

Over a Dozen Including Soldiers Dead in Herat, Farah Clashes

ZARANJ/HERAT CITY - Three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and eight militants have been killed in western Herat and Farah provinces, officials said on Tuesday.

The militants attacked an ANA checkpoint in the Mohammad Esa filling station area of Bakhwa district on Monday evening, the Dilaram district chief, Najibullah Hayat, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said three of the attackers were killed and as many others wounded in the six hours clash. Three ANA soldiers were also killed and two others wounded in the gun-battle.

Separately, five insurgents were killed during another clash with border police in the KalataNazar area of Shindand district, 705th border police zone spokesman IhsanUlumi said.

Five weapons and four motorbikes were left behind by fleeing fighters attackers in the area, the spokesman added. (Pajhwok)



Iranians among 318 Crime Suspects Held in Kabul

KABUL - Police in capital Kabul have arrested 318 suspects, including two Iranians, in connection with 147 criminal cases during the past 30 days, an official said on Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Abdul Rahaman Rahimi, chief of the 101 Asmai zone police headquarters, told reporters that the detainees included 25 alleged murderers. He said 104 persons had been arrested over robberies, 27 over other thefts, 11 over carrying illegal guns, 38 over hurting others, 43 over im...

...*(More on P4)...(19)*

8 Rebels Eliminated, Military Base Retaken in Baghlan

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Security forces on Tuesday claimed recapturing a military base from Taliban and killing eight rebels in the Baghlan-Markazi district of northern Baghlan province.

Deputy police chief Col. Abdul Rashid Bashir told Pajhwok Afghan News the military base, where 20 soldiers were ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Saffron Yield in Herat Soars by 25pc to 4 Tonnes

HERAT CITY - More than four tonnes of saffron spice were produced in 2015 in western Herat province, indicating a 25 percent increase over 2014, agriculture officials said on Tuesday.

Because of the higher yield of saffron in the province, 2015 could be called a golden year for farmers, Deputy Director of Agriculture Bashir Ahmad Ahmadi told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Last year, 750 hectares of land was cultivated with saffron in 2015, while this year the area had increased to 1,000 hectares of land, the official said.



In 2014, he recalled, the yield of saffron stigmas was nearly three tonnes while last year the spice production soared to more than 4 tonnes, registering a 25 percent rise. Additionally, 2015 saw a profitable market for the crop, with one kilogram of stigmas accounting for 110,000 afghanis to 130,000 afghanis in the local market.

"More than 250 tonnes of saffron corms were also produced ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Faryab Girl Gets Public Lashing by Taliban

KABUL - A young girl in Faryab province who reportedly had a phone conversation with a strange man was allegedly subjected to a public lashing by the Taliban as punishment.

In video footage in TOLONews' possession, a Taliban commander is seen saying the girl had an affair with a young boy but that the boy fled to an area under government control.

Tahir Sardash, TOLONews correspondent, who sent in the report said that the girl lives 18km from Maimana city, the capital of Faryab province.

Religious scholars have however slammed the action, calling it un-Islamic. "Determining the implementation of such punishment is the authority ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Senior Taliban Leader Rahmani Dies of Hepatitis

KABUL - A former Taliban governor for Kandahar and member of the rebel group's leadership council, Mullah Hassan Rahmani, has died of hepatitis in a Pakistan hospital, a source said on Tuesday.

The source close to insurgent movement told Pajhwok Afghan News Rahmani breathed his last on Monday night due to a hepatitis-B virus infection in Patel hospital Karachi, Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Taliban confirmed in a statement the death of their senior leader, who was reportedly a key peace negotiator. "We announce



the sad news that Rahmani died early Tuesday." Rahmani, a member of the group's Leadership Council, had served as a governor of Kandahar and head of the southern zone during the group's rule from 1996-2001

Rahmani had rejected in recent times the election of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor as new Taliban leader after the demise of Mullah Omar in 2013. But later he announced allegiance to Mansoor. (Pajhwok)

10 Insurgents Killed, 15 Suspects Held in Nangarhar Raids

JALALABAD - Ten Taliban fighters have been killed and 15 suspected militants detained during operations in Rodat and Chaparhar districts of eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Tuesday.

