

# Russia to Help Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan When Coalition Force Leaves Afghanistan

BISHKEK - Russia will be implementing programs for upgrading and rearming the armed forces of Kyrgyzstan as the international coalition force will leave neighboring Afghanistan, Russian Defense Minister, General of the Army Sergey Shoigu said at a meeting with



the chief of Kyrgyzstan's General Staff, Major-General Asanbek Alymkozhoyev on Tuesday. "Our cooperation is developing rather dynamically, the way it should develop between neighbors, friends and fraternal peoples," he said. "The current situation requires still faster inter-

action. There are several reasons for this, number one being Afghanistan and the withdrawal of the international coalition force." Shoigu said "this by no means promotes calm or adds to the certainty that everything that has occurred in Afghanistan ... (More on P4)...(19)

## Dushanbe, Kabul Negotiate to Release Abducted Tajik Border Guards

DUSHANBE - Appropriate agencies of Tajikistan are conducting intensive negotiations with the Afghan authorities on release of the abducted Tajik border guards, an official source at one of Tajik power-wielding structures told Asia-Plus in an interview. According to him, the Afghan authorities noted that the Afghan law enforcement authorities have taken all necessary measures to secure release of the abducted Tajik border guards. "They say the release of the abducted Tajik border guards is a matter of time," the source noted. We will recall that Afghan News Agency Khaama Press (KP) on

December 20 quoted an official of Kunduz Province as saying that four Tajik border guards have been abducted by Taliban militants. Taliban militants want to exchange the abducted Tajik border guards for their supporters who are being held in jails in Tajikistan, KP reported. News website Afghanistan.ru reports four Tajik border guards were abducted by unknown people in the border area of the Afghan northern Kunduz Province on December 20. Sarwar Hussein, a spokesman for the Kunduz police department, was quoted as saying that Taliban militants are behind the abduction of

the Tajik border guards. Four Tajik border guards allegedly crossed the border to cut firewood in one of forests of the woloswali of Imam Sahib. Kunduz law enforcement authorities know the whereabouts of the abducted border guards and the operation to free them has already been launched, Ariana TV reported. Tajik law enforcement authorities have confirmed the information about abduction of four servicemen of the Panj border unit by unknown armed people. The State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan (SCNS) is reportedly investigating the incident. (Asia-Plus)

## Taliban Block Tirinkot-Gizab Highway

TIRINKOT - The Taliban militants have closed a key road in central Uruzgan province, creating problems for residents, particularly patients, an official said on Wednesday. The road between Tirinkot, the provincial capital, and Gizab district has been closed over the past four days, the governor's spokesman, Dost Mohammad Nayel, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said the Taliban had shut the highway in reaction to the closure of smuggling routes by security forces in the town, preventing logistic supplies to the rebels. The official said the Taliban insisted they would not reopen the highway until government forces removed check-pots



along the route in Gizab. He said the highway closure had plunged Gizab residents into numerous problems and they could not take their patients to the provincial capital. Gizab district chief, Dr. Abdullah, said the highway had been blocked against security forces and civilians since Friday. The rebels distributed pamphlets on Friday, warning residents against travelling on the highway, he said.

The official said a large number of drivers and common people daily visited the district headquarters to register complaints against the highway closure. Abdullah said the blockade had resulted in increased prices of food items in the district and the worst suffers were patients. A driver, Mohammad Gul, said he had been unable to go to Tirinkot for the ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Public Trust in NUG to fall as Promises Not Fulfilled

KABUL - The National Unity Government (NUG) failure to meet its major commitments has caused to increase more the problems in the security, economic and political sectors, according to critics. People's confidence in the unity government has been declining as al-

most 90 days have passed since the formation of new government with major national issues still remain unsolved, analysts said. Formation of new cabinet, reform in the electoral system and finalization of Kabul Bank's embezzlement case were among ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Drone Strikes Kill 4 Rebels in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Four insurgents, including a commander and a Pakistani, have been killed during two separate NATO drone strikes in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Wednesday. Both the strikes took place on Tuesday. The unmanned aircraft killed three insurgents and

wounded another two in the Mirakhel area of Khogyani district, the police spokesman said. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal told Pajhwok Afghan News a Taliban commander was killed in a separate drone strike in the Mach Megi area of Lalpura district. Meanwhile, ... (More on P4)...(25)

## 4 Civilians Dead in Kapisa Clashes

MAHMOODRAQI - Two women and as many children were killed when rocket hit a house in Tagab district of central Kapisa province during firefight between militants and Afghan security forces. Khairullah, a resident of the district, said a number of families had been trapped in the area and could not go outside of their homes because of intense firing from both the sides. Simultaneous clashes between insurgents and security forces erupted in Qorghal, Tatarkhel and Barbitano villages from

