

Soldiers Rescued from Siege Speak of their Ordeal

KABUL - Commander Juma Gul Mobarez, who along with his 50 soldiers resisted a siege by the Taliban in Baghlan province for ten days, said that they killed several Taliban commanders in this time and also ended the siege. "We were in a lower (part of a) hill, when we come out they fired on from the top of the hill and we attacked the Taliban to save ourselves. We don't know why they (security forces) didn't come to us and why they didn't help us," said Mobarez, a commander of the local police. Moberz's comrades said that after the Tali-



ban captured their villages and bases they torched the houses of all local policemen. They also lashed out at the government for not paying them any attention. "We were under attack but we brought our soldiers out in time but five of our people were injured. No one has helped us so far. We urge the government to help us, we haven't received any assistance so far," said Baqer Mohammadi, a commander of public uprising groups in Sorkh Kotal area of Pul-e-Khumri, the capital city of Baghlan. Mohammadi was...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Lorry Drivers Deny Tilbury Docks People Smuggling

LONDON - Two lorry drivers from Northern Ireland have been accused of being part of a people-smuggling operation in which an Afghan man died of a heart attack. Forty-year-old Meet Singh Kapoor was found dead in a shipping container being transported from Belgium to Tilbury, Essex, in August 2014. Mr Kapoor, his wife and two sons were among 35 Afghan Sikhs in the container. Stephen McLaughlin, 36, and

Martin McGlinchey, 49, deny conspiring to smuggle illegal immigrants into the UK. The refugees are believed to have fled Kabul in Afghanistan after suffering alleged persecution and were living illegally in Belgium and France. Jurors were told another smuggling attempt was thwarted less than two weeks earlier when driver Timothy Murphy, employed by Mr McLaughlin and Mr McGlinchey, was stopped in France...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Taliban Shadow Governor Killed

KABUL - A senior Taliban leader identified by Afghan authorities as a shadow governor of the southern province of Helmand has been killed by security forces, officials said on Tuesday, although the Taliban immediately denied the report. The report came days after Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed by a U.S. airstrike in south western Pakistan. Omar Zwak, a spokesman for the provincial governor of Helmand, said Mullah Muzamel had died of injuries sustained during an air strike in Marjah district late on Sunday. "First he was wounded and later that night he died of his wounds," Zwak said. Interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said in a tweet that Muzamel had been killed in a special forces operation along with two of his commanders. However Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman for southern Afghanistan, denied the report. The shadow governor for Helmand's name is Haji Mullah Abdul Manan Akhund and he is safe, he said...*(More on P4)...(14)*

ANA Defuses 24 Landmines in Southern Provinces

KANDAHAR - The Afghan National Army personnel discovered and defused 24 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and landmines in two southern provinces, a military statement said on Tuesday. "The engineering teams of ANA Corps 205 Attal during military operations in southern Uruzgan and Zabul provinces discovered and defused 24 improvised bombs and landmines," the army Corps based in the region said in the statement. Seven Taliban militants were also wounded during the operations, the statement said, adding the timely finding of



the IEDs has foiled major terror attacks and saved the provinces from expected tragedies. The Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants recently as spring and summer known as fighting season is drawing near in the country. The Taliban militant group has been using Improvised Explosive...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Mansoor's Death will not affect the Group's Insurgency: Taliban

KABUL - The Taliban militants group in Afghanistan has said the death of its leader will not have any effect on the group's insurgency. The group issued a statement following the confirmation of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor's death in a US airstrike in Pakistan. The statement said the campaign by the Taliban militants is not for a single person which would end or become weak by his death. The statement further added that the group's insurgency is aimed at implementing Sharia in the country and there will be no affect in their fight



even if Mullah Mansoor has been killed. Admitting that the death of its leaders is a major harm to the group, the statement said their death will spark more revolution. The death of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor was officially confirmed by the US President Barack Obama, Afghan government, and Afghan security institutions. Obama said the death of Mansoor was an "important milestone" in efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan. "We...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Roadside Mine Kills 5 Civilians

