

Rights Body Slams Taliban for High Civilian Death Toll

KABUL - The Institute For Human Rights Studies on Monday blasted the Taliban for their role in the high civilian death toll in Afghanistan, and called on the group to stop spilling to blood of innocent Afghans. "The civilian death toll hit unprecedented heights in 2015. We as human rights study institutions blame Taliban terrorists for the death toll," Laila Jafary, head of the Institute For Human Rights Studies said. In addition, the institute called on armed groups to value the lives of the civilians during their military campaigns. "The people



of Afghanistan, children and women should no longer be sacrificed for insurgency. I want to call on insurgents to avoid posing further destruction to the people of Afghanistan and avoid sacrificing their own for a regional game," a member of the Institute for Human Rights Studies Faiz Ahmad Sadaq, said. The statements come a day after the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Sunday launched its Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict Annual Report 2015 ... (More on P4)...(20)

Two Soldiers Killed in Kunduz Attack

KUDNUZ - Two Afghan soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded after Taliban militants attacked an army checkpoint in Afghanistan's northern province of Kunduz on Monday, an official said. "The attack took place in Pul-e-Momin, Dasht-e-Archi district at early morning. The national army personnel fought back the attackers and ... (More on P4)...(21)

2 Killed, 3 Injured as Rival Militias Clash in Balkh

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Two people were killed and three others wounded during a clash between gunmen loyal two rival illegal militia leaders in Shulgara district of northern Balkh province, residents said on Monday. The clash erupted on Sunday afternoon in Karani Sarai area, a resident of the town, Haji Safi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said one each gunman from both sides were killed and ... (More on P4)...(22)

Daesh Fighters among 54 Killed in 24 Hours: MoD

KABUL - The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Monday claimed 54 militants, including 42 Daesh or so-called Islamic State (IS) insurgents, have been killed in security operations over the past 24 hours in different parts of the country. Another five militants were injured and seven more detained during the operations, the MoD said in a statement. Recently Afghan security and defence forces launched an operation code-named "Shaheen-18" to subdue militants in Achin district of

eastern Nangarhar province, the statement said. Up to 42 Daesh fighters, including some group leaders, were killed and five others were injured and an explosives-laden car was destroyed during the offensive, it added. The Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel also killed a dozen of militants and seized some weapons and ammunition during separate operations in Sabari district of Khost province, Khoshmand district of Paktia province, Barmal and Gomal districts of Paktika prov-



ince and Maiwand district of Kandahar province, the statement said. Five ANA personnel also lost their lives during the operations, the statement concluded. (Pajhwok)

1,700 Officers Graduate from Military Academy in Kabul

KABUL - At least 1,700 officers, including 16 female officers, graduated from the National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul on Sunday. Officials from the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said that these newly graduated officers will be helpful in the fight against militants. They urged the officers to fight against insurgents with a strong resolve. "You are well trained. The enemy wants to destroy public facilities and it is your duty not to let them do this," said Gul Nabi Ahmadzai, head of the education department at the Ministry of Defense, while addressing the graduates. The 1,700 officers - during the three-month course - received military training and learned how to use light weapons. The newly graduated officers called on the Taliban to ... (More on P4)...(23)

'Real Mujahideen, Their Families Ignored after Soviets Defeat'

KABUL - The Afghanistan National Youth Association (ANYA) on Sunday said children and families of "real and honest Afghans who fought against the Soviet forces and expelled them from Afghanistan" were suffering from poverty and other problems. While some leaders promoted themselves by claiming achievements of others as their own, ignoring those who honestly and patriotically fought the red army, the group said. These leaders earned money, status and name and did not shed a single drop of their

blood. On December 27, 1979, some 120,000 Soviet troops backed by helicopters, fighters jets, and tanks invaded Afghanistan and installed a puppet Babrak Karmal in place of communist president Hafizullah Amin, sparking an ill-fated conflict that lasted nine years and resulted in the death of one million Afghans. The red army invasion resulted into the loss of 90,000 Mujahideen fighters, 18,000 Afghan troops allied with Soviets and 14,500 Soviet soldiers in the war that ended after ten years in February 1989.

