

# Raghistan Gold Mine Cleared of Taliban

FAIZABAD - Security officials in Badakhshan said they have taken the control of a gold mine in Raghistan district in the province which according to them was one of the main income sources for the insurgent Taliban.

According to the officials, the clearance operation continued for almost 40 days. Reports indicate that the mine was under the control of the Taliban for the past two years and that they earned nearly five million Afghanis from illegal extraction of the mine on a monthly basis.

"We retook the control of big part of the gold mine. Our military operation will continue until the full clearance of the area," said Mohammad Nabi Bayan, security chief at Badakhshan's police headquarters.



Meanwhile, a MPs from Badakhshan confirmed the report, saying that the security forces succeeded to retake the control of the mine from the Taliban.

"The security forces saved the gold from the Taliban with the cooperation of the people. Now the mine is between the two sides, but it has been saved from the militants," said Gulalai Akbari, a senator from Badakhshan. Badakhshan civil society activists meanwhile praised the security forces for clearing the area, saying that this will weaken the Taliban to continue the war in the province.

"We praise this move by the security forces. They should retake the control of the mine permanently," said Jahidullah Payam, a civil society ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Intelligence Agents Rescue Child Released from Kidnappers

HERAT CITY - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Thursday claimed rescuing a child from kidnapers in the Injil district of western Herat province.



A statement from the intelligence network said NDS operatives had detained three men in connection with the kidnapping of the child, named Fahim. The minor was abducted two days ago in the Tobary-

avillage of the Injil district, the spy service said, adding the captive was rescued on Wednesday night. According to the NDS statement, which did not name the suspects, the detainees are currently being investigated.*(Pajhwok)*

## Chaman Border Crossing Reopens After 2 Weeks of Closure

PESHAWAR - Islamabad reopened the Spin Boldak-Chaman Friendship Gate, a key border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan that was closed two weeks back, on Thursday.



The border crossing was closed after Afghan demonstrators torched Pakistan's flag and attacked the gate. During the two-week closure, traders on both sides suffered heavy losses. At a meeting on Wednesday, when the neighbours agreed on reopening the border, Afghan officials

strongly denounced the burning of the Pakistani flag and the attack on the Friendship Gate. Amid enhanced security on both sides, cross-border trade activities restarted on

Thursday, with thousands of stranded trucks and containers resuming movement, TV footage showed. At Tuesday's meeting, Dawn TV reported, Afghan ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Residents want Kunduz-Takhar Highway Reopened

KUNDUZ - A number of residents and members of Kunduz provincial council on Friday said they are concerned about the closure of Kunduz-Takhar Highway and that they want it reopened in the near future.

"They [officials] said they have cleared and reopened the highway but still the people are faced with problems," said Wali, member of Kunduz provincial council. "The Kunduz-Takhar Highway is closed for traffic over the past 10 days. Taliban [militants] have an active presence on the highway," said Bashir, a resident of Kunduz.

A number of drivers also spoke out about the problems they are faced with due to closure of ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Former Ruler's Re-Burial Touches off Angry Protest in Gardez

GARDEZ - The reburial of Habibullah Kalakani triggered a protest in southeaster Paktia province on Friday.

Kalakani was reburied in Kabul hours after an attack on the people carrying his coffin. At least four people were injured and one security official killed. Kalakani served as king for a few months in 1929. He led the revolt against King Amanullah's modernisation plans with the help of various tribes.

A number of political figures, including former Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor, ex-intelligence chief Amrullah Saleh and others, held a ceremony for the reburial of Kalakani and 16 of his aides. The remains were reburied on Shahr-i-Ara Mount in Kabul after armed supporters of 1st Vice-President Gen. Abdur



Rashid Dostum prevented the ceremony. After Juma prayers, demonstrators asked the government not to stay silent on the issue. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## NDS Claims Nabbing would-be Suicide Bombers in Nangarhar

KABUL - Two would-be suicide bombers have been detained in Jalalabad, the capital of southeastern Nangarhar province, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said on Thursday. The teenage detainees - Shakirullah and Sajjad - hail from the Kandal Atal locality of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province. They studied at the Haider Khurd Madrassa, the spy service said. A statement from the intelligence network said the bombers planned attacks on sensitive installations on the outskirts of Jalalabad. Arrested in the border town of Torkham, the boys are under investigation. The detainees, who reportedly confessed to their crime, were quoted as saying that Qari Bilal, a seminary teacher, had trained them on suicide bombing. The arrests reinforce Afghanistan's claim that terrorist networks enjoy support and sanctuaries in Pakistan.*(Pajhwok)*

## Pakistani General 'Leading War Against Troops' in Northern Provinces

JAWZJAN - Jawzjan Police Chief General Rahmatullah Turkistani told TOLOnews that the terrorists' war against security forces in Jawzjan, Sari-Pul and Faryab provinces in the country's north is being led by a Pakistani general named Sheikh Neda Mohammad.

