

Dozens of Afghan Trainees Go AWOL in US

WASHINGTON - More than 40 Afghan security force members training in the US have gone AWOL since last year, including eight last month, according to the US military. One of those eight who vanished in September was detained by Canadian police while attempting to cross the US-Canada border, Cmdr. Patrick Evans told CNN Thursday. A total of 45 members of Afghanistan's security forces have been reported absent without leave (AWOL) while in the US since the start of 2015. Of those, the whereabouts of 13 remain unknown, Evans said.



The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for tracking them down once they are reported missing, according to the military. The 32 that have been located, Evans said, have either been deported, arrested and jailed, crossed an international border, or applied for immigration benefits. The number of missing students was first reported by Reuters. The training is part of an international effort ... (More on P4)...(15)

3 ANA Soldiers Martyred, 4 Wounded in Taliban Assault



KANDAHAR CITY - Three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed and four others wounded in Taliban attacks, an official said on Friday. However, the insurgents claimed killing a large number of troops and capturing an entire battalion as a result of assaults in the Maiwand district of the province. Samim Khpalwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News a large number of fighters assaulted ANA checkpoints in Chashma area of the district last night. In the ensuing battle, lasting several hours, three soldiers were killed and four others injured, he said, adding several Taliban were also killed. However, he had no specific figure. On the other hand, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi the fighters had killed dozens of soldiers in the four-hour battle. The ... (More on P4)...(18)

Lack of Local Govt. Cooperation behind Security Issues in Kunduz

KABUL - A number of former officials, critics, members of civil society and residents of Kunduz said government has failed to fill the gap between people and the state after the fall of Kunduz city to the Taliban last year and that a lack of cooperation with the residents has resulted in serious security issues in the Northern Province.



"Unfortunately, no clearance operation was carried out in Kunduz after the city collapsed to Taliban last year. Coordination should be established between people and local government in order to prevent Taliban from advancing once again," said Hamdullah Danishi, former acting governor of Kunduz. Meanwhile, a number of Kunduz residents and civil society activists said not addressing people's problems was the main reason why the

Taliban started their activities on the outskirts of Kunduz city. "In addition to a lack of coordination among security forces in Kunduz, other problems in this province is that the

Local officials said the security forces retook control of Khwaja Mashd, Bandar-e-Kabul and Hawza-e Awal areas in Kunduz city on Thursday night, but according to the officials, Taliban militants have still control over Bandar-e-Khan Abad, Zakhail,

Residents Urge Govt to Secure Kunduz

KABUL - Sources from Kunduz said on Friday that the residents of the city are living in a bad situation and want government's help to end the war and ensure their safety.

According to the sources, thousands of Kunduz residents have been displaced due to the war and are facing with lack of food, water, shelter and medicine.

Naseri and Chaman regions in the outskirts of the city. Sources said that nearly 200 Taliban militants and around 20 security force members have been killed and wounded in Kunduz battle. The sources also said that people have taken out to the Kunduz Airport road and a number of shops were also opened on Friday morning. Meanwhile, the Amnesty International in a press released on Thursday called on Afghan government and Taliban to facilitate swift and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief into Kunduz, where according to the organization, ... (More on P4)...(17)

the killed militants, who lost their lives in Kunduz, according to statement. The security forces also destroyed eight militants' motorcycles during the above raids. The statement also confirmed loss of nine Afghan army personnel as a result of separate incidents across the country over the same period. (Xinhua)

2 Killed, 3 Injured in Nangarhar Car-Truck Collision

JALALABAD - A woman and a child were killed and three others injured in a traffic accident on the Jalalabad-Torkham highway in eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday, an official said. Attullah Khogynai, the governor's spokesman, told

Pajhwok Afghan News the car-truck collision occurred in Sourkh-Dewal area of Roudat district at around 4pm. The wounded were shifted to the provincial hospital and they were said to be in critical condition, the official said. (Pajhwok)

After 3 Hours of Closure, Kabul-Kandahar Highway Reopened

QALAT - The Kabul-Kandahar highway was reopened in southern Zabul province after three hours of closure due to fighting on Friday, an official said.

