

Kabul's 111th Battalion Matures, Expands

KABUL - The 111th Central Battalion was created to secure Afghanistan's capital and the larger central zone it lies within. But with the battalion now fully matured when it comes to number of personnel, training and equipment, its commander, General Qadam Shah Shaheem, says that the elite fighting unit is involved in combat operations in various parts of the country. "The 111th Battalion was created six years ago due

to the threats that the capital faced, in order to maintain the security of Kabul," Gen. Shaheem said on Saturday. "Now, this battalion is complete from the point of view of equipment and personnel." Parts of the 111th are now said to be fighting in Kunar, Badakhshan and Kapisa provinces. The primary duties of the 111th in the central zone include guarding the third security belt of the capital, as well as

maintaining security for Kabul airport, Asmaye Mountain, Kabul Bala Hesar and other strategic sites in the capital. During special occasions and celebrations, like Loya Jirgas, New Years and Eid, the 111th is often relied upon. The 111th is the only battalion that has over 50 battle tanks, 30 of which are completely active in the field. However, the tanks are said to be remnants of the Soviet invasion...*(More on P4)...(18)*



2 Die of Gas Inhalation, as Many of Cold



HERAT CITY - Two persons died of inhaling gas leaked from a cylinder at their home and another two --- a father and his son --- died of severe cold in western Herat province, an official said on Saturday. Mohammad Rafique Sherzai, a spokesman for the central hospital in Herat City, told Pajhwok Afghan News an elderly man and a 26-year-old woman had died after inhaling gas in Bikerabad area of the city last night. The father and his son

died of freezing cold weather conditions in the Pashton Zarghon district and their bodies were found and brought to the hospital by police, he said. Relatives of the deceased are yet to turn up. It was for the first time harsh weather claimed lives this winter in Herat, where the temperatures have been plummeting over the past one week, with heavy snow covering most areas, especially mountainous. *(Pajhwok)*

Security Personnel among 26 Killed

KUNDUZ CITY - At least 21 militants and five security personnel have been killed during an operation in the Imam Sahib district of northeastern Kunduz province, an official said on Saturday. District chief Amanuddin Quraishi said that the insurgents were killed during a two-day joint operation by Afghan forces. The bodies of several rebels remained at the scene. He added five of the fighters were wounded during the clashes, which also left three Afghan Local Police personnel and two ANA



soldiers dead. Quraishi said as a result of the offensive, led by the 209th Shaheen Military Corps, five villages including Ghajir, Afghania, Diwana Qushlaq and Tashguzar had been cleared of

rebels. Two days back, local officials said 23 militants including a number of their commanders had been killed in retaliation for repeated attacks on a police base in Tashguzar area. *(Pajhwok)*

Concerns over Harassment of Girls and Boys by Herat Police

KABUL - The Human Rights Department of western Herat province has accused the police forces of harassing and arresting girls and boys on allegations of illicit relationships. The provincial head of the Human Rights Department, Abdul Qadir Rahimi said that the police are arresting girls and boys seen together in public on charges of adultery and "unlawful" relationships. "A number of police want to abuse and stop men and women who are going about their day and question their marital status," Rahimi said adding that this is against their civil liberties. The Human Rights Department believes that such activities have caused chaos for families who want to leave the house, explaining that the police ask for legal documentation from both men and women who walk the city, go to restaurants, or just simply run errands. Herat's provincial attorney chief Gul Ahmad has not rejected the allegations, but claims that many men and women have been jailed on the charges of adultery. "Overall, we have 93 people arrested on the charges of adultery and



immoral activities, but it's not clear how many are true," Gen. Ahmad said. This comes while the head of Herat's Association of Lawyers, Rafi Naderi said that there is no law that allows the arrest of the couple on suspicion of a possible illicit relationship. "There are reports that police are arresting couples regardless of their lack of knowledge of the

law," Naderi said, adding that the arrest of people without documentation is an illegal act. Reports indicate that after clearing the allegations, police have asked for money and other illegal demands in order to hide the matter from the alleged suspects' families. Some of these cases have reportedly resulted in rape by the police force. *A... (More on P4)...(19)*

NDS Operation Kills 3 Insurgents, Arrests 10

JALALABAD - At least three insurgents were killed and 10 others including two suicide bombers were arrested by the National Directorate of Security (NDS) operations in eastern Nangarhar province, NDS said in a statement on Saturday.



