

Haqqani Terrorist Network Holds American Hostage: Report

JALALABAD - The Haqqani terrorist network that is allied with the Taliban holds an American national as a hostage. The Daily Beast, an American-based news reporting and opinion website quotes a top congressman, Duncan Hunter, as revealing that 'There are still Americans in captivity in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.' According to the Daily Beast, Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), a leading critic in Congress of the Obama administration's hostage rescue and recovery policies, has written this in a public letter to President



Obama. No specific number of the hostages has been mentioned in the report but citing U.S. officials and others familiar with the case it does talk about a specific individual that has been in captivity of militants for over a year and left unreported. The Daily Beast is not publishing the man's name or many details about him at the request of his family and administration and law enforcement officials, who are concerned for his safety. The man is said to be held by the Haqqani network, a Taliban-aligned group that operates along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Drug Trafficker Detained on Tajik-Afghan Border in Gorno Badakhshan

DUSHANBE - 20-year-old resident of Shignan district in Badakhshan province, Amonulla s/o Abdulla, was detained by Tajik border guards while illegally crossing Border River in Shughnan district of Tajikistan's Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO) late Wednesday, according to the Border Guard Directorate at the State Committee for National Security (SCNS). Muhammad Ulughkhajayev, a spokesman for the Border Guard Directorate, says six kilograms of hashish were confiscated from the trespasser. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against the detained drug trafficker and an investigation is under way. *(Asia-Plus)*

8 Militants Killed in Afghan Cleanup Operations

KABUL - Some eight Taliban militants have been killed during cleanup operations across Afghanistan, the country's defense ministry said on Thursday. "Up to eight terrorists were killed, several wounded and one was arrested when Afghan security forces carried out cleanup operations over the past 24 hours," the ministry said in a statement providing operational updates. The raids were launched in five of the country's 34 provinces. "A total of five Afghan National Army personnel were also martyred during the same period," the statement confirmed. Afghan security forces have pressed on clearing the militants in restive provinces as Taliban militants have been attempting to take territory and consolidate their positions ahead of winter in the country. *(Xinhua)*

US jails Russian 'Taliban' Fighter for Life

WASHINGTON - A 55-year-old former Russian tank commander, dubbed the Russian Taliban, was sentenced to life plus 30 years in a US prison on Thursday for fighting US troops in Afghanistan. Irek Hamidullin was convicted by a US jury in August on 15 counts relating to a 2009 insurgent attack that he masterminded on an Afghan border police outpost near the Pakistani border. He was found guilty of conspiring to shoot down US helicopters and kill US and Afghan soldiers, and of conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction among other charges. He was captured by US troops on the battlefield, before being flown to the United States to face trial. US evidence showed that he was in contact with high-level personnel in the Taliban and the Haqqani network. Hamidullin led a group of fighters in an attack on the Camp Leyza outpost in the northeastern Afghan province of Khost on November 28, 2009 after months of planning, prosecutors said. The attack was approved by the Taliban and the Haqqani Network, and saw him amass homemade bombs, heavy machine guns and a shoulder-fired rocket intended to shoot down US helicopters. But the anti-aircraft weapons malfunctioned during the fighting and he ordered his fighters to pack up and return to Pakistan, during which around 20 were killed by US fire, prosecutors said. Hamidullin was captured the next morning after opening fire on US forces with a Kalashnikov, they added. The US justice system...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Herat Police Detain 6 for Landing Plane Illegally

HERAT - Herat police have detained six flight people that landed plane in Herat without clearance from airport officials. According to the governor's spokesman a plane allegedly from Sharjah in the Persian Gulf landed last week at the airport without official clearance. Six passengers, one Pakistani and five Afghans, allegedly offloaded the plane. On board were 10 high-end vehicles and food. Officials said the plane departed after its cargo was offloaded. When questions were



raised, police raided the hotel in Herat city where the passengers were staying. Good were confiscated and the six passengers were arrested. Provincial Police Chief Gen. Abdul Majid Rozi said that five Afghans and one Pakistani citizen had been arrested at a hotel in Herat city. "At the moment they are in the custody of police and their goods have been confiscated by security forces," said Rozi. Meanwhile provincial...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Haqqani Weapons Depot Seized in Logar, Three Suspects Arrested

