

Hundreds of Afghan Refugees Return Last Week

KABUL - The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) on Sunday said more than 17,000 Afghan refugees had returned from Iran and Pakistan during the past one week.

A MoRR statement received by Pajhwok Afghan News said some of the refugees had voluntarily returned and others were forced into leaving the host country. They returned between April 28 and May 5, with most of the families arriving via Pul-i-Abrisham (Silk Bridge) in southwestern Nimroz.

More than 9,220 Afghan refugees were repatriated from Iran into Nimroz province and more than 7,890 others via Torkham border into eastern Nangarhar province. The ministry said the returnees avoided coming via Islam Qala border of western Herat province



and Spin Boldak border in southern Kandahar province due to some border problems.

Only eight refugees arrived through Islam Qala and 263 through Spin Boldak during the past one week, the statement said.

It said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had donated \$200 to each returning families who had refugee documents and \$30 to undocumented returnees.

Four days back, Afghan Refugee and Repatriation Minister Sayed Hussain Balkhi told a Wolesi Jirga session that more than 80,000 Afghan refugees returned to their country from Iran and Pakistan between March 21 and May 3. He had said 36,000 of the refugees had been forcibly deported. (Pajhwok)

Governor's Media Advisor Gunned down

KANDAHAR CITY - Abdul Ghafoor Feroz, a media advisor and Islamic scholar in the governor's house of southern Kandahar province was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on Sunday, an official said.

Feroz came under attack while heading to his office in the capital of Kandahar province this morning.

Zubair, brother of Feroz, told Pajhwok Afghan News that his brother was shot dead near his house by two armed motorcyclists in Loya Weyali area of the ninth police district of Kandahar city around 8am.

Samim Khpalwak, the governor's spokesman confirmed the incident and said Abdul Ghafoor Feroz was serving as media advisor with the governor's house from the past one year.

He said police were investigating about the incident.

Feroz also written and translated a number of different books.

No groups so far claimed responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

What Happened in Spin Boldak's Luqman Village?

KANDAHAR - A peculiar silence prevailed on Sunday in the Luqman village of Spin Boldak border town of southern Kandahar province following Friday's deadly clashes between Afghan and Pakistani forces.

Hundreds of families fled homes as a result of the clashes that left at least 11 people dead and more than 40 injured, mostly civilians.

The main bazaar in Spin Boldak has been closed since Friday's skirmish and passengers remained stranded on roads and hotels, waiting for the border crossing to be reopened.

The exchange of fire has been ceased, but security forces have established bunkers in homes vacated by people in the Luqman village. Besides border police, other forces including the ... (More on P4)... (21)

Lightning Leaves 1 Dead, 3 Injured

FAIZABAD - One individual has been killed and three others have been wounded as a result of lightning in northeastern Badakhshan province, official said on Sunday.

Syed Humayun Dehqan, Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) head, said one house was destroyed due to flooding and bolt in the Zeno village of Kohistan district.

He said one member of the house was killed and three others were injured. Many houses were damaged by flood in Shuhada district, but the official was unaware of casualties.

A relief team has been despatched to the area to survey losses and identify the people in need of assistance. (Pajhwok)

ANSF Kill 23 Militants across Country in Past 24 Hours: MoD

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) killed 23 militants in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said on Sunday.

KABUL - Afghanistan's security forces killed 23 militants, including eight members of Daesh, outlawed in many countries, including Russia, in the past 24 hours, the Afghan Defense Ministry said on Sunday.

"During the past 24 hour, Afghan National Defense and Security Forces conducted joint offensive operations in order to protect lives and properties of people also defeating the insurgents in different parts of the country that as a result, 23 insurgents including 8 Daesh affiliates killed and 1 other wounded," the ministry said in a statement.

The anti-terrorist operations took place in the provinces of Nangarhar, Kapisa, Paktia, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Badghis, Ghor, Kunduz, Faryab, Sarepul, Takhar, Badakhshan and Helmand.

"During these operations, in Achin district of Urozgan, 8 Daesh affiliates including their local commander killed, in Khanshin district of Helmand, 5 Taliban [radical group, banned in Russia] militants killed a vehicle destroyed, in Zebak district of Badakhshan, 6 insurgents including 4 foreign nationals killed and 2 vehicles destroyed," ... (More on P4)... (19)

Residents Panic as Rebels Mount Attacks on Nuristan Posts

PAROON - Over the past three days, insurgents have been attacking security posts in Want Waigal district of eastern Nuristan province, panicking local residents.

