

Poppy Eradication Drive to be Launched Soon

JALALABAD - Counternarcotics directorate said on Tuesday that poppy cultivated on more than 18,000 acres of land in 13 districts of eastern Nangarhar province would be eradicated this week. The exact figures of poppy cultivated on land could not be ascertained but officials noted that the growth of illicit crop registered record surge as compared to last year. Muhammad Idrees Sapi, director counternarcotics, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Our survey is yet to be completed but the cultivation of the illicit crop is much more than past year," ...*(More on P4)...(17)*



IMU Group Pledge Allegiance to IS

KABUL - A group of Uzbeks in northern Afghanistan, claiming to be from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), says it is pledging allegiance to the Islamic State extremist group.

A person calling himself Sadulla Urgenji said the IMU no longer views Taliban leader Mullah Omar as leader since he has not been seen for some 13 years and, "according to Shari'a," can no longer be leader.

Urgenji said his group was recognizing the authority of the Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State group.

The group also posted a video online that showed members beheading an Afghan soldier.

Urgenji said Afghan forces had captured several female IMU members in Faryab Province recently and in retaliation the group took 30 Afghan soldiers captive. He said Afghan authorities ignored an offer to exchange the soldiers for the IMU women supporters so the group decapitated one of the soldiers and promised to execute more unless their demand was met. (RFERL)

15 Taliban Insurgents Arrested

KABUL - At least 15 Taliban insurgents including a son of Mullah Sher, a Taliban commander, were arrested in a joint operation of Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) on Monday in central Maidan Wardak province, local officials said.

The operation was conducted in the Jang-e-Payen and Jang-e-Bala areas of Sayed Abad district, the Police Chief Mohammad Khalil Andarabi said.

"We conducted the operation to clear the area from the insurgents who killed a number of civilians last week on ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

'Kandahar Security Bolstered with Arrival of Warm Season'



KANDAHAR CITY - With the arrival of summer season, security has been beefed up in parts of southern Kandahar province, deputy police chief said on Tuesday. Col. Rahmatullah Atrafi said militants were carrying out attacks whenever they got opportunity. Police, he said were now professional strong enough following support of masses that they could thwart militants' attack. He said recently police along with Afghan National Army (ANA) conducted clearing operations in parts of the province which yielded positive results. He recalled back-to-back military operations had broken the back bone of militants and they would not be able to stage attacks. (Pajhwok)

33 Insurgents Killed in Military Offensive



LASHKARGAH - In the latest offensive, at least 33 Taliban insurgents were killed and seven others wounded over the past 24 hours in Sangin district of southern Helmand, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said in a statement on Tuesday. The recent action of the security forces against insurgents was part of Zulfikar operation continued for about two months in the province. "One soldier was killed in the roadside mine blast while conducting the op ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Senior Taliban Commander Arrested in Kabul

KABUL - National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency - has arrested a senior Taliban commander in capital Kabul. A statement issued by the NDS on Tuesday states that the name is of the arrested Taliban commander is Hamidullah who was going by Zabit Hamid. NDS statement adds that Hamidullah alias Zabit Hamid was arrested after a gun battle with security forces from the jurisdiction of 5th police district of Kabul city. According to the statement Hamidullah was ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

7 of a Family Killed in IED Blast

GHAZNI CITY - Women and children were among seven people killed in a roadside mine blast in southern Ghazni province on Monday night, local officials said.



The incident took place in the unrest Andar district when a vehicle boarding civilians struck a roadside mine, a spokesman for the acting governor, Shafiq Nang said.

"All the victims were from one family that included three children, three women and a man," he said.

The roadside mine called Improvised Explosive Device (IED) has been one of the major causes of casualties in Afghanistan.

The Taliban and other insurgent groups place these mines to target the Afghan and foreign forces; however, most of the times, the civilians have been hit by these IEDs. (Tolnews)

14 Suspects Held in Connection of Passengers Killing

MAIDAN SHAHR - At least 14 people accused of killing 12 passengers have been detained by police in central Maidan Wardak province, an official said Tuesday.

In late March, at least 12 passengers, including a woman were killed by suspected militants on the Kabul-Ghazni highway in Maidan Wardak province.

