

IDPs Get Aid, Want Better Security in Kunduz

SHIBERGHAN - Displaced residents of northern Kunduz and Jawzjan provinces, who received cash and essential items, have urged the government to maintain security in their regions so they could go back to their homes. Cash, health and kitchen packages were donated to at least 44 displaced families, Allah Murad Daahi, head of refugees' department, told to Pajhwok News Agency. The families fled Kunduz province to Shiberghan due to war and insecurity. Besides medicine and kitchen utensils, each household was given cash assistance of 7,000 afghanis. He said the families had been identi-



fied by representatives of NGOs and other offices in the city. "Every displaced family will be identified while entering Shiberghan city and registered under the assistance program," he added. The displaced families, meanwhile, urged the government to enforce peace and security in their province so they could return to their homes. Qudratullah, a displaced man, said: "We have left our houses and fled to other provinces four times this year. I was afraid of being killed working for the education department in Kunduz." He asked the authorities to boost security in Kunduz to let them go back to ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

'Family Members' Among 26 Rebels Killed in Kunar



ASADABAD - Twenty-six insurgents, including two Arab nationals, have been killed in drone strikes in eastern Kunar province, an official said on Monday. Kunar police chief Maj. Juma Gul Himmat told Pajhwok Afghan News the unmanned aircraft targeted an insurgent hideout in Aligul valley of Ghaziabad district on Sunday night, killing 26 insurgents, including two Arabs, and some notori-

ous commanders. A resident of the area, wishing anonymity, said the drone hit both Al Qaeda and Taliban stations in the area. He said family members of fighters linked to Al Qaeda and Taliban were also among the dead. They included women and children, he said, claiming the dead militants also included Pakistani nationals. There has been no word from insurgents about the drone attack. *(Pajhwok)*

Kandahar's Grape Exports Fall; Alternative Route Sought

KANDAHAR CITY - Despite a higher grape yield this year, farmers in southern Kandahar province could not export much of the fresh fruit due to the closure of the Chaman border with Pakistan. Kandahar exported 11 tons of grapes this year, most of it going to the neighbouring country. The border closure for two weeks caused heavy financial losses to Kandahar fruit-growers. Provincial chamber of commerce head, Haji Nasrullah Zahir, in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, said Kandahar's grape yield was quite impressive this year, but only a limited quantity of the fruit could be exported. He said 11 tons worth of \$2.3 million of the fruit had been exported, mostly to Pakistan, some of it to India and a small quantity to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The grape season is ending but only two truckloads of it are ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

9 ISIS Militants Killed in Air and Ground Raids

JALALABAD - At least 9 loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group were killed in separate operations in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. The provincial government media office in a statement said at least 4 militants were killed during an operation by the Afghan forces in Pacher Agam district. In the meantime, the Ministry of Defense (MoD), said at least 5 militants were killed

during an airstrike in the same district. He said a compound belonging to the loyalists of the terror group was targeted in the airstrike which destroyed in the raid. The loyalists of the terror group have not commented regarding the report so far. This comes as the local officials said Saturday at least 54 loyalists of the terror group were killed during a large scale operation launched in this province. Nangarhar is



among the relatively volatile provinces in eastern Afghanistan where both the Taliban insurgents and militants loyal ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Taliban Commander Killed in Kapisa Clashes

KABUL - Qari Emal, a Taliban commander, was killed in clashes with security forces in north-eastern Kapisa province on Sunday, local officials said. In addition, Rabeullah, another Taliban commander, was among two other insurgents injured in the clashes. The clashes took place in Tagab and Alasay district of the province after the

insurgents reportedly attacked security forces, a spokesman for the provincial governor, Qais Qaderi, said. "There were no civilian or security forces casualties in the clashes," he said. Tagab and Alsay are the insecure districts in the province in which insurgents have activities and frequently attack security forces. *(Tolonews)*

34 Militants Killed in Fresh Helmand Clashes

LASHKARGAH - Officials on Monday said 34 Taliban militants have been killed during latest clashes with security forces in southern Helmand province. As part of newly launched operations in Helmand, six civilians were freed from a Taliban-run jail in Greshk district. Brig. Gen. Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai, the 215 Maiwand Corps commander in Helmand, told a press conference here



that security forces on Monday launched operations in Bolan and Bashran areas of Lashkargah, the provincial capital.

He said so far 34 militants including a number of commanders had been killed and several others ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Hundreds of Punjabi Fighters Build Strongholds in Nimroz

KABUL - Hundreds of Punjabi fighters have built strongholds in Khashrod district in Nimroz province and it is said they are helping drug smugglers and land grabbers in the southwestern parts of the country, a special report prepared by TOLONews reveals. Reports indicate that Pakistani military is helping the fighters in Nimroz, but Pakistan's embassy in Kabul rejects the involve-

ment of its military in this aspect and says that the Punjabi fighters are members of Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Meanwhile, TOLONews's findings reveal that there is a lack of forces, equipment and other military facilities in Afghan soldiers' counter-narcotics mission. The findings show that every counter-narcotics soldier has one weapon ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

32 Militants Killed, Taliban Offensive Foiled

SHIBERGHAN - Taliban offensive to capture Faizabad district in Afghanistan's northern Jawzjan province has been foiled and 32 militants were killed, spokesman for provincial government Reza Ghafari said Monday. "Taliban massive attack on Faizabad district which begun on Saturday has been thwarted and the rebels after suffering huge casualties and leaving 32 dead bodies behind run away," Ghafari told reporters here.



