

Afghanistan on Agenda of NATO Chiefs of Defense Summit

KABUL - The Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on Tuesday met in Brussels where the alliance's Chiefs of Defense discussed a wide range of issues including NATO's strategic and operational situation in Afghanistan. During the two-day session, NATO chiefs of defense will discuss the challenging security environment on NATO's southern flank and the coalition's contribution to its stabilization. "The CHODs with their Resolute Support counterparts will review the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan and discuss the wider region. In Resolute Support format, the Chiefs of Defense will receive political, strategic and operational situation briefs from Commander of the Resolute Support Mission, General Nicholson, and the NATO Senior Civilian Representative Ambassador Zimmermann respectively, and provide further recommendations for 2018 and beyond," said NATO ...*(More on P4)...(14)*



17 Foreign Rebels Killed in Badakhshan Airstrike

FAIZABAD - At least 17 foreign fighters have been killed and nearly a dozen more wounded in an airstrike in northeastern Badakhshan province, an official said on Tuesday. The intelligence official, who wished anonymity, said A-29 aircraft of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) pounded hideouts of the foreign terrorists in Khastak locality of the Juram district. He said the rebels had been using the house of Almas Khan as military corps headquarters. Ahmad Javid Mujadidi, a member of the provincial council and resident of Juram district, confirmed the killing of one individual and wounding of four others in the airstrike. Local officials said some 50 families of foreign militants have been living in Juram district. *(Pajhwok)*

Barmak Admits Involvement of Afghan Police in Certain Illegal Activities



KABUL - The Minister of Interior of Afghanistan Wais Ahmad Barmak admits that a number of the national police officers are involved in certain illegal activities. Barmak made the remarks during a press conference in Kabul today and this is the first time a top Afghan official admits the involvement of the police officers in the illegal activities. The Minister of Interior said he is aware of the issue and the people are well justified

for complaining regarding the police officers for their involvement in illegal acts. According to Barmak, the investigations conducted by the ministry shows that the police officers in some cases have committed crime instead of acting to prevent the criminal activities. He said the leadership of the ministry has plans on hand to resolve issue and the intelligence directorate has been instructed to start operations to clean the police

ranks from the corrupt individuals. Barmak further added that necessary steps will be taken against those misusing their authorities and the ministry will also work to identify and arrest those having links with the militant groups. This comes as a senior ministry official was arrested by the personnel of the Anti-Corruption Justice Center on charges of embezzlement involving around 100 million Afghanis. *(KP)*

Five Taliban Insurgents Killed in Ongoing Baghlan Operation

PUL-E-KHUMRI - At least five Taliban insurgents were killed in ongoing operations in northern Baghlan province on Monday, local officials confirmed Tuesday. In addition, seven other insurgents were wounded. The "Alburz 22" operation was launched on Monday in Baba Nazar and Khalazi area of Dand-e-Shahabuddin area of Pul-e-Khumri city, capital of Baghlan, to clear the area of insurgents, provincial police chief Kramuddin Sare said. "Jalal who is also known as Khaternak and Juma Gul, the two-key members of the Taliban are also among the dead," he said. However, he did not provide further details about the operation. *(Tolo News)*

Imports from Afghanistan Urged



PESHAWAR - Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) has asked Islamabad to withdraw the regulatory duty on imports from Afghanistan. PAJCCI Chairman Zubair Motiwala issued the call during a meeting with Miftah Ismail, adviser to the prime minister on finance, revenue and economic affairs. According to The News International, the issue of regulatory duty on imports from Afghanistan was raised at the meeting. Private sector and government officials of both countries should meet to help sort out issues. The Finance Ministry was urged to evaluate the effects of recent political turmoil on bilateral and transit trade, which has been on a nosedive in the last three years. Motiwala estimated the annual trade potential between the two countries at \$5 billion. Lately, however, it has fallen from \$2.5 billion to \$1.6 billion because of bilateral tensions. Recent figures show a rise in Afghanistan's trade ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Pakistan 'Impeding' Afghan Peace Process: HPC Official



