

250 Acres of Sher Khan Port Township's Land Usurped

KUNDUZ CITY - Powerful individuals have usurped land measuring 250 acres at the Sher Khan dry port township in northern Kunduz province, the township's officials said on Thursday.

Sayed Maqsood Zadran, manager of the township, said the residential scheme had been allotted a total 750 acres of land, but local powerful figures had encroached upon 250 acres.

A number of the usurpers have already been introduced to the attorney's office, Zadran said, adding: "We tried a lot to prevent the land grabbing and talked to security offi-



cial, but in vain, we even once tried to destroy the township but local people here prevented us," he said.

The township contains around 1,800 residential plots for traders. Besides business markets, warehouses, cold storages and all needed facilities are expected to be made available in the township.

Sayed Shah, a resident of Sher Khan Bandar, expressed concern over the grabbing of land at the township and said the government had been unsuccessful in resolving the problem.

"Most of the land plots at Sher Khan Bandar Township are usurped, government officials ... (More on P4)... (22)

Afghan Refugees in Pakistan 'Losing Interest' to Return Home

KABUL - A 50 percent drop in financial assistance provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Afghan refugees has affected their interest to return home from Pakistan, a migration official at the Torkham crossing told TOLONews.

The official said that over 14,000 refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had registered their names to return home, but now they are showing less interest to continue the process.

"The refugees are showing less interest to return home because the financial assistance has decreased. The reason is that the Afghan refugees have jobs there [in Pakistan] ... (More on P4)... (24)

Imran Criticizes Pakistan's Policy of Indulging in Afghan Jihad

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan on Friday criticized Pakistan's policy of indulging in Afghan war in 1980s, saying Islamabad committed a mistake by becoming a part of Afghan Jihad along with the United States.

Speaking at a ceremony, the PTI chairman said the country hired the Jihadis for dollars and then went on to eliminate them for dollars. "We suffered a huge loss due to this policy," the former cricket hero said. He claimed that US was asked to launch drone strikes in Pakistan, without elaborating who might have asked Washington to carry out strikes. ... (More on P4)... (25)

28 Militants Killed in Round-the-Clock Raids: MoD

KABUL - The Ministry of Defence on Friday said 28 militants have been killed, including 15 Daesh gunmen, during operations in various provinces over the past 24 hours.

A MoD statement issued to Pajhwok Afghan News said another seven militants were wounded and four more captured alive during the operations.

The round-the-clock raids were carried out in Nangarhar, Paktika, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Herat, Faryab, Kunduz, Balkh, Sar-i-Pul and Helmand provinces. Attaullah Kho-



gyani, the spokesman for Nangarhar governor, said 15 Daesh rebels had been killed in a ground and air operation in Achin district.

One machinegun and four AK-47s belonging to the insurgents were also destroyed in the operation, he added. (Pajhwok)

Concerns Mount over White Flags Raised in Baghlan

KABUL - Baghlan local police said Friday Taliban has raised their white flag in parts of the province, including along the Baghlan-Kunduz highway.

According to local police, they would need to launch an operation in order to remove the flags.

"Taliban exist in the area and we are unable to remove their flags. Government should launch a mili-

tary operation as soon as possible," said Mohibullah, a local police officer.

Local police warn if a military operation is not launched to eliminate the insurgents, the security situation will worsen.

"If the security situation continues like this, it is possible that our military bases will be occupied by the Taliban. A military operation should be launched soon," said Shokrullah, another local police officer.

Baghlan police chief meanwhile said security forces are ready to retake the region from the insurgents.

"We have been concentrating on launching military operations in Dand-e-Ghori region, Dahan-e-Ghori district and Dand-e-Shahabuddin region and we will soon ... (More on P4)... (26)

MoD to Unveil List of Suspects Involved in Hospital Attack

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense's (MoD) spokesman Major General Dawlat Waziri said at a press conference on Thursday the names of those who as-



sisted attackers during the assault on Sardar Daud Military Hospital in Kabul last month would be disclosed within the next few days.

Waziri said part of the fact-finding team's task has been completed and that they found 11 out of 24 people arrested in connection with the attack are hospital employees.