The Afghan Jihad resulted into the defeat of the then strong army of the world which was locked with the US in the history's one of the complicated cold war. The unstopped sacrifices of the people of Afghanistan won them victory over the Soviet Union which had merged almost 15 nations of the Central Asia and parts of the eastern and Europe in its block. The Soviet Union had finally pulled out its last soldier from the Afghan soil on February 15, 1989. ShkulaZadran, member of ... (More on P4)...(24)

New Kunduz Governor Asks Rebels to Join Peace Process

KUNDUZ CITY - The newly-appointed governor for northern Kunduz province on Sunday asked militants not to follow orders from outsiders and join the peace process. At his introduction ceremony in Kunduz City, the provincial capital, Asadullah Omarkhel told the people of Kunduz that he invited militants to join the peace process to avoid being further deceived by foreign intelligence agencies. A former head of the provincial High Peace Committee for Kunduz, Omarkhel asked the rebels: "If you are really Afghan, then lay down your weapons and reconcile with



the Afghan government." Calling the Islamic State (IS) a destructive instrument of foreign intelligence agencies, he said those supporting Daesh were acting against Islam. He told the residents of Kun-

duz that he would always discuss with local people all important issues for decisions. "I would try to address people's priorities, but I cannot promise things which are above ... (More on P4)...(25)

Migrants Return as Life in Europe Proves Disappointing

KABUL - A number of Afghan families, who risked their lives to get to Europe, have turned around and come home saying the move was not worth it. TOLONews

spoke to one such family who had migrated to Europe, but decided instead to return to Afghanistan. The message that the family has for other Afghans is don't

leave your country at any cost. Abdul Saboor son, after being through many difficulties, eventually reached Europe, however, after facing ... (More on P4)...(26)

Commander among 4 Insurgents Killed in Kapisa Operation

MAHMOOD RAQI - A commander was among four insurgents killed in a commando forces operation in the Tagab district of central Kapisa province, officials

claimed on Monday. The Afghan commandos backed by air support from the Afghan Air Force conducted the operation on Sunday night in Adezo, Sinzo

and some other areas of Tagab, Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander in the district, Asad Agha Safi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said a ... (More on P4)...(27)

Security Forces Reach Destroyed Pylons in Baghlan

KABUL - Afghan security forces have after almost three weeks managed to reach damaged power pylons in northern Baghlan province. Security officials in Baghlan told workers from Da Afghanistan BreshnaSherkat (DABS) power company they can now start rebuilding the pylons and restore electricity to Kabul. Security troops in the province also warned that the Taliban are hiding out in civilian homes in the province. "We launched operations at midnight (Sunday) to reach the pylons, destroyed by the Taliban, and after several hours of fighting we managed to take control of the area," said Mohammadullah, a commando officer. Samiullah, another officer, said that the only problem that they are currently faced with is that the Taliban, who have holed up in civilian houses, attack security forces. "We want workers of DABS to come and restore power," Ahmad Jawed ... (More on P4)...(28)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Events may be more significant than you realize today because there is so much interesting stuff occurring beneath the surface. But you can accomplish more than you expect now, even if your thinking is wildly scattered. Don't try so hard to focus your attention on any single task; allowing your thoughts to meander freely will eventually enable you to locate the most meaningful path.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might feel just plain weird today, almost as if you woke up on the set of a science fiction movie. The surreal dynamics make it tough to separate your fantasies from what is actually true. Your uncharacteristic desire to explore new territory could create sufficient impetus to break out of your rut. But you're not in complete control of what's happening now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There is so much noise running through your head today that you're at a loss for words, even if you're known for your natural gift of gab. Although you know exactly what needs to be said now, you may have a challenging time delivering your message. Rather than overreacting and desperately trying to convince others to follow your plan, let your thoughts sit and simmer for a day or two before saying something you might regret.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Sharing your feelings with someone you love can be a more complicated process than you expected today. But you also want to honor the Moon's presence in your reclusive 12th House by keeping some of your secrets off limits. Unfortunately, you might grow dissatisfied with your self-made isolation. Keep in mind that you'll be singing a happier tune.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Staying connected to your heart's wishes can be tricky business today because you may receive emotional signals that aren't your own. You're so wired to the energetic dynamics around you that you might not have any space left over for your own ideas if the cosmic static is overpowering you now. Acting with intention is a wise strategy.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're mildly tempted by a common illusion today; most people think that more data gives you more choices, especially when the Moon is working her magic in versatile Gemini. Nevertheless, you instinctively know that it's much more advantageous to have useful information at your fingertips than to be overwhelmed by too many facts. Ensure you are operating at the highest efficiency by eliminating the extraneous now.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You are lured into some very strange emotional waters today as the promise of peace is dangled on a hook in front of you. This unknown territory holds a certain charm now, especially if you dream of exploring it with an adventurous ally. But previous commitments may prevent you from taking your current fantasies too far. Although responsible behavior displays your maturity.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You could find yourself swept up in a complex storm of feelings today, leaving you a bit too vulnerable for your liking. You want to run from your emotional discomfort while simultaneously dreaming about building a new relationship. Unfortunately, taking a big risk and jumping in too quickly might just as easily ruin your chances as packing up and going home.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You might end up in serious trouble today if you judge a book by its cover. Sometimes rushing to conclusions turns out fine, but it's still better to slow down now or you could miss an extraordinary opportunity by letting your assumptions get in the way. It may be difficult to recognize your personalized cosmic message if it arrives wrapped up in a plain brown wrapper.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Although you may appear overly intense today, you're not as attached to your current dramas as others assume. A coworker's suggestions could grate on your nerves now and a difference of opinion that begins as a minor argument might turn into a major conflict. Thankfully, voices escalate only to quickly settle down. Instead of following the course of least resistance.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your thinking is normally outside of the box, but it's someone else's turn to play the role of a change agent. All you're required to do today is show up and respond from your heart. You may feel as if you're being let off the hook, but it's a smart strategy to consider a clever collaboration, anyhow. Nevertheless, don't agree to every sparkly proposal that comes your way.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You are more than willing to believe your own twisted logic now, especially if you see an easy opportunity to avoid a dark pit of unexplored emotions. Thankfully, your resistance won't last long because your feelings tempt you with rich symbols and metaphors. A methodical exploration of your imagination offers a myriad of possibilities. Don't be shy while you delve further into the mysteries of your own heart; fortune favors the bold.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

