

Afghanistan Defeated Zimbabwe in First T20 Match

KABUL - Afghanistan on Friday night won the first Twenty-20 match against Zimbabwe in Sharjah city in the United Arab Emirates. Afghanistan batted first and set a target of 188 runs after losing seven wickets, but Zimbabwe, was not able to make more than 182 runs after losing seven wickets in 20 overs. Usman Ghani scored 42 runs, Gulbuddin Nayib 37 runs and Shahzad Mohammadi scored 33 runs. Among Afghan bowlers, Dawlat



Zadran got 3 wickets, Amir Hamza Hotak, Mohammad Nabi Issakhail and Gulbuddin Nayib each got one wicket from Zimbabwe squad. Gulbuddin was once again selected as man of the match. The chairman of Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), Nasimullah Danish, congratulated all Afghans for the victory of the national team in first T20 match and wished the players further success. (Tolonews)

5 Killed in U.S. Drone Strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - At least five militants were killed and several others injured when U.S. pilotless aircraft launched missile strikes in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of North Waziristan on Saturday, local media reported. The militants killed included a top commander of outlawed organization Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and his four accomplices, the Urdu TV channel Express reported. It is the first drone strike in Pakistan since the beginning of this year, during which the U.S. unmanned aircraft pounded a hideout of suspected militants in snow-covered Shawal area of North Waziristan Agency along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Drone strikes in Pakistan fell to their lowest level for eight years in 2015, according to a research by the London-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism. It said that the year 2015 witnessed a sharp reduction not only in attacks but also in the number of people reported killed. The drones hit ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Two Afghans Arrested for Attempt to Rape French Woman in Train

PARIS - Two Afghans have been arrested and security agencies are looking for a third one who allegedly tried to rape a woman in Paris after finding her alone. A French media outlet reports that a 28-year-old woman was traveling on the Paris RER express train on Saturday when three Afghan refugees tried to rape her. According to France's Le Parisien newspaper, the young lady initially entered a deserted carriage but soon after she was joined by about ten men who boarded at Montparnasse station. The woman has told investigators that when she started to feel uncomfortable she tried to move but three of the men followed and used her isolation to pester her. She has that then one of the three fondled her, another strangled her with her own scarf, and the third held a knife to her face before they all started to undress her. At the same time another passenger boarded and intervened in her defence. She managed to get off the train and took refuge in a nearby restaurant. The three suspects were seen on CCTV footage recorded at Montparnasse station, from which investigating officers identified them. On 17 December, two of the alleged rapists were arrested in Paris and charged with attempted rape. Although they denied any involvement their alleged victim recognised them. The arrested migrants were aged 19 and 45 years old. They sought political asylum in France after claiming they fled Afghanistan having been pressured by the Taliban to attack the western world. The investigation into the whereabouts and identity of the third attacker continues. (KP)

Alleged Al Qaeda Member Released from Gitmo, Sent Back To Kuwait

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Following through on a promise made just before the New Year, the U.S. Defense Department announced Friday the release of a detainee being held at Guantanamo Bay -- a Kuwaiti national by the name of Fayiz Mohammed Ahmed Al-Kandari. Kandari is being transferred to the Kuwaiti government's control, the U.S. military said in a press release. His release comes after a September decision



by a review board that found it "does not remain necessary (to detain him) to protect against a continuing significant threat to the security." This news leaves 104 detainees still at the U.S. military facility in Cuba, though more could soon be joining Kandari in leaving the country. Defense Secretary Ash Carter told members of Congress ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

US Drone Strike Kills at Least 17 IS Militants

KABUL - A suspected US drone strike Friday killed at least 17 Islamic State militants in eastern Afghanistan shortly after the extremist group beheaded seven people in the same area, officials and residents said.