"Work on the issue on who helped in the attack and who paved the ground for it has not ended and this is being assessed by the National Directorate of Security," he said.

According to him, nine of the 11 employees have been removed and the two remaining officials have been suspended and introduced to the court.

"The 11 officials include a military general who served as a medical support commander at the hospital and a colonel who worked as an intelligence manager at the facility, three lieutenant colonels, one intelligence official and an executive ... (More on P4)... (27)

Foundations Laid for Parwan Raisin and Grape Factory

KABUL - Afghanistan's first factory to process grapes and raisins is to be built in the northern province of Parwan, and will provide jobs for at least 300 locals.

Addressing the foundation laying ceremony on Thursday, Afghanistan's CEO Abdullah Abdullah outlined the importance of investment in the country in the agriculture sector, saying investment in this sector would help Afghanistan end its dependency on foreign products.

Meanwhile Parwan governor Mohammad Asim Asim has expressed deep concerns over the issue of land grabbing in the province, saying the trend has deterred investment.

The grapes and raisins factory will be ready in four months thanks to a joint investment by the Afghan government and the private sector. The establishment of the factory will provide nearly ... (More on P4)... (23)

Sherpao Welcomes Af-Pak Hotline Contact

PESHAWAR - A senior politician has welcomed the first hotline communication between Pakistan and Afghan military commanders, hoping the step will help improve the situation. Quami Watan Party (QWP) head Aftab Sherpao said the hotline communication was a constructive gesture -- a process that should further be accelerated.

After the reopening of border, the former interior minister suggested, measures should be taken to ease the tensions and restore cordial ties between the neighbours.

In a statement, Sherpao said a good working relationship between the two nations was not only in their interests but it was essential for peace and tranquility in the entire region.

Unnecessary escalation of tension further aggravated the already grim situation, which brought untold sufferings to the masses, the ex-chief minister lamented. (Pajhwok)

Herat Residents Criticize 'Lack of Treatment Facilities'

KABUL - A number of Herat residents said on Friday that lack of 'required' diagnostic and treatment facilities push dozens of Herat residents to travel abroad for treatment.

The residents claimed that majority of medicines in the local market has low quality.

"There is no diagnostic facility in Herat. Doctors cannot diagnose diseases properly. We have no way but to travel abroad for treatment due to scarcity of modern laboratories and the existence of low quality medicines," said Mohammad Daud, a resident of Herat.

The residents also said many private health-care centers have merged health with trade in their services. "I took my father to a private hospital 45 days ago. He was diagnosed to have cancer. ... (More on P4)... (28)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

These are the cosmic waves you've been waiting for, so grab your metaphorical surfboard and gear up for the action. Opportunistic Jupiter's presence in your 7th House of Partnerships offers you new ways to work with the existing dynamics. But nothing monumental can occur if you fearfully cling to the past; it's up to you to make something amazing happen.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Everything seems to be falling into place today. However, there's no reason to assume that your good luck will carry you all the way to the top. Your legendary follow-through is arguably more important than making a big move today. Although you're looking forward to personal time over the weekend, pursuing your professional goals is necessary now if you want to generate the best possible outcome.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There's an inherent instability in the atmosphere today, but you might choose to ignore it because you want to express your hopes for the future. Although you may feel extra lucky, it's not wise to bet the farm on an emotional hunch. Ironically, you could win big now, but not without paying for your success by leaving a simpler world behind. Instead of losing yourself in philosophical discussions that have no practical use, stick to the facts as you encounter them.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

A simple mood change could turn your day upside down, pulling you into intriguing and complex relationship dynamics. No matter how positive you are feeling about the future, you are driven to express unresolved feelings for the sake of clearing the air. Meanwhile, professional success seems elusive now, progress slips into the shadows every time you approach it.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

