



Security Forces Arrest Local Commander in Takhar

TALIQUAN - Takhar police chief says that commander Naweed was arrested in a 15-minute operation by Takhar and Kunduz police force members.

Naweed Khanabadi, a commander of public uprising forces in Kunduz, was arrested by security forces after his residence in Takhar province was reportedly under siege for two days, security officials said Sunday.

Abdul Rasheed Bashir, the police chief of Takhar, said Naweed was arrested with six other individuals without any resistance at around 12:00am Saturday mid-night in Takhar.

He said that the local commander was taken to Kunduz province. The police chief said that Naweed, also known as Naweedak, is accused of various types of crimes including "murder, armed robbery, blackmailing, land grabbing and rape".

Naweed was in one a hospital in Taluqan city, the center of Takhar, when he was arrested by security forces.

"Naweed, known as Naweedak, was under police search and he escaped to Takhar. He was arrested at around 12:00am Saturday mid-night along with his six bodyguards as a result of a joint effort by Takhar and Kunduz police force members," said Bashir.

"Naweed was an irresponsible armed commander in Khanabad district in Kunduz and he was under police search for a long time," said Abdul Baqi Nuristani Kunduz police chief. "He (Naweed) was accused for several cases. Two days back, he took a wounded friend to Taluqan city of Takhar and he was under police siege during this time. He was arrested in a 15-minutes operation without any casualties."

Meanwhile, some Kunduz residents stressed the need for investigation of allegations against the local commander. ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Taliban Abducts 40 Passengers in Samangan

KABUL - Taliban has abducted at least 40 passengers and drivers in Dara-e-Sooof district in Samangan province, in the north of Afghanistan, provincial police confirmed on Sunday.

The abduction marks the second incident in northern Afghanistan in less than a week.

The incident occurred in Khushk Dara village in the district at around 10:00am on Sunday morning, said Mohammad Munir Rahimi, spokesman for Samangan police.

He said Taliban resorted to taking hostage the passengers to convince the drivers to pay them taxes.

Rahimi said that efforts are underway for safe release of the hostages.

Mostly high tonnage vehicles are travelling on the road where they transfer coal from Dara-e-Sooof coal mines to local markets across



Afghanistan. Taliban has not yet commented on the incident.

This comes after the Taliban on Tuesday abducted at least 25 passengers who were travelling from Balkhab district of Sar-e-Pul province to Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province. The passengers were on their way to Mazar-e-Sharif City, the capital of Balkh.

No clue is so far available about the fate of the 25 hostages, Rahimi said. *(Tolo news)*

Key Taliban Member Killed in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - Helmand governor's office says head of Taliban's military commission has been killed in a drone strike.

Helmand governor's office in a statement on Sunday said that Mullah Mohammad Rahim Mannan, also known as Mullah Abdulmannan Akhund, head of Taliban's military commission and designated governor of Helmand, was killed in a drone strike in the province on Saturday.

The statement said the drone strike was carried out in Helmand's Nawzad district.

The statement added that four other Taliban members, including his two spokespersons, who were with Mannan were also



killed in the airstrike. Taliban in a statement confirmed Mullah Mannan's death. *(Tolo news)*

Taliban call's Mullah Manan's Death a Major Loss

KABUL - The Taliban militants group in Afghanistan has called the death of Mullah Abdul Manan, the group's shadow governor for Helmand, a major loss.

The group in a statement said the death of Mullah Abdul Manan Akhunda is a major loss for 'Islamic Emirate and the Muslim nation' emphasizing that 'martyrdom' is the desire of all leaders of the group that leaders' deaths will not have an impact on their ranks to wage 'a holy war'.

This comes as the Helmand provincial government media office in a statement said

the shadow governor of the group Mullah Abdul Manan was killed in Nawzad district on Saturday night.

The statement further added "The shadow governor of Taliban for Helmand Mullah Abdul Rahim alias Mullah Abdul Manan was killed with his four comrades, including two spokespersons identified as Hafiz Rashid and Mullah Javied, and two of his security guards." According to the provincial government media office, Mullah Abdul Manan was killed in an airstrike late on Saturday night in Nawzad district. *(KP)*

Hundreds Killed in November Attacks

KABUL - More than 300 Afghan civilians, security forces and thousands of armed rebels were killed in November in signs of escalating violence in the war-torn country.

Figures compiled by Anadolu Agency indicate there has been an evident surge in killings amid a renewed push by the U.S. for peace talks with Taliban in the nearly two-decade-old war.

In just three major incidents of civilian casualties last month, over 100 lives were lost in capital Kabul, Helmand and Ghazni provinces.

The deadliest among them was a suicide bombing at a religious ceremony in the heart of Kabul that claimed 50 lives on Nov. 20.

Najib Danish, spokesman of the Interior Ministry, told Anadolu Agency the suicide attack targeted a private community hall where the birthday of Prophet Muhammad was being marked.