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Thursday seized a weapons depot of Haqqani terrorist network, responsible for Afghanistan's some deadly bombings and attacks, in central Logar province. A statement released by NDS stated that the cache was discovered during a raid in Kharwar District. A Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED), different types of weapons, including Dushka (DSHK) heavy machinegun, Kalashnikov, artillery rounds, thousands of bullets, 15 kilograms of explosive materials, eight home-made bombs, military suits and two trucks were confiscated from the depot. The press release further states that three suspects have been arrested in this connection. NDS statements usually do not contain exact date of the achievements but they come after recent activities. *(KP)*

Political Party Carries out Kabul Cleaning Campaign

KABUL - In joint cooperation with the Kabul Municipality, volunteers loyal to Hizb-e-Islami Arghandiwal faction on Thursday launched a cleaning campaign in the city, in an effort to promote awareness of the dangers of pollution. Campaign organizers hope to improve cooperation between the citizens and relevant government bodies involved in environmental issues, they said. Backed up by dozens of vehicles, vol-



unteers gathered early Thursday morning in Company Square where they hoisted Hizb-e-Islami flags and chanted slogans in favor of a clean environment. Volunteers called on the citizens to help clean up the city in a bid to stop the spread of diseases. The cleanup...*(More on P4)...(16)*

12 Killed in Wardak Blast

KABUL - Local officials say at least 12 people including children were killed in a mortar attack in Wardak province on Friday morning. Secretary of Wardak provincial council, Sharifullah Hotak said the incident took place near a mosque in Dandokai village in Sayed Abad district at around 10am. He said war was ongoing between Afghan National Army troops and the Taliban in the area. He added that at least six people were also injured. *(Tolonews)*

Linda Norgrove Charity Raises £1m to Help Afghanistan

KABUL - A charity set up in the memory of a Scottish aid worker, who was killed in Afghanistan five years ago, has raised £1m in her name. Linda Norgrove, who was from the Isle of Lewis, was being held hostage and died during a failed rescue by American forces. A foundation set up by her parents has been continuing the work she started to try to improve the lives of women and children in the war-torn



country. John and Linda Norgrove told BBC Scotland's Jackie O'Brien that they wanted to do something positive in her memory. *(BBC)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Big ideas at work aren't enough to ensure your success today, because once you make a plan you still have to execute it in a timely manner. Ironically, you must trust your intuition now rather than sticking to the dry facts when circumstances dictate a strategic change. But don't just give up when the going gets tough.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You no longer want to do things at work in the same old way. In fact, you may be obsessed with finding a better approach to any project now. Unfortunately, your coworkers and friends might not be so eager to support your rebellious nature. Although the idea of collaborating with others sounds ideal, you need to experiment on your own today.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be so bored with your work routine that you want to check out for the weekend before the whistle blows. Unfortunately, you might have to stick around until the end of the day, even if you've already escaped to somewhere better in your mind. Thankfully, you can overcome your impatience by adopting a creative approach to meeting your responsibilities. Use your imagination to make your job more fun.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your friends are counting on you to show up and be the life of the party. Although you might prefer starting the weekend early, you must buckle down and finish your work before earning your independence. Ironically, by the time your day is done, you may just want to go home to unwind instead of heading out for a night on the town.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You might begin the day with an unrealistic assessment of how much you can accomplish. However, your ambitious approach to your chores shifts as the changeable Moon moves into your 3rd House of Immediate Environment. Don't worry about sticking to your previous plans. Choose excitement over routine to squeeze the most out of the present moment.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Concentrating on your work is challenging this morning, making it impossible to finish anything you start. Fortunately, your mind sharpens as the day wears on, enabling you to successfully revisit a mentally daunting task. If your thoughts wander to greener pastures, gently remind yourself of your immediate goal. Dogged persistence is the key to getting the job done.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You aren't satisfied with the status quo today and might be especially motivated to learn a new skill. The Moon's entry into your sign today shifts your focus from the rational world toward a more subjective perspective. Perhaps it's time to take up an intriguing course of study that satisfies a deepening curiosity in some unexplored area of art, psychology or metaphysics.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