KANDAHAR - A roadside mine has killed five civilians traveling in a vehicle in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province, wounding five more, local media said Tuesday. A total of 10 casualties were hit by the explosion between the Daman and Shah Wali Kot districts in Kandahar, the TOLONews broadcaster reported. Kandahar, which borders Pakistan, is often a target of Taliban insurgent attacks and

an area of frequent clashes between militants and government troops. Afghanistan is undergoing political, social and security instability, as the Taliban movement and other terrorist organizations such as the Daesh, which is prohibited in many countries, including the United States, Russia and Pakistan, among others, have expanded their activities in the country. (Sputnik)

Taliban Safe Havens Across the Border no Longer Safe: Mohib

WASHINGTON - The death of Taliban leader Mullah Mansour, an impediment to peace, has created a sense of confidence and hope among Afghans that terrorist sanctuaries across the border are not safe, the Afghan ambassador to the US says. "We welcome President Obama's decision and his bold action to eliminate a person who was preventing other Taliban elements and the calls from government for peace," Hamdullah Mohib said. During an appearance



before the World Affairs Council of Washington DC, Mohib made the remarks while responding to questions on the death of Mullah Mansour in a US drone strike over the weekend. "It is just not about that action. It gives the Afghan people hope that our most important partner -- the United States -- is serious about peace in Afghanistan. It also creates an opportunity for us to be able to build on that...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Khost Border Police Chief Killed, 5 Injured in Bomb Attack

KHOST CITY - The border police chief for southern Khost province, bordering Pakistan's tribal region of Parachinar, was killed in a bomb blast on Tuesday, an official said. A security official, who wished not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident took place in the Babrak Tani area of Alisher district at around 10am. The source revealed the detective police chief was killed and five

other personnel were wounded when the car they were travelling in struck the explosive device. An official at the Khost Civil Hospital, who wanted to go unnamed, confirmed receiving a body and five injured people from the scene of the bombing. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the bomb attack in the area, long haunted by Afghan and Pakistani militants. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Communication grows more significant now and the best way to deal with the extra pressure is to manage your time wisely. Your friends take center stage and you want to bond with them by exploring a variety of interests. There are phone calls to return, places to go and people to see. Plus, there's that screenplay you've been dreaming about writing for years.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your self-confidence is on the rise and your enthusiasm is contagious. Although it's good news when your key planet Venus moves into your 2nd House of Values -- where she stays for the next three weeks -- trouble can arise if you ignore a lingering problem. Thankfully, shifting your focus to a wider perspective enables you to circumvent a difficult situation.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You can be disarmingly charming and even an outrageous flirt when the mood strikes you. Now that cosmic-vixen Venus is visiting your sign for the next three weeks social interactions are in the spotlight, making this a time of great fun and games. Unfortunately, a Venus-Mars opposition will continue to expose buried issues even if you're living in a state of denial. There is no free lunch; emotional vulnerability accompanies the relationship dance.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You like to rely on the absolute certainty of emotional support, and sometimes find yourself nostalgically craving the security you lost somewhere along the way. However, your subconscious drives are pulling you off the main roads now, making everything appear more magical even if you're not sure of what comes next.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Love can come knocking at your door now, yet it could be unrecognizable if you are too rigid in your expectations. Whether it's a romance or a friendship, there's no need to waste any energy wishing it to be something that it's not. Soak in whatever appreciation or admiration is offered, but don't get too caught up in thinking about what you deserve. If you can't honor the gifts that others bring to the table.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You might suddenly feel a resurgence of your desire for success at work. You are more interested in how others view you in the outer world now that Venus is performing her magic in your 10th House of Public Status. However, you may have trouble meeting the expectations of others as your good intentions stir up more resistance than cooperation. Nevertheless, victory is yours if you're willing to do what you Virgos do best.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You're painting a very rosy picture about your personal life while the Moon plays in your 5th House of Love and Children. But it's all too easy to turn an insignificant event into an overblown affair now that your key planet Venus is traveling through your 9th House of Big Ideas. Although you are easily distracted these days, keep bringing your feelings back to the immediate situation and deal with the reality of what's on your plate.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

