

Experts Criticize Use of NDS Special Forces as Guards for Elite

KABUL - Part of the National Directorate of Security's (NDS) elite special forces group, who have been trained in sophisticated counterterrorism and counterinsurgency techniques, have recently been assigned to guard detail for a number of current and former government officials, a move that has garnered heavy criticism from military experts. For many analysts, the idea of allocating the most limited and valu-



able of human resources the Afghan security forces have to protect members of the political

elite is an egregious and wasteful decision. As the country continues to be embroiled in conflict with the Taliban and other terrorist groups, many argue that not utilizing the best and brightest the Afghan forces have to offer is irresponsible and self-defeating. "It's the duty of the police, not the NDS, because these are Special Forces and they must prevent attacks, not guard individuals, officials or MPs," military

expert General Atiqullah Amarkhail told TOLONews Thursday. The NDS, meanwhile, has defended the placement of the special forces soldiers. A spokesman for the Directorate said the decision was based on recent intelligence and orders from national unity government leaders. "Maintaining the security of high ranking government officials is the duty of the security institutions, ...*(More on P4)...* (17)

Taliban Commander's Dead Body Set on Fire

KABUL - The dead body of a senior Taliban commander was set on fire by unknown armed individuals in western Herat province of Afghanistan. (File photo of a dead Taliban insurgent) According to local government officials the incident took place in Shindand district on Friday morning. Shindand district administrative chief Engineer Farahmurz said the Taliban leader was identified as Mullah Nooruddin ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

Police Chief Rules Out IS Presence

GHAZNI CITY - The police chief has ruled out the presence of fighters aligned with the Islamic State (IS) group in southern Ghazni province. Talking to reporters in the Andar district on Wednesday, Brig. Gen. Zarawar Zahid said a number of insurgents detained during an ongoing operation included Pakistanis, Arabs and other foreigners. The police chief visited several districts to closely monitor the ongoing military operation focused on Maqur, Gilan, Khog-

yani, Deh Yak and Andar towns. Launched on Saturday, the offensive is spearheaded by the Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel, with police assisting the troops in some areas. Officials say so far 30 militants have been killed and several others wounded. The forces have so far seized a huge quantity of weapons and detected landmines during the operation. The police chief said the ongoing year would prove ...*(More on P4)...*(24)

18 More Insurgents Eliminated in Clashes

JALALABAD - At least 18 militants have been killed, 26 others wounded and four including three Pakistanis arrested during an operation in the Nazian district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Thursday. Police spokesman Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal told Pajhwok Afghan News the operation was launched on



Wednesday in Dwa Khuli, Lalmai and Lalmandoi areas of the district. He said a soldier and 18 militants were killed and two security ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

Mining Threatens Afghan Site of Ancient Buddhist Past

MES AYNAK - Treasures from Afghanistan's largely forgotten Buddhist past are buried beneath sandy hills surrounding the ancient Silk Road town of Mes Aynak - along with enough copper to make the land glow green in the morning light. An estimated 5.5 million tons of copper, one of the biggest deposits in the world, could provide a major export for a war-ravaged country desper-

ately in need of jobs and cash. But the hoped-for bonanza also could endanger rare artifacts that survived the rule of the Taliban and offer a window into Afghanistan's rich pre-Islamic history. "The copper mine and its extraction are very important. But more important is our national culture," said Abdul Qadir Timor, director of archaeology at Afghanistan's Culture Ministry. "Copper is a temporary

source of income. Afghanistan might benefit for five or six years after mining begins, and then the resource comes to an end." The government is determined to develop Afghanistan's estimated \$3 trillion worth of minerals and petroleum, an untapped source of revenue that could transform the country. The withdrawal of U.S.-led combat forces at the end of 2014 and a parallel ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