A lack of clear boundaries only leads to more confusion now. Maintaining an open mind and a flexible attitude is essential, but your readiness to entertain everyone else's point of view isn't enough to get you off the hook. It helps to turn down your volume today, especially if you're overly confident in your own abilities.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Creative possibilities are blossoming all around you today. But the Moon's visit to your perfectionist sign can be a hook that's loaded with the bait of unrealistic expectations. You might fall into the trap that jolly Jupiter sets in your 2nd House of Values and temporarily lose sight of your convictions. Thankfully, you will soar through this period of excess as long as you are willing to downsize when your resources start to run low.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Seeing both sides of an argument is not a new dilemma for most fair-minded Libras. However, making a final deliberation is tough when opposing views are equally compelling. Someone else's opinion adds another variable to the mix while the Sun in your 7th House of Relationships opposes auspicious Jupiter in your sign. Don't hide your true feelings just to avoid the unpleasantness of emotional tension.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You're feeling a sense of professional pride today, stemming from your recent accomplishments. However, you're reluctant to completely buy into the trappings of the material world, even if you're in a position to amass power or wealth. On one hand, you're tempted to pick the fruits of your labor but on the other hand,

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

It's an all-too-familiar lesson for you Archers: more of a good thing is better, but too much can be problematic. Your key planet Jupiter improves the dynamics of your relationships today as it expands the energy of your 11th House of Social Networking. Unfortunately, your current optimism can blow up like a balloon past the point of no return. Once popped, the game is over. Be safe and move through your day with a trace of caution so you don't experience regret later on.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your clear vision of success motivates you to reach higher to achieve your ambitions. However, buoyant Jupiter creates an inflationary spiral in your 10th House of Public Life, possibly lifting you right off the ground. You are poised to handle this energy as long as you can work your way back down to earth. Be pragmatic today; rational thinking guarantees the most straightforward course.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

It's tempting to create an action plan based on the bright blue sky of big ideas today. But you can easily mislead yourself into believing that your life is on track, even if it's not. Reacting with extreme optimism will likely result in a setback while bombastic Jupiter is magnifying your 9th House of Distant Horizons. Remember, the goal is not as near as it appears now.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your success is tied to someone else's dreams while the Sun's opposition to propitious Jupiter in your 8th House of Intimacy encourages collaboration. The power of cooperation is synergistic; when two people share a common goal, the result is more powerful than a simple one plus one. Joint enterprises hold the keys to your happiness now. Senator Elizabeth Warren said, "It's a simple idea: We all do better when we work together and invest in our future."

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Across

1. "The Hobbit" hero Baggins, 6. Whip mark, 10. Torture device, 14. Notions, 15. Wings, 16. Black, in poetry, 17. Toothpowder, 19. Dossier, 20. A Christian celebration, 21. Bamboo, 22. False god, 23. Kino gum, 25. Concerning (archaic), 26. A bitter quarrel, 30. Quell, 32. Plunge, 35. Climb awkwardly, 39. Edible viscera, 40. Ring around the nipple, 41. Impassive, 43. Tumbler, 44. Agency, 46. Tall woody plant, 47. Sometimes works with lions, 50. Chasm, 53. Back, 54. Mistake, 55. Breakdown, 60. Greek letter, 61. Snow thrower, 63. Make a sweater, 64. Char, 65. Swedish money, 66. Feudal worker, 67. Countercurrent, 68. Bottoms of shoes.

Down

1. Remain, 2. Bright thought, 3. Focusing glass, 4. Insulation, 5. Willow, 6. Armed conflict, 7. Bring out, 8. Terse, 9. Adolescent, 10. Purification, 11. Put up with, 12. Part of the large intestine, 13. Genuflected 18. To and __, 24. South southeast, 25. Siren, 26. Fleshy sweet fruits, 27. Send forth, 28. Part of an ear, 29. Careful, 31. Whip, 33. Happen again, 34. Celebrity, 36. Wild hog, 37. If not, 38. Be worthy of, 42. Acquired the knowledge, 43. Chap, 45. Overseas, 47. 3-wheeled vehicle, 48. Long times, 49. French for "Morning", 51. Weep, 52. Broods, 54. Being, 56. Lawn mower brand, 57. Absent Without Leave, 58. Heredity unit, 59. Historical periods, 62. Ironic.

Yesterday's Solution

capable, challenge, changes, cleanse, close, cold, common, cross, everything, evidence, force, gone, great, happy, hers, hotel, labor, liver, mine, money, north, option, place, positive, quite, rainbow, renew, rival, rose, sawn, scalp, slip.

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