Taliban commander Gul Agha was among the 10 rebels killed during an operation by Afghan forces in the Tariili area of Rodat district on Tuesday morning, the governor's spokesman said AttallahKhogyani told Pajhwok Afghan News security personnel and civilians suffered no casualties during



the raid that ended around 12 noon. The bodies of eight fighters were still lying at the scene of the offensive, said the deputy spokesman for the 201st Selab Military Corps, Syed Maqsud. A resident

the area, Bakhtiar, said that the people of nearby villages remained indoors could not venture out of homes during the operation. Elsewhere, the special police force conducted a ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Pregnant Woman Delivers Baby in Hospital Yard after Being Refused Help

KABUL - A pregnant woman was forced to give birth to her baby in the open courtyard of the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital in Kabul after being refused treatment by hospital staff.

The mother is the wife of an army officer and claims she was mistreated by the hospital, which failed to even help arrange an ambulance to transfer her to another hospital.

Video footage in TOLONews' possession shows the pregnant women being forced to wait for more than an hour and a half in the open outside the hospital building...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Foreign Troops Shoot, Injured Afghan Ministry Guard

KABUL - Foreign forces shot and injured a security guard of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in capital Kabul on Tuesday, officials and eyewitnesses said.

Crime branch police chief Brig. Gen. Fari-doonObaidi confirmed the incident and said an investigation into the attack was underway. He said the injured guard was under treatment at a government hospital in Kabul.

He said foreign troops who injured the guard were yet to be identified and infor ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Greek Coast Guard Rescues Dozens of Refugees off Lesbos

ANKARA - Waving, cheering and letting out sighs of relief, dozens of refugees were rescued from the Aegean Sea off the Coast of Lesbos Island in Greece on Monday.

The Greek coast guard came across several rubber dinghies crammed with migrants, mainly from Syria and Afghanistan, and towed them to safety aboard the nearby coast guard vessel, Reuters reported.

After being pulled on board the ship one by one, the migrants staggered, exhausted and relieved, to the boat's rear, where they huddled alongside strangers and waited quietly to be transported to the shore. Women cradled their babies and young girls consoled their crying siblings as the hardest and most dangerous part of ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

It might take a stroke of ingenuity to solve problems that spring up between you and your associates today. Luckily, puzzles are right up your alley and you derive great satisfaction from figuring out brilliant new solutions. But just because you shake the cobwebs loose and suddenly see the light, you can't necessarily make everyone else see things from your perspective.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You could get so confused by your dreams today that it's nearly impossible to find your way around in the real world. Nevertheless, there are important tasks to complete and life will quickly grow more complicated if you don't meet these obligations now. Get your chores out of the way as fast as you can, and don't forget to let others know that you need some time alone to think.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You aren't as scattered today as your coworkers think because you have a new plan in place, even if no one knows about it yet. However, you may have several options that you're juggling now, but this complexity isn't beyond your natural capability. But your goal isn't to keep lots of balls in the air; instead, it's about being happy. Fortunately, walking away from the distractions isn't that difficult now.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Exciting opportunities arise from the most unusual places now, but their source doesn't make them any less reliable. Unplanned emotional interactions with friends or a romantic partner could lead to a conceptual breakthrough in how you reach your goals. Remain open to new possibilities, since your path will continue to widen if you just let it happen without worrying so much about the outcome.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Stuck emotions that have you tied in knots may be released suddenly today, as if a clever magician planned your escape in advance. You may breathe a huge sigh of relief once you're set free, but you can't avoid the long-term issues you still face. Instead of running away to avoid the drama, accept your current circumstances graciously as you work with determination to transform your life.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

