

Chechen, Tajik Rebels Lead Warduj Clashes: Official

KABUL - Security officials in Badakhshan said Wednesday that one of the main goals of insurgents in the area is to bring about the collapse of Warduj district in the north-eastern province. In addition, the insurgency is being led by mostly Tajik and Chechen rebels, officials said. Afghan National Army (ANA) operational commander Hamid Saifi has confirmed the existence of foreign fighters in Warduj, and said their main aim is to take



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control of the district. "We will fight and defend the country until the last drop of our blood and we will not let the enemy achieve their nefarious ends," he said. Another ANA commander Mohammad Salem said despite insurgents bent on taking control of the district, this will not happen. "The enemies of Afghanistan have faced heavy damages and their decision to take control of Warduj has failed," he said. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Afghan Soldier Who Fled US Training Site Granted Asylum

BUFFALO, N.Y. - Federal officials have granted asylum to an Afghan military officer who along with two comrades slipped away from a U.S. training exercise in Massachusetts to avoid being sent back home.



months after an immigration judge denied asylum. Arash and two Afghan military captains left a

training exercise on Cape Cod last September and took a cab more than 500 miles to the Canadian border at Niagara Falls, where they were detained. The officers said they feared being sent back to Afghanistan because they had been threatened by the Taliban. One of the other officers was allowed into Canada in December. The third officer's asylum case is pending. *(AP)*

14 Taliban Insurgents Killed in US Drone Strike

JALALABAD - At least 14 Taliban insurgents were killed in a U.S. drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday evening, local officials said on Wednesday. In addition, several other insurgents were injured. The strike took place in

Much Magi area of Lalpoor district of the province after a U.S. drone targeted the Taliban insurgents, a spokesman for provincial police chief, Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said. "Two safe havens of the insurgents were destroyed during the strikes and there

were no civilian casualties," he said. Lalpoor borders Pakistan and is an area where insurgents are known to be active and where they frequently target the local security forces. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. *(Tolonews)*

Army General Arrested for Drug Smuggling

PUL-E-KHUMRI - An army general was arrested by police in northern Baghlan province on Tuesday for allegedly smuggling drugs, local officials said. Nezamuddin Nezam, Director of the Counter Narcotics Police Headquarters of Baghlan said that a general from the recruitment



division in northern Balkh province was arrested by the

police on Tuesday. "He had placed 19kg of heroin in a military vehicle in Takhar province and wanted to transfer it to Nangarhar province when arrested by the police," Nezam said. Two other military soldiers were also arrested with the general, he added. *(Tolonews)*

1 Afghan, 8 Pakistani Soldiers Killed in Border

SHARAN - One Afghan border police commander and eight Pakistani soldiers have been killed in an overnight exchange of cross-border fire in the Angoor Adda locality in southeastern Paktika province, a tribal elder said. Juma Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News the gun battle erupted after Pakistan soldiers tried to create a check-post deep inside the Afghan territory. Interior Ministry Spokesman Sadique Sadiqui confirmed the clash between Afghan and Pakistan security forces in the Barmal district. A security official wishing anonymity confirmed the incident and said: "We are offering funeral ceremony of Commander Najibullah, who



was killed in the overnight fighting on the border." But, Pakistan media reported six security personnel were injured in firing and shelling from Afghan security forces in South Waziristan tribal agency on Wednesday. Afghan security forces early on Wednesday morning fired mortar shells at a security check-post in the Angoor Adda area of South Waziristan. *(Pajhwok)*

Paktika Fighting Leaves 14 Insurgents Dead

SHARAN - At least 14 militants were killed and several other wounded in fierce fighting between security forces and Taliban in Gomal district in southeastern Paktika province, an authority said on Wednesday. Nabiullah Pirkhail, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the firefight

erupted between well-armed militants and that fleeing Taliban left behind bodies of their colleagues and huge arms and ammunitions. Security forces, he said had recovered some landmines believed to be planted by the Haqani Network. "The group wanted to use the explosive materials for terror acts but security forces foiled their plans by defusing the explosives," he added. Around 126 bags of ammonium nitrate were being smuggled ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Suicide Attempts among Herat Women on the Rise