When you get close to someone you love, you yearn to merge your worlds without restraint. But today's dilemma involves the irrepressible tension between your desire to dig deep and a current penchant for lighthearted fun. It's easy to be distracted by one person after another while Venus is in flirtatious Gemini, yet it's challenging to discern if anyone is worthy of your undivided attention.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

The focus is shifting from desiring complex emotional entanglements to needing simplicity. All types of relationships are emphasized now that cosmic-butterfly Venus is flitting around in your 7th House of Partnerships. But even if you have a lot of responsibilities piling up, you're ready to let some of them slide to hang out with a friend. However, you can't just run out on your promises or your spontaneity will come back to haunt you.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You are uncharacteristically ready to let go of ambitions that don't inspire your soul, but you're not quite prepared to take the next step yet. Unfortunately, your natural resistance to the complications of diversity can limit your options now before you even consider them. Remember, external factors contain crucial information, so don't shut out the influx of data even if it seems overwhelming.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your friends may tempt you to act irresponsibly today, but irrational behavior isn't your friend. Your feelings are tickled into awareness yet you don't want to share them while the Moon is venturing through your 12th House of Privacy. Thankfully, Vivacious Venus helps you commandeer your fair share of fun while she sparkles in your 5th House of Spontaneity. Tom Robbins was speaking to you when he wrote.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You can't help but be frustrated if familial duties require you to readjust your schedule today, for this requirement can remind you of a previous time when you were not in control. Responsibilities may prevent you from doing those things you prefer to do. But loving Venus is just beginning a three-week visit to your 4th House of Domesticity, drawing your attention away from the public eye.

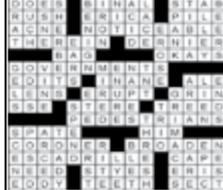
Across

- 1. Lock, 6. A box or chest, 10. Telephoned, 14. Eagle's nest, 15. Dull pain, 16. False god, 17. Angry, 18. Drudgery, 19. Anagram of "Tine", 20. Funny woman, 22. Pierce, 23. To and ___, 24. Throb, 26. A light skiff, 30. Gain points in a game, 32. Be in trouble with, 33. Deceiver, 37. Nurse shark, 38. In the sky, 39. Accomplished, 40. Destroy completely, 42. 100 to a dollar, 43. Wanders, 44. Girdle, 45. Rise, 47. Hit on the head, 48. Soon, 49. Having a job, 56. Not short, 57. Pout, 58. Stogie, 59. Cain's brother, 60. Ailments, 61. A kind of macaw, 62. Being, 63. C C C C, 64. Woman's undergarment.

Down

- 1. Nonclerical, 2. Relating to aircraft, 3. Streetcar, 4. Give as an example, 5. Attentive, 6. Anaglyph, 7. Computer symbol, 8. Tibia, 9. Futuristic transport, 10. Instigator, 11. "Bye" 12. French for "Our", 13. Delight, 21. Fury, 25. Website address, 26. An enclosure, 27. At a distance, 28. Greek letter, 29. A rectangular area, 30. Immunizations, 31. Eatery, 33. Burrowing marine mollusk, 34. A large amount, 35. Blind (poker), 36. Where a bird lives, 38. Moot, 41. Charged particle, 42. Imitator, 44. Loving murmur, 45. Prigs, 46. Notes, 47. Consecrate, 48. Wings, 50. Infiltrator, 51. Whimper, 52. Bog, 53. Quaint outburst, 54. An aromatic ointment, 55. Found in a cafeteria.

Yesterday's Solution



adventure, always, anger, attorney, budget, corrupt, create, crone, detergent, drink, drive, gates, general, honest, instant, label, laundry, list, money, month, music, nation, recant, right, round, sang, sate, shock, smart, status, streets, strong, subscribe, toes.