The suicide bombers wanted to launch an attack in Behsood district of Nangarhar, but before they could reach the target they were arrested by the NDS, the statement said. "The suicide vests were

controlled by mobile phones," the statement detailed. This comes while, three insurgents were killed and eight others including their commander were arrested in a separate operation in Pacheragam district of

the province, according to the statement. However, the NDS did not provide any details of casualties of the forces during the operations. The Taliban have not yet commented about the operations. *(Tolonews)*

2 Border Police Personnel Killed

JALALABAD - Two border police members were killed and two others wounded in a bomb attack in eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday, an official said. Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the casualties occurred at 11am when the pick-up carrying the border police personnel came under attack. He said the injured po-

licemen were evacuated to hospital and were in stable condition. The bomb exploded near the Kabul terminal in Jalalabad, the provincial capital. Eyewitness Samiullah the ill-fated Ranger pick-up was on its way to the border police base. He believed the vehicle was struck by a magnetic bomb. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. *(Pajhwok)*

337kg of Drugs Seized in Uruzgan

TIRINKOT - Police arrested three men and recovered hundreds of kilograms of narcotics from their possession during two separate raids in central Uruzgan province, an official said on Saturday. Crime branch chief at the police headquarters, Col. Gulab Khan, told Pajhwok Afghan News 152 kg of opium were seized in Sarkhom area and 185kg of hashish in Tirinkot, the provincial capital, last night. Gulab Khan said three persons, arrested in con-

nection with the drugs, had confessed to their crime and their dossiers had been sent to the attorney's office. One of the detainees, Muhammad Nasir, told Pajhwok Afghan News the drugs belonged to some big smugglers and they were paid 1,000 Pakistani rupees for transferring them to southern Kandahar province. It was for a second time in a week that police detained alleged drug smugglers and recovered hundreds of kilograms of narcotics from them. *(Pajhwok)*

Police Commander Gunned Down

LASHKARGAH - Unidentified gunmen on Saturday shot dead a police check-post commander in Lashkargah, the capital of southern Helmand province, an official said. The incident happened at around 12:00 noon in Safyan locality, police spokesman Col. Farid Ahmad Obaid told Pajhwok Afghan News.

After the killing of SS Ahmad Shah, in charge of the check-post, police launched a search for the attackers, who managed to escape. But another security official, who wished not to be named, said that Shah was buying food items from a nearby shop when unknown assailants attacked him. *(Pajhwok)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're highly motivated to inform everyone of your feelings today, but your radical honesty could backfire unless you're gentle in your delivery. Nothing will be gained if you scare people off before they hear what you have to say. Luckily, your day improves dramatically if you soften your rhetoric just a notch.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might feel quite hopeful about getting some much-needed rest and relaxation, but this weekend may bring more action than you prefer. You could be pulled into someone's emotional drama today, but you don't have to get fully involved unless you want to participate. At first, it's challenging to resist taking the bait, but it's smarter to keep quiet before you find yourself in over your head.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Ironically, you will discover a new direction to take once you make a real commitment to finish whatever is already on your plate. Unfortunately, it may not be all that easy to concentrate now because you long to jump into the next distraction as soon as it comes your way. Leave plenty of time to fulfill your responsibilities today, even if your friends tempt you with intriguing alternatives.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

There's no reason to conform to people's narrow expectations today just because they assume you want to stay home, comfortable in your shell. Your current adventurous streak may surprise everyone when you spontaneously head out to do something exciting on your own now without even discussing your plans with anyone else.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Although you may not be completely free to do anything you want today, it's still healthy to make some special plans for the immediate future. You can derive much enjoyment from simply dreaming up something wonderful, even if the opportunity to escape hasn't arrived yet. In the meantime, think on a large scale.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