HERAT CITY - As many as 60 people in western Herat province have tried to commit suicide during the past three months out of which 10 persons, including five women, have been died while 50 others were rescued, an official said on Wednesday. Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, spokesman of Herat zonal hospital, said majority of individuals who wanted to commit suicide

were women and they used poison or hanged themselves to get rid of life. Failure in the arrest and punishment of perpetrators behind the incidents of violence, psychological problems and family disputes are considered main reasons behind surge in violence, he said. Last year, as many as 15 incidents of suicide took place in Herat and such incident could only be registered in hospitals. Samia Tahir, an official at the women affairs department, acknowledged incidents of suicide were on the rise in Herat. She expressed grave concern over the issue and criticized security institution for not punishing criminals and individuals involved in violence against women ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

16 People Killed & Wounded in Separate Incidents

KABUL - Eight people, including four civilians, have been killed and as many injured during different incidents in Maidan Wardak, Herat and Badghis provinces, officials said on Wednesday. Two civilians were killed by Taliban insurgents on the accusation that they spied for the government in the Karukh district of western Herat province on Tues-

day evening, the district police chief said. Col. Sher Agha said one of the victims was a teacher and their bodies had been released to their families from the district hospital. He insisted the slain persons had no connection with any party to the conflict and were innocent. In the same district, insurgents killed nearly a dozen Afghan soldiers few days ago. ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Police Seize 1,100 Kg of Hashish in Logar

PUL-I-ALAM - Police on Wednesday claimed seizing around 1,100 kilograms of hashish in central Logar. Maj. Qari Mohammad Wara, senior police official, told Pajhwok Afghan News the smugglers were transporting hashish in a Prado vehicle. The smugglers wanted to freight the hashish from eastern province to western provinces. Hasibullah Stanakzai, head of provincial council, said Azri district road had turned a peaceful route for drug smugglers. "The smugglers pay huge amount to Taliban to create insecurity in the district so they would smuggle the drugs easily through several districts of Logar," he added. He said that security forces should work out a comprehensive strategy to control drugs peddling in the province. *(Pajhwok)*

Family Feud, Traffic Crash Leave 4 Dead, 9 Hurt

CHARIKAR - One person was killed and 7 others wounded in two separate incidents, including armed clash between two families and a traffic accident in Parwan province. Police Chief Mohammad Zaman Mamozai told Pajhwok Afghan News 2 families resorted to gun battle after verbal dispute which left 1 person dead and another wounded in the Toghbandi locality of Charikar, the provincial capital. Separately, three people, including two children, were killed and two others wounded the other day. In Slang district, six people were wounded in a traffic mishap when a passenger car crashed head-on with a truck in Takhma locality. Ishaq Nasimi, a doctor at the civil hospital, said six injured, including three women had been admitted to the hospital. *(Pajhwok)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You have plenty to accomplish in a short time. Unfortunately, it may take a lot to motivate you if you would rather be enjoying the lazy hazy days of summer. Nevertheless, you will be happier by the end of the day if you don't say yes to the first social invitation that pops up. Start your work engine and shift into gear; the more you finish early in the day, the more freedom you'll enjoy later on.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

