

50 IEDs Defused in Zabul & Uruzgan, Claims ANA

KABUL - Nearly 50 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and landmines have been discovered and defused in two southern provinces, the Afghan National Army (ANA) claimed on Wednesday. ANA engineering teams found and defused 49 IEDs in the Shah Joi district of Zabul and Deh Rawood town of neighbouring Uruzgan over the past 24 hours, a statement from the 205th Corps said.



"During the raids, one terrorist named Mir Kalam was also detained," the ANA statement said, blaming the enemies of peace for planting IEDs on main roads. According to a UN report, over 3,540 civilians were killed and 7,450 others injured in 2015 as the violence spread in different places of the country. At least 713 civilians were killed in IED attacks last year. (Pajhwok)

37 Development Projects Completed in Daikundi Province

DAIKUNDI - National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Wednesday said that 37 development projects worth AFN 35,800,000 been completed in Shahrstan, Geti, Sang Takht and Khader districts of Daikundi province. According to NSP Provincial Manager in Daikundi province, these projects include the construction of irrigation canals 1,418 meters in length, protection walls, gabion walls, 155 public baths, culverts, sidewalks, extension of a water supply network, graving a rural and excavation of 46 wells equipped with hand pumps. Approximately, 6,026 families in different communities had an opportunity to gain access to basic human needs upon completion of these projects. Since its inception in Daikundi province, the NSP has been able to execute 1,135 uplift projects in different sectors including transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, ... (More on P4)... (17)

Logar Highway Police Accused of Fleecing Truckers

PUL-I-ALAM - Truckers complain police are extorting money from them on the Kabul-Gardez highway on one pretext or another, urging the higher-ups to alleviate their plight. This Pajhwok Afghan News reporter also took pictures of some policemen receiving bribes from truck drivers on the highway in central Logar province. Police denials are conclusively belied by the photographs. One driver told Pajhwok: "Police stopped my truck for two hours in Tangi Waghjan area. They accused us of trafficking drugs and tried to find other pretexts to force us into greasing their palms." It



was not the first time he paid the police, the trucker said, adding he was forced all too often into giving bribes. In other countries, he argued, a person in problem complained to police. ... (More on P4)... (18)

Taliban 'Exploit' Transport Companies for Secret Activities

KABUL - A probe by TOLONews reveals that dozens of high-speed vans allegedly owned by the Taliban operate on Afghan highways under license of transport companies and are reportedly used to move their fighters and weapons around the country. The Baghlan-Mazar highway is one of Afghanistan's busiest routes in the north where abductions, murders and robberies and cases related to hostage-taking have increased in recent months. However people travelling on the route are too afraid to speak out on exactly what is going on along these highways and who really controls these high-speed



vehicles. Mohammad Yousuf is a resident of Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh, and was too scared to speak out about the security situation on the highway linking Kunduz province to Balkh province. "The security is not good on the highway," he told TOLONews' correspondent Tamim Hamid. But he preferred to remain silent when asked about the threats on the highway and the reasons behind the surge in attacks. According... (More on P4)... (23)

Local Gunmen Murder Ghor Woman in Open Trial

FEROZ KOH - Police in the western province of Ghor have said that local armed men in Feroz Koh city of the province have allegedly killed a woman on charges of escaping from home. The incident happened on Monday after the armed men allegedly took the victim from her house and shot her. Meanwhile, women's rights activists have said that the incident was tragic and that the legal and judicial bodies must step up efforts to prosecute the criminals who murdered the woman. The victim who is known as Aziz Gul was engaged to a man two years ago but it was called off. "When the police heard about the incident, the police department swiftly took action and reached the village where the incident happened. But when the police reached the village, they had already buried the body. Investigations have been launched into the issue. We have arrested one person in connection with the incident, however the main killer is on the run," said Abdul Hadi Chehel Ghor, head of the crime department of the Ghor police department. "Such cases must be referred to the court so that the court can decide, but not to illegal courts," AIHRC official in Ghor Farida Naseri said. "Our expectations from the legal and judicial organs is for them to ensure the trial of perpetrators involved in such cases, ... (More on P4)... (22)