The militants, closing the busy road in Barakzai and Kharjoi areas on the outskirts of Qalat in the morning, searched vehicles, the governor's spokesman said. Gul Islam Siyal told Pajhwok Afghan News reinforcements were sent from the provincial capital to the area after the fighting erupted between security forces and the rebels.

A search operation is still ongoing in the area, according to the gubernatorial spokesman, who said the road was cleared at 2pm. But Obaidullah, a resident of the Noorak locality of Qalat, claimed the road remained shut and hundreds of vehicles stranded. The clash that began at ... (More on P4)...(19)

Security Forces, Taliban Suffer Casualties in Baghlan Battle

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Police in northern Baghlan province on Friday claimed killing and wounding 23 militants after an attack on security forces' convoy.

However, the militants rejected the police assertion as baseless. Instead the Taliban said heavy casualties and losses had been inflicted on the security forces.

Baghlan police chief, Brig. Gen. Noor Habib Gulbahari said the rebels assaulted the security forces' convoy in the Chahar Shanba Tep area of Baghlan-i-Markazi district late on Thursday. The convoy came under at-



tack on its way to neighbouring Kunduz province, according to the police chief, who said the ensuing gun-battle lasted five hours and a half. Without providing

details on police casualties, Gulbahari told Pajhwok Afghan News 10 of the attackers were killed and 13 others wounded in the encounter. But ... (More on P4)...(20)

64 Militants Killed within a Day: Official

KABUL - Some 64 militants have been killed amid military operations launched by Afghan security forces since early Thursday, the country's Defense Ministry said on Friday.

"Over the past 24 hours, Afghan security forces carried out military and cleanup operations across the country, killing 64 terrorists and injuring 40 others," the ministry said in a statement.

The statement noted that out of the casualties, some 18 militants were killed and 22 wounded after joint Afghan troops backed by helicopter gunships conducted cleanup operations



in and around the northern Kunduz city. On Monday, the Taliban launched coordinated attacks and captured most parts of the city, which is capital of northern Kunduz province, 250 km north of Kabul. A Taliban shadow governor for northern Takhar province named Qari Shamsuddin was among

the killed militants, who lost their lives in Kunduz, according to statement. The security forces also destroyed eight militants' motorcycles during the above raids. The statement also confirmed loss of nine Afghan army personnel as a result of separate incidents across the country over the same period. (Xinhua)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



An exchange of heartfelt words can escalate into an unexpected drama today. Mercury's presence in reflective Libra encourages you to see yourself in the mirror of relationships rather than simply viewing other people as an extension of yourself. However, the Sun squares off with powerful Pluto, instigating conflicts within a personal or business partnership.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You're likely to fight back today if someone at work demands more than you can deliver. Unfortunately, the Sun's dynamic square with domineering Pluto can maneuver you into an uncomfortable corner. Although you might be in a tenuous position, the real threat to your security is if you lose your temper, raising the stakes all the way around.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You've been patiently waiting for the right moment to say something important to a close friend or partner. You might unintentionally release a flood of emotions when talkative Mercury enters your 5th House of Self-Expression, triggering the Sun's dynamic square to transformational Pluto. Suppressing your frustration is not an option now; your irrational feelings will not take no for an answer.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



What appears obvious may be far from the truth today when it comes to dealing with authority figures and meeting your obligations. A sneaky Sun-Pluto square hides answers that take unwavering determination to find. If you're struggling with a person who is preventing your progress, step back and look at the whole situation from a completely different angle.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You might encounter a new kind of resistance today that isn't just a simple roadblock. In fact, you may be facing a formidable opponent at work while the Sun squares vengeful Pluto in your 6th House of Employment. Rather than engaging the issue directly now, make a plan that allows you to diffuse the conflict while also demonstrating your ability to handle complexity.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You could lose face in an emotional exchange where your integrity is questioned. Nevertheless, this crisis turns into a transformational opportunity as the Sun in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem squares Pluto in your 5th House of Self-Expression. Don't struggle to hold onto what you have when you can free up creative resources by letting go. A dramatic metamorphosis leads you to something or someone better if you let it.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You must brace yourself today because it's time to face your deepest desires and hidden fears. Shadowy Pluto creates an intense square with the radiant Sun, possibly provoking ego skirmishes, sowing seeds of mistrust and undermining your sense of self-worth. Thankfully, you can tap into a rich vein of resources that transform losses into gains if you honestly recognize what you need over what you want.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You can easily be drawn into a protracted battle with someone who is just as stubborn as you, even if you think you're being more than fair now. You might want to consider searching for an escape route today, because the Sun's tense square to ruthless Pluto makes compromise elusive.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



