



Pakistan for Swift Return of Afghan Refugees

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has urged the global fraternity to help accelerate the process of voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees to their homeland. Speaking to a UNHCR delegation in Islamabad on Thursday, Minister of State and Frontier Region Sheryar Afridi said Pakistan was pursuing a policy on the voluntary repatriation and management of Afghan nationals. "Pakistan considers voluntary repatriation as the most preferred viable solution for Afghan refugees and is adhering to the principles of voluntarism and gradualism," he said.

Over the past four decades, he added, Pakistan had hosted Afghan refugees well and this hospitality had been unprecedented in human history. However, Afridi voiced concerns at the slow pace of repatriation, saying only 1,528 registered refugees had voluntarily returned home in 2018. He noted the sluggish trend also remained in evidence during the current year, when only 877 individuals returned to Afghanistan from March 1 to May 10.

The UN delegation was informed the validity of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards for Afghan refugees and the tripartite agreement would expire on June 30.

In consultation with stakeholders, the Ministry of SAFRON will submit a summary to the federal cabinet for extending the stay of refugees.

However, the minister underlined the need for concrete and robust action to speed up the repatriation during the current year.

Afridi said most of Afghan refugees were the second or third generation born in Pakistan, needing urgent investment to empower them through education, skills training and livelihoods support inside Afghanistan. Ruvendri Menikdiwela, UNHCR country representative, promised Pakistan full support from the UN agency in accelerating the repatriation process for Afghan refugees. (Pajhwok)

India Delivers Pair of Mi-24 Helicopters to Afghan Forces



KABUL - The Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Vinay Kumar handed over the first pair of Mi-24 attack helicopters to the Acting Defense Minister Asadullah Khaled in Kabul. India had first presented Mi-24 Helicopters to Afghanistan, in December 2015, the Indian Em-

bassy in Kabul said in a statement. India was expected to supply four gunship helicopters to Afghanistan by July, with the deliveries falling almost a year behind schedule, people familiar with developments said in March, as quoted by Hindustan Times. As first reported by Hindustan

Times in March 2018, Afghanistan, Belarus and India had inked a trilateral pact to supply the refurbished Mi-24 helicopters. Belarus was to upgrade the helicopters, which were to be paid for by India, the former Afghan envoy, Shaida Abdali, had said in March. ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

8 Policemen Killed in Helmand Attack: Mol



KABUL - Eight policemen have been killed and 11 others injured during the Taliban attack in southern Helmand province, an official said on Friday. Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (Mol), said militants attacked security forces in the Tangai locality of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, on Thursday night.

Rahimi added security forces and foreign forces conducted airstrike in which some insurgents were killed.

"Reports regarding the killing of policemen in foreign forces airstrike were being investigated by a joint investigative team and the outcome would be shared," said Rahimi.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said they attack check-posts of police academy and carried out a blast on a convoy in which two policemen were injured.

Mujahid said two policemen were injured in attack in the Tangai locality. He said later on foreign forces conducted airstrike in the area in which 35 policemen, including four commanders were killed. Local officials in Helmand confirmed the blast but did not provide the details. (Pajhwok)

18 Taliban Killed, 5 Wounded in Helmand Offensive



LASHKARGAH - Eighteen Taliban militants have been killed and five others wounded during security operations in southern Helmand province, an official said on Thursday.

Maj. Abdul Qadir Bahadarzoi, spokesman for the 215th Maiwand Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News Afghan forces launched operations in Greshk, Sangin and Nad Ali districts late on Wednesday

night. He said during the nighttime operations 18 militants were killed and five others wounded.

Janullah, a resident of the Mandah locality of Nad Ali district, said a clash happened between Taliban and security forces in the area late on Wednesday night but he did not have exact causality figures. The Taliban have not yet commented. (Pajhwok)

Nangarhar Court Sends 10 Men up to 25 Years in Jail



JALALABAD - A primary court in eastern Nangarhar province has sentenced ten persons from two and a half to 25 years in jail for murder, kidnapping and robberies. The court in a statement said the convicts included the murderer of an Afghan National Army (ANA) officer. The verdicts were not final and could

be challenged. The convicts had been accused of assassination, abduction, robberies, stealing goods, forcibly entering people's homes without permission and having contact with armed groups. The statement said the ANA officer's killer was sentenced to 20 years in jail and that the convict could challenge the verdict. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Today you may try to contact several people, Aries, none of whom may be available. You might particularly want to reach a female friend or relative who lives far away. This could prove frustrating, as you have some interesting news for her. Keep trying. You will eventually manage to connect, and she will be glad to hear from you. She might even invite you to visit!

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Whether or not you should make a specific expenditure could cause some tension between you and a partner, Taurus. You may think that it isn't feasible now, while your friend is determined to go for it. This isn't the day to try to reach an agreement in this matter. Neither of you is likely to give in. Wait a couple days until you're both a bit less tense.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



A friend may be throwing a party and you might be expected to attend. You've probably had a stressful day and really don't feel up to it. Your friend may try to induce you to come by making you feel guilty. Don't fall into that trap. Go only if you feel that the value of the occasion overrides your need to rest. Your friend will forgive you if you say no.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Today you might receive some uncomfortable intuitive signals from one or more of your friends, Cancer. Perhaps someone doesn't feel well but came out to play anyway. Sensing the tension in others could save you some grief, as people may be stressed and likely to lash out over nothing. It's best to focus on solitary pursuits if you can.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Today you may attain a goal you've been hoping to reach for a long time, Leo. Oddly enough, friends, family, and even your significant other may not seem as happy as you expected. They've probably suffered too many frustrations recently, and your success only reminds them of this. Give them some time to settle their own affairs and they will congratulate you. They're only human.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Today you may be anxious to spend time with your family, Virgo, but there could be some chores you need to do first. This could stress you out quite a bit if you let it. Roll up your sleeves and handle whatever needs to be done and then hightail it back to your hEarth. Relax and enjoy the company of your loved ones!