KABUL - Two days after unofficial peace talks between government officials and Taliban members in Turkey, the High Peace Council said the group has not officially given the go-ahead to hold formal negotiations. "Unfortunately, Taliban has not given an official response to the joint call of the nation for starting real negotiations," the head of High Peace Council secretariat Mohammad Akram Khpulwak said. "Some factors which are impeding the peace efforts (in Afghanistan) are (because of) the interference by some countries who are not in favor of peace in Afghanistan, the clear interference of Pakistan in this respect, the interference of drug smugglers and activities of terrorist networks," Khpulwak told a gathering on Tuesday. The HPC members discussed the recent visit of the United Nations Security Council delegation to Afghanistan at Tuesday's gathering. The HPC members said they stressed the need for regional and international efforts to achieve peace in Afghanistan and the need to spur on the reconciliation process during the meeting with the UN Security Council. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Alarm Bells: Kandahar Records 7th Polio Case this Year



KANDAHAR CITY - A 17-month-old boy has been tested positive for poliovirus in southern Kandahar province, taking the number of polio cases so far this solar year to 14 nationwide. The provincial Public Health Department director told a press conference in Kandahar City, the provincial capital, that the new polio case --- the 7th in Kandahar this year --- surfaced in Spin Boldak border district, setting alarms bells ringing for the department. So far 14 polio cases have been recorded country-wide and the new case in Spin Boldak district that borders Pakistan takes the number of such cases to seven in Kandahar. Previously five cases have been registered in Shawalikot district, one in Spin Boldak and one in Kandahar city, the provincial capital. Two others have been recorded in Nawzad and Nahar districts of Helmand and one in Zabul province, three in Nangarhar and one in Kunduz provinces. Kandahar public health director ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries It's as if stagehands sneaked into your world and changed all the scenery while you were sleeping. You wake up to an unfamiliar landscape where everything seems oddly different, even your thoughts and feelings are buzzing with anticipation. But your excitement about exploring this uncharted territory begins to fade when you realize how much work there is to do.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You're matter-of-fact about your career aspirations today, and you're willing to lay out your plans for what's ahead. Although there may be some unrealistic parts to your grand strategy, most of it is based upon practical considerations. Nevertheless, bringing a pie-in-the-sky vision down to earth can be tricky because your forward progress is so uneven now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Although your imagination is often the source of ingenious breakthroughs, idle daydreaming is just a mis-directed use of energy today. You might not be able to shut off the flow of your dreams, but there is no reason to let them control your day. Nevertheless, keeping things in perspective may be nearly impossible while an electrical Mars-Uranus connection is snapping, crackling and popping.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Relationships continue to make demands on your already committed time. Of course, you want to show up while building a foundation in a new partnership or strengthening the bonds in an existing one. Although you may be feeling less vulnerable now, you're more willing to open your heart in the presence of someone you respect.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo Someone you thought you could trust is acting strangely now and you don't know what to make of the situation. Nebulous Neptune's presence in today's cosmic geometry reflects confusion at best and delusion at worst. Be attentive to the details so you can separate the facts from the fallacies.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo Although you're probably maintaining a steady course into your future, you could grow impatient if you don't see enough progress right away. But you're not interested in trying a radically new approach because you're afraid of the potential for failure, and you don't want to take that responsibility upon your shoulders. However, you can't bring yourself to continue doing things in the same old way now.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



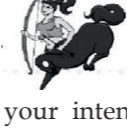
Libra You value objectivity more than personal fulfillment now, prompting you to set aside your subjective biases in the name of healthy relationships. If you have a strong preference on an issue that impacts your family, tribe or community, acknowledge it without feeding its power.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio You are known for your high level of integrity. In fact, you can be so immovable on certain moral issues that the harder someone pushes, the more stubborn you become. But you don't need to let everyone know about your strong personal convictions. Neither must you hide them if they come up in the natural flow of conversation.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius People might have trouble understanding your behavior today. In fact, it's difficult to figure out your intentions because your individual actions make sense when taken one at a time, but seem to contradict one another when viewed as a whole. No one requires a lengthy explanation now, but you'll receive more support if your friends and coworkers feel like you're all on the same team.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You can make a creative breakthrough today, motivating you to resolve a personal issue that has lingered far too long. However, it's not smart to start the celebration too soon, for finding an intellectual answer to your problem is only the first step. It's possible to know what you need to change without making the necessary modifications.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

