

Explosives Used in Hotel Attack Traced Back to Pakistan: NDS

KABUL - In a statement issued by the NDS, they have seized the vehicle used in Saturday's deadly attack on the Intercontinental Hotel.

National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Tuesday announced that initial investigations show that the explosives used by Taliban insurgents in the attack on the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul on Saturday came from Pakistan.

The NDS also recovered the vehicle that attackers used to enter the hotel compound.

"The explosive materials seized in the vehicle shows that the material is made in Pakistan," said the NDS in a press release. According to the NDS statement, the explosive chemical used by the insurgents was produced by a company in Islamabad called Biao Industries Limited.

According to Biao's website, the company is a modern state of the art explosive manufacturing company. It states it is highly automated and can produce more than 2,500 metric tons of explosives per shift annually. ...*(More on P4)...(9)*



Pakistan Refusing Entry to Afghan Fruits at Torkham Gate

JALALABAD - Pakistan has been refusing to allow dozens of trucks loaded with fruits from Afghanistan to cross into the neighboring country via Torkham border crossing, officials said on Tuesday.



Shakirullah Sapi, spokesman for the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), said around 60 trucks loaded with fresh fruits remained stranded on this side of the border in eastern Nangarhar province over the past eight days.

He said the issue had been conveyed to the Ministry of Commerce and Industries and the Presidential Palace. He added the Afghan government should mobilize diplomatic channels to resolve the issue and called on Pakistani authorities not to create hurdles for Afghan traders.

Haji Imran Khan, a fresh fruit businessman, said the Pakistani government had always created hurdles for Afghan businessmen and traders.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, said the issue had been shared with the central authority and efforts were being made on diplomatic front to resolve the problem. In line with the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) signed in July 2010, Mohammad Bashir Dodyal, a Nangarhar University teacher, said the Pakistani move to stop Afghanistan fresh fruits export was against the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA).

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul said the ban was not limited to Afghanistan only but Pakistan had banned exports of 800 items. (Pajhwok)

Afghan Herbs and Spices Total \$144m USD in Exports

KABUL - ACCI officials said the export of herbs and spices has increased substantially in the past year.

Officials from Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) on Tuesday said that the export of Afghan spices and herbs has significantly increased this year, earning the country over \$144 million USD.

Liquorice, cumin and saffron are among the main export items in this sector.

Meanwhile, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and



Livestock (MAIL) have said that the ministry is planning new programs to help increase the cultivation

of valuable herbs and spices in the country so that Afghanistan can ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Voter Lists Being Prepared Based on Old NICs

KABUL - Independent Election Commission (IEC) acting head Wasima Badghisi said on Wednesday that voter lists would be completed based on the old paper National Identity Cards (NICs).

Badghisi, addressing a ceremony introducing a new commissioner, said the commission was busy discharging its activities in districts and provinces and fresh voter lists would be arranged using the manual NIC cards.

Despite efforts to launch distribution of electronic NICs, the

plan could not be implemented due to a deadlock in the lower house.

According to Badghisi, donors and the government had pledged to provide \$29.4 million for the voters' registration process.

The newly introduced commissioner Syed Hafizullah Hashami stressed the need for timely He said the election process needed trust building and hard work in collaboration with other commissioners.

Hashami added the role of security ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Afghanistan May Take Border Spat with Iran to UN

HERAT CITY - The existing border disputed between Afghanistan and Iran would be taken to the UN, an official in western Herat province said on Wednesday.

Border and Tribal Affairs Director Nazir Ahmad Haidarzada told Pajhwok Afghan News the dispute was over two areas on the border between the two countries. He accused the Iranian government of establishing bazaars at the zero point during the civil war to facilitate communities living on the border.

But the bazaars of Islam Qala and Kalata-Nazar were shut by the government in 2011. He said Iran claimed the ownership of the

two bazaars. "If Iran claims the ownership of these two bazaars, we will refer the issue to the UN for a settlement," the official warned, saying a joint delegation had reviewed the claims.

However, the director said, representatives of the neighbouring countries had differences on the issue. If not resolved bilaterally, the tiff would be taken to the UN, he added.

Ghulam Mohammad, a resident of Khasan district who lives near the border, said Iran had initially set up small bazaars to provide the people ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Abbasi Seeks US Aid for Repatriation of Afghan Refugees

PESHAWAR - Pakistan has repeatedly told the United States there is no room for "do more" in the war on terrorism, says Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. The ongoing conflict in neighbouring Afghanistan could be resolved through dialogue, the

If the US was genuinely interested in bringing peace to Afghanistan, he said, it should provide assistance for the repatriation of over three million Afghan refugees to their homeland.