A shady character may let you down by not following through on a promise, but don't waste your energy getting bent out of shape. Unfortunately, you're unable to control the actions of others and you'll only make yourself miserable if you allow your emotions to get the best of you. Use your time constructively and concentrate on improving your own work instead of trying to change anyone else.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may be unclear as to why your day's agenda has been overtaken by tasks that don't help you inch any closer to your goals. But the culprit could be you if you're feeling less than ambitious today, making it advantageous to just do whatever is expected of you and no more. Even if you have transformational ideas, applying them could take more effort than you're willing to invest.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

A surprising emotional encounter can shock your nervous system with sudden jolts of awareness today that wake you up from a deep sleep. You initially could encounter some inner resistance about the current direction of your life but soon you will begin to see things more clearly. Don't make any big changes yet; just playfully consider each and every possibility.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

If you're stressing about making a financial decision today, don't just take the easy way out today. There is more happening now than meets the eye and you'll be in a lot better shape if you let the current situation play out for a while longer, giving you additional time to discern your smartest move. Luckily, your clarity will continue to sharpen in the days ahead. After your confidence returns.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You might need to relinquish control over your schedule today. One distraction after another grabs your attention and you may be required to accept that your nerves can't handle so much chaos at once. Nevertheless, don't judge yourself too severely while responding to the demands of the day. Do the best you can and let some of the loose ends stay unraveled until tomorrow when you have sufficient time.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Career responsibilities are likely to conflict with your personal goals, but try not to let that bother you too much now. You might not have as much clarity as you want today, so avoid making decisions based on inaccurate facts or incomplete data. Use your time to savor all the options on your plate without eliminating any of them. Most of all, be patient with yourself.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You live in two distinct worlds today. On one hand, you're quite comfortable drifting around in the dreamy fuzziness of your own imagination. On the other hand, you are uncovering so much additional factual information that you're not sure how best to manage it. First you need to integrate your feelings with your rational thoughts. Once they magically merge, it's time to swing into heroic action.

Across

1. Small goat antelope, 6. Annul, 10. Airhead, 14. Sheeplike, 15. French for "Black" 16. Colored part of an eye, 17. Confuse, 18. Informed, 19. Informer, 20. Incapable of failure, 22. Mists, 23. Center of a storm, 24. Rhinoceros, 26. Flow out, 30. Of a pelvic bone, 32. Anagram of "Arson", 33. Large long-armed ape, 37. Diva's solo, 38. Directly (archaic), 39. City in Peru, 40. Napkin, 42. A throat infection, 43. Licorice-like flavor, 44. No particular person, 45. Seeking damages, 47. South southeast, 48. Tab, 49. Causing irritation, 56. Against, 57. Reflected sound, 58. A radioactive gaseous element, 59. Small slender gull, 60. Murres, 61. Make improvements, 62. Booty, 63. Iron oxide, 64. Davenport.

Down

1. Mongolian desert, 2. Baking appliance, 3. Jazz phrase, 4. Dwarf buffalo, 5. Very drunk (British slang), 6. Loosen, as laces, 7. Newbie (slang), 8. Pickle flavoring, 9. Issuing commands, 10. Lack of ease, 11. Heavenly hunter, 12. Vernacular, 13. Sounds of disapproval, 21. Alkaline liquid, 25. Witch, 26. Historical periods, 27. Not aft, 28. Reasonable, 29. Ineffectual, 30. Angry, 31. Alley, 33. Chooses, 34. Novice, 35. So be it, 36. Back of the neck, 38. Feudal lord, 41. Hotel, 42. Smiled contemptuously, 44. American Sign Language, 45. Tendon, 46. Extreme, 47. Brown ermine, 48. Flying mammals, 50. Beige, 51. Not that, 52. Alike, 53. Poems, 54. A religious figure, 55. Terminates.

Yesterday's Solution

amuse, avoid, board, boulder, brand, clear, estate, fare, finale, frustration, giant, great, hits, lackey, later, laundry, lever, limit, manifest, midnight, mingle, mottled, near, plucky, reality, reason, reset, separate, serial, soothe, sport, stern, tare, tavern, thank.

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