

Kabul-Kandahar Highway Reopened after Three Days

KABUL - Kabul-Kandahar highway, which was closed by Taliban militants in the jurisdiction of southern Zabul Province for three days, has reopened, a statement from ministry of defense stated Friday.

Taliban had established check points on the highway and were not allowing traffic flow.

Afghan National Police, Afghan National Army and personnel from the National Directorate of Security are taking part in the operation led to the push back of Taliban. Though, the operation still continues in Shah Joy Dis-



trict. General Abdul Razaq, the police chief Kandahar province who is among those leading the operation said that Taliban have suffered heavy casualties and security forces seized several heavy and light weapons from them.

He said Kabul-Kandahar highway is completely opened for traffic and people can again travel on this highway.

Earlier, Mohammad Anwar Es-haqzai the governor of Zabul province said that Taliban have planted landmines on the highway. (KP)

Taliban Shadow District Governor among Five Killed



KABUL - A Taliban shadow district governor has been killed along with four of his men in northeastern Takhar province, officials said adding that Taliban had designated Qari Mohammadi as the so-called governor for Dasht-e-Qala District who was killed by security forces. Spokesman for the governor of Takhar province said that Qari Mohammadi was killed an anti-Taliban operation in Khoja

Ghar District on Wednesday. Sunatullah Temor said that the operation is still in progress and several villages have been cleared of militants so far. Taliban had not commented on the report by the time it was filed. Though, this comes as heavy clashes have been erupting between security forces and Taliban in northern areas in which hundreds of militants including their commanders are taking part. (KP)

Islamic State's Inroads in Afghanistan Worse than Taliban: Villagers

SAR SHAHI - When the Islamic State fighters seized the Mahmand Valley, they poured pepper into the wounds of their enemies, villagers said. Then, they seared their hands in vats of boiling oil. A group of villagers was blindfolded, tortured and blown apart with explosives buried underneath them.

"They pulled out my brother's teeth before they forced him to sit on the bombs," recalled Malik Namos, a tribal elder who escaped from the valley along with thousands of other villagers. "They are more vicious than the Taliban, than any group we have seen." At war for more than three decades, Afghans are familiar with violence perpetrated by a raft of armies and militias. But even by their jaded standards, the emergence here of the Islamic State — the extremist organization that arose in the Middle East — has ushered in a new age of brutality.

ISIS adds a fresh dimension to the contest for Afghanistan's future, a key reason why President Barack Obama is considering a plan to keep as many as 5,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan past next year. Their decrees threaten in some areas to reverse U.S.-funded gains in education and women's rights. And they have made the Taliban, which has also committed atrocities, an appealing alternative in ungoverned regions.

A rare portrait of the group's rise and of life inside its domain emerged from traveling in Nangahar province — a central battleground of the Islamic State — and in interviews with local officials, tribal elders and more than two-dozen... (More on P4)... (16)

US Tank Entered Compound of Bombed Afghan Hospital without Permission : MSF

KABUL - Medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said on Friday that a U.S. tank entered the grounds of its hospital in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz without permission, damaging the compound that was hit in a U.S. air strike earlier this month.

The group said in a statement that the vehicle was carrying a team from a joint investigation being conducted by the United States, NATO and Afghan

government into why a U.S. aircraft fired on the hospital, killing at least 22 staff and patients.

"Their unannounced and forced entry damaged property, destroyed potential evidence and caused stress and fear for the MSF team," the group said of the incident on Thursday. It also said members of the investigation team had previously agreed to notify MSF before taking steps that involved the group's

personnel or assets. A spokesperson for NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan did not immediately confirm or deny the report. "We are aware of the reports and are reviewing the incident," the spokesperson said. The U.S. military has taken responsibility for the air strike, which occurred during intense fighting between Afghan forces and the Taliban in the early hours of Oct. 3. ... (More on P4)... (17)

Turkmenistan Strongly Denies 'Incidents' at Afghan Border



ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan has registered no incidents at its border with Afghanistan, the Central Asian state's government said on Friday, denouncing as untrue a remark by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The strongly worded statement came ahead of a meeting of ex-Soviet nations to discuss the security of Afghan borders, among other issues, and followed comments by Nazarbayev who said he was aware of "incidents" that had happened at the Afghan-Turkmen border, but did not elaborate.

