

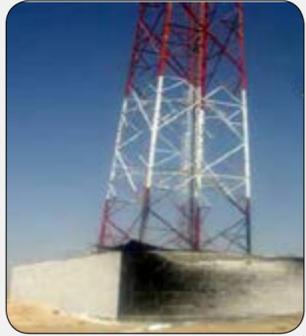
Iran to Cut IS Threat at Afghan, Iraqi Borders: Army

TEHRAN - A top Iranian army commander said Monday that his troops would take "decisive" action if Islamic State group militants come within 40 kilometres of its borders with Iraq and Afghanistan. Iran, the major Shiite power in the Middle East, is heavily involved in conflicts in Syria and Iraq against the jihadists, primarily Sunni Muslims who denounce Shiites as apostates who must be killed. The comments from General Ahmad Reza Pourdastan, who heads Iran's ground forces, came after Iraq's foreign



minister said intelligence sources showed Iran was among countries IS had plans to attack. The remarks came after IS claimed responsibility for Friday's gun and bomb ... (More on P4)...(17)

Taliban Blow up Telecom Towers



JALALABAD - The Taliban have blown up three towers of different private telecommunications companies in the Batikot district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Monday.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the attacks took place Sunday night in Meshwani and Shahskhel localities of the district near the Pakistan border.

He said the insurgent destroyed the towers of Etisalat, MTN and Afghan Wireless Communication Company (AWCC). Police are engaged in a firefight with the Taliban, who lost two insurgents.

At least three police have been wounded in the clash, according to the spokesman. None of the telecom companies or the Taliban have commented yet on the overrunning incident.

The militants have blown up telecom towers in different parts of the provinces, depriving residents of localities of communication services. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan Urges Afghanistan to Stop Terrorist Fleeing

KABUL - Pakistani Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Director General Major General Asim Bajwa urged Afghan authorities to implement "strict surveillance" along the Pak-Afghan border to prevent terrorists from "escaping". We had seized that terrorists could escape to Afghanistan to maintain a strategic distance from operation Zarb-i-Azb, Bajwa said focusing on that Pakistan has constantly augmented full backing for peace in Afghanistan, and will keep on doing as such "with most extreme



truthfulness". "We had preempted that terrorists could flee to Afghanistan to avoid operation Zarb-i-Azb," he said, stressing that Pakistan has always extended full support for peace in Afghanistan, and will continue to do so "with utmost sincerity". Meanwhile, Afghanistan foreign ministry stressed that Afghanistan is on the front line against terrorism but seriously needs ... (More on P4)...(18)

Exchange of Fire Erupts at Pak-Afghan Border in Paktika

KABUL - An exchange of fire has taken place on Afghanistan-Pakistan border in Paktika province after Pakistani forces opened the gate they had built inside Afghanistan territory. Reports suggest that Pakistani forces have fired indiscriminate shells on border police in Shkin and Barmal district of Paktika province. Nabiullah Peerkhil, spokesperson for the governor of Paktika province said that Afghan forces have been in defense position and waiting for the orders from the



headquarters. This comes after Pakistan opened the gate built in Angor Ada area of Barmal District inside Afghan territory on Saturday. According to reports, high ranking Pakistani officials attended the opening ceremony of the gate. Meanwhile, Pakistani Army says rockets were received from Afghan side which were responded. "Pakistanis also fired in the direction from which rockets were fired. No loss reported," states a statement released by the Army's media wing ISPR. (KP)

200 Tajik, Afghan Students Graduate from UCA SPCE

DUSHANBE - The University of Central Asia's School of Professional and Continuing Education (UCA SPCE) celebrated its 10th graduation in Khorog, the capital of the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO). The ceremony was attended by Mrs. Guldastamo Orumbekova, Deputy Governor of GBAO; Leslie Hayden, US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires; Ghulom Hoshim, Afghan Consul in Khorog; Dr Karl-Heinz Frank, GIZ Country Director; and Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, Director General of UCA. "The Government of GBAO values the work of UCA SPCE in strengthening professional skills and socio-economic development in the region. UCA programs, in cooperation with the local government, have yielded good results. We look forward to continuing our partnership and leveraging the great potential of this university," said Orumbekova.

