

# Armed Men Gun Down 4 De-Miners

LASHKAR GAH - Unidentified armed men shot dead four de-miners in Gereshk district of the southern Helmand province on Wednesday, spokesman for provincial government, Omar Zawak said. "Four de-miners who were busy in sweeping mines and explosive devices in Nawabad area of Gereshk district today morning were gunned down by armed men at 10:00 a.m. local time," Zawak told Xinhua. One more de-miner was injured and the assailants took another de-miner away to an unknown loca-



tion, Zawak added. No group or individuals have claimed responsibility for the incident. Taliban militants, who are active in Gereshk district, haven't commented. Thousands of mines and unexploded ordnances have been left in the country from over three decades of war and civil strife. Several national and international demining agencies have been working in Afghanistan to rid the war-torn country of mines and unexploded devices. (Xinhua)

## UNMAS Condemns Attack on Deminers in Helmand

KABUL - The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) on Wednesday strongly condemned a gun attack on a demining team of Demining Agency For Afghanistan (DAFA) in southern Helmand province, killing four workers. In a statement, UNMAS said unknown militants shot dead three deminers hired from the local community and one site operations officer. One DAFA community section leader was missing. The statement said there was no known motive for the unprovoked killing of the humanitarian workers. The incident took place at approximately 10:35am in Abbazhai village of Nahr-i-Seraj district, where the DAFA demining teams were conducting their normal mine clearance activities when a group of unknown armed men arrived and attacked them. In 2015, landmines, unexploded ordnance and PPIEDs claimed at least 23 civilian casualties. Helmand...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Taliban Blow up Power Line Utility

BISHKEK - With the intensification of military operations by government forces against the Taliban in Baghlan province, the insurgent group has hit back by cutting off imported power from Uzbekistan to Kabul, reported TOLONews. Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat Chairman Mirwais Alimi told that the Taliban has blown up a major electricity pylon in Dand-e-Shahabuddin area near Baghlan-Kunduz highway. According to Alimi, the damaged pylon can be repaired within a day if the area is cleared of insurgents. This comes after local officials in northern Baghlan province told TOLONews that a large-



scale military operation was launched in three parts of Dand-e-Ghori area in Pul-e-Khumri city on Tuesday morning in order to clear the areas of militants. Local officials said that more than 2,000 Afghan security force members are taking part in the operation. (AKI-press)

## 10 Rebels Killed in Aqcha; Woman Dead in Rocket Strike

SHIBERGHAN - At least 10 militants have been killed during a clearing operation in Aqcha district of northern Jawzjan province, where a rocket strike left a civilian dead and nine others injured, officials said on Wednesday. Senior police officer Col. Abdul Hafiz Khashisaid the operation was ongoing to clear insecure areas of militants. He added 10 rebels had been killed and seven others wounded in Aqcha during the past 24 hours. Security forces suffered no casualties. Khashi said a woman was killed and two others, including a child, were injured when a rocket fired by the militants hit a civilian house in Qum village. However, a Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed four security...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Kunduz Residents Concerned at Increasing Robberies

KUNDUZ CITY - The residents say are concerned about increasing armed robberies in northern Kunduz province, where 160 individuals have been detained on charges of various crimes during the past one year. Crime branch police chief Col. Najibullah Sarter said the 160 detained individuals faced charges ranging from murders, kidnapping, robbery, drug trafficking and others. "Although we arrested fewer people this year compared to the past year, our



assessment shows crimes have reduced in Kunduz as a result of people's cooperation with police and police awareness about rights of citizens," he said. Over the past two months, more than 40 people were arrested over 17 different crimes in the province, he said. Meanwhile, residents complained about increasing incidents of robberies in...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Leader of Jamaat Ansarullah Killed in Afghanistan

KABUL - Tajikistan said that Mullah Amriddin, the leader of banned Tajik movement of Jamaat Ansarullah has been killed in Afghanistan, Interfax news agency reports. The country's Interior Minister Ramazon Rahimzoda told a press conference on Monday that Mullah Amriddin was killed during a special operation. "The fate of Mullah Amriddin is already decided. He was killed in Afghanistan, approximately six months ago. He was killed during a special operation," according to Interfax, ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## NDS Seizes Arms Cache of Taliban in Maidan Wardak

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Wednesday seized an arms cache of Taliban militants in Jalriz District of central Maidan Wardak province. A statement released by NDS stated that explosive materials and rounds of different types of heavy and light weapons were hidden in the cache. "Terrorists planned to target vehicles with these materials on...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## UN Hands over RAHA Projects to Balochistan Govt

KABUL - The UN refugee agency on Wednesday announced handing over three health, water supply and education projects, which were upgraded under the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative, to the Balochistan government. The Rs51 million (27m afs) projects included a newly constructed emergency centre building, construction and rehabilitation of schools and installation and construction of



water tanks and water pumps in six villages of Chaghi district. A statement from UN-HCR said RAHA initiative served as an important vehicle for improving access to and quality services for both Afghan refugees and their host communities. Last year, nearly 1...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## 7 Daesh Men Among 10 Militants Detained

JALALABAD - Seven Daesh, or so-called Islamic State (IS), and three Taliban insurgents have been detained in the eastern province of Nangarhar, officials said on Wednesday. The militants, hailing from Nangarhar, Kandahar, Helmand and Saman-

## ALP Commander Gunned Down in Baghlan

PUL-I-KHUMRI - An Afghan Local Police (ANP) commander has been gunned down in northern Baghlan province, the governor said on Wednesday. Abdul Sattar Bariz told Pajhwok Afghan News the ALP commander, Sahar Gul, was shot dead by unknown...*(More on P4)...(23)*

### Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You may be emotionally conflicted today because it's not all that easy to restrain your impulses. You are worried about misplacing your efforts, yet you also enjoy the feeling of inner power. Your concern is sufficient to stop you from wasting your talents by succumbing to your need for immediate gratification. You understand that waiting for the right moment is necessary now to insure your great success.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You are all about momentum today, making it tricky to change direction on a moment's notice. If you are taking it easy, you want to continue doing nothing until you feel enough pressure to make you uncomfortable. But if you've been on the move since you jumped out of bed, it will be tough to stop. Once you make your mind up, you are reluctant to switch teams mid-stream.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might experience a minor meltdown today as you temporarily perform like a perfectionist. It's not that you're necessarily sloppy by nature; it's just you usually are happy to let go of something once you are done with it. Nevertheless, you're currently motivated to obsess over every little detail, and you don't want to leave any loose ends untied. Your uncharacteristic tenacity may trigger a power struggle with someone who isn't supportive.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your feelings are larger than life today, but you still prefer to keep them to yourself. Although people might attempt to manipulate you by pulling on your heartstrings, you possess the strength to hold onto your point of view without budging. However, you could cling to your perspective so adamantly now that others think you're the one trying to control them.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You're encountering a strange bout of self-doubt today, but you will find a more positive place to land before you know it. Your feelings and actions seem to be out of kilter with each other now, yet your coworkers might not even notice the difference. Nevertheless, being overly cautious one moment and more exuberant the next can feed unrealistic expectations in those around you.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Lingering problems that re-stimulate past memories have been festering quietly beneath the surface. These could be your feelings or someone else's, but in either case it's a perfect time to face the music and talk it out. An unpleasant encounter or awkward moment might act as the catalyst, but once the emotions are out in the open, there is great potential for resolving the conflict.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You feel close to making a breakthrough concerning your spiritual beliefs, but you might have to wait a little bit longer before shouting it from the rooftop. Perhaps you have been dreaming about a new direction in life, but kept your wishes quiet. Now it's time to finalize your plans before putting them into motion. But don't let your best ideas leak out prematurely.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You could be so enthusiastic about your future that you lose proper perspective. Unfortunately, it is your inflated confidence that can lead to trouble today. Be willing to question your own assumptions and listen to what people are telling you without putting up protective defenses. It's only when you think you already know the truth and shut people out that you have cause for worry.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Archers are cosmically blessed with the gift of seeing the world through a wide-angle lens. After all you are known to be the great philosophers and travelers of the zodiac. However, you're more cautious in your thinking today. Paradoxically, narrowing your scope of vision allows you to open your mind wider than before. It's as if carefully fine-tuning your ideas makes them more popular. It seems like everyone wants to jump on your bandwagon.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

There are days for action and days for planning. You may be less productive today, but your analytical abilities are operating at their optimum. What you currently lack in physical stamina is compensated by your practical organizational skills, which are working on overdrive. For now, forget about your shortcomings and focus on what you do best.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You are quite philosophical about life now, making this a perfect time to reconsider lingering emotional issues that are weighing on your mind. Your current advantage is your ability to see where your personal needs are not being satisfied without losing objectivity. If a relationship is the source of struggle today, be rational about the reality of the situation so you can make intelligent decisions about what to do next.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your current interactions with people are the source of both good news and bad news now. The good news is amazing opportunities are knocking loudly at your door. However, the bad news is you might be so enchanted with what you are already doing that you can't stop to let them in. A chance of a lifetime won't just stand there waiting forever, so jump up and joyfully embrace the future while the planets are smiling in your direction.

**Across**

1. Peddle, 5. Unit of electrical energy, 10. Steals, 14. Dwarf buffalo, 15. Units of land, 16. Competent, 17. Encouraging, 19. Annoying insect, 20. Fury, 21. Goodwill, 22. Untidy people, 23. Snuggled, 25. Unwind, 27. Scarlet, 28. Heathenism, 31. Great fear, 34. Hazy, 35. Half of a pair, 36. Breezy, 37. Jimmies, 38. A set of garments, 39. Actress Lupino, 40. Long times, 41. Garbage, 42. Alluvial deposit, 44. Small portable bed, 45. Awkward, 46. A small fireproof dish, 50. Gash, 52. A kind of macaw, 54. Citrus drink, 55. A Maori club, 56. Self-centered, 58. Always, 59. Dishes out, 60. Out of control, 61. Walk in water, 62. Utilizers, 63. Handguns.

**Down**

1. Indian antelope, 2. Habituate, 3. Runs, 4. One time around, 5. Bumped around, 6. Group of eight, 7. Relating to urine, 8. Invests with borrowed money, 9. East southeast, 10. Type of sleeve, 11. Offensive, 12. Tell all, 13. Collections, 18. Leered, 22. Kill, 24. Found in a cafeteria, 26. Hens make them, 28. Dot, 29. Hissy fit, 30. Distribute, 31. Speaker's platform, 32. Go on horseback, 33. Shot out light rays, 34. Lands abutting streets, 37. Chick's sound, 38. Satisfy, 40. Nursemaid, 41. Adult female, 43. Underwrite, 44. Gentle stroke, 46. Formula 1 driver, 47. Fate, 48. Fool, 49. They hold up heads, 50. Gush, 51. Magma, 53. Learning method, 56. Large flightless bird, 57. Children's game.

**Yesterday's Solution**

abusive, adapt, adequate, arrest, assessment, bridle, cape, captive, cheer, coed, crock, dome, elite, endow, errs, expunge, happen, kidnap, lade, lecture, legend, loose, lure, matter, mete, mimic, moat, oppose, peas, report, rescue, retraction, seek, seize, speech, spoils.

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