"The Turkmen side expresses its extreme concern and incomprehension with regards to such a statement by the president of Kazakhstan about the situation on Turkmenistan's state border, which is untrue," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Nazarbayev made his remark after meeting visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday. The two will be joined by leaders or representatives from other former Soviet nations, including Turkmenistan, on Friday. (Reuters)

Afghan Migrant Shot Dead Trying to Enter Bulgaria : Ministry

KABUL - An Afghan migrant was shot by Bulgarian border guards trying to cross into the country from Turkey and died on his way to hospital, the interior ministry said.

"A big group of illegal migrants attempted to enter Bulgaria from Turkey. One man suffered a gunshot wound in the incident and died on the way to hospital," an interior ministry spokeswoman told AFP.

The incident happened near the southeastern Bulgarian town of Sredets Thursday evening, she said, adding that the dead



migrant was from Afghanistan. Public BNR radio cited the interior ministry's chief of staff Georgy Kostov as saying that the group of 50 illegal migrants — all from Afghanistan — was intercepted

by a patrol of two border guards and a police officer after crossing into Bulgarian territory. "They put up resistance during the arrest. One of the officers fired warning shots and, in... (More on P4)... (18)

Military Officer Deserts in US, Arrested in Montana

HELENA - An Afghan military officer who deserted last month while participating in a training program in the U.S. was arrested on a Washington-state bound Amtrak train, U.S. Border Patrol agents said Thursday. Mustafa Tanin was arrested Tuesday when the train stopped to refuel in Havre, Montana. Border Patrol agents had boarded the train in search of somebody else when they came across Tanin and questioned him, Agent Craig Duff said.

"He initially claimed to be from Mongolia," Duff said. "During questioning, he admitted to being from Afghanistan." Border Patrol agents found an identification document on Tanin and discovered that his U.S. visa had been canceled because he had deserted, Border Patrol Agent Melissa Hart said.

Tanin, a lieutenant in the Afghan Army, arrived in the U.S. in May for a Basic American Language Instructor Course at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. The

program is for military personnel and civilians to improve their English and prepare them to teach the language in their countries, said Air Force Maj. Toni Whaley. Tanin failed to report for activities during a weeklong field study in Washington, D.C. He was declared an international military student absent without leave by the head of the Defense Language Institute English Language Center on Sept. 25, Whaley said. Tanin did not give a reason for leaving the training, did not ask for political asylum and did not resist arrest, Duff said.

Duff said a second another Afghan military official deserted with Tanin, though Whaley said Tanin was the only person who failed to report. "While there have been others who have absconded while in training, there is a well-coordinated process among federal agencies to locate the individuals as quickly as possible and return them to their respective homeland," Whaley said. ... (More on P4)... (19)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

The more facts you have at your disposal today, the more you realize that you don't really know what someone else is feeling. Although you may be inclined to jump to premature conclusions now, the longer you can sit with your uncertainty, the better your chances for creating a meaningful connection. Instead of pushing for resolution on a relationship issue, surrender your need for control.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You are driven by a strong desire for perfection today, but satisfaction remains elusive. Romantic Venus opposes nebulous Neptune, tricking you into combining your dreams with reality. Nevertheless, you won't float off into the clouds while the Moon joins forces with pragmatic Saturn. Listening to your heart helps you turn a daydream into something real.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have big dreams about what you want to do today but your actual preferences are restrained by practical considerations. You might feel as if making a personal sacrifice will prevent you from manifesting your dreams. But instead of being disappointed if reality falls short of your expectations, look for undiscovered opportunities that accompany the unexpected changes.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your daydreams are so distracting today that you might easily overlook pertinent information required to make an informed decision. Successful strategies to combat your fuzzy thinking include asking questions and remembering to read every word before signing on the dotted line. If you're not careful, you could be swayed by someone's charming presentation now.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your love life is a conundrum today because flirtatious Venus is playing with your heart while nebulous Neptune clouds your judgment. Someone may enchant you now as your imagination turns a frog into a prince or princess in your dreams. It's all rainbows and unicorns until you wake up and have to manage everything the way it is in reality rather than how you envisioned it in your fantasies.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You might be in for a rather frustrating day if you believe that you must maintain tight control in a relationship. But once you have your first confrontation with a friend or partner, your illusions will dissipate quickly like clouds after a storm. Asking someone else to lead for a while lessens the pressure and allows you to enjoy yourself without having to micromanage every detail. Accepting that others have just as much to bring to the table as you makes all.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You prefer seeking the elusive perfection of beauty than dealing with mundane reality. Although fulfilling your responsibilities can be challenging today, you can't leave your chores undone for another day. Your ruling planet Venus brings you a lovely image to play with now, but it's slightly out of focus as she duels with mystical Neptune. Thankfully,