Members of the provincial council said the rebels had besieged the district, police rejected the claim and confirmed clashes were ongoing.

Nuristan provincial council head, Sadullah Painda, told Pajhwok Afghan News on Sunday that the Want Waigal district had been under insurgents' siege over the



past three days. Taliban were engaged in fighting with security forces, he added.

He said insurgents had once conducted a coordinated attack on the district last

year, when they suffered many casualties. The latest attacks were to avenge the last year's incident.

"The insurgents have installed machine guns, rifles and ... (More on P4)... (18)

36 Daesh Militants Killed in Nangarhar Offensives

JALALABAD - At least 36 Daesh or so called Islamic State (IS) militants have been killed in separate incidents in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Sunday.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the US drones targeted Daesh

militants in Kandaro and Mamandary areas of Achin district on Sunday noon.

He said 27 rebels were killed and 13 others wounded in the attacks. Seven IS militants were killed and a number others wounded in similar attacks in Chaparhar district of Nangarhar on Saturday, Khogyani said.

An Afghan forces' clearing operation in Achin district was also underway as many areas have so far cleaned, he added. Security forces suffered no casualties during the operations. Provincial police spokesman, Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal, said two Daesh ... (More on P4)... (20)

Kandaharis Denounce Pakistani Attack in Spin Boldak

KANDAHAR CITY - Residents of southern Kandahar province, provincial council members and religious scholar on Sunday condemned Pakistani forces' violation of Duran Line.

Pakistan forces and the census team they were escorting entered Afghan territory in the Luqman Kalai area of Spin Boldak district on Friday, triggering a fierce clash that lasted several hours.

A dozen people were killed and scores wounded on the Afghan side in light and heavy weapons fire from Pakistani troops. In retaliatory shelling, 11 Pakistani citizens were killed.

In a protest gathering, provincial council head Syed Jan warned Pakistan of a befitting response if it resorted again to attacks on Afghan forces. He called Pakistan's violation of the Duran Line against international norms.

Farooq Azam, another participant of the gathering, said under the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Kabul and Washington, the US should not keep silent in such a situation.

Haji Fida Mohammad, another member of provincial council, said Pakistan treated Afghanistan like an enemy and destroyed the country's institutions in different ways. The Afghans stood firmly behind their security forces, he added. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Your relationships are plagued with opposing forces today. One side of the equation is symbolized by a gracious host, going to great lengths to ensure everyone's happiness. Meanwhile, a rebellious youth foments revolution from the other side. Unfortunately, relaxation is out of the question while you're caught in the middle. You know something must give to release the tension but

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You just want to be left alone today, so you can complete the chores that are your responsibility. Unfortunately, others may have very different ideas about your agenda and think your priorities are skewed. Trouble begins if there is a confrontation and they try to persuade you to alter your path. Although you might stop to defend your objectives, there is a smarter way to handle this conflict

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You may be in a playful mood, reluctant to take anything too seriously. But you could run into some heavy judgments today from folks who think you're not carrying your fair share of the work. Apparently, your ability to enjoy life irritates those who are unable to find pleasure in what they do. The truth is you see no reason to punish yourself with a negative outlook. Remind your critics that success guru Dale Carnegie taught, "People rarely succeed unless

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Your objective approach to solving problems is refreshing, prompting your co-workers to bring their challenging situations to you for advice. Luckily, you're an excellent listener and your sensitivity enables people to open up even more. Although you may have a strong and sympathetic shoulder to lean on, you don't have quick answers to everyone's com-

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You are the perfect judge because your current impartiality enables you to see both sides of every coin. On the surface, you're quite clear about your objectivity. However, your unconscious biases may rear their heads even when you think they're safely tucked away. Don't slip into denial about your preferences; instead, acknowledge your prejudices and begin

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Your personal possessions can weigh you down today, especially if you have financial obligations that require your attention. But your current obsession with the material world might not be shared by others. In fact, your friends and associates may be puzzled by your focus on things that don't seem important to them. Nevertheless, everything seems interconnected and managing your assets is simply one area of your life