Pakistan was fighting the war on terror in its own interests, Abbasi said, promising the campaign ...*(More on P4)...(13)*



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries Your life continues to grow stranger and stranger -- and you're still not sure this is the end of it. A complicated relationship could take an unexpected turn. A project that was on schedule might suddenly unravel. Or, perhaps, a long-term spiritual practice dramatically propels you into another dimension.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus A relationship with someone special is opening your heart and mind in entirely new directions. However, change is not easy, especially when it pulls you off the paved highway and into the unexplored jungle. Nevertheless, your senses are alive and tingling, and you are eagerly awaiting what comes next.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Opportunities at work can clear a path to your success, but only if you're willing to set aside what you've learned on the job so far. It's not that your previous experience has led you astray; it's just that any assumptions based upon what you think you know could prevent you from seeing the array of possibilities ahead. The cosmos is inviting you to play a whole new game, and the old rules no longer apply.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer You are looking at your future through a very practical lens as you gaze off into the distance today. Nevertheless, the safety-conscious Taurus Moon can keep you from making the most of this fortuitous moment. Throwing away your map frees your mind to perceive reality as it is, rather than how it's drawn.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You know what you should do today, especially if you want to maintain stability in a long-term relationship. But you have a sneaking suspicion that there is more going on than your five senses can tell you. You know you need to explore these unseen realms, but you don't know where to find them.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo Your overly analytical mind will only entangle you in verbal threads, turning you into a spider trapped in its own web. Words are of no help while your key planet Mercury -- which is normally your connection to logic -- is dancing with physical Mars and spiritual Neptune out beyond the constraints of language. Any attempts to describe your destination only makes it impossible to reach.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Facing hard facts about your past empowers you to move forward with more resolve than ever before. New insights into your personal history can magically untangle knots of mistrust that have previously blocked your creative evolution. A deeper understanding of your untapped talent can supply you with a reawakened passion that inspires you to begin to fulfill your potential.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio You want to rely on the support of your closest friends and family, but this strategy doesn't always translate into a smooth execution of your plans. Unfortunately, other people's resistance to your efforts may impede your progress now. However, your willingness to stand up for what is right can make a big difference in the outcome.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius Although you're typically more concerned with embarking on adventures than acquiring possessions, material matters outweigh other issues today. An obstinate Mercury-Pluto conjunction falls in your 2nd House of Income, compelling you to focus on financial details now. However, you must first develop a clear sense of purpose in order to shift from a strategic big-picture view to a perspective that takes care of business one item at a time.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn It's tempting to put all your eggs in one basket today, but that strategy invites swift failure. Rather than concentrating most of your energy on your personal agenda, widen your sites and expand your peripheral vision. Adding social events to your calendar is one way to solidify relationships with your friends and your local community.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

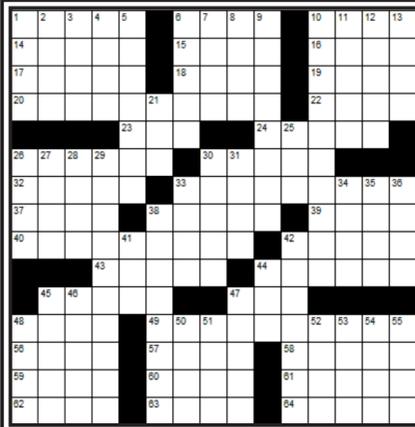


Aquarius Recognition for your contribution at work could be forthcoming, but it may manifest very differently than you expect. Do your best to avoid assumptions about future activities, because your preconceived notions could interfere with a best-case scenario that's outside of your current thinking. You are rolling along on a track and will likely see your path through to its conclusion.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces There may be some exciting travel plans in your future but you might want to schedule your trip right away, before action-oriented Mars leaves your 9th House of Expeditions tomorrow. Unfortunately, you will only confuse matters if you try to nail down the specific dates now. Instead of being preoccupied with the logistics, stay focused on the big picture.



Across

1. Unit of land, 5. Sleighs, 10. A building for skating, 14. Swimming hole, 15. Heaps 16. Again, 17. Mix, 19. Within, 20. Record (abbrev.), 21. Pee, 22. Out of kilter, 23. Non-believer, 25. Bog hemp, 27. Beer, 28. Hideousness, 31. Slash, 34. Colonic, 35. A sizeable hole, 36. Friends and neighbors, 37. Furnaces, 38. Arid, 39. Fury, 40. Anagram of "Debit", 41. Caused by streptococci, 42. Aimed, 44. Letter after sigma, 45. Birch relative, 46. Wash 50. Test versions, 52. Illustrated, 54. Large Australian flightless bird, 55. Goddess of discord, 56. Limits, 58. Prima donna problems, 59. Proprietor, 60. Skin disease, 61. Small horse, 62. Jittery, 63. Marries, ,

Down

1. 3-banded armadillo, 2. Astronomical visitor, 3. Blackbeetle, 4. L., 5. Scant, 6. Circumscribe 7. Distinctive flair, 8. Cleanser, 9. South southeast, 10. Dried grape, 11. Hotelier, 12. Memo 13. Be cognizant of 18. Cunning, 22. Dogfish, 24. Every single one, 26. Charity, 28. Lacking leadership, 29. "Your majesty", 30. Stair, 31. Playlet, 32. Former Italian currency, 33. Doing or saying again, 34. A soft quilt, 37. Go fly a ____, 38. Render unconscious 40. What we sleep on, 41. Steam bath, 43. Smooth, 44. Tastelessly showy, 46. Paths, 47. Defrost 48. Make improvements, 49. Tricks, 50. Horn sound, 51. Therefore, 53. Litter's littlest 56. Type of snake, 57. Uncooked,

Yesterday's Solution



allot, attune, aware, boost buyer, buzzer, cause crash, curative deaf, decor, deprive, desire explode, fluctuate frantic, future gander lizard, loyal, lulled luster, models neap outlaw, oxygen, paltry

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