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Today it might be more difficult than usual for you to deal with words, Libra. Someone might lend you a book on a rather obscure subject that you can't understand. In fact, you might find the book - or anything else you try to read - boring! You don't want to hurt your friend's feelings. Put the book aside and try again later. The words should be clearer to you then.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Some news that comes to you from a friend or colleague could shake you up today, Scorpio. You might find that what you learn casts doubts on concepts you've embraced for most of your life. This could confuse you. Don't feel threatened. Everyone has to recreate some values from time to time. Think about it when you're more relaxed and you might find it isn't so radical after all.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



People can read you like a book today, Sagittarius. Because of the current planetary positions, you're a bit touchier than usual. Your reactions to certain situations are written all over your face. You're blushing and your hands are sweating and trembling. Each of your gestures reveals emotion. This would be a great time to be in love. Watch out for love at first sight!

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Today you may see that nearly every couple you know is quarreling, Sagittarius. You may have a few differences with a current or potential partner, but this is nothing to worry about. You're tense and edgy because of outside pressure, so your fuse might be a bit shorter than usual. Try to stretch your patience a little further, just for today. All should be well by tomorrow.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

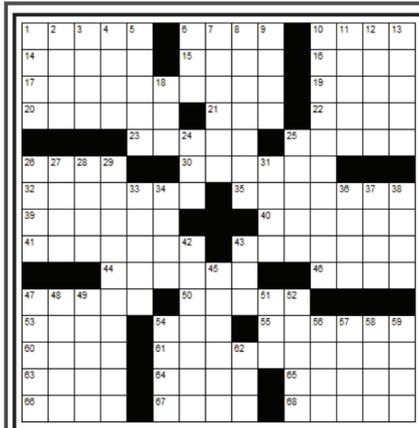


You and a current or potential partner may disagree on whether to spend some time together alone or go out with friends, Aquarius. If you've both had a rough day, you're likely to be rather tense and apt to snap at each other. A compromise may be the best answer. Spend an hour or two with your friends and then come home and relax. That way, everyone's happy.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



A relaxing evening at home may be just what you need, Pisces, but a colleague might ask you to attend a business-related event. You may have had a stressful few days. Such a party may be the last thing you want to do. Don't be afraid to say no. There will be plenty of colleagues there. At the most, put in a quick appearance and then leave. Right now you need rest more than contacts.



Across

- Dirty fogs, 6. Behold, in old Rome, 10. Sounds of disapproval, 14. Eagle's nest
- Search, 16. Pearly-shelled mussel, 17. A cylinder in a cave, 19. Cut, 20. Highly seasoned fatty sausage, 21. Directed, 22. Naval jail, 23. Contemptuous look, 25. Consecrate
- WW1 plane, 30. Comestible, 32. Progressive, 35. Scholarly, 39. Leopardlike cat, 40. Wears away, 41. Tall Indian palm, 43. In the interval, 44. Third sign of the zodiac, 46. What a person is called, 47. Housemaids, 50. Paths, 53. A grimace, 54. Altitude (abbrev.), 55. Negligent, 60. Ride the waves, 61. A variety show, 63. Brother of Jacob, 64. Monster, 65. Panache, 66. Peddle, 67. To fancy (archaic), 68. Homes for birds,

Down

- Back talk, 2. Anagram of "Meat", 3. By mouth, 4. Arizona river, 5. Creases, 6. Shade tree
- Curled, 8. Clique, 9. Barely managed, 10. Ramshackle, 11. A loud sleeping sound, 12. Fuzzy fruits, 13. Melodies, 18. Martini ingredient, 24. Snake-like fish, 25. Utter impulsively, 26. Notch
- Printer's unit, 28. Cain's brother, 29. Greatly pleasing, 31. Broth (Scottish), 33. Hemp cords
- "Smallest" particle, 36. Bright thought, 37. Swarm, 38. Feudal worker, 42. Cult, 43. Contained land, 45. Creation, 47. Church recesses, 48. Rodent, 49. Hearing-related, 51. Before, poetically, 52. One more than 6, 54. Affirm, 56. Rodents, 57. Ailments, 58. Thin strip
- Collections, 62. Lair,

Yesterday's Solution

TAPA AFORE BEACH
ORAL SALES LUAU
RELENTLESS TIDLE
ANS ASESOP AXITLS
HAWTIRE ORBITT
HURN SINGERING
SALSA MIDST OIL
ALSA BTIDE UNCE
GUM FUSED BUFE
EMERALOS REC
EYRTEAGRICA KEA
BAMBI METHODS
BOAS FLAGELLANT
BRIE BERMS APSE
SEIND IDEAS PLES

above, , barge, belong
circus, compete, data
door, dress empty
float, foray, given, guess
hale, hippodrome, horse
lying, medley, monorail
night, pearl, place, prison
queer, rest, ribbon,
sailboat, scan, shred

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