This is the perfect day to do some serious research if you believe you are missing a significant piece of information about money matters. Messenger Mercury squares inflationary Jupiter, indicating the heightened importance of communication. However, you could waste valuable time by following the wrong critter down a rabbit hole.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You may be unsure of your current destination, but oddly enough your confusion won't stop you from continuing on a road to somewhere. Even if you begin without the luxury of a map, you will learn more about where you're heading as the day progresses. Trusting your intuition takes courage, especially now that your conclusions aren't supported by the obvious facts.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Setting lofty goals is a crucial component of ambition, but harboring unrealistic hopes can turn your day sour. An enthusiastic approach to your career motivates you to reach beyond your limits while logical Mercury aligns with excessive Jupiter. Thankfully, the Moon's shift into your 10th House of Social Responsibility brings an energetic boost, but it may be too little and too late.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Keeping your feet on the ground seems like a Herculean task today, even if you have very practical goals in mind. Hopefully, you can fulfill most of your obligations prior to softening your focus because you won't want to look back once you cut yourself loose from the ties of responsibility. There's nothing wrong with pursuing the excitement of an adrenaline rush as long as your work doesn't suffer in the process.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Tending to your work-related duties may be a real struggle today because your imagination is running rampant. Instead of being content with perceiving things as they are, envision them in your mind's eye as you wish them to be. The power of your intention is so strong now that you can manifest nearly anything you believe to be true. However, reality won't necessarily support your fantasies unless you reinforce them.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68.

Across: 1. Hurt, 6. Astringent, 10. Matured, 14. French for "Red", 15. Not stereo, 16. Beloved, 17. Excessively dramatic, 19. Savvy about, 20. Thoroughly wet, 21. Paraphernalia, 22. Untruths, 23. Went ballistic, 25. Scoffs, 26. Celebration, 30. Womb, 32. Relating to urine, 35. Terpsichoreans, 39. Unmarried, 40. Unsaturated alcohol, 41. Demesnes, 43. Sequin, 44. A fast gait of a horse, 46. Pigeon, 47. Birch relative, 50. Chasm, 53. Bad end, 54. Explosive, 55. Equip, 60. Broad valley, 61. Corrupt, 63. So be it, 64. Plateau, 65. Keepsake, 66. A covered garden walk, 67. Kind of school, 68. Stalks.
Down: 1. The products of human creativity, 2. Small salmon, 3. Tinted, 4. Quaint outburst, 5. Discourage, 6. French for "Friend", 7. A small ornamental case, 8. Unassisted, 9. Exuviate, 10. Minor, 11. Wish granter, 12. Consumer of food, 13. Smelter waste, 18. Ribonucleic acid, 24. Chap, 25. Clique, 26. Circuit breaker, 27. Anagram of "Sire", 28. Hue, 29. Betrothal, 31. Coarse file, 33. Communion table, 34. Bobbin, 36. Therefore, 37. Part in a play, 38. Toboggan, 42. Defamation, 43. Secret agent, 45. Lacking in insight, 47. Large African antelope, 48. A mixture of sand and clay, 49. Handouts, 51. Drunkard, 52. Hard fats, 54. Pack down, 56. Gait faster than a walk, 57. Not genuine, 58. Bit of gossip, 59. 10 10 10 10, 62. One time around.

Yesterday's Solution: anyone, babysit, barge, bright, brilliance, challenge, climb, coal, donation, drift, dunce, emphasize, extend, finger, flax, funny, gourd, haddock, hidden, lakes, laugh, limber, math, meticulous, mitt, pest, pong, pouch, prune, sentence, sons.

POUCHPPRUNERV
GOURDRECLIMBB
DUNCENSTONEQB
DCRGORTCHSTER
RONYEIFCBEIMI
IINBMLUHANCPL
FAMA AONIBTUHL
TIEXTENDYELAI
LAUGHYDSNOSA
BRIGHTOEICUIN
HADDOCKNTESZC
STARTABARGE E
CHALLENGEFAIN