The violence occurred in the remote Achin district of Nangarhar province, which borders Pakistan. The volatile district is where IS is believed to have setup its strong bases. Atallah Khogyani, a provincial governor spokesman,

told VOA that six Taliban insurgents were among those beheaded by Daesh, the Arabic acronym for IS. He added that while the executions were being carried out missiles fired by an unmanned

US aircraft hit the area, killing 17 Daesh fighters, including several key commanders. Sources tell VOA the beheadings took place in the afternoon shortly after Friday prayers ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

US Forces Increasingly Drawn Back into Afghanistan's Battles

KABUL - Staff Sgt. Matthew McClintock died in Afghanistan this week. He was 30 and leaves a wife and infant son. McClintock was part of a training and advising mission. But he died fighting the Taliban along with Afghan troops. American forces are increasingly being drawn back into the fight, even though President Barack Obama declared an end to the combat mission in December 2014. Last year, 22 American military personnel were killed in



Afghanistan, half of the deaths classified as "hostile." McClintock, the first American to be killed this year, was with his fellow Green Berets when they went to Marjah, in Helmand province, a town grimly familiar to American troops. Dozens of Marines were killed there five ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Taliban Waging Rare Winter Offensive in Afghanistan

KABUL - The Taliban is waging an unusually aggressive campaign of violence in Afghanistan this winter, unleashing deadly bombings in the capital, threatening to overrun a strategic southern province, and attacking a foreign consulate. Afghanistan's mountainous terrain and heavy snowfall have traditionally prompted a winter lull in fighting, with the militants using the colder months to rest and regroup ahead of an annual spring offensive. There are several reasons why there has been no let-up this winter, marking a seeming shift in the Taliban's decade-long insurgency. Bargaining Chip The Taliban is trying to strengthen its negotiating hand amid a renewed international push to revive peace talks with the militant group, say analysts. On January 11, Afghanistan and Pakistan are set to hold a first ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Traffic Accident left 15 Dead, 6 Injured



KABUL - 15 wedding guest died on Saturday when a vehicle turned over in eastern Kunar province, official said. "In addition, six others were injured in the accident which took place in Chapa Dara district," the official added. District police chief Najibullah said that the pickup carrying guests to a wedding ceremony flipped over and

fell into a canyon, claiming 15 lives of the guests and wounded six others. "At least, 14 guests died on the spot while one of the wounded died on the way to nearby hospital." Provincial Health Director Dr. Asadullah Fazli confirmed the incident and said that two dead bodies and five injured were transported to the hospital. (Monitoring Desk)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Assuming you have the right to boss people around won't necessarily demonstrate your ability to lead in the way you wish. Although the Capricorn New Moon intensifies your 10th House of Status, people are more likely to follow you when they see you're walking your truth, not when you run around barking commands at them.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might believe you know how your day will unfold, but an unexpected event may require you to change your plans. The sure-footed Capricorn New Moon grounds your 9th House of Big Ideas, but its square to wily Uranus adds uncertainty to the mix. Unfortunately, overreacting only makes matters worse. Well-considered modifications are your best bet today.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might experience a run-in with self-doubt if your day deviates from your expectations. You could even start to worry that your efforts for the past few weeks have been an exercise in futility. Nevertheless, change is slow and steady as the conservative Capricorn New Moon lingers in your 8th House of Transformation. Your key word now is patience; it's a mistake to act recklessly just because you're frustrated with your apparent lack of progress.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You may be emotionally stressed by your relationship with a friend or lover now, especially if you each approach conflicts in radically different ways. It's challenging to put your feelings out on the table because the reserved Capricorn New Moon lands in your 7th House of Partnerships. Thankfully, consistency is rewarded and your willingness to reveal your vulnerability.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your typical weekend routine may be turned upside down today as the Capricorn New Moon triggers your 6th House of Details. You aren't happy about doing things differently now, so a change of pace could be upsetting at first. Nevertheless, shaking up old patterns can reveal habits that might benefit from change. But don't waste too much time looking back.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

If you are waiting for the best time to share something near and dear to your heart with someone special, this may be your moment. The calculating Capricorn New Moon mobilizes your 5th House of Self-Expression, encouraging you to finally come forward. After much careful deliberation, you're ready to show your cards today. Remember, keeping too many secrets could prevent you from having a shot at success now.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your personal life might not be unfolding as you wish, but you will probably get what you want, anyhow. Although there may be a few unscheduled stops along the way, the ambitious Capricorn New Moon ultimately leads to stability as it energizes your 4th House of Foundations. Keep in mind that satisfaction could still take a while because now you are building the solid base for future operations.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