There's electricity crackling in the air today and, luckily, you might not have to go far to enjoy the experience. In fact, if you must head out into the world you'll want to plug back into the relaxation and fun that awaits you when you return. Whether or not your home is where your heart is, you won't be able to fully relax unless you're feeling emotionally secure.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your charm and cleverness are operating so efficiently that you could talk your way into getting nearly anything you want. However, tread carefully because there's more going on than meets the eye and your words have the potential to unleash deeper issues. Happy days may be here again, but don't get so captivated by the possible sensual delights that you forget about the more mundane things that require your immediate attention.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your mind is running a mile a minute, but no one seems to know what's going on in your head. The speed of your thoughts may be impacting your clarity without you realizing it. Although your self-confidence is on the rise, it actually helps if you don't talk about every little thing that is bothering you. Instead, give yourself permission to pursue the activities that make your heart sing.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Life seems to be settling down and the stress is finally dissipating. You're eager to see the hectic energy pass, but you're not looking for too much peace and quiet, either. Take advantage of opportunity that lands at your feet, but don't inflate a good idea into one that you believe will surely save the world. As soon as your thinking grows out of hand, you'll have a harder time reaching your goals.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Satisfying your romantic urges can be tricky business if you're not willing to reveal your vulnerability. Although your desires are intense today, you might not know how to express them without making someone feel uneasy. In general, relationships are somewhat destabilized now and your all-too-vivid fantasies won't necessarily add any certainty to the equation.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You might as well keep your glass slippers polished, since at any moment you could be asked to be the belle (or prince) of the ball. Although your sweet charm wins the crowd over, there are additional reasons to anticipate a happy outcome. Make the most of whatever social activities you partake in today. A fairy tale ending is possible if you have the courage to break through your preconceived limitations.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Confronting troublesome issues is cathartic and can cultivate healing while the planets are in a forgiving mood. You are in better emotional shape to express your feelings in your small corner of the world, so people can easily see your sincerity. Don't withdraw from your stated mission; your top priority is not about being nice - even if you are attempting to be kind in your delivery.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your keen ability to envision the distant horizon inspires you to make big plans for your future. But just because you have your next great adventure all mapped out in your mind, doesn't mean that anyone has a clue as to what you're up to yet. You're nearly ready to transform your intentions into actions so make the best use of these next few days to visualize your trajectory.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You have been recently spending an inordinate amount of time exploring profound issues about your own mortality, your relationships and the mysteries of the universe. But as you attempt to make sense out of the changing landscape, you're anticipating moving into the next phase where things will lighten up. However, you're not free to jump into the future quite yet.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Coworkers or friends might be exceptionally nice to you now. Happily, you feel blessed with all this affection and attention, even if you're not sure why everyone is treating you so sweetly. Sometimes there aren't rational answers to all your questions. Joyfully connecting with others presents an opportunity to practice receiving love, no matter what you believe you really deserve.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Unresolved relationship dynamics can interfere with the good vibes all around you. It doesn't matter that you may be considering every possible emotional scenario if you're still clinging to the path you already chose. You need to let go of your certainty if you want to see real progress. Demonstrate the healing power of love by making the first move and meeting others halfway.

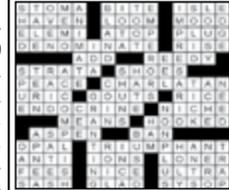
Across

- 1. To cast aside (archaic), 5. Tabs, 10. Self-satisfied, 14. Angel's headwear, 15. Fable writer, 16. South American country, 17. To begin with, 19. Unrestrained revelry, 20. 2,000 pounds, 21. Belly button, 22. The vistas, 23. Trespass, 25. Broiled, 27. Genus of macaws, 28. Dominance, 31. Numbskull, 34. Loins, 35. French for "Friend", 36. Sword, 37. Flora and fauna, 38. Make a sweater, 39. Not high, 40. Abrasive, 41. Relaxes, 42. Infuses, 44. Liveliness, 45. A forehead dot, 46. Go-between, 50. Not last, 52. A stone fragment, 54. Nigerian tribesman, 55. Midmonth date, 56. A remarkable development, 58. Boyfriend, 59. Choose by voting, 60. Curved molding, 61. Rice beer, 62. Coils, 63. Where a bird lives

Down

- 1. Hindu loincloth, 2. Moses' brother, 3. A hard kind of stone, 4. Mist, 5. 2nd largest country, 6. Throw with effort, 7. Small island, 8. Tollhouse, 9. Secret agent, 10. Uttered, 11. Lines of longitude, 12. Desire, 13. Not gals, 18. Accustom, 22. An outer surface, 24. Dash, 26. Dogfish, 28. Smelter waste, 29. Leave out, 30. Pesky insects, 31. Sandwich shop, 32. Atop, 33. Newsflash, 34. Like a girl, 37. Hairless, 38. Yachting cap, 40. Clue, 41. Kingdom, 43. Kleenex, 44. Flyers, 46. Javelin, 47. Burn slightly, 48. Double-reed instruments, 49. A nine-piece musical group, 50. Little lies, 51. Bright thought, 53. Equal, 56. Dowel, 57. A very long period.

Yesterday's Solution



British, Canada, colonial, confederation, devolve, empire, equal, fireworks, free, general, hall, leaf, lull, maple, mess, nation, north, office, party, power, provinces, Quebec, queen, royal, shows, transfer, traverse, union, Victoria.