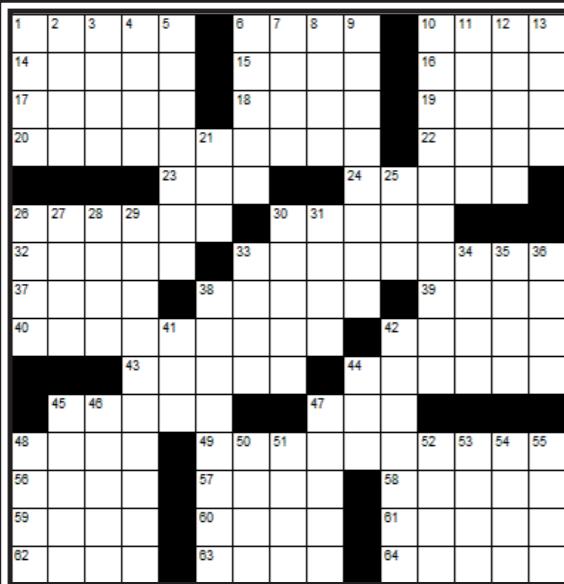


Aquarius Relying on logic allows your associates to directly experience your high level of competence, since rational thought is more valued at work than emotional availability. Nevertheless, keeping your feelings hidden no longer serves you in the same way it once did. Rather than operating like a mechanical machine, everything you do will be enriched when you bring your passion into your game.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You are all fired up today, possibly in reaction to people who are not standing up for their convictions. You don't want to fight someone else's battle now; in fact, you don't want to fight at all. Nevertheless, you feel the weight of responsibility pushing you to defend those who can't do it themselves. Although you appear to be uber-flexible, participating with others in what might be a last stand requires plenty of courage.



Across

1. Honor fights, 6. Nestling hawk, 10. Falafel bread, 14. Large Asian country, 15. He writes in verse, 16. Gorse, 17. Put one's foot down, 18. Monster, 19. Genuine, 20. Skin color, 22. Throw up, 23. Old World vine, 24. Pass over, 26. Place of worship, 30. Secret agents, 32. Fastening, 33. Absence of the sense of pain, 37. Rapsallions, 38. Complies, 39. A temple (archaic), 40. Casts, 42. A swindle, 43. Cheap skate, 44. A European peninsula, 45. Stay, 47. Consume, 48. Dash, 49. Replacement, 56. Arizona river, 57. Resorts, 58. Open skin infections, 59. Incite, 60. Border, 61. Clips, 62. Calamitous, 63. Sleep in a convenient place, 64. French for "Storehouse",

Down

1. Platter, 2. "Do ___ others...", 3. Biblical kingdom, 4. Not stiff, 5. Young tree, 6. Adhesive, 7. Cartoon bear, 8. Relating to aircraft, 9. Used in mimeographs, 10. Meaningful, 11. Blockage of the intestine, 12. Tall East Indian timber trees, 13. Spindle, 21. Biblical first woman, 25. Regulation (abbrev.), 26. Anagram of "Ties", 27. Song of praise, 28. Tears, 29. Sow, 30. Contemptuous look, 31. Remits, 33. Skilled, 34. Went under, 35. Ancient Peruvian, 36. Era, 38. Completely preoccupied, 41. Central, 42. Thin plain-weave fabric, 44. Louisville Slugger, 45. Excuse, 46. A machine for baling hay, 47. SSSS, 48. Quaint outburst, 50. Style of hairdo, 51. Knapsacks, 52. Legal wrong, 53. Murres, 54. Office fill-in, 55. Being,

Yesterday's Solution

EBBIS BIRRE DUJAO
VERIT ARTIEL ESPY
EMIR TESLA MESA
RADIO SKIPP PERED
ACETONE PENNEC
LOWERTING DEMUR
AGROVE YSOMANLA
SKIRTIS GUTIRAS
PROSPERED MATIRA
LUNK KTWIS NOON
ANTT SPECK GNAT
NEON TRILE ESINE

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