Across: 1. Breaststroke, 5. Heron, 10. Short run, 14. Zero, 15. Apprehensive, 16. Countertenor, 17. Beers, 18. Ornament, 20. Eyewear, 22. Cassock, 23. Dawn goddess, 24. Nuzzled, 25. Accessory, 32. Stimulate, 33. Corporate symbols, 34. Clunker, 37. Sea eagle, 38. Cut, 39. South American country, 40. Former North African ruler, 41. A type of small mammal, 42. Chip dip, 43. Empirical, 45. Cut of meat, 49. What we breathe, 50. Poster color, 53. Term, 57. Avatar, 59. Mining finds, 60. Copied, 61. One after eighth, 62. Adolescent, 63. Style, 64. Bloating, 65. Arid. Down: 1. Catch, 2. Bulwark, 3. Notion, 4. A female massager, 5. Not the youngest, 6. GGG G, 7. Record (abbrev.), 8. God of love, 9. Apprentice, 10. Philippine tribal chief, 11. Assumed name, 12. Rock, 13. Sharpened, 19. Parental sisters, 21. Achy, 25. Breezed through, 26. Cut back, 27. Small and weak, 28. Lacquer ingredient, 29. Exploded stars, 30. Go-between, 31. Neither, 34. Sandwich shop, 35. Constellation bear, 36. Twofold, 38. A single-reed woodwind, 39. Nationalists, 41. Faked out an opponent, 42. Hissy fit, 44. Ribald, 45. Water vapor, 46. Musical time, 47. Implant, 48. Any animal with no feet, 51. Jewelry, 52. Dogfish, 53. Picnic insects, 54. Algonquian Indian, 55. Lascivious look, 56. Feudal worker, 58. N N N N.

Yesterday's Solution: abundance, amusement, angrily, announce, answer, apple, array, brand, candy, danger, driver, formal, grate, green, irksome, learn, method, might, moment, purr, regular, seesaw, seldom, sight, slam, spay, sweet, system, teeth, term, tight, turnip.

Word search grid with words: FORMALSWEETRA, WMIGHTANSWERB, EAIRKSOMESTA, ABFEEAPPLEARN, RRREGULARLRD, YASNRPMYDNAA, ANGRILYOSOYN, SDANGERMZMUWC, YIRAMUSEMENTE, SUGIKCANDYCIH, TDQHVMFTXAEGU, EGRATETEETHHG, METHODRWARMTH.