There's a lot of commotion around you today, making you feel nervous if you think that you might become uprooted from your secure place in the world. Alternatively, relinquishing control might prove to be exhilarating now, assuming you can find the courage to go on an emotional joyride. Thankfully, you will probably end up in better shape than you started in, so say yes to an invitation for fun before the opportunity passes.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Defending your position might be necessary this weekend, especially if you feel your emotional security is tied up with the need to protect yourself. You don't have to go too far out of your way and waste energy trying to be nice if anyone acts disrespectfully toward you. Although you may startle others if you push back to make your point, no one has the right to be overly bossy or take advantage of your good nature.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Losing your temper over something that may ultimately be unimportant can add a simple twist of fate to your day. Your perspective is slightly warped now by your heightened sense of urgency, but acknowledging you are more impatient than usual helps you manage your feelings more effectively.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Keeping the lid on your feelings is not a good idea today. It's wiser to let them out gradually, rather than waiting until they explode at the wrong time. You aren't doing anyone any favors by bottling up your emotions because they will just continue to intensify out of your control. Act consciously by discussing your concerns objectively, instead of throwing a tantrum later on.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You won't have to go too far to discover something new and different now. The excitable Aries Moon's presence in your 4th House of Home and Family indicates that adventure could find you wherever you are. Even if you don't think you need an extra adrenaline rush, you probably won't be able to resist the inevitable.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You might be looking for a quick getaway and this weekend could be perfect for escaping to a special place. Don't let previous plans stress you out because you should be able to put your obligations on temporary hold. Naturally, you'll need to return to unfinished chores, but in the interim, relax and enjoy your mini-retreat.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your current confidence makes all the difference between a quiet day that comes and goes without much notice and a memorable one that is made for the record books. The self-directed Aries Moon emboldens your 2nd House of Self-Worth, empowering you to take responsibility for whatever you do now.

Across

1. Rise, 6. Soft drink, 10. Immediately, 14. Hue, 15. Affirm, 16. Unadulterated, 17. Bicker, 18. Provide nourishment, 19. Arab chieftain, 20. In a crosswise direction 22. Untruths, 23. Collections, 24. Sewing tool, 26. Air force heroes, 30. Born as, 31. Pair, 32. Flutter, 33. Region, 35. African antelope, 39. A pasta dish 41. A 17th century style of music, 43. A drama set to music, 44. A long way off, 46. White aquatic bird, 47. Bother, 49. French for "Summer", 50. Harvard rival, 51. Sleeping sickness carrier, 54. Distribute, 56. Nobleman, 57. Graniteware, 63. Swing around, 64. Whipper, 65. Districts, 66. Cuts off, 67. Biblical garden, 68. Mountain lakes, 69. Picnic insects

Down

1. Leave in a hurry, 2. Unit of pressure, 3. Aquatic plant, 4. Person, place or thing, 5. Put on clothes, 6. Self-serve restaurant, 7. Supervise, 8. Dregs, 9. Fervent, 10. Scientific study of caves, 11. Abnormally distended, 12. Disney mermaid, 13. Brusque, 21. Corrupt, 25. Pitcher, 26. Hairdo, 27. Applaud, 28. Overhang, 29. Apathetic, 34. Respite, 36. Shade of blue, 37. Nonexistent, 38. Expunge, 40. Paddles, 42. Mountain crest, 45. Women, 48. Custodian, 51. Electrical pioneer, 52. Beauty parlor, 53. Blow up, 55. Gladden, 58. Naked, 59. Envelop, 60. Relating to aircraft, 61. South African monetary unit, 62. Being

Yesterday's Solution

after, babe, baker, believe, beside, broke, brownies, chair, compliment, cost, dinner, dismay, eager, early, expect, front, greet, halter, hint, lair, loss, nice, pause, place, quick, reach, rots, school, second, sent, short, slight, smile t a b l e, tale, teenage, there, tonight

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