Provincial police Chief Khalil Andrabi told Pajhwok Afghan News the suspects had been detained during an operation launched in various areas of Sayedabad district on Monday night. He said that Mullah Sher



Mohammad, a rebel fighter was involved in the killing of passengers. He added that 14 suspects including the son of Sher Mohammad were detained in the operation. Seven of the detainees were accused of direct involvement in the attack, Andarabi added.

Another security official wishing not to be named said that Mullah Sher Mohammad was a former Haqqani Network member.

Taliban had rejected assertions that they insurgent group was involved in the murder of passengers. (Pajhwok)

Orchards Set Up on 750 Acres of Land

AIBAK - Grape, apple, almond, apricot, cherry, peach, plum and pear have been planted on 750 acres of land in northern Samangan province, an official said on Tuesday.

Eng. Abdul Hameed, in charge of the National Horticulture and Livestock Programme (NHLP), said the fruit tree plantation drive was a part of National Solidarity Programme (NSP). The spring plantation campaign was being funded by



the World Bank (WB), he said, adding the cost of one orchard was 6,000 afghanis -- with 50 percent paid by owners. Mohammad Rafi, one of the orchard farmers,

said he had planted 330 almond trees with the help of professional people under the NSP project.

Agriculture Director Mohammad Aslam Dana said

Afghanistan was an agrarian country and its economy reliant on agriculture and livestock. Since 2009, pistachio, almond, cherry and other orchards ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Fascinating new information could arrive today from TV or the Internet, opening up new educational opportunities. The possibility of making contact and perhaps visiting new friends in other countries might come to your attention. You will probably find this very exciting, Aries, and make plans immediately. This is fine, but be careful to consider all contingencies. Be practical and objective.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

A sudden burst of physical energy and determination could lead to additional income for you, Taurus. This is probably due to an unexpected opportunity to do some extra work outside the scope of your usual employment. It could also be a long overdue payment for past work. You could also receive acknowledgement of some kind for work well done, further firing your enthusiasm.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Friends or a group with which you're affiliated could propose a trip. This might seem like a great adventure, Gemini, so you're likely to go for it. You will probably have a wonderful time. You might make some new friends while you're away, or even fall in love. A little break might fire your enthusiasm for pursuing career or educational opportunities when you return.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

An opportunity to do some extra work outside the scope of your regular job could present itself to you. Take it, Cancer. Not only could you earn some extra money but you might also open new doors that expand your professional horizons. The only danger is that you might work too hard and tire yourself out. It's OK for a while, but don't make a habit of it.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You might be extremely busy now. Invitations to large parties, small gatherings with close friends, and intimate evenings with romantic partners might come up today. Be discriminating in those you accept, Leo. Concentrate on seeing people who share your interests. This may bring new friends your way, as well as opportunities to expand your horizons.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Unexpected visitors could wake you up to the possibility of new work opportunities, Virgo. This could advance your current job or be work you can do on your own - maybe on a volunteer basis. Whatever it is, you will probably find it exciting. You might even be impatient to get on with it. Pace yourself. If you tire yourself out, you won't be able to continue.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your actions may be erratic and spontaneous today, Libra, but they will also most certainly be powerful. You may be driven by a sharp intellectual mind. Perhaps there's someone near you who has great cunning. You may be feeling brainer than usual. Genius ideas are apt to surround you and your actions as long as you keep an open mind about how and when they manifest.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Money that you may have been hoping to use to better your living or working condition could suddenly come your way today, Scorpio. Ideas for how to put it to work in the most efficient, satisfying way could pop into your mind quickly. You will probably want to write them all down, consider your options carefully, and then choose the ones that suit your needs best. Go to it.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Don't feel like you're obligated to jump through other people's hoops, Sagittarius. Just because someone wants you to do something doesn't mean you have to oblige. Bend over backward for yourself and not for the entertainment of others. Freedom is an operative word for you, so make sure you exercise this right in every aspect of your life. No one else is going to do it for you.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

