

Trump Proposes \$5b in Aid to Afghan Security Forces

WASHINGTON - In his annual budget proposals, US President Donald Trump on Monday sought \$5 billion for Afghan security forces and \$630 million in civilian assistance to the war-torn country.

The budget seeks to further the US goal of a stable South Asia by supporting the Afghan government and security forces in their fight against Taliban and jihadist organisations such as al Qaeda and ISIS.

The White House said in its proposals to the Congress: "The budget requests more than \$5 billion for continued US training and assistance for the Afghan security forces."

It would also enable US forces to conduct counterterrorism operations to ensure that the region cannot be used by jihadist terrorist groups to plot transnational attacks ...*(More on P4)...(11)*



Russia Given No Data on Helicopters 'Helping Terrorists'

KABUL - Moscow's envoy to Kabul has said no evidence on the origin of helicopters supposedly supporting Daesh in Afghanistan has been provided.

Moscow has not received any information from Western partners on the origin of helicopters that could be involved in transporting terrorists to Afghanistan, Russia's Ambassador to Afghanistan Alexander Mantytsky told TASS news agency on Monday.

"Unfortunately, neither official Kabul nor our Western partners have been able to give any accurate and credible information on the origin and the goals of unidentified helicopters flying over the territory of the IRA [the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan] and possibly involved in transporting terrorists of the IS [Daesh] and the equipment they need," the Russian ambassador said.

TASS reported that the Russian diplomat stressed Russia has repeatedly raised the issue - also with UNAMA. "We expect that the joint work with those countries that are sincerely interested in establishing peace and stability in the IRA will make it possible to expose those who are rendering support to terrorists," Mantytsky said.

"Such facts have to be exposed and cut short," he said.

TASS also reported Mantytsky as saying that broader powers for US forces in Afghanistan should not violate the country's sovereignty and the region's interests.

He said after a dramatic surge in insurgent activity in the region, "an impression is being created that the use-of-force pressure by the US in Afghanistan has not met the expectations that had been pinned on it."

"We expect that the broader powers for the US forces in Afghanistan will not violate the sovereignty of that country and will not infringe on the interests of the countries in the region," he pointed out.

The Russian envoy reaffirmed Moscow's readiness to "render Kabul assistance in training and equipping national security and defense structures as the basic guarantor of security in Afghanistan and participating in the promotion of the national reconciliation process."

"We confirm our openness to cooperation in these areas both with the United States and other interested partners," he added.

TASS reported that the Russian ambassador expressed concern over "predominantly ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Tehran to Host Third Economic Meeting of Afghanistan-Iran

KABUL - ACCI officials said at the third economic meeting between Afghanistan and Iran, both sides will discuss the expansion of trade ties.

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) on Monday said the third meeting of Afghanistan and Iran's Joint Economic Committee will be held in Tehran in March.

According to ACCI officials, both sides will discuss the expansion of trade and transit ties, opportunities for joint investment in different sectors, expanding infrastructure at



Chabahar Port and also the opening of branches of Afghanistan banks in Iran.

"We want government officials to discuss joint investments and to convince ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

43 Taliban Killed, 20 Wounded in Kandahar Battle

KANDAHAR CITY - At least 43 Taliban militant have been killed and 20 other wounded during a clash with security forces in southern Kandahar province, an official claimed on Tuesday.

Matiullah Hilal, deputy spokesman for provincial police, told Pajhwok Afghan News dozens of insurgents stormed the Nesh district police headquarters late on Monday night.

However, the assailants drew a strong response from the security forces, Hilal said, adding the Afghan Air Force sup-



ported the security forces in the district. He ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Robberies, Drug Addicts Increasing in Nimroz: Residents

ZARANJ - A number residents of southwestern Nimroz province are complaining about growing population of drug addicts and increasing robberies, but officials dispute their claims.

Hajji Ahmad, who owns a mobile phone shop in Zaranj City, expressed serious concern about the increasing incidents of shop and home burglary incidents. He told Pajhwok Afghan News that thieves broke his shop's lock and stole 150,000 afghanis and all mobile phone sets from his shop.

Ibrahim, another resident, said: "A few days ago, some burglars ripped our gate

off the wall at night and we found it in the morning that there was no gate."

Ghulam Nabi, another resident, expressed similar concern and said five electricity lines passed above their homes, but thieves once sliced and took away three electricity lines.

The thieves cut short two power lines disconnecting electricity to many families, he said, urging security organs to capture the robbers.

Yet another Zaranj resident, Shamsuddin, said: "I was on my way home from mosque after night prayers when two motorcyclists ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Five Insurgents Killed in Afghan Security Forces Operations

KABUL - Operations, which included Special Forces and air support, have been carried out in eight provinces in the country, the MoD said.

At least five insurgents were killed in joint Afghan security forces operations in different parts of the country, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement on Monday.