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Keeping your feelings to yourself is challenging today because it's natural to want to share your experiences with your friends and coworkers. Nevertheless, expressing your vulnerability may not be the smartest thing to do, just because others could judge you harshly now for speaking your truth. An argument tends to bring other suppressed information up to the surface without necessarily adding

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You can see the wisdom of sharing your dual-natured perspective if you want to tell someone about your deepest and darkest feelings. Nevertheless, it could take quite a bit of effort to prove that your disclosure will be worth the risk. Normally, communication is the best way to alleviate pent-up tension, but today it might do the exact opposite. There are topics to steer clear of now

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You're prepared to respond by encouraging your friends today, instead of sharing your own exciting breakthrough. But there's a price to be paid for shifting the attention from oneself onto those around you. It's wonderful to be altruistic and want to help everyone else, but if you don't fill in your own dance card, you'll never get a chance to voice your desires. The good news is living your dreams inspires others

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Your ambitious nature blends well with your even-handed approach to life today. You can walk into a complicated situation, assess the variables at play and quickly create an action plan. You possess a high level of accuracy when it comes to doing something at the right time. There's no formula for this kind of decision-making, but alleviating your mind of the

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You are fueled by your quest for independence, but this unrelenting drive is closely tied to your need for facts. Getting to the bottom of a convoluted story requires a lot of hard work, but finding a nugget of truth can be a catalyst that alters everything. Although your day-to-day activities may not substantially change, your long-range trajectory is up for reconsideration. Thankfully, your integrity shines, empow-

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You're not convinced the external world is actually what you see. In fact, most spiritual traditions claim reality is hidden by the illusion of the three-dimensional world. Nevertheless, you're dragged into an emotional conflict that seems so real that you forget about the metaphysical truths you know so well. Fortunately, you can extricate yourself from the negativity of feeling trapped by simply viewing your current situation in a wider context. Gymnast Mary

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Across

1. Strike heavily, 5. Celebrity, 9. Spouse, 13. Roman moon goddess, 14. Sir, in India, 16. Prima donna problems, 17. Website addresses, 18. Run away to wed, 19. Change direction, 20. Fangs, 22. Not here, 24. Region, 26. Russian country house, 27. Be out of line with, 30. Complainer, 33. Story, 35. Donnybrook, 37. Grayish brown, 38. A black tea, 41. Cover, 42. Territories, 45. Decreeing, 48. Trim, 51. Overshadow, 52. Something to shoot for, 54. Stop, 55. Mine passageways, 59. Used, 62. 53 in Roman numerals, 63. Satan, 65. Unit of land, 66. At one time (archaic), 67. Grave marker, 68. Jail (British), 69. Catch a glimpse of, 70. Cry of pain, 71. If not

Down

1. A promiscuous woman, 2. Attraction, 3. Made without yeast, 4. Involving the stomach, 5. South southeast, 6. Story, 7. A grasp of something, 8. Carpentry tool, 9. Gaseous fuel, 10. Chills and fever, 11. Unit of pressure, 12. Feudal worker, 15. Kind of nut, 21. A person who is in charge, 23. Impulse, 25. At the peak of, 27. Papa, 28. Habituate, 29. French for "Summer", 31. Oval, 32. Restricts, 34. Barely manage, 36. Border, 39. Half of a pair, 40. Every single one, 43. Nimbleness, 44. On the left or right, 46. Applaud, 47. Cultivated land, 49. Geeks, 50. Merriment, 53. Embankment, 55. Delight, 56. Haughtiness, 57. Speech disorder, 58. Window ledge, 60. God of love, 61. Expunge, 64. One time around

Yesterday's Solution

Grid for yesterday's solution crossword puzzle.

beast, benefit, bothers, build, cafe, carton, chorus, conceive, desire, dies, dream, erst, face, front, galaxy, garden, gear, geyser, gleam, great, hassle, hear, holiday, improve, intermediate, light mast, moribund, nation, night, peace, price, prune

Word search grid with words: INTERMEDIATE, MBE NEFITRDRTA, PGLEAMNENIGHT, REPCHORUSEJII, OYEARSBEASTNO, VSFTIDREAMGN, EECARCONCEIVE, KREOULIGHTRXG, CRMFSWATERJA, GCARTONLBNXQR, HASSELEFABUILD, BOTHERSXPRICE, HOLIDAYYSPOON