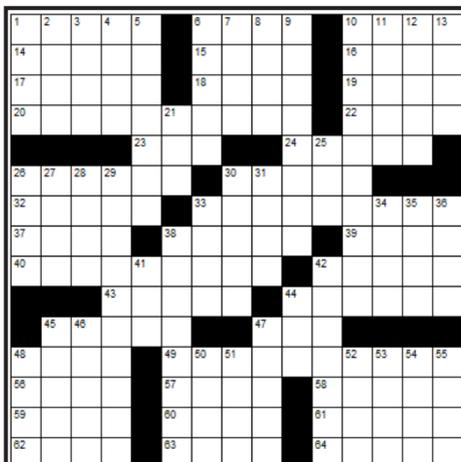
You may be acting unconsciously, Capricorn. Suddenly you're halfway through a task and wondering what you really hoped to accomplish by starting it in the first place. Be more conscious of your energy and how you use it. Make sure you don't shoot yourself in the foot by wasting your precious resources on things that don't really matter in the long run.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You can rely on your good luck to pull you out of difficult situations today, Aquarius. This is one day when you can launch yourself headfirst without worrying too much about the outcome. There's a great deal of positive energy on your side that you may not even be able to see right now. Trust that whatever you undertake will work out fortuitously for you in the long run.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You may have your guard up as you fend off people and situations that have caught you unprepared, Pisces. Be careful about putting up such big walls that you can't see over them. The danger of building a fortress that doesn't allow others to come in is that it makes it more difficult for you to look out. Leave one wall shorter so you don't cut yourself off from the outside world.



Across

- More peculiar, 6. ___ du jour = Meal of the day, 10. Formally surrender, 14. Pleasant, 15. On the left or right, 16. Region, 17. Unreactive, 18. Assistant, 19. Coffee dispensers, 20. A type of biologist, 22. Carry, 23. Shade tree, 24. Whiskers, 26. Genuine, 30. Spanish for "Friend", 32. Cantillate, 33. In a forbidding manner, 37. Territory, 38. Exaggerated nasality in speech, 39. Essence, 40. Not the roughest, 42. Near, 43. Crucifixes, 44. Beat, 45. Inspire, 47. New Zealand parrot, 48. Litigates, 49. A shortened version, 56. Competent, 57. Anthracite, 58. Juliet's love, 59. Anger, 60. Bucolic, 61. Wall climbers, 62. Computer symbol, 63. To tax or access, 64. Geeks

Down

- Norse god, 2. Spanish lady, 3. A song for 2, 4. Beige, 5. Withdraw, 6. Sacred hymn, 7. 53 in Roman numerals, 8. Contributes, 9. Dentition, 10. Carefully, 11. Mistake, 12. Dings, 13. Alleviate, 21. Completely, 25. In the past, 26. Does something, 27. Buddy, 28. Tropical tuber, 29. Unanticipated, 30. Accumulate, 31. Pepper___, 33. Was indebted, 34. Lampblack, 35. Verdant, 36. The original matter (cosmology), 38. Relating to the chest 41. Foot digit, 42. Demean, 44. Crimson, 45. Having three dimensions, 46. Greetings, 47. Slays, 48. Indian dress, 50. Portend, 51. Beams, 52. Relocate, 53. Arab chieftain, 54. Require, 55. Throw,

Yesterday's Solution

LULU PARSE NEST
IRON ANNUL ONTO
EGOS GUARANTEED
NEWSLUS UNARMED
EEN ENTEARY
IMPINGEMENT
DAUNT CONEY AMIT
LINGLUITE SEAW
ELK BLAZE STRIP
ALTEALATIONS
SPRAT CAP
PIONEER RAREAST
RESISTANCE NEAR
ERIS AGAMI DOGE
ESNE TENET SNOW

advise, behind, blunder, breath, cheap, choke, color, connection, crate, double, dross, effect, final, grand, happy, deal, joker, joyous, leer, lurid, month, oath, perfection, pleasant, raise, realm, rocket, rough salon, seek, shell, shore, spare

SHELLROCKETME
PERFECTIONKRC
AJDKIFHVLOGO
RCORVNFLIHORN
EJRYOWAESTERN
VBIAOSPLCDAPE
GEWDTUSSNTJLC
CHOKEEESUCWBET
RITOTALTGHRAI
ENDDOUBLEERESO
ADVISEJSGOAAAN
LURIDHAPPYTNP
MONTHROUGHHTD