Pakistanis Among 21 Daesh Rebels Killed in Fresh US Drone Strikes

JALABAD - Twenty-one Islamic State (IS) or Daesh militants, including Pakistanis, have been killed in US drone strikes in the Achine district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Wednesday. The drone targeted insurgent hideouts in Karkani locality Tuesday night, Ataullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Among the dead were important mem-



ber of IS and some Pakistanis, he said. (Pajhwok)

Mild Earthquake Shakes Kabul

KABUL - A mild earthquake jolted Kabul city this afternoon with epicenter of the quake reported in north-eastern Badakhshan province of Afghanistan. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported that the magnitude of the earthquake was 5.0 with

the epicenter recorded in Jurm district having a location of 36.097°N 70.301°E and depth of 43 km. This comes as back to back earthquakes jolted Afghanistan between late 2015 and early 2016 with the last powerful quake reported earlier in April this year. The magnitude of the last quake was recorded at 6.6 which jolted capital Kabul and other cities and provinces of the country on 10th April. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) at that time that the epicenter was in Ashkasham district of ... (More on P4)... (19)

Farah, Parwan Incidents Leave 7 Dead, 3 Injured

CHARIKAR/FARAH - Seven people have been killed and three others wounded during separate incidents of violence in central Parwan and west-

ern Farah provinces, officials said. Parwan crime branch police chief Abdul Samad said a clash between cousins over an old enmity erupted last night in Sadullah locality. Three people were killed and a fourth wounded in the armed clash. Syed Sharif, a resident of the locality, also ... (More on P4)... (20)

3 Tonnes of Expired Medicine Set Alight in Khost City

KHOST CITY - Around three tonnes of expired medicines have been torched by the Public Health Department in southern Khost province, an official said on Wednesday. Governor Hakam Khan Ha-

bitold Pajhwok Afghan News the spurious drugs had been seized from stores during the past one month in Khost City, the provincial capital. He directed the department to keep an eye on expired and low-quality drugs and not to allow the sale of food items in the city. "If anyone is caught selling expired drugs and food items, they will be brought to ... (More on P4)... (21)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You're not happy if someone doubts your integrity today because you have better things to do than to defend your reputation. However, the Moon and Mars are empowering your 8th House of Deep Sharing, allowing you to strengthen a business or personal relationship if you're willing to lay all your cards on the table.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Relationships built on strong foundations can weather the emotional shifts that come with time. However, it may be tempting to skirt around the edges of honest communication in order to avoid conflict. Unfortunately, choosing the easy way out today is an invitation to more fundamental problems down the road. Bringing unresolved issues out into the open requires courage but it also gives you a chance to seek solutions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You might believe that time is running out and you will miss an awesome opportunity if you don't share your ideas with your colleagues or your boss today. In fact, this line of thinking contains a seed of truth as Venus and the Sun are both near the end of their respective journeys through your communicative sign. As awkward as it seems now, it will be even more difficult to start a conversation in a few days.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Conflict arises when the gulf between fulfilling your current responsibilities and pursuing your fantasies about the future grows so wide that resolution seems impossible. Fortunately, you're able to live in two worlds today, with one foot on the path to success and the other one on a stairway to heaven.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Although you may still lack a concrete master plan to get ahead at work, you're growing weary of flying by the seat of your pants. Take some time today to write down your goals, and then add a few sentences about accomplishing each of your various objectives. Don't worry if all the disparate ideas are not flowing into one overarching proposal.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You can talk a good game today, but execution might be more of a challenge. Three planets in chatty Gemini are busy wheeling and dealing in your 10th House of Career, enabling you to dazzle your coworkers with lots of words that fit together into a cohesive strategy. Unfortunately, there is a great difference between theory and practice, and you may be long on theory now and short on practice.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