It's time to initiate an overdue conversation about a sensitive topic, especially if you can feel tension bubbling just beneath the surface. Avoiding an uncomfortable discussion only adds to the strained relationship dynamics. Thankfully, the earthy Capricorn New Moon stabilizes your 3rd House of Communication, enabling you to make real progress toward creating common ground.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Expressing your feelings is more challenging than it should be today, but you're at a turning point and the resistance is finally ready to dissipate. Luckily, the Capricorn New Moon emphasizes your 2nd House of Self-Esteem and it seems as if your luck is improving. However, this current shift is more likely the result of all your hard work. You will enjoy the fruits of your labor soon enough.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You might believe you have all the answers today, but recent events suggest otherwise. The pragmatic Capricorn New Moon switches on your 1st House of Self, but your blind optimism can backfire if you become too confident of your plan. Avoid extreme reactions; don't waste time getting excited about what's ahead or being sad for what you've left behind.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Everything may seem overly important now, as if this current moment in time is more significant than all others. The formidable Capricorn New Moon's visit to your 12th House of Karma could stir up unresolved issues from your past if you think they could foil your ambitious plans. But you might not remember the events as they really occurred since your imagination is bending the facts out of shape.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

It's as if you're standing on a mountaintop on a clear day, ready to choose your direction off the summit. You can clearly see the horizon in the distance every way you turn as the shrewd Capricorn New Moon rocks your 11th House of Long-Term Goals. Although you might normally employ your imagination to create the next phase of your life, it's nearly impossible to replace reality with dreams now.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Across: 1. Sysadmin, 6. A hemispherical roof, 10. Egg-shaped, 14. Neighborhood, 15. Mimics, 16. Drill, 17. Onyx, 18. Mongol hut, 19. City in Peru, 20. Beggar, 22. Computer symbol, 23. Arid, 24. Speaks, 26. Circle fragments, 30. Poetic dusk, 31. South southeast, 32. A young male horse, 33. A romantic meeting, 35. Operatic solos, 39. Sightseeing industry, 41. Any amazing occurrence, 43. Shooting sport, 44. Absorbs, 46. French for "Head", 47. Born as, 49. Faster than light, 50. Biblical kingdom, 51. A symbol of disgrace, 54. Feudal estate, 56. Publicize, 57. Loud, 63. Verdant, 64. Sea eagle, 65. Fine thread, 66. Chills and fever, 67. Not more, 68. Painful grief, 69. Not now, 70. Views, 71. Horse.

Down: 1. Smack, 2. Eastern discipline, 3. Glance over, 4. Pledge, 5. Supplications, 6. Dreamlike musings, 7. Luxurious, 8. No more than, 9. Anagram of "Russet", 10. Destroy completely, 11. Vocalization, 12. Knight's "suit", 13. Incline, 21. Requires, 25. Russian emperor, 26. Does something, 27. A chess piece, 28. Hint, 29. Fortify, 34. Void, 36. Frozen, 37. Countertenor, 38. Appear, 40. Bit of gossip, 42. A small island, 45. Umbrage, 48. Artists' workstands, 51. Water balloon sound, 52. Bully, 53. Put out, 55. Bends, 58. Tall woody plant, 59. Violent disturbance, 60. Small island, 61. Maguey, 62. Egghead.

Yesterday's Solution: believe, blank, brother, canvas, care, cast, charcoal, close, conceal, conquer, design, eclipse, fights, foreseen, gone, grape, linger, manager, operator, person, place, port, prayer, rally, real, regency, shale, sherry, stoke, tent, together.

OPERATOR WORST
BYLINGERCEARD
TRAINKQSHALEE
SHERRYTTXKLIS
LBROTHERNAYJI
CEWIGGYEORPCG
OLVIOCECEPRAN
NIFTNSRGBLANK
QEGEEAAKYAYVC
UVGRHNCONCEAL
EEOCASTOKERSO
RFDMGPWIZARDS
PERSONECLIPSE