More than 60 insurgents sustained injuries in the two-day fierce fighting, the official added. The official said the police chief of neighboring Manjigak district had been

killed during the fighting. Taliban militants who are active in parts of Jawzjan province with Shiberghan as its capital have not commented on the situation. *(Xinhua)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

If you've been playing the waiting game in the emotional arena, it could be time to turn your anticipation into action. You're riding high on the energy of the playful Leo Moon in your 5th House of Romance. However, the urgency to free yourself from complicated entanglements standing between you and your happiness might prompt you to overreact.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You may be excited and uneasy at the same time today, not quite knowing what to do with desires that don't fit your usual patterns. You might have the opportunity to participate in a social event involving eccentric people that stretch your mind. You're not even sure why you're tempted by exotic food, weird music or unconventional art.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your mental intensity takes your conversations to a place you rarely go. However, your unusually penetrating perception could also introduce distrust while Mercury swims in Scorpio's tumultuous waters, turning your mind's eye inward to uncover the root causes of your current dilemma. Unfortunately, a sudden wave of desire doesn't necessarily correspond to your intentions.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

On one hand, you yearn for the comfort of being with someone who accepts you as you are. On the other hand, you might sacrifice your true feelings to maintain stability so that those close to you may not even know the real you. Don't be afraid of changing your style and shocking someone with a personal disclosure today. If you are open and honest about your truth.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your adrenaline surges today as unfamiliar emotions whisk you into new relationship territory. However, interactive Mercury's presence in mysterious Scorpio and your 4th House of Foundations prompts you to delve deeper into your psychological, spiritual and emotional roots.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Volatile emotional dynamics can set your nerves on edge today. It's more than likely that you will pursue connecting with a free-spirited person or revitalizing the flagging energy in an existing relationship. But you may be more suspicious of others now that curious Mercury is taking up all the oxygen in your 3rd House of Data Collection. Your current hunger for answers could be annoying if you turn it into an interrogation.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

A sudden jolt of awareness can be upsetting, but only if you try to hold onto your previous agenda. Plans with a friend or partner may be disrupted today as the sparks fly, highlighting shocking Uranus in your 7th House of Others. Although you are known to step into the role of peacemaker, you're no push-over now as communicator Mercury sinks into fixed Scorpio. Rather than waiting for something to happen.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your laser-like mental radar sees through people's charades and hones in on the facts. Your discernment powers are strong now that cerebral Mercury is camping out in your perceptive sign. However, you might erratically jump to an incorrect conclusion even if you have solid information at your disposal.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

A sudden change in the emotional landscape can push you to the edge in a relationship now. Your urge to express what's in your heart is so persistent that you might open up to a complete stranger if you have nowhere else to share your secrets. Although impulsive actions could inadvertently create distance with an existing friend or lover, your real goal is to demonstrate your passion for life.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Anything goes as unusually deep feelings bump up against external resistance today. Nevertheless, you're likely to express your desires no matter how odd they may sound. In fact, remaining open to new forms of pleasure can bring unexpected rewards. Just as easily, your love life could be turned upside down when sweet Venus runs into reactionary Uranus, upsetting your plans or radically altering the direction of a relationship.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Very little escapes your incisive thinking now; your perceptions are on point and you are a force to be reckoned with in your interactions with others. Nevertheless, a simple flirtation can heat things up so quickly that you don't take time to logically consider the consequences of your actions. Making decisions in the spur of the moment might feel empowering but may lead your heart into an emotional briar patch.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You may act impulsively one moment and freeze with fear the next. Or you might attract people whose behavior is as bewildering to you as yours is to them. Cerebral Mercury enters penetrating Scorpio and your 9th House of Higher Truth, empowering you to go the distance in your thinking. Unfortunately, your good sense could be short-lived as sudden attractions to new people, things or ideas turn into major distractions.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-58.

Across: 1. Widespread, 5. Not a consonant, 10. Circle fragments, 14. 12 in a foot, 15. Swelling under the skin, 16. Satyr, 17. Decorative case, 18. Pronounced, 20. Greek goddess of fertility, 22. Remedy, 23. Compete, 24. Not over, 25. Being present everywhere at once, 32. Thugs, 33. Eagle's nest, 34. Thorax protector, 37. Telephoned, 38. Pilfer, 39. Rate, 40. French for "Summer", 41. Utilizers, 42. Country estate, 43. Persisting, 45. Anagram of "Balsa", 49. N N N N, 50. Wearing away, 53. Killer wave, 57. Jellylike, 59. Angers, 60. At the peak of, 61. A fabric resembling velvet, 62. Resound, 63. Canvas dwelling, 64. Metal, 5. Satisfy.

Down: 1. Competed, 2. Stake, 3. Pond gunk, 4. Stealing, 5. Superficiality, 6. Smell, 7. Damp, 8. Arab chieftain, 9. Shoestring, 10. Anon, 11. Cloaked, 12. Give birth, 13. Drive, 19. Wash out with a solvent, 21. Rewards for waiting, 25. Monster, 26. Protective ditch, 27. Not a single one, 28. Consumer of food, 29. Clairvoyants, 30. Delete, 31. Zero, 34. Hindu princess, 35. Computer symbol, 36. Large mass of ice, 38. South southeast, 39. Whittish edible roots, 41. Lit to a higher degree, 42. List of options, 44. Boat, 45. Sired, biblically, 46. Mountain crest, 47. Sage, 48. Suit, 51. Bites, 52. Annoying insect, 53. Melody, 54. Region, 55. Food from animals, 56. Small island, 58. In song the loneliest number.

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid.

Word search grid with words: P I L L O W H A R D L Y E, R B L O C K C H E E R T X, E I M P A C T U E D A B T, S B A T T L E R P R I O R, S O R O C Z O G B I S N A, U U R T H T M E T V E B F, R N I A S R L N S E B A A, E C V L O E E T F S R G M, F E E F C D G U L P A G I, Q D N I I N A T I O N A L, D I S C O V E R G R D G Y, F A C A R D S J H T K E B, B A T H L E T E T S P I P