

Taliban's Shadow Deputy Governor among 6 Killed

MAIMANA - The shadow provincial governor of the Taliban group was killed along with five others during an operation in northern Faryab province. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the militants were killed during an operation in the restive Ghormach district. MoD further added that 8 other militants also sustained serious injuries during the operation. No further details were given regarding the identity of the Taliban leader killed in the operation. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. Faryab is among the relatively vol-



atile provinces in northern Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other militant groups are actively operating, including the militants belonging to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. The Afghan forces are busy conducting their annual operation under the name of Shafaq which they are saying has been launched in response to Taliban's annual spring offensive. According to the security officials, the main purpose of the operation is to eliminate the senior leaders of the militants plotting and conducting attacks against the government. (KP)

3 Militants Killed in Kunduz City

KUNDUZ CITY - At least three militants were killed during an operation in Kunduz city, local official said Sunday. A spokesman for the 21st Pamir Corps in northern Afghanistan, Ghulam Hazrat Karimi, said the militants were killed late on Saturday night in Buz Kandahari and Hazrat Sultan areas of the city. The anti-government armed ...*(More on P4)...*(12)

6 Suspected Terrorists Arrested in Kandahar

KANDAHAR - The personnel of law enforcing agencies have arrested six militants affiliated with the Taliban outfit in the southern Kandahar province, said a statement of the National Directorate for Security (NDS) on Sunday. According to the statement, all the suspected terrorists are Afghans and were active in terrorist activities ...*(More on P4)...*(13)

3 Members of a Family Killed in Sar-I-Pul

SAR-I-PUL - Three members of a family have been killed by unidentified armed men in Balkhab district of northern Sar-I-Pul province, an official said Sunday. Governor's spokesman, Zabiullah Amani, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a man, his wife and their son were killed in their home in Anrok area of the district on Saturday night. Without giving more details, he linked the incident to personal enmity. Amani said that the victims' family accused the cousin of



the woman killed in the incident. The man charged managed to flee, but police are searching to find and arrest him, he added. (Pajhwok)

Blast Kills Shepherd in Kandahar

KANDAHAR - A shepherd lost his life in a blast organized by militants in Spinboldak district of the southern Kandahar province, spokesman for provincial government Samim Khapalwak said Sunday. According to Khapalwak, the explosive device planted by Taliban insurgents went off in Farodin village of Spinboldak district Saturday evening, killing an innocent shepherd on the spot. Denouncing the deadly ...*(More on P4)...*(14)

Gun Battle Kills 5 Militants

SHIBERGHAN - Up to five militants were killed and five others injured as clash erupted between security forces and Taliban group in Jarqdaq locality some 2 km outside Jawzjan provincial capital Shiberghan city on Sunday, deputy to provincial police chief Abdul Hafiz Khashi said. The clash, according to the official flared up after a group of Taliban militants stormed some checkpoints early Sunday ...*(More on P4)...*(15)

2 Civilians Killed in Bomb Blast

MIHTARLAM - An Afghan official says that at least two Afghan civilians were killed by a roadside bomb in eastern Laghman province. Sarhadi Zwak, spokesman for the Laghman provincial governor, said the attack took place early Sunday morning near a shrine in Mihterlam, the provincial capital. No group has so far ...*(More on P4)...*(17)

Airstrike Kills Taliban Commander, Wounds 4 Others

JALALABAD - A Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Rahman has been killed and four others injured as the government aircrafts targeted militants' positions in Batikot district of the eastern Nangarhar province Saturday night, police spokesman in the province Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal said Sunday. The air raids, according to the official took place against Taliban hideouts in Dambar Khana locality during which commander Abdul Rahman



was killed on the spot and four of his armed men sustained critical injuries. A number of arms and ammunitions of the armed militants were also destroyed during the strikes, the official

contended. Taliban militants who are active in 16 districts of Nangarhar province with Jalalabad city as its capital 120 km east of Kabul are yet to make comment. (Xinhua)



An Afghan security force member stands on a military vehicle during a military operation in Jawzjan province, on Monday December 25, 2016. (Xinhua/Mohammad Jan Aria)

New Garment Factory Establishes in Balkh

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - A new garment factory has been established in northern Balkh province where 150 individuals have been employed and produced thousands meters of cloth on daily bases. Haji Baryali Nabizada, the owner of factory, told Pajhwok Afghan News the facility had been made functional over the past one month but was not officially inaugurated. He demanded government support for more production in the factory.



He said 10,000 metres cloth and 1.5 tonnes of thread was produced in 24 hours in the factory with 150 people, including 60 women, provided with work opportunity. Murtaza, a worker, said he was suffering from unemployment over the past ...*(More on P4)...*(16)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

The mood is just right for a day of celebration whether or not you have special plans in place. The spirit of togetherness and joviality is in the air as lovely Venus graces your 11th House of Networking, making this the perfect time to gather a large group of friends and share everything so no one feels left out. However, there's a risk of overindulgence.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

If ever there was a time to eat, drink and be merry, it's today. Charming Venus is your lovely cosmic assistant, helping you roll out the red carpet for family and friends. Your warm hospitality allows others to completely relax and enjoy themselves. You are likely to execute your plans without a hitch, and there's a distinct possibility that people will talk about your wonderful party for a long time to come.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It almost feels like being a kid again when you wake up this morning; the potential of the day buzzes with the innocent joy of the holidays. Today's cosmic harmony promotes lighthearted interactions and fun adventures while delightful Venus hooks up with exhilarating Uranus. You're enjoying the spotlight now that several planets align to showcase your well-known wit and clever sense of humor. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff said,