According to UCA SPCE, the University recognized over 200 graduates at the ceremony. Graduates of UCA SPCE's information technology program received the internationally-recognized International Computer Driving License certificate. Professional certificates were awarded for Accounting Technology and Technical Vocational Education. Cashier/Bookkeeping, Business Plan Development, English for Academic Purposes and Conversational English short-term graduates received Certificates of Achievement. Graduates of Conversational Russian, German and Chinese received Records of Achievements. Afghan learners from the border districts of Badakhshan province, who completed UCA SPCE's Assistant Plumbing short-term program, supported by the International Organization for Migration, received Certificates of Achievements during the ceremony.

UCA SPCE also recognized the achievements of 10 instructors who received a Master's in Management from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University (KRSU), based on a partnership between KRSU and UCA under the Small and Medium Enterprise Growth Project for Central Asia, an initiative of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). These newly qualified instructors make up the flagship faculty of the School's new Small and Medium Business Program, currently being delivered under the Economic and Social Connections: A Multi-Input Area Development Financing Facility for Tajikistan, an alliance between USAID and AKF. UCA SPCE was established in 2006 in Khorog and its Learning... (More on P4)...(19)

13 Taliban Insurgents Killed in Nangarhar Drone Strike



KABUL - At least 13 Taliban insurgents, including a shadow governor, were killed in a drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province, local officials said on Monday.

Three Militants Killed in Premature Blast

ASADABAD - Up to three Taliban militants were killed after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) they were planting along a main road went off prematurely in Kunar Kunar on Monday, police said.

"The explosion took place in Panjshir Naw area of Nurgal district at around 6:00 a.m. local time. Police personnel inspected the site shortly after the blast and found two AK-47 guns at the area," provincial police chief Abdul Habib Sayyedkhel told Xinhua.

ing a shadow governor for Khogyani were killed. "The shadow governor named Noor Ahmad and his men were targeted while they were in a vehicle and preparing for an attack," Mashriqiwal said. However, he did not provide further details about the strike. The Taliban has not yet commented on the incident. (Tolonews)

The police chief said that the bodies of the killed will be handed over to Afghan Red Crescent Society's authorities later on the day.

The Taliban militant group has been using IEDs to target security forces but the lethal weapons also inflict casualties on civilians, according to military officials. The Taliban has intensified attacks over the past months as the militant group tries to take territory and consolidate its positions ahead of winter in the country. (Xinhua)

Turkmenistan's Section of Afghan-Tajik-Turkmen Railway Stretched to Afghan Border

BISHKEK - Turkmenistan's section of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railway, which construction began two years ago, was stretched to the border with Afghanistan, reports the State News Agency of Turkmenistan.

In October 2015, the international railway reached the border with Afghanistan. The railway on the

territory of Turkmenistan stretches for 88 kilometers. Construction of two railway bridges and is ongoing, construction of two railway stations will start soon.

The given railway will become an important link in international transportation, it is aimed to stimulate trade links between the countries of the region. (AKIpress)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

