wish you were free of obligations so you could explore new paths into your future. Unfortunately, you might have responsibilities you cannot avoid today. Luckily, falling behind isn't as bad as it sounds, since handling unfinished business doesn't prevent you from also chasing your dreams. Even if you're not prepared to embark on your next great adventure, tying up loose ends now allows you to fly sooner than you expect.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Attempting to balance your list of chores with your desire for excitement leads to an unsolvable dilemma today. Even if you're facing a difficult decision now, you're required to play by the existing rules. Thankfully, changing your attitude can change the name of the game, enabling you to maintain your integrity while also breaking out of your shell. Never underestimate the element of surprise.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

It may seem as if everyone is having more fun than you today, but this lopsided perception could be a figment of your imagination. You want to be part of the group, yet you also need to maintain your reputation as an outsider. Instead of comparing yourself to anyone else, decide what you want to do now based only on what would make your heart happiest.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You might come across more rebellious than you actually feel today since you don't realize how intimidating your words sound to your coworkers. Obviously, you are free to say whatever enters your mind without censoring your remarks. Nevertheless, someone may not take your message as lightly as you intend. Happily, you can prevent discord by going out of your way to respect the opinions of others.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across: 1. Mimicked, 6. Modify, 10. A Maori club, 14. Maxim, 15. Way in, 16. Black, in poetry, 17. Of a pelvic bone, 18. Biblical garden, 19. Part of a plant, 20. Interfering, 22. Storage cylinder, 23. Altitude (abbrev.), 24. Mangles, 26. In that direction, 30. Swelling under the skin, 32. Decrease, 33. Take a debtor's wages, 37. Fluff, 38. Unit of weight for gems, 39. Greek letter, 40. Forever, 42. A large pill, 43. Collection of maps, 44. Brigand, 45. Tortilla chip, 47. Not bottom, 48. Sediment, 49. Container, 56. Yachting cap, 57. Weightlifters pump this, 58. Dental filling, 59. Reflected sound, 60. Auspices, 61. Look at with fixed eyes, 62. Withdraw gradually, 63. Only, 64. Fixes.
Down: 1. Disable, 2. Doing nothing, 3. A female domestic, 4. Quaint outburst, 5. Proclaim one's support, 6. Excrete, 7. Carpenter's groove, 8. Bit of gossip, 9. A run-down apartment house, 10. Exhortation, 11. Agitated, 12. Equipment, 13. "Do others..." , 21. A late time of life, 25. French for "Friend", 26. Story, 27. Death notice, 28. Diminish, 29. Allure, 30. Noblemen, 31. Heavy cart, 33. Big party, 34. Grasp, 35. Decorative case, 36. Where the sun rises, 38. Units of food energy, 41. Greatest possible, 42. Christening, 44. Hit on the head, 45. Daughter of a sibling, 46. First Greek letter, 47. Anxious, 48. Distort, 50. Therefore, 51. Spring, 52. Initial wager, 53. Family group, 54. Piecrust ingredient, 55. Visual organs.

Yesterday's Solution: asks, cause, churn, circus, clarity, conference, control, dizzy, elect, garner, grim, hire, horse, inordinate, killer, mercy, monthly, need, office, punish, recognize, retort, rodeo, rout, seniority, sneak, sneeze, strain, submerge, swamp, torn, tower, vane.

Word search grid containing words like: L I N O R D I N A T E E S, K W O R L D R E T O R T N, M I X C O N F E R E N C E, O E L E C T G D Y R J S E, N C R L F R Q T U O R L Z, T I E C E H I H E O E O E, H R T M Y R C D H A C F T, L C B O O X O L V G O F D, Y U A I W R N S A A G I I, S S N U A E T W N R N C Z, S E X O S T R A I N I E Z, S N E A K E O M S E Z T Y, P U N I S H L P H R E R Y.