

7 Abductees Rescued from Taliban Custody

HERAT - The Afghan police freed seven abductees from Taliban following raids on the militants' hideout, Herat provincial police spokesman Abdul Rauf Ahmadi said on Monday.

"Taliban militants attacked a base of a road construction company in Gazara district last night, and they abducted nine workers and took them to their hideout after setting on fire the machinery," Ahmadi told Xinhua.

All the abducted were Afghans, the official



said, adding that there was no casualty on the police.

Operations to rescue the remaining two abductees were underway, he added. Taliban militants fighting the government were yet to make comment. (Xinhua)

4 ANA Soldiers among 12 Dead in Sangin Firefight

LASHKARGAH - Taliban on Sunday night stormed a security check post in southern Helmand province and the ensuing gun battle left four Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and eight militants dead, an official said Monday.

Lt. Col. Mohammad Rasool Zazai, spokesman of the 215 Maiwand

military corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News that insurgents mounted attack on Kamil check post manned by ANA in the restive Sangin district.

Three soldiers and as many rebels wounded in the fire fight, he said, adding that the remaining insurgents fled the fighting scene and the area was under ANA control.

Haji Muhammad Nasim, a resident of the district, said the check post was completely damaged and casualties were inflicted on security forces.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf said that ten soldiers had been killed in the check post clash. (Pajhwok)

3 ALP Men Killed; 500kg Drugs Seized

GHAZNI CTY/PUL-I-ALAM - Three Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel were killed in an insurgent attack and a woman was injured in a separate rocket fire in southern Ghazni province, an official said on Monday.

The three ALP men were killed on Sunday night after armed insurgents stormed their posts in the Gilan district, said the governor's spokesman.

Shafique Nang told Pajhwok Afghan News he had no figures, but the assailants had also suffered casualties during the ensuing clash that took place in Bakhtyar area.

He also said the same night, a woman was injured when a Taliban-fired rocket hit her house in the Qarabagh district. He said the rocket was aimed at a police post, but it missed the target and hit a civilian house.

A Taliban's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, rejected the fighters had attacked ALP posts in the Gilan district, saying the three ALP men had been killed as a result of infighting.

But his claim rejected by local officials.

In central Logar province, police seized hundreds of kilograms of narcotics from a land cruiser vehicle on the outskirts of Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital.

Police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai told Pajhwok Afghan News 500 kg of drugs were One person had been arrested and was currently being interrogated in connection with the seizure, he said.

Ishaqzai said Logar was poppy-free province, but sometimes drug smugglers used routes passing through Logar to smuggle drugs to other provinces. He said the drugs seized were destined for southern Ghazni province from the Azra district. (Pajhwok)

4 Construction Workers Kidnapped in Herat

HERAT - Four workers of a road construction company have been kidnapped in western Herat province.

Police Headquarters of Herat confirms the report. Ameenullah Azad, security officer of Herat says the incident took place late Sunday in Gozre district.

He said that an investigation was initiated into the incident.

Reports indicate that kidnapers have also burned some vehicles of the company. It is yet unknown who the kidnapers are but Taliban insurgent in the past have attacked construction workers. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on an unannounced visit to Herat on Saturday dismissed high ranking security officials beside some others for negligence in their duties.

President Ghani took these steps based on complains from the residents of Herat.

Herat residents were complaining from increasing insecurity and weak administration in the province. (KP)



University Roads Being Rebuilt

JALALABAD - Roads and footpaths on the university campus in eastern Nangarhar province are being reconstructed with donation money, the acting chancellor said on Monday.

Dr. Muhammad Tahir Inayat told Pajhwok Afghan News a joint delegation of provincial officials and elders had been formed to collect money for the purpose from well-off people.

He said the roads measuring 4.3 kilometers would cost approximately 30 million afghanis

and a 20 percent of the reconstruction work had been completed so far.

Inayat said besides the local authorities, some elders and traders had also contributed to the fund-raising campaign.

"A number of security officials, businessmen and others have financially helped us in this regard," he said.

Inayat said earlier the university presented a bad outlook due to its destroyed roads, but now it looked nice after the rehabilitation work.

He ... (More on P4)... (18)

Unknown Gunmen Killed Civilian in Kandahar



KANDAHAR - Unknown gunmen shot dead a civilian in the main city of southern Kandahar province Monday afternoon.