It seems as if events are happening for no reason today, befuddling your thinking and throwing off your entire game. Nevertheless, you're not one to give up without a fight, especially since you are expected to accomplish measurable results. On the other hand, if you can spend the day in spiritual practice or watching waves at the beach.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your stress level rises when someone won't play according to your rules. In fact, others might even go so far as to tell you that your approach is not viable. In general, scheming to gain advantage won't likely work out in your favor since there are too many hidden forces influencing the outcome of your plan. Assume a low profile now for the best results.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might have to rethink your immediate career objectives due to constraints on your time. It's not that your work is taking longer than you planned; it's just that you may have bitten off more than you can chew. Nevertheless, it's best to stay on your current course for a while longer; altering your trajectory now will only create more problems than it solves. Don't make any impulsive decisions today as you will likely change your mind.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Generally speaking, you water-loving Crabs aren't all that comfortable when the Moon takes up residence in dry Capricorn. However, the low emotional tide might actually bring relief to an otherwise challenging day by offering you some much-needed common sense. You may be overwhelmed by a lack of clarity in a current relationship because it's impossible to read the energy of your friend.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You could be sending mixed messages now without even realizing it. Your need to be efficient at work today is being challenged by the power of your overactive imagination. Although you're unwilling to compromise your dreams, the ambitions of others can further stimulate your own personal fantasies. Luckily, there's no need to resolve this dilemma now.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Wrapping your logical mind around the complexity of the forces at work is impossible today. Although cerebral Mercury inspires you to process the unfathomable information being presented by transformational Pluto, comprehension still remains just beyond your grasp now. Nevertheless, your current mission is to deepen your psychological understanding of your relationships. Don't be dismayed by this daunting task.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Finding balance in your life could be a study in frustration today because something is drawing you to step out of the mundane world and into your subconscious mind. Although you may be required to follow through on your real obligations anyhow, you realize the vital importance of your inner world. However, you're better off finishing your tasks first before pursuing your spiritual quest.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Although you harbor great hopes of moving an ongoing discussion into a more meaningful direction, the conversation might not go according to your wishes. The provocative Moon's cosmic hookup with your key planet Pluto just won't leave you alone today, creating difficulties as you attempt to communicate your intense feelings to your friends and coworkers.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your stubbornness may prove problematic today, especially if you are adamant about sticking to your own way of doing things. It feels as if your work is being called into question by someone who attempts to exert power over you. Although you naturally think in broad strokes, a disagreement could result from a simple misunderstanding now. Preventing a major conflict might be as easy as focusing on the details.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Others appear to be withholding their feelings from you today, but it's possible that you're the one who is being overly guarded. You may be unusually pessimistic now because you're driven to understand the dynamics at play, even if the real issues are buried deep beneath the surface. The more determined you are to uncover the truth, the more you have to dig.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A personal issue demands that you redirect your focus away from career matters today. However, it's frustrating that your intention to make things right isn't enough. In fact, you might not be able to find any quick and easy fixes to your current dilemma. Nevertheless, your heartfelt sincerity eases the stress at home and on the job. Do whatever you can along the way without forcing your preferred solution on anyone else.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your plans may be disrupted today by circumstances beyond your control. Your first inclination is to resist any changes, but you could wear yourself out fighting the inevitable. Don't put too much effort toward getting your day back on track. Instead, give yourself some leeway and let the unfolding events continue to determine what you should do next. Your flexible attitude holds the key to your current happiness.



Across

1. Short sleeps, 5. An act of gracious kindness, 10. Cold-shoulder, 14. With competence, 15. Pee, 16. Not a single one, 17. Consider, 18. Reliable, 20. City on San Francisco Bay, 22. A type of hormone, 23. L, 24. Homes for birds, 25. Gossips, 32. Utilizers, 33. Angry, 34. "Eureka!", 37. Small, 38. Parish land, 39. A long way off, 40. Unhappy, 41. Slogan, 42. A firm open-weave fabric, 43. Star-gazing place, 45. Fastener, 49. French for "Friend", 50. Stewardess, 53. Cleft, 57. Enteric, 59. False god, 60. Vice President, 61. Practical, 62. School session, 63. Makes a mistake, 64. Dutch pottery city, 65. Wild Tibetan oxen.

Down

1. Zero, 2. Cain's brother, 3. Urgent request, 4. Isotropy, 5. Jumble, 6. Region, 7. Very Important Person, 8. 1 1 1 1, 9. Lease, 10. Type of drum, 11. Vagabonds, 12. Dim, 13. Requires, 19. Compacted, 21. L L L L, 25. Sounds of reproof, 26. Largest continent, 27. Care for, 28. Leans, 29. Mountain crest, 30. Work hard, 31. French for "Summer", 34. Hairdo, 35. Found on most heads, 36. Troops, 38. Mouth (British slang), 39. Action 41. Broods, 42. Identical, 44. Rapsallion, 45. A herb, 46. Hermit, 47. Daisylike bloom, 48. Stairs, 51. An upright in a wall, 52. Location, 53. Young cow, 54. Notion, 55. Stopper, 56. Shade trees, 58. Zero.

Yesterday's Solution



allowance, assign, ball, beggar, blanks, blunt, cantina, castle, cheat, chess, dont, elegance, flame, gill, glass, income, knight, lager, mare, needless, nervous, palaces, piece reach, rice, saloon, scold, shale, sheer, sleaze, snatch, square, stare, terse, then.

