

Turkmens Demand Govt. Posts on Population Basis

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Turkmen elders on Tuesday asked the government to give the tribe representation in its new administration on the basis of its population. The call came at a gathering attended by Turkmen tribal leaders from various parts of the country in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province. Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News on

the sidelines of the gathering, Abdul Samad, the Turkmen Council's head, said they sought their share in the new government led by President Ashraf Ghani on the basis of the tribe's population. He said Turkmen held positions in the new government, but they were not in accordance with the percentage of their population, which he put at more than three



millions. "We will hold similar gatherings until our tribe is given representation in the government according to our population. And if the gatherings had no impact, we will take to the streets to demand our rights." Balkh Turkmen Council head Haji Anwar told Pajhwok Afghan News the Turkmen had widely participated in all the previous elections and they should be given their due rights. He said like other tribes, the Turkmen had fought against the former Soviet Union forces. "We have ... (More on P4)... (18)

Tajik National Detained in Afghanistan on Suspicion of Terrorism

DUSHANBE - Afghan News Agency Khaama Press (KP) cited Afghan law enforcement authorities as saying that Tajik national has been detained in Afghanistan on suspicion of terrorism. The man, who was identified as Sherov Umarov, has reportedly arrived in Afghanistan from Pakistan. According to the Afghan Interior Minister, Umarov received four-month training in Waziristan and he was sent to Afghanistan to commit terrorist acts in the Kunduz province. Meanwhile, it is not the first case of detention of

Tajik nationals in Kunduz. In June last year, two ethnic Uzbeks from Tajikistan, who were identified as Komil and Umar, were detained in Kunduz. They reportedly arrived in Afghanistan from Russia. Earlier, the Afghan Government expressed concern about presence of militants from Central Asia's nations, including Tajikistan, within the ranks of the Taliban. Thus, the Afghan authorities say that some 30 Tajik militants are participating along with Afghan Taliban in terrorist attacks in Kunduz. (Asia-Plus)

Fuel Prices Dip but Transport Fares Remain Unchanged

KABUL - Residents of this central capital on Wednesday complained of high transport fares despite a significant slump in fuel rates in the international market. Prices of gas, petrol and diesel recently increased. The rate of one litre of diesel and petrol has come down from 60 afghanis to 45af, officials said last week, linking the fall to market trends. Kabul residents lamented that despite the rate cuts, transport fares had not been slashed in the capital.

They asked the authorities to discharge their responsibility by forcing fare rationalization. A dweller of Panjsad Family area, Hamid Hamidi, said fares remained unchanged, with food and essential item prices still high. The situation spoke volumes for the authorities' unconcern and negligence, he alleged. Also a university student, Hamidi told Pajhwok Afghan News: "When the prices of fuel go up, drivers instantly increase fares. But when they come down, the

benefit isn't passed on to commuters." The average fare from Panjsad Family area to Shahr-I-Naw remains 30 afghanis. He asked relevant officials to control fares and act in line with the law against perpetrators. But taxi driver Annullah said despite the rates of fuel dipping, his daily income remained the same. "I agree fuel prices have fallen, but there are fewer passengers, and traffic police also take bribes from drivers." Aminullah, who ... (More on P4)... (19)

Tonnes of Narcotics Set Alight in Parwan

KABUL - Ministry of Interior (MoI) officials on Wednesday set alight narcotics weighing three tonnes in central Parwan province. The drugs torched included heroin, hashish, opium and alcohol, said Abdul Khalil Bakhtiar, director general of the counternarcotics department at the MoI. He said so far around 200 tonnes of drugs had been torched throughout the country this solar year that ends on March 21 and 2,030 detainees re-



ferred to judicial organs. Parwan is home to at least 10,000 individuals addicted to drugs and their number is said to be on the rise at an alarming rate. Some provincial officials and local residents cite easy access to drugs

as the main reason behind the increasing number of addicts. As many as 1.6 million people are addicted to drugs in Afghanistan, which ranks first in poppy cultivation and opium production. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Bomber Arrested in Women Dress



LASHKARGAH - A Taliban insurgent was arrested by the Afghan national security forces while he was busy in insurgency activities by disguising himself in women dress. The Afghan Intelligence - National Directorate of Security (NDS) said Wednesday that the detained militant was identified as Taza Gul who was involved in terrorist activities in Khan-shin district. A statement by NDS said the militant was arrested while he was plotting an attack by planting an improvised explosive

device. The statement further added that the militant had disguised himself in women dress and was collecting information regarding the area where the Afghan forces are routinely commuting. The anti-government armed militants are frequently using improvised explosive device as the weapon of their choice to target the security forces which normally lead to civilian casualties. At least eight civilians were killed following an improvised explosive device attack in southeastern Ghazni province on Tuesday. (KP)

23 Rebels, 4 Security Personnel Killed in Kunduz Fighting

KUNDUZ CITY - Militants have been targeting a security base over the past three days in the Imam Sahib district of northeastern Kunduz province, officials said on Thursday. District head Imamuddin Quraishi told Pajhwok Afghan News 23 militants including their four commanders had been killed during clashes with security personnel in Tashguzar area. He added four army and local police personnel were also killed in the firefights that left six



policemen and 10 insurgents injured. But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the militants had overrun four check posts during the attacks and

killed 13 security personnel. The fighters had also seized weapons from the checkpoints, he said, without giving casualty figures for the Taliban. ... (More on P4)... (20)

Heavy Snowfall Blocks Herat Turkmenistan Highway

HERAT CITY - The Herat-Torghondi highway, connecting the western province with Turkmenistan, was blocked for traffic by heavy snowfall, an official said on Tuesday. Abdul Hameed Mubarez, the Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) head, told Pajhwok Afghan News heavy rain and snowfall resulted in closing the highway. He said around 50 centimetres of snow had fallen so far in Rabat Sangi area, damaging property and killing livestock. It was ... (More on P4)... (21)