Tuesday, which was still ongoing. A rocket hit the house of Haji Musa in Anarjow village, causing the casualties among women and children. Khairullah said another rocket left three more women injured. "I don't know from where the rockets were fired," he added. Humayun Rashidi, Kapisa police spokesman, confirmed heavy clashes were underway between militants and security forces. He claimed the rockets were fired from militants' side, which caused civilians casualties. (Pajhwok)

## Suspects Held in Police Vehicle Stealing Case

SHIBERGHAN - Two suspects have been detained in connection with stealing a police vehicle in northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Wednesday. Col. Abdul Manan Raufi, procurement in-charge at the provincial police headquarters, said the two men were arrested on Wednesday on the

outskirts of Shiberghan, the provincial capital. He said the police vehicle had been snatched by suspected rebels while en route to Murghab village. Driver of the police vehicle was injured in the ambush, but he was able to escape. It was a second incident of the kind in Jawzjan this solar year. (Pajhwok)

## Man Detained with 65kg Drugs in Nimroz

ZARANJ - Police have seized tens of kilograms of drugs, including opium, in southwestern Nimroz province, officials said on Wednesday. Provincial crime branch chief Maj. Rahmatullah Naser told Pajhwok Afghan News the 65-kg contraband was seized Zaranj. He added the drugs included 57 kg of opium, 7 kg of heroine and 1 kg of chemicals. The narcotics were recovered from a residential house and police has also detained one man. Naser said police ... (More on P4)...(20)



## 1 Killed, 6 Injured in Traffic Accidents

AIBAK - One person was killed and six others were injured in two traffic accidents in northern Samangan province on Wednesday, an official said. Traffic Director Col. Abdul Razzaq, told Pajhwok Afghan News the first accident occurred in the Ghaznigak area of Hazrat Sultan district of the Samangan-Balkh highway. He said the collision happened ... (More on P4)...(21)

## Andar Operations Ended with 9 Insurgents Killed

GHAZNI CITY - At least nine militants were killed and 11 others were wounded in Afghan National Army (ANA) operations in Ghazni, officials said on Wednesday. The operation was conducted in the unrest Andar district to clear the area from Taliban militants, said Nazifullah Sultani, spokesman for 203rd ANA Tandar Corps. Weapons and explosives were also seized in the



operations, Sultani said, adding that no causality occurred to the security forces. With the offensive ended in Andar, the ANA offi-

cial declared the security forces have now moved to another unrest district, Ab Band, to launch anti-insurgent operations. The ... (More on P4)...(23)

### Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're often the one who waits until the absolute last minute and then squeaks in under the deadline. But every moment counts now so make a concentrated effort to find your stride early in the day. The sooner you begin a project today, the longer you can sustain a high level of productivity.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You're so eager to finalize the planning for an upcoming adventure that you could create problems later on by rushing the process today. Fortunately, there aren't many limits on what is possible if you are methodical in your research prior to initiating action. There's no need to fear big thinking as long as you keep bringing your ideas down to earth.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are very determined to get to the source of a feeling that has shaped your desires for a while. But this compulsion is no lighthearted passing whim; you're committed to understanding your psyche no matter how long it takes. Although you could be motivated by irrational drives today, there's no reason to let go of anything that adds meaning to your life.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your boss may be critical of your easygoing attitude at work today. However, you're wise to listen to what you're told, even if you're tempted to ignore the advice. Learning a lesson from someone who is a harsh taskmaster can be challenging because you might want to withdraw and avoid what feels like a personal attack.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Although you're tempted to escape into a lovely dreamworld now, you need to be more focused than ever when it comes to your work. Your unrestrained fantasies fuel your confidence, but they also act as distractions from the serious tasks at hand. You might not want to pay attention to so many details today, but overcoming your own resistance is the first step toward achieving your goals in the weeks ahead.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Establishing a methodical work pace is crucial now, for uneven progress sets you up for failure. Luckily, your perceptions are extremely sharp and you are able to accurately estimate the time and resources required to finish a task. Prioritizing your goals is a good place to start today. Once you have a practical strategy in mind, forge ahead with all the determination you can muster.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