Turkistani added that the Pakistani general is fighting the war against Afghan security forces with the help of a number of Pakistani and Uzbek militants as well as Afghan Taliban.

"A Pakistani general known as Sheikh Neda Mohammad is leading the war. Now another Pakistani general has joined



the war in Qoshtepa [district in Jawzjan]. Taliban is fighting under his command, and they [the commanders] pay their salary and provide them with bread and other facilities,"

Turkistani stated. According to him, Darzab and Qoshtepa districts are under serious security threat, but they will soon implement plans ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Raytheon Sued By Former Employee over Afghanistan Fraud Allegations

WASHINGTON - A former Raytheon employee has filed a federal lawsuit against the defense giant, alleging the company fired him after he tried to report coworker misconduct in Afghanistan.

The lawsuit alleges that Steven Kalch, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, witnessed several instances of fraud, waste and abuse while working for Raytheon and training Afghan security forces from 2012 to 2014.

Kalch's complaints were ignored by superiors and he was fired in early 2014 over claims he tape-recorded U.S. Special Forces teams, a reason for termination that the lawsuit denies. Instead, Kalch's lawsuit alleges he was fired after witnessing "gross mismanagement of services and misuse of gov-

ernment property" by Raytheon employees and having his concerns ignored by superiors while working at Camp Sparta in Kabul.

Raytheon officials did not respond to a request for comment.

Under Raytheon's contract, employees working to train Afghan forces were supposed to work 10 hours a day, 6 days a week for salaries of more than \$175,000, according to the lawsuit.

"However, Kalch observed that the other trainers on the team spent nowhere near the hours documented on their time cards that were presented to the government," the lawsuit states. "Kalch personally observed that many trainers spent less than two hours per day performing work and services, and spent even less time with their Afghan ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

### Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Overconfidence or over-commitment, whether yours or someone else's, is a warning sign that you're reading a situation at work incorrectly. You may believe someone else isn't doing his or her part. But don't overcompensate today and sacrifice your integrity in the process, since the planetary focus on nebulous Neptune and inflationary Jupiter can produce promises without substance.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

There are fuzzy boundaries between a casual friendship and a more intimate connection today. Unfortunately, your brain may be going on vacation while retrograde Mercury stumbles into excessive Jupiter, distorting reality by magnifying the importance of a spontaneous conversation. In fact, a tense alliance between illusory Neptune and the Sun in your 5th House of Spontaneity creates an air of fantasy.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may feel like you're lost in a Hall of Mirrors as you see a distorted version of the world reflected back at you today. It's nearly impossible to know what's real when the Sun forms a disquieting opposition with surreal Neptune. Disillusionment can follow if you allow yourself to be distracted by fantasies of sensual enjoyment rather than utilizing your imagination for more practical purposes.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Whether you are pursuing a passionate interest or promoting a creative project, ask specific questions to make sure your words are completely understood. The Sun opposes spiritual Neptune in your 9th House of Future Vision, infusing you with hope for a better tomorrow. Meanwhile, an abundant Mercury-Jupiter connection spews more creative ideas than you can use.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