Police Headquarters in Kandahar confirms the report and states that an investigation was initiated into the incident.

The Identity of the man killed is unknown.

The incident took place in Landi Bazaar area of

the 4th police district in Kandahar city.

In the meantime police headquarters of Kandahar states that police killed two insurgents in Shahwalikot district late yesterday.

The police headquarters states that a motorcycle which the insurgents were using in terrorist activities was also seized during a short gun fight. (KP)

ANA Soldier Killed by Madrasa Students Widely Condemned

KABUL - The civil society activists in northern Balkh have strongly condemned the killing of an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier by the Madrasa students in western Badghis province. According to reports, a number of Madrasa (seminary) students killed an ANA soldier yesterday in Qadis district when he went to a Mosque to offer his prayers.

"Strongly condemning soldier's murder, the activists in a gathering on Monday asked the government to ban all those unregistered seminaries that what they believe promote extremism.

"We want the government to ban those

centers that spread extremism and also the unregistered Madrasas," a participant said.

Meanwhile, the Balkh education director, Nasiruddin Ansari, admitted that the education ministry had no control over most of these schools.

"We don't have control over many Madrasas that are not registered with the ministry of education," Ansari said.

The government's failure to monitor the schools that provide teachings under the name of Islam has sparked huge criticisms.

The critics believe such unknown centers are likely promoting extremism. (Tolonews)

Personal Feud in Badghis Claims 4 Lives



QALA-I-NAW - Four persons have been killed and three others wounded in a personal feud in Abkamri district of western Badghis province, the town's administrative chief said Monday.

Abdul Azim Karimi told Pajhwok Afghan News that Abdul Sami and Baz Muhammad had a feud long before, which developed into an armed clash

late Sunday evening.

Two persons each from both the warring parties died in the clash, he said but gave no details into the nature of the dispute.

Because of insecurity, government officials could not be sent to the area to calm down the situation, he said, adding that local elders had been tasked to help end the firefight. (Pajhwok)

NATO Drone Strike Kills 4 Militants in Kapisa



CHARIKAR - Four Taliban insurgents including a so-called district governor were killed in a NATO drone attack in northeastern Kapisa, local officials said on Monday.

The airstrike took place Sunday when the insurgents were holding a gathering in Tagab district, said provincial Po-

lice Chief, Khawaja Faqir Ahmad Sediqqi.

Five other insurgents were injured in the attack, he added.

Sediqqi confirmed that civilians were not harmed in the attack.

However, the Taliban have not commented about the airstrike so far. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)

Rushing into a situation without any forethought sounds perfectly fine to you, especially since the Moon returns to your impetuous sign early this morning. Unfortunately, your reckless behavior could arouse strong reactions from friends and acquaintances. Although it's wise to wait it out and see how you feel in a couple of days, you might not be able to resist the excitement of embarking on something new.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

You're annoyed by your own impatience because you're not sure if beginning a new project now is such a good idea. You might try to talk yourself out of doing anything at all today, but this lazy attitude only adds to your frustration.

However, if you blindly forge ahead you're likely to run into strong opposition.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're eager to embrace the future instead of reviewing your recent past once again. Nevertheless, there are emotional obstacles that must be overcome now before you can put your new plans into action. Attempts to avoid the issues are futile; denial only strengthens the resistance, for the problems will resurface later with greater intensity. Slow down and face the music.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Relationship issues continue to be a source of stress, making it nearly impossible to fulfill all the demands of your close friends and family.

You may feel as if you're caught in the crosscurrents today and that you will let someone down, no matter which path you choose. Thankfully, there's another way around this obstacle course.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You're feeling like you're on top of the world today, especially if you have big ideas about the future. Unfortunately, your plans may be complicated by unstable circumstances and unreliable people who won't support your needs now.

Don't place too much value on getting assistance from anyone else. Nevertheless, accept help when it's offered, even if you believe that you can succeed on your own.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Sharing your feelings may not feel safe now, but the emotional roller coaster isn't as dangerous as you think. Relationships seem messy these days and you might even choose to sidestep interpersonal entanglements as much as possible. You're probably more dependent on others than you're willing to admit, so it's more sensible to acknowledge your desires without making anyone else responsible for your satisfaction.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

It's annoying if people make promises without subsequently delivering the goods. It's not as if you begged anyone to come to your rescue; chances are others just arrive out of the blue and offer to help.