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

A remarkable cosmic confluence turns the stormiest of circumstances into a smooth flow of events. You seem to quickly check one thing after another off your to-do list, while still engaging in plenty of merriment along the way. Everyone appears to be getting along famously, keeping conversations cheerful and light. Childhood stories are recounted with special fondness.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Everyone you encounter today seems to be in a festive mood, lifting your spirits and restoring your faith in humankind. Surprisingly, the conversations that unfold contain a rare balance of enthusiasm and respect, exploring the wildest possibilities while somehow staying grounded. It's a storybook day.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your complicated schedule holds together better than you expect. You might have over-stressed about the little things, but your excessive planning results in an effortless launch today, and everyone pitches in to facilitate maximum merriment. Your confidence surges as you realize everything is going according to plan. Although you may deceive yourself into believing you can add a few extra items to your agenda.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Everything seems to sparkle, letting you know the day will be one for the books. Auspicious Jupiter creates a beautiful trine to romantic Venus in your 5th House of Pleasure, setting the tone for making marvelous memories. There's nothing to stop you from having the time of your life as you make all the right connections and somehow squeeze in every bit of frivolity humanly possible.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

It's a wonderful feeling to be home today, where you feel adored and accepted for exactly who you are. You may have prepared to defend yourself against the awkward conversations that often occur at holiday gatherings, but it seems that everyone is pretty much on the same page now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Kind remarks are flowing every which way, setting the stage for a day that's suitable for merry-making and mending fences. It sounds impossible, but things are only going to get better as vivacious Venus forms favorable contacts with several other planets. Meanwhile, the Moon parties her way into your sign, and you're likely to catch a second wind after the festivities begin to wind down.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

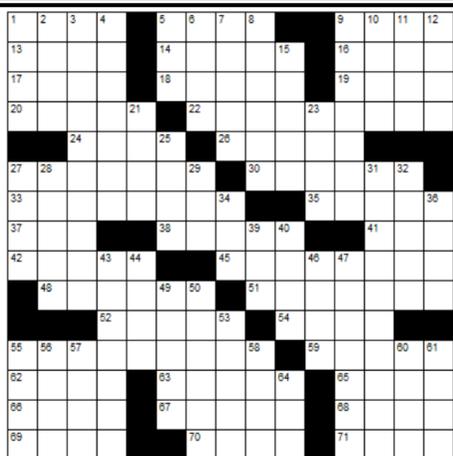
You may be pleasantly surprised when you realize how amazing your day is turning out. Everything just falls into place; it's as if you have been blessed with a guardian angel who is looking out for your happiness. You are prepared for nearly any contingency today, but it appears as if everything is going swimmingly. Enjoy all the abundance the cosmos has to offer before the Moon slips into your 12th House of Invisibility this evening.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You're no stranger to feeling like an outsider but the energy is different today. Your personality is extra charismatic and you can't help but exude confidence in all that you do. You are a gift to everyone you encounter as jolly Jupiter trines sweet Venus in your 1st House of Personality. The Love Planet is receiving support from her celestial family.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

The unremitting spirit of camaraderie is palpable as you mix and mingle with friends and family today. Affectionate Venus makes cosmic music with magnanimous Jupiter, filling every gathering with the ambience of spiritual connection. Kick back and enjoy the loving vibrations while you get the chance. Relish the vivid dreams that arrive in your sleep. You wish you may, you wish you might, to have your wish come true tonight.



Across

- Pear variety, 5. Short run, 9. Stepped, 13. Countertenor, 14. Ancient Mexican, 16. Fully developed, 17. Bobbin, 18. Gift of the Magi, 19. Distinctive flair, 20. Fool, 22. In a barely adequate manner, 24. Prima donna problems, 26. Heaps, 27. Strong and proud, 30. Accumulate on the surface, 33. A through route, 35. Anoint (archaic), 37. Weep, 38. Path, 41. Woman, 42. 1/100th of a ruble, 45. Administrators, 48. Ransom, 51. Candidate, 52. Open, as a bottle, 54. Exposed, 55. Ostracized, 59. Abrasive, 62. Region, 63. A kind of macaw, 65. Satisfy, 66. Rhythm, 67. Judges, 68. Ear-related, 69. Bygone era, 70. Recent events, 71. Scallion.

Down

- Leavening agent, 2. Margarine, 3. Mental representation, 4. A perfumed liquid, 5. Water barrier, 6. Unleavened bread, 7. Thin piece of wood or metal, 8. Rupture in smooth muscle tissue, 9. Treachery, 10. Small brook, 11. Iridescent gem, 12. Declare untrue, 15. Infant, 21. French for "Black", 23. Plateau, 25. Hissy fit, 27. Deficiency, 28. Mistake, 29. Hearing organ, 31. Rejuvenate, 32. Cacophony, 34. Flee, 36. If not, 39. Tin, 40. A round handle, 43. Teach, 44. Gambling game, 46. Nursemaid, 47. Fire opal, 49. Toward the outside, 50. A wardress in a prison, 53. Wampum, 55. Tot, 56. Chocolate cookie, 57. 365 days, 58. Sketched, 60. Anagram of "Ties", 61. "Damn it!", 64. Donkey.

Yesterday's Solution

PRIMP SEED ALMS
RADIO ALAR FLEA
ATONE BASE TARN
NIE SCOPES EMIT
YETI STRATA
GULA DAN YAWA
TRES AGED CADET
FEATURE OSTRICH
TALON SING DARE
NIE CAR BLUE
POLITE USED BLUE
ERIS HINTERLAND
DISH EDDO EAGER
ABLE SEEP SCARE
LIED TAIR SIEROW

angels, baby, bark, caesar, census, choir, cone, dears, divine, east, f, flocks, foretold, gifts, hope hosanna, infant, Joseph, Judea, king, last, lest, lord, magi, manger, Mary, men, night pays, peace, prophecy, repent, savior, seal, shepherd, stables, star, tear.

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