Pregnant Woman Ends it all by Jumping into River



PUL-I-KHUMRI - A pregnant woman jumped along with her three years child into the Baghlan River due to frequent domestic violence, official said on Wednesday. Women's Affairs Director Khadija Yaqin said the 27 years old committed suicide last night when she jumped into the river in the Shamruq area of Pul-i-Khumri, the capital of northern Baghlan province. The woman's body was fished out this morning and taken to hospital. Police chief Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel said the woman had problems with her husband. A police team has been sent to site to probe the incident. A police officer by profession, the victim's spouse is currently in custody. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You really don't want to explain every decision you make today because you believe that logic isn't always the most important factor. Talking about your choices now can actually detract from your experience; you prefer to focus on the present moment and simply follow your intuition. Thankfully, you don't need anyone's approval for what you are feeling.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might have a set plan in mind for how the day should unfold, but you can't expect others to be able to read your thoughts. It makes more sense to climb out on a limb and let someone close to you know what you want now. But even if you share your hopes, you still may be misinterpreted if a friend or relative makes an incorrect assumption about your intentions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have very specific emotional needs today, yet it's tricky to find the right words to convey them. To complicate matters further, it's all too easy to imagine the worst because your dreams are overflowing into the real world, making it nearly impossible to separate illusion from reality. Thankfully, struggling to discern the truth isn't necessary if you are willing to allow fact and fiction to exist side by side.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your natural sensitivity to the feelings of those around you is a lot to handle today if you get into a disagreement with someone close to you. Your resistance to change only adds to the confusion, especially if you're afraid of losing your sense of identity. Fortunately, you can capitalize on the gentle Mars-Neptune conjunction by consciously softening your stance while still maintaining your current position.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Hiding your emotional intensity isn't usually a viable strategy because feelings gain power when they are suppressed. Nevertheless, the Moon's short-lived conjunction with controlling Pluto may provoke a melodramatic meltdown. However, if you are frustrated by certain people's inability to do their jobs, losing your temper clears the air of pent-up tension.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Don't be so certain that you know what's happening because your reality filter may not be working all that well today. You might have enough stars in your eyes now to prevent you from seeing what's right in front of you. There are specific tasks that need to be done, but your lack of focus makes staying on track nearly impossible.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may feel as if you've stepped into a world of paradox today. The veil between this world and others is thinner than usual, but you're also quite attached to your creature comforts while pleasure-seeking Venus opposes excessive Jupiter. Don't resist the flow of images that arise from your imagination, even if you can't understand what they mean or what action you should take.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You can tell that your inner landscape is undergoing dramatic psychological change for the better. Although your key planet Pluto is touched by the evocative Moon this morning, other cosmic influences keep the energy steadily moving toward the light. This is an opportunity to step into the shadows, dredge up the past and then let the spiritual process do its magic.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You might be hesitant to place too many expectations on current events, yet you're still feeling quite optimistic about your future prospects. There's nothing wrong with wanting more from life as long as you can avoid obsessing over the idea of success. Your adaptability makes the difference between frustration and happiness.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

There seems to be a lot at stake today and you're tempted to take extreme action to turn the tide in your favor. However, micromanaging emotional tension can backfire if you fall short of keeping up with all the complex interactions. Maintaining control over too many variables is a study in frustration.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A bubble of rainbows and unicorns might be all you need now to protect your dreamy confidence from intrusions by reality. Luckily, your imagination is the wellspring of your future. However, Jupiter's opposition to sweet Venus in your sign makes everything look better than it is and can set you up for disappointment.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You have an eye on the distant horizon now as you consider the vast array of possibilities ahead. Your current need to redefine your goals intensifies as you learn more about the politics of current events in your life. However, you may be driven more by your fascination with a fantasy today than by a realistic goal.

Across

1. Trudge, 5. Place, 10. A romantic meeting, 14. Relating to aircraft, 15. Metaphor, or hyperbole, 16. Dogfish, 17. Meal in a shell, 18. Rancor, 20. Songbird, 22. Weird, 23. Triangular sail, 24. Not over, 25. Bookings, 32. Weaving machines, 33. —garde, 34. Put clothing on, 37. Knife, 38. Highly skilled, 39. Heredity unit, 40. Snake-like fish, 41. Cognizant, 42. Swindle, 43. Clarifies, 45. Noodles, 49. Santa's helper, 50. Asserted, 53. Mixture, 57. A type of craftsman, 59. Cry, 60. Chops, 61. Graven images, 62. Sea eagle, 63. Backside, 64. Threadbare, 65. Shower with love,

Down

1. Taps, 2. Jump, 3. Killer whale, 4. Doorpost, 5. A rapidly flashing light, 6. An old spelling of "True", 7. Dawn goddess, 8. Mimics, 9. Fender blenish, 10. A type of small, mammal, 11. Alter, 12. Slight color, 13. Consumer of food, 19. Believe in 21. Trailer trucks, 25. If not, 26. Memo, 27. Objective, 28. Gentlewoman, 29. Each and all, 30. Scruffs, 31. Explosive, 34. Sandwich shop, 35. A single time, 36. Catches, 38. Reverence, 39. Laughed loudly, 41. Maxim, 42. Foundry, 44. Very small, 45. Ottoman title, 46. Change, 47. Decelerates, 48. Anxious, 51. Arab chieftain, 52. Early 20th-century art movement, 53. Exuviate, 54. Roman emperor, 55. Lady's escort, 56. Type of sword, 58. Drunkard

Yesterday's Solution

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