It feels uncommonly good to be so certain about your goals today. You have a strong sense of purpose and you know what needs to be done next. Luckily, encountering a minor setback or two won't prevent you from reaching your destination. Still, you must tread carefully or an emotional melodrama might lure you off your path. Avoid complex strategies; the simpler your plan now, the more you can trust your intuition.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your ideas can be so outrageous now that it's impossible to tell if they are grounded in any semblance of reality. Nevertheless, it's essential to distinguish between what is real and what is not. Set aside any unattainable goals so you can accomplish something tangible that has lasting value.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Applying the proper amount of control may be tricky business today, but overmanaging a situation could lead to an emotional quagmire. Taking a back seat now motivates others to play a more significant role in the decision-making process. Allowing your coworkers to share leadership responsibilities can make tough obstacles easier to overcome in the days ahead.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

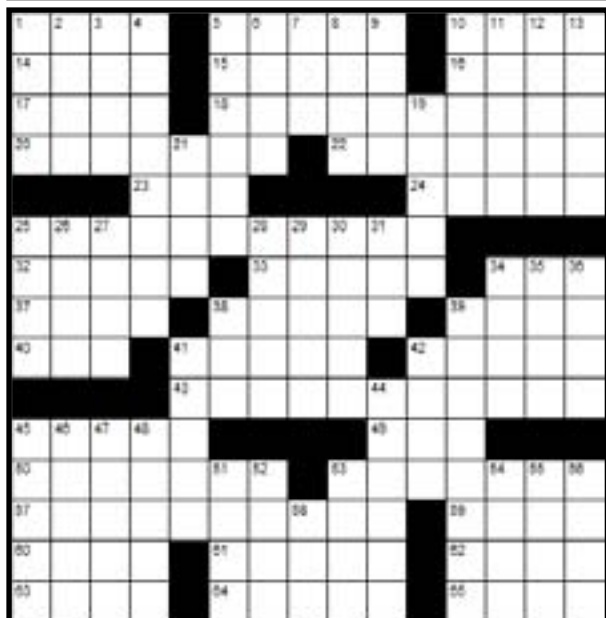
Nothing is simple today with five planets crowded into your conscientious sign. You can feel the weight of the world sitting squarely on your shoulders and you're growing weary of supporting everyone around you. The good news is you don't have to accept the authoritative role that's being placed on you now. Demonstrate your wisdom by encouraging others to discover their own paths to success.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your most memorable dreams are steering you toward practical solutions today as the pragmatic Capricorn Moon visits your 12th House of Imagination, bringing your fantasies down to earth. But clinging to old assumptions could stand between you and any future success you might envision.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You long to dream about the distant horizon while the Moon moves through your 11th House of Long-Term Goals. But there's no time now to relax and let your imagination take you on a magic carpet ride. Instead, be proactive and rebuild your life one concrete step at a time. Planning is only useful as long as you are willing to get to work right away.



#### Across

- 1. Hard punch, 5. Great fear, 10. British title, 14. Old stories, 15. A shoulder firearm, 16. Holly, 17. A Freudian stage, 18. Unmanly, 20. Vixen, 22. Physical, 23. Skirt's edge, 24. Iron, 25. Not accidental, 32. Unit of weight for gems, 33. Sidekick, 34. Gorilla, 37. Gave the once-over, 38. Prevaricators, 39. Render unconscious, 40. South southeast, 41. Verse writers, 42. A grasp of something, 43. Road illumination, 45. Demolish, 49. Unhappy, 50. It points north, 53. Spray can, 57. Obese, 59. Be dressed in, 60. Satisfactory, 61. Chills and fever, 62. Border, 63. Celebration, 64. Verse, 65. Beams

#### Down

- 1. Ho-hum, 2. Solitary, 3. By mouth, 4. A structure built over a well, 5. Imagined, 6. Break in friendly relations, 7. F. 8. Beers, 9. Audition tape, 10. Kuwaiti monetary unit, 11. Winged, 12. Anagram of "Smite", 13. Administrators, 19. Suggest 21. 1/100th of a dollar, 25. Frosts, 26. Negatives, 27. Tall woody plant, 28. Less friendly, 29. Give a speech, 30. Like the Vikings, 31. Autonomic nervous system, 34. "Smallest" particle, 35. A mixture of cellulose fibers, 36. Terminates, 38. A parcel of land, 39. Tail 41. "Hogwash!", 42. Winglike, 44. Sleeping sickness carrier, 45. Speak derisively, 46. Film, 47. Catkin, 48. Binge, 51. Char, 52. Audible exhale, 53. Throat-clearing sound, 54. Fizzy drink, 55. Unrestrained revelry, 56. Dregs

#### Yesterday's Solution



affair, alternate, array, author, avenue, better, chase, create, enjoy, entry, excellent, flourish, handle, inspire, level, modern, phenomenal, previous, retail, rile, sees, sequel, series, slot, stories, tales, threat, thrown, worth, writer, years