However, you don't want to rely on someone's good intentions. Even if you are left in the lurch, just move forward with your original plans without wasting time playing the blame game.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

You want to show your competence and loyalty today by shining your light wherever you go. However, you have an eerie feeling that you're being judged by someone who doesn't really appreciate your contribution.

Overcoming the disapproval - yours or someone else's - is your first order of business. Either way, ignoring the real issues can feel like a personal defeat.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

Today begins with a bang and the energy continues to build right through the evening. You can sense the surge of creativity in the air, but you grow irritated with someone who tries to hijack your day with their personal agenda.

You aren't interested in playing it safe just to avoid confrontation; it could feel exhilarating to push back and defend your territory.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)

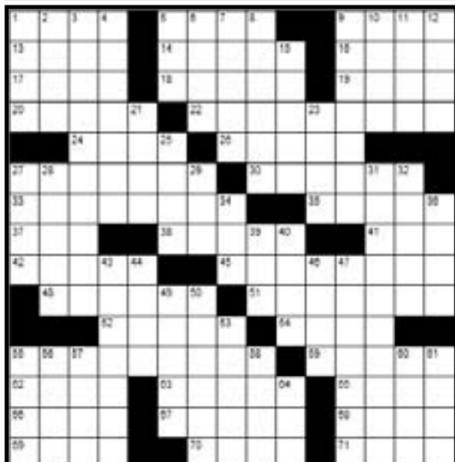
You're struggling to balance your naturally conservative approach with an urgent desire to throw caution to the wind. You are anticipating an exciting time at a party with an entirely new group of people; however, you don't want to abandon your established network of friends. Ultimately, your choice may not be as significant as you think, as long as you take full responsibility for your decision.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

You may try to sneak through the day without causing too much trouble, but you could raise a few eyebrows with your unconventional behavior. You want to experience life to the fullest now, and could attempt to pack so much into each moment that others grow tired just listening to your plans. Riding an adrenaline high is thrilling, but be careful not to take things too far.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You have your own creative ideas about how you want to welcome in the New Year, but others may pressure you to change your mind. Unfortunately, there won't be any winners in a power struggle today. Even if you encounter resistance from your friends, continue to gently lobby for your plans. However, fulfilling your fantasies now might not be as important as you think.



Across

1. Monotonous sounds, 5. Winglike, 9. Among, 13. District, 14. Showers with love, 16. Fabricated, 17. Absorb written material, 18. Expenditure, 19. Urgent request, 20. Chinese "bear", 22. Insular, 24. Ailments, 26. Backward-looking, 27. Memory loss, 30. Craving, 33. Political favors, 35. Tubs, 37. Alien Life Form, 38. Opaque gems, 41. Genus of macaws, 42. Chopin composition, 45. Prescribes, 48. Slob, 51. Handcuffs, 52. Yields, 54. Roman emperor, 55. 14 days, 59. Windlass, 62. Chocolate cookie, 63. Fortuneteller's card, 65. Have the nerve, 66. Back, 67. Grave marker, 68. Got bigger, 69. Vipers, 70. Biblical garden, 71. Visual organs

Down

1. Stringed instrument, 2. Component of urine, 3. Having purpose, 4. Anagram of "Ladders", 5. Big fuss, 6. French for "Wolf", 7. Fragrant oil, 8. Sorrow, 9. An ancient jar, 10. French Sudan, 11. Notion, 12. Trade, 15. Truth (archaic), 21. As well, 23. Baby's bed, 25. Storage cylinder, 27. Wings, 28. Sheds, 29. European peak, 31. Unmoving, 32. Half of six, 34. Unhappy, 36. Back talk, 39. Cover, 40. Glance over, 43. Physicians, 44. Not odd, 46. An old spelling of "True", 47. Shorten, 49. Makes changes to, 50. Cancel, 53. Rip up, 55. Ancient marketplaces, 56. Mining finds, 57. Harvest, 58. Lacquered metalware, 60. Algonquian Indian, 61. Chops, 64. Buff

Yesterday's Solution

accord, after, answers, attend, buried, cite, clean, deady, deals, devote, drowsy, erotic, eventually, extra, frow, intend, invent, juice, limitation, loosen, moth, people, really, relief, rules, schools, select, steed, study, team, television, toes, tough, vocal, worth