This was followed by Taliban assaults on ethnic Shia-Hazara minority villages in Jaghori and Malistan district ...*(More on P4)...(11)*



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Things should go well for you today, Aries, especially in the love and romance department. Don't shy away from the obvious attraction that you have toward one special person. Today is the day to amplify that feeling instead of hide from it. Show off your love with the brightest, boldest colors and actions possible.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



There may be too much fiery energy in the day to make you feel comfortable with the situation, Taurus. Instead of trying to resist this powerful force, it would be better if you embraced it. Use this day to draw out some of your inner flame and let it radiate toward the people you care about the most.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You may find that others are hostile toward you today, Gemini. Try not to take it personally. Realize that there are other people and situations with which you can connect that will help bolster your ego instead of drag it down. Make deeper connections with your loved one tonight by indulging in some adventure fantasies. Shared experiences will be extremely rewarding at this time.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Put your incredible sensitivity to work for you today in a way that inspires action, Cancer. There's so much within you that needs expression at this time. Don't hold back any longer. When it comes to issues regarding love and romance, feel free to make a move. You may be attracted to those who tickle your brain cells.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Things should be going well for you today, so don't miss the opportunities that await you, Leo. There's a sparkle in your eye that's unmistakable, and you will find that issues regarding love and romance are especially potent. Love is on your side. You should take this opportunity to delve deeply into a love affair. Take a trip with the people you enjoy most.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Don't let other people's insensitive actions dictate your mood today, Virgo. Your state of mind is your responsibility, and you should work to come to a point at which you have full control over what you feel at all times. If something isn't working out, let it go. This isn't a good time to try to stick a square peg in a round hole.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You should find that you have an extra amount of creative energy now, Libra, and you should do what you can to make this force work for you. There's a time and place for everything, and now is the time to work together with your higher self to channel some of the artist within. Don't let your self-doubt keep you from using the creative force that's brewing inside you.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You may have been a bit indecisive lately when it comes to love and romance, Scorpio. Perhaps your mind is drawn to one person while your heart is drawn to another. Perhaps you're trying to trick your mind into seeing a certain quality in someone while you ignore parts that you don't really like. Make sure you accept people for all of who they are and not just the individual parts.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You're apt to be in a romantic mood today, Sagittarius. Your whole being may revolve around love and romance. You will find that your romanticism is heightened. This is a terrific day to snuggle up to a loved one and share intimate moments and passionate kisses. Pamper yourself with a hot bath and feel free to go out on the town.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Feel free to strike out for new territory today, Capricorn, especially when it comes to love and romance. It could be that you're so scared of losing what you have that you refuse to take risks to obtain something better that you want. Realize that you will never get any further than the rut you're in until you take a deep breath, aim high, and shoot for your dreams.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

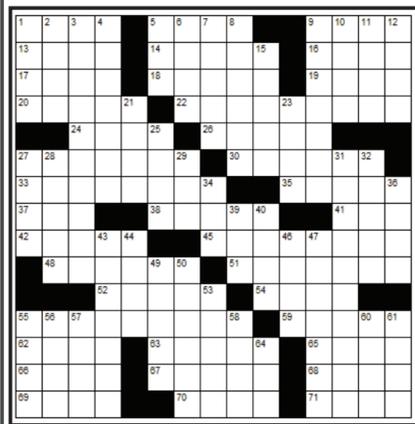


Things regarding love and romance may be climactic for you now, Aquarius, and you may bump heads with someone in a way that makes it difficult for either one of you to be content. More than likely there's an issue of freedom versus control that's making it difficult to find a resolution. Perhaps you need to give a certain issue a break and come back to it later.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You may find that you're taking a much more daring approach when it comes to love and romance now, Pisces. If you aren't, than maybe you should. You will never know the possibilities until you at least give it a try. You may find that there's something spurring you on today. Use that impulse to initiate a new path toward the object of your desire.



Across

- Gunk, 5. An indistinct shapeless form, 9. Cavort, 13. Hindu princess, 14. Rowed
- Egg-shaped, 17. Auspices, 18. Comment to the audience, 19. A style of design, 20. Ebbed, 22. Listened, 24. Reasonable, 26. Unit of luminous flux, 27. Nocturnal arboreal marsupial, 30. Diminutive, 33. Conducted, 35. Academy award, 37. Barrier, 38. Fathered, 41. Consumer Price Index, 42. Contemptuous look, 45. Reflexive form of, "you", 48. Loathsome, 51. Frying pan, 52. Gentlewomen, 54. Type of sword, 55. Rebels, 59. Feudal workers, 62. Leave out, 63. Operatic solos, 65. Gloomy atmosphere, 66. 53 in Roman numerals, 67. Notches, 68. Decorative case, 69. Nonclerical, 70. Tall woody

Down

- Team, 2. Indian music, 3. Ignorant, 4. Illness, 5. Type of snake, 6. Whip, 7. Bay window, 8. Smear, 9. Rats, 10. Baking appliance, 11. A ceremonial staff, 12. Trudge, 15. Skin layer
- Platter, 23. Gambling game, 25. Tracks, 27. Probabilities, 28. A keyboard instrument, 29. Japanese apricot, 31. Quicken, 32. Official tree of Canada, 34. Not wet, 36. Break in friendly relations, 39. Dawn goddess, 40. Nobleman, 43. Pertaining to vivid recall, 44. Lion sound, 46. Tears, 47. Roomette, 49. Inuit boat 50. Hush-hush, 53. To scour, 55. Gangster's gal, 56. Dogfish, 57. 8 in Roman numerals, 58. Not in danger, 60. Anagram of "Fuel", 61. Skidded
- South southeast,,,

Yesterday's Solution

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

adore, arrest, bundle
bursary, clump, compete
contraption, crave dissent
, fasten, frame, gasp, ge-
netic, gripe, inside maybe,
mild, note, party, playoff,
possibility, prize quick
, right, rocket, safety
sense, siren smirk