The people you work with might struggle to see your special gifts now, perhaps in part due to your own lack of clarity. Whatever the cause, you're likely to be misunderstood when the Sun in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem opposes deceptive Neptune. Fortunately, you can still express your dreams effectively if you limit your vision and reveal the big picture step by step.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are the go-to person that everyone seems to rely on today, and your communication skills are on point. A highly intelligent conjunction of messenger Mercury with optimistic Jupiter empowers you to share what's on your mind. However, your logic and reason are tested now that the Sun opposes delusional Neptune in your 7th House of Others. Compassion for someone who seems lost or simple gullibility might cloud your judgment.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Although you might try to narrow your thinking and filter out excess noise with so many planets in critical Virgo, mental Mercury's alignment with expansive Jupiter widens your intellectual horizons. Additionally, the Sun's opposition to nebulous Neptune can fuel your dreams or lull you with a false sense of security. Don't stress trying to fine-tune the fuzzy spectrum of reality now.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your vivid imagination adds an extra sparkle to your world today. A dynamic opposition between the brilliant Sun and elusive Neptune can attract people who are all flash and little substance. Diaphanous Neptune's presence in your 5th House of Romance is a perfect condition for falling for a fairy tale, but risky for making lasting commitments.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Finishing your work should be a piece of cake today as long as you don't promise too much. Mercury's retrograde dance with overconfident Jupiter occurs in your 10th House of Public Responsibility, encouraging you to underestimate the complexity of a project. However, you might end up spreading your energy so thin to fulfill your commitments in a timely manner that you fall short on all fronts.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your enthusiasm is on the rise, yet you may lose focus today if your goals fade into the shrouded mists of uncertainty. Although the Sun's opposition to nebulous Neptune opens your heart to the unlimited potential of the future, it can also set you up for failure if your expectations are not grounded in reality. However, even impractical dreams fill your soul with the promise of a better tomorrow.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Protecting your material resources makes sense today because even a short lapse of attention to your finances could create trouble fast. In fact, a major purchase may be a bad idea now that the Sun in your 8th House of Shared Resources opposes flaky Neptune in your 2nd House of Money. Investing in someone else's fantasy can be a costly experience, emotionally and economically.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You're motivated to look past the limits of reality today, even though you don't know what you might find. However, your judgment may not be very sound when the Sun opposes metaphysical Neptune in your intuitive sign. Nevertheless, the most outlandish dreams are worthy of consideration now. Keep the doors to your imagination open as wide as possible because you have the magic touch to manifest miracles if you believe in yourself.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60.

Across: 1. Timepiece, 6. Shuck, 10. Haul, 14. Hello or goodbye, 15. Against, 16. Overhang, 17. Unbend, 19. So be it, 20. Hype, 21. Regulation (abbrev.), 22. Novice, 23. A thick sweet liquid, 25. 8th Greek letter, 26. Swabs, 30. Lemon or canary, 32. Embodiment, 35. Palatable, 39. Flower part, 40. Shooting star, 41. Pertaining to cobra-like snakes, 43. Bearberry, 44. Artist's workroom, 46. Vandals, 47. Cabs, 50. Metal bar, 53. Frosts, 54. Not on, 55. Conclusion, 60. Kick, 61. A superficial person, 63. Anagram of "Ties", 64. Computer symbol, 65. About a US quart, 66. 365 days, 67. Recent events, 68. Run away to wed.

Down: 1. Clean, 2. Countertenor, 3. Lawn mower brand, 4. Fellow, 5. Acclaims, 6. Derivative laugh, 7. False, 8. Spire, 9. Monarch, 10. Book louse, 11. Bog hemp, 12. Stave off, 13. Columbus's birthplace, 18. Cheery 24. Type of whiskey, 25. Carries, 26. No more than, 27. Iridescent gem, 28. Printer's unit, 29. Daughter of a step-parent, 31. Tibetan monk, 33. Leaves out, 34. List of options, 36. Boyfriend, 37. Forsaken, 38. Historical periods, 42. Building, 43. Sprocket, 45. Influx, 47. Slightly intoxicated, 48. Keen, 49. Hospitality to strangers (Ancient Greece), 51. Frequently, in poetry, 52. Name of a book, 54. Norse god, 56. Found on a finger, 57. Within, 58. Stair, 59. Not there, 62. N N N N.

Yesterday's Solution: ARSE, AVAST, AGES, DATE, BALER, NOPE, POINT, BIOLOGY, GLEE, BOW, WAVER, BODES, ENSNARE, ENURE, ATIO, EGOMANIA, SHOR, CLAMP, BETG, LEVY, BISSETS, ROYER, ORE, BINGE, THEME, WARRANTY, BOA, FARST, LINKAGE, SALT, PLANE, LAW, KNOB, PREPAR, OITZE, TOWA, TOLLER, AVER, TANG, BELLY, MESS.

agree, array, atone, battle, cake, change, cite, clean, crown, crush, dabble, drive, eager, earnest, eerie, energy, erupt, event, exception, fame, garage, giants, gloat, grade, grown, hinge, honest, leas, noon, norse, pace, power, recede, scads, sheen, stave, taste.

V E N E E R B A T T L E T  
M X V A S A U G R A D E A  
L C V E T H G R F E G N S  
S E S I N R E E C A K E T  
T P A C E T E E R T M N E  
A T R S A W R A N O E E H  
V I R W R D G G T N R S P  
E O A C N I S R W E U E O  
N N Y L E T D O H R P N W  
H O N E S T R W C I T E E  
G L O A T C I N W O N R R  
G I A N T S V C H A N G E  
D A B B L E E E R I E Y E