An unexpected bout of jealousy could hijack your day if you're not getting what you want, especially when someone around you seems to have everything. You might be more attached to the material world while the Moon and Mars in obsessive Scorpio are running the show in your 2nd House of Personal Resources. Unfortunately, the acquisition of more possessions is a dead-end path.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You're not interested in talking about how you can improve your life today; you prefer taking direct action now and then evaluating the consequences in real time. Although sometimes it's tempting to be sidetracked by lighthearted interactions, you want the fastest route to the jugular vein of meaning while the evocative Moon and speedy Mars are conspiring in your passionate sign.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



People seem to be unrealistically demanding of your time today, prompting you to seek solace away from the public eye. You may be quite frustrated with everyone tugging at you in different directions because you know that you can't fulfill all of their expectations and still honor your own needs. Although going off to be a hermit is not your typical response, a mini-retreat will do you good now.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Performing a solo act is not your first choice today. Although sharing the camaraderie of working toward a common goal with others is critical to your happiness now, it's not the only reason you want to be part of a successful team. You fully understand the power of collaboration and the strength that comes with numbers.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Your creative spirit fuels your ability to express yourself authentically today. However, you're not willing to walk out on a previous commitment or leave a promise unfulfilled if others are counting on you. Accordingly, you might need to save the spontaneity for another time when there is more flexibility in your schedule.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Just when you thought you knew the score, reality gets extremely slippery. Happily, a relationship that hit a recent rough patch unexpectedly smooths out. Stress on the home front dissipates; however, if everything suddenly seems perfect, rest assured it's not. Nevertheless, don't go digging for trouble because you'll surely find it. Accept the energetic shift and be grateful for what it is.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-57.

Across: 1. Fractional monetary unit in Bahrain, 5. Malice, 10. Actors in a show, 14. Margarine, 15. Laser printer powder, 16. Poems, 17. Master of ceremonies, 19. Stone, 20. Slice, 21. Malignant burning, 22. Classifies, 23. Characterized by emotion, 25. Stadium, 27. Beer, 28. Rioter, 31. Catches, 34. Oceans, 35. Actress Lupino, 36. 1 1 1 1, 37. Berths, 38. French for "Black", 39. Estimated time of arrival, 40. Persons, places or things, 41. 1000 kilograms, 42. Troubles, 44. Letter after sigma, 45. Inn, 46. Error, 50. Trudges, 2. Portents, 54. Yore, 55. A titled peer of the realm, 56. Usher, 58. Cain's brother, 59. Parental brother, 60. A musical pause, 61. Schnozzola, 62. Glacial ridge, 63. The products of human creativity.

Down: 1. Compel, 2. Site of the Trojan War, 3. Slowly, in music, 4. Soak, 5. Go without food, 6. Sheriff's group, 7. Within, 8. Adolescents, 9. Mistake, 10. Electric discharge, 11. A feeling of profound love, 12. Religious offshoot, 13. Sounds of disapproval, 18. Posts, 22. Collections, 24. Faucets, 26. Tears, 28. Long times, 29. Norse god, 30. Unusual, 31. Tilled, 32. Against, 33. Coasts, 34. Old gold coins, 37. Not less, 38. French for "We", 40. Cashews and almonds, 41. Thigh armor, 43. Walk unsteadily, 44. Putter, 46. European blackbird, 47. Become narrower, 48. Excrete, 49. Harbors, 50. Scheme, 51. Gray wolf, 53. Treat with contempt, 56. Fitting, 57. Historic period.

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid with answers: amazement, arrange, awes, bread, chill, clothes, cued, deletion, detain, different, excuses, fire, fleet, fluid, game, greed, ground, half, injury, judge, lest, loom, minute, note, party, pelt, play, prison, prospect, resist, ruling, spot, stale, still, suitcase, throw, vane, water, whenever.

Word search grid with words: G C J A M A Z E M E N T R, M R L U W P R I S O N T F, I H E O D E L E T I O N L, N W R E T G S E A P M L U, U H C R D H E T S A I P I, T E A U I L E W A T E R D, E N R L F D D S S L R O N, J E R I F P A R T Y E S C, R V A N E X C U S E S P H, P E N G R O U N D U I E I, L R G K E B R E A D S C L, A F E I N J U R Y C T T L, Y S U I T C A S E G A M E