An interesting turn of events sheds light on the continuing conflict between your current situation and your long-term goals. However, a shift of focus from the present moment to future possibilities becomes problematic when unrelenting Pluto squares the willful Sun in your 11th House of Dreams and Wishes. You may be able to envision what's around the next bend, but you must push through someone's resistance.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You may stretch your limits and see how far you can push yourself or someone else as you strive to reach your goals. You face a challenging choice when the Sun crosses paths with obstinate Pluto. It may not be obvious whether you are trying to end something or just testing the resilience of a relationship. It's risky to force negative feelings to the surface now.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You might realize you're being drawn into powerful emotional currents that can precipitate a showdown. Although turbulent waters are likely when the Sun squares obstinate Pluto in your 12th House of Destiny, forcing the issue won't bring you any closer to happiness. Even if your sense of well-being seems threatened, the chances of real danger are minimal.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Your relationship world is in flux and you must determine who is on your side and who is not. It's tempting to deny the issue or delay any action but the Sun's terse square with unrelenting Pluto pushes your buttons to elicit your reaction now. Although Mercury shifts into peace-seeking Libra today, even your sweetest phrases may not avert a battle for control.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66.

Across: 1. Exploded stars, 6. Martial art, 10. Nile bird, 14. Flip over, 15. Again, 16. Not less, 17. Toothpowder, 19. Colorful (Scottish), 20. Inveigle, 21. It is (poetic), 22. Learning method, 23. Typewrite, 25. Covered with vines, 26. As well, 30. Bloated, 32. Polecat, 35. Deny, 39. Sweet wattle, 40. Lampon, 41. Revival, 43. Gist, 44. Abandon, 46. University administrator, 47. Guys, 50. Smooth brown oval nut, 53. Ends a prayer, 54. Indian bread, 55. Swamp, 60. Petty quarrel, 61. Possible, 63. Sister and wife of Zeus, 64. Perished, 65. Panache, 66. Bucolic, 67. Unit of land, 68. Abounds.
Down: 1. Naked, 2. Not closed, 3. Blow off steam, 4. Against, 5. Decree, 6. Glass container, 7. Together, 8. Chose, 9. Is indebted to, 10. Overlapped, 11. Element with the symbol B, 12. Angry, 13. Stitched, 18. Effeminate, 24. Church bench, 25. Entry permits, 26. At a distance, 27. Bloodsucking insects, 28. Knife, 29. Not oriental, 31. A young lady, 33. Employs, 34. Dines, 36. A climbing plant, 37. Killer whale, 38. To fancy (archaic), 42. Pertaining to the liver, 43. And so forth, 45. One who leases, 47. Fish broth, 48. Refereed, 49. A special loved one, 51. French for "Friend", 52. A nine-piece musical group, 54. Zero, 56. Dash, 57. Competent, 58. Shut, 59. Collections, 62. Citrus drink.

Yesterday's Solution: action, apart, bean, beautiful, benign, broad, charm, cite, curse, fare, fiber, float, focus, happy, line, magic, null, painful, possessive, private, prize, ripen, scene, select, spoof, stamp, syntax, table, tactful, tape, teach, tent, title, trade, transmission, trench, tribe.

TEACHYASELECT
ARTBHAPPYLTHP
BAAEPSAFTURAR
LFCNOTRIYNARI
EMTISATBFLDMZ
RAFGSMSEOELE
PGUNEPIRCQB
AILPSSSSUSHRS
ICURSECYSCFOP
NACTIONENILAO
FPRIVATENTODO
UNITETRIBBEANF
LBEAUTIFULTXO