Firewood, Gas & Flour Prices Down in Kabul

KABUL - Prices of liquefied gas, firewood and flour edged down and that of other daily-use commodities stayed stable during the outgoing week in Kabul, market sources said on Thursday. A gas dealer in Taimani neighbourhood, Mohamad Sharif, told Pajhwok Afghan News the price of a kilogram of gas registered a five afghanis slump during the week, slipping to 40 af. However, some dealers sold it for 45 af a kilogram in other parts of the capital. About two months ago, one kilogram of gas would cost more than 70 af in Kabul, but the rate sizably went down after a large amount of the product was imported from Central Asia na-

tions. Meanwhile, 560 kilograms of oak cost 6,200 afghanis against last week's 6,800af, said Mohammad, a seller in the Charahi Shahid area, linking the price cut to decreasing demand. In food items, only the price of flour declined during the week. Traders' Union Head Fazal Rahman said the price of a 50-kilogram sack of Pakistani flour accounted for 1,240 afghanis, compared with last week's 1,250 afghanis. But the price of a 24-kg of rice jumped to 1,550 af from 1,500 af. A kg of the Vietnamese green tea was priced at 180af, the same quantity of African black tea at 210af and a 16-kg tin of ...*(More on P4)...*(25)

2 Dead in Blast after Attending Wedding Party

LASHKARGAH - Two persons were killed and three others wounded when they were heading home after attending a wedding party in southern Helmand province on Friday, a police official said. Col. Mohammad Ismail Hotak told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident took place at around 11: 00 am in Nawkarez locality of Washer dis-

trict. Some persons from Dilaram district of Nimroz province came to attend a wedding party, he said, adding that their car came under a huge blast when they were heading back to their home. The injured, he said were instantly evacuated to a local hospital for treatment. He blamed militants for the attack but rebels had not yet spoken on the incident. (Pajhwok)

Afghan Student Flies Flag High in India

NEW DELHI - Yasin Ahmady, a final year mechanical engineering student at NIT Durgapur, along with his team-mates Junaid Petkar from Zimbabwe, and Michael Nauta from Namibia, secured the second spot among 80 teams in a national Aero modelling Competition at IIT Kharagpur and won a magnificent prize. The competition was organized by BOEING, The world's largest aerospace company, in affiliation with India's premier engineering Institutes, namely IIT-Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Madras and Kharagpur.



"I have been busy designing, fabricating and flying a number of radio controlled aircrafts models since my second year of B.Tech engineering course at NIT Durgapur. In my next project, I would like to design and fabricate a Quad copter that has the ability to

operate in dangerous locations while keeping their human operators at a safe distance. It can provide a reliable long duration and cost effective platform for reconnaissance to become an indispensable tool for Afghan security forces. It ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

Irresponsible Commander Joins Peace Drive

BAMYAN CITY - A former local commander accused of harassing civilian in the Waris district of central Bamyan province joined the peace process on Thursday, an official said. Police chief Brig. Gen. Khudayar Qudsi told a news conference in Bamyan Commander Sarhang Wafa had surrendered along with 12 supporters and 15 weap-

ons. "Bamyan residents will now live in peace." Provincial peace committee head Mohammad Sadiq Aliyar said people were concerned at a rise in Islamic State activities. Illegal commanders gave IS a chance to enhance their influence, he added. He believed the surrender of Sarhang Wafa, who had been operating ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