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

A solution to a stressful dilemma may not be forthcoming today, but part of the problem is that you won't receive useful answers until you can formulate clear questions. Take some quiet time away from your current obligations to untangle your thoughts. Once you've established a logical starting point, the rest of the process will be much easier.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Even if you're dealing with the same confusing issues as yesterday, they might not appear to bother you as much today. However, just beneath your life-is-wonderful veneer, stresses are still at work. Don't waste precious energy trying to make your life look better than it actually is. Once others see that you have problems just like them, they'll be more inclined to interact with you on a personal level.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You might not know where to begin today if someone questions your integrity. Defending your position is challenging when the validity of your assumptions is uncertain and you don't have any specific evidence to back them up. Unfortunately, the more you argue your point, the greater the gulf grows between you and others. Forget about talking your way through this predicament now.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Just when you thought everything was perfect, a close friend brings a missing fact to your attention today, reminding you that you are not seeing things in a clear light. Although you might slip into a downward spiral if you temporarily lose your center, you can pull yourself out of a nose dive as quickly as it began with a little positive self-affirmation.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Keeping your impulses in check is nearly impossible today, especially if someone is tempting you to climb out on a limb and express your feelings. But your partner or a friend could lay down some rules now that won't easily let you off the hook. Instead of striking out because you're afraid of rejection, face your fears before you experience a relationship crisis. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

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Across

1. Award, 6. Disabled, 10. Spar, 14. Genus of heath, 15. On the road, 16. Wing-like, 17. Expect, 19. Debauchee, 20. Boss, 21. Child, 22. Charged particles, 23. Seminal fluid, 25. Couches, 26. Charity, 30. Irregular, 32. Contraband, 35. Pertaining to vivid recall, 39. Cream-filled pastry, 40. Lampoon, 41. Walks unsteadily, 43. A flask for carrying water, 44. Arch of the foot, 46. At one time (archaic), 47. Vagabonds, 50. Astray, 53. Acquire deservedly, 54. Consumed food, 55. Sculpture, 60. District, 61. Growing, 63. Swerve, 64. Desire, 65. Infantile paralysis, 66. Countercurrent, 67. Swarm, 68. Preserves.

Down

1. Lunch or dinner, 2. Sea eagle, 3. Devil tree, 4. Corrosive, 5. Shoestrings, 6. One time around, 7. Rouse, 8. Daytime performance, 9. Gave the once-over, 10. String puppet, 11. Cool, 12. Steam bath, 13. Amount of hair, 18. Fury, 24. Cup, -4.25door car, 26. Assist in crime, 27. Mentally irregular (slang), 28. Exuviate, 29. Unmoving, 31. Brand of credit card, 33. Property claims, 34. Makes a mistake, 36. Layer, 37. Angers, 100/1.38th of a dollar, 42. High level of respect, 43. Consumer Price Index, 45. Come forth, 47. Throw with effort, 48. Rowed, 49. Spawn, 51. South southeast, 52. Ceases, 54. Border, 56. Dwarf buffalo, 57. Cultivate, 58. Module, 59. Prima donna problems, 62. Precious stone.

Yesterday's Solution

advancement, alive, annual, appear, brittle, child, choice, clashes, clasp, company, cost, derail, extraction, favor, grail, grown, honor, horn, hound, human, keep, lath, lessen nature, people, range, rote, sane, shack, shadow, subject.

B R I T T L E O T O T A L
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