Former Jihadi Leader, Spouse Shot Dead

HERAT CITY - A former jihadi commander was shot dead along with his wife by unidentified gunmen in the capital of western Herat province on Tuesday, a security official said on Thursday. Mohammad Ahmad Saeed, also known as Siyah Khan Chonkar, came under fire along with his family from motorcyclists on their way home from Jakan locality on Wednesday night, the police spokesman said. Col. Abdul Rauf Ahmadi added Chonkar and his spouse were and his daughter wounded in the shooting. The gunmen ...*(More on P4)...*(23)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Someone close to you may push your emotional buttons today. Although you try to look the other way, you probably won't be able to hide your annoyance while assertive Mars aligns with self-righteous Jupiter. However, presenting a smiling face won't be enough to avoid an interaction that could erupt into an unpleasant encounter.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might feel as if it's time to set the record straight. You are prepared for a confrontation, if necessary, but everyone seems to mellow as the day draws on. Setting aside logic enables you to ride the emotional waves that originate from within your subconscious mind without trying to suppress them.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's one thing to be absolutely sure of what you want, but fixating on any one particular goal is likely to be a source of frustration today. You have a special opportunity now to push past an associate's judgment that's bothered you more than it should. Thankfully, you can use the power of positive thinking to turn a potentially obsessive approach into a routine that's certainly more manageable in the days to come.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your current resistance to change may grow into an obstacle to intimacy today. It's risky to reveal your feelings, so you might just let the present moment pass without saying anything at all. However, you have a chance to release an old pattern now if you are ready to face the truth. Start tentatively and focus on what is in your heart. Ultimately, your willingness to share your vulnerability can deepen your connection with someone you love.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You can feel the magic of romance everywhere you go today. However, a dynamic change in a relationship won't likely happen until you're willing to listen to your partner and receive the same support you give so easily. Keep in mind that everything isn't always fun and games and that opening your heart to love also means opening it to heartache.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You want a quick resolution to a lingering disagreement and may try to force an issue today to catalyze an already unstable situation. But don't push your luck by demanding that everyone should stop in their tracks and listen to your every word. Paradoxically, your intentional avoidance of a tough issue can be just as dangerous as placing it in the spotlight.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may feel weary from following all the dramas of your friends and associates, yet their stories have somehow become yours. It's no simple task to separate yourself from all the interpersonal dynamics that demand your time and attention. Although your stress might not disappear overnight, there's positive movement that brings you closer to an answer today. Don't try to figure out everything on your own.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You can't escape from your powerful feelings, even if it's not easy to integrate them into your day. Although it's usually wise to share your desires with someone you love, it's unfair to make him or her responsible for your satisfaction. Staying somewhat detached from the outcome creates sacred space for an original solution to magically unfold.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You may jump to conclusions today, assuming you can get your needs met without considering how others might respond to your actions. An irritating aspect between warrior Mars and bombastic Jupiter warps your perspective and could trigger behavior that's out of proportion with the current situation. There's no need to turn a minor setback into a national emergency.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You might try to resist the pressure to re-examine your feelings today, for self-exploration currently seems like a lot of work without much benefit in return. Unfortunately, your desire to cling to the status quo could cost you dearly if you let an opportunity pass you by. Keep in mind that the real reward won't likely be found in riches or recognition, especially now that karmic Saturn is in cahoots with the Sun in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A casual discussion with a friend or partner today might raise unexpected emotional issues. Although this conversation may be constructive, it's easy to slip into disagreement over your conflicting needs. Applying a healthy dose of compassion helps you understand that you can have differing perspectives while still supporting one another's dreams.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Although it's impossible to comprehend all the forces that brought you to this very moment in your life, you're definitely clear about what you want to happen next. Unfortunately, current circumstances may not be very forgiving, offering you less leeway to respond to a complicated emotional dynamic. Luckily, you can make your decision-making process easier if you're willing to wait a little while for satisfaction.



Across
1. Dash, 5. Put out, 10. Desire, 14. Website addresses, 15. Middays, 16. Half-moon tide, 17. Sermon on the Mount, 19. Small island, 20. Nonclerical, 21. Twangy, as a voice, 22. Practical, 23. Gist, 25. Alleviated, 27. Obtain, 28. Timetable, 31. Trail, 34. Not earlier, 35. Be unwell, 36. Hearing organs, 37. Modulator/demodulator, 38. Charity, 39. Genus of macaws, 40. Planet, 41. A friction match 42. Languor, 44. Arrive (abbrev.), 45. Made of oak wood, 46. Paddle-wheeler, 50. Brusque, 52. Gladden, 54. French for "Friend", 55. Anagram of "Sire", 56. Applied mathematics, 58. Anagram of "Loot", 59. Aquatic mammal, 60. Away from the wind, 61. Being

Down
1. Russian currency, 2. Territories, 3. Water soaked soils, 4. Eastern Standard Time, 5. Complete, 6. Alcoholic, 7. Fizzy drink, 8. Not selected by voters, 9. S, 10. Together, 11. Reminders, 12. Effrontery, 13. Type of sword, 18. Not outer, 22. End ___, 24. Prima donna problems, 26. Throat-clearing sound, 28. In an unfortunate way, 29. Citrus fruit, 30. If not, 31. Secure against leakage, 32. Cut back, 33. Cantatas, 34. Spectacles, 37. Not less, 38. Emanation, 40. Rouse, 41. Liberates, 43. Bother, 44. Clothing, 46. Satisfies, 47. Posts, 48. Master of ceremonies, 49. Ascends, 50. French for "Head", 51. God of love, 53. Tardy, 56. Soak, 57. Letter after sigma

Yesterday's Solution
actual, almost, alone, alter, character, cigar, class, copies, door, dote, early, embrace, equivalent, flap, force, happen, happily, jute, leach, maple, march, maudlin, media, month, mother noise, package, person, please, pleasure, praise, review, sees, since