In addition, two other insurgents were wounded, and another was arrested.

The operation was launched in Nangarhar, Paktia, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Faryab, Takhar, Nimruz and Helmand province to clear the insurgents,



the MoD statement said, adding that the "forces have also discovered three motorbikes during ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries Keeping conversations lighthearted sounds like a good idea, but you're likely to sink into deep waters pretty quickly today. Casual banter can transform into an emotional power struggle when innocent Venus crosses swords with domineering Pluto. Nevertheless, staying fully involved in a discussion, even after you want to run, is the smartest thing you can do.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus Your friends are an important part of your life, but there could be a bit of trouble brewing now where there shouldn't be any. You might feel as if your plans are being hijacked by someone who you thought was an ally. It can be complicated if there are hidden motives driving the plot today.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Reestablishing your center of gravity isn't much easier today than it was yesterday, but you begin to see the wisdom of doing something immediately, rather than waiting for a better time. Oddly enough, you can turn an idea into a concrete plan, even if you aren't very practical now. But following your agenda step by step may be more challenging than you realize, especially if someone thinks your strategy is lacking in substance.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Your internal guidance system appears to be malfunctioning today and you're at a loss without your intuitive connection. Logical analysis may work for others, but it never gives you emotional Crabs the most satisfying answers. However, the wisdom you seek is usually found in your body and, fortunately, you know when you can trust your gut.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You continue to be highly motivated by the needs of your partner or by your desire for a companion. Nevertheless, it's possible to be just as happy on your own, but it's still difficult to avoid talk of love and romance on Cupid's holiday. Although interactions may be awkward if you're trying to circumvent personal disclosure, you might just need to break your rules once in a while.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo Taking the time to listen to your own body is essential for your personal wellbeing. Perhaps, it's as simple as your awareness that a minor injury is taking too long to heal. Or, maybe you think you're coming down with a cold. No matter what is specifically occurring now, it's crucial to tighten up your daily regimen.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra You might be more inclined to raise an emotionally charged subject for discussion today, rather than telling people what they want to hear. But there's no time to waste if you plan to go on a little journey to get to the bottom of a pressing problem. You're sensitive enough to bring up a delicate issue in such a way that fosters trust and draws others into your process.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio You appear to know what you're doing today, but you're also acutely aware of your mixed motives. Your need for consistency and loyalty in love is non-negotiable. If you can't have one-hundred percent of both, you prefer to have none at all. Establishing your criteria for a relationship is a prerequisite that enables you to engage honestly with anyone in your life, no matter where the connection might lead.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius Your words might seem aimless today as wide-ranging discussions meander far and near. Nevertheless, you have an ambitious agenda now that Mars is traveling through your visionary sign. Others may not realize that your intentions are guiding your behavior because your desired destination is so distant that they don't notice your direction.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn A wave of dissatisfaction grabs your attention and lures you into the realms of unfulfilled fantasies. Nebulous dreams can divert your focus from the practicalities of your current commitments. Thankfully, you won't likely let your responsibilities slip off your map, but you might spend less time today attending to them.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

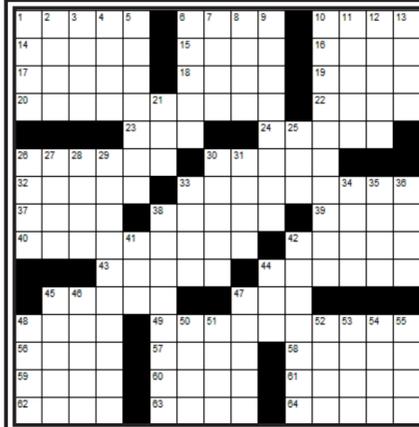


Aquarius Everything seems more intense today and you wonder how long this hectic pace will continue. Impetuous Mars energizes interactive Mercury in your 1st House of Personality, prompting you to talk about your inner life with uncharacteristic enthusiasm. Paradoxically, your words can cut through the distractions now and sink into the shadowy abyss of the unconscious that lay beneath the noisy surface of life.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You are willing to step beyond your personal boundaries today in order to pursue a deeper connection with your heart. In fact, it's impossible to ignore your passions when potent Pluto forms an anxious alignment with vulnerable Venus in your sensitive sign. Fortunately, the lessons you gain from emotionally resonating with others outweigh the suffering you experience from feeling their pain.



Across

1. Seraglio, 6. Wagers, 10. Fur, 14. A kind of macaw, 15. Reflected sound, 16. Dogfish, 17. A belligerent little mongrel dog, 18. German for "Madam", 19. Poetic foot, 20. Equivalent, 22. Bites, 23. Man's best friend, 24. Corridors, 26. Associate, 30. Poplar tree, 32. Mistake, 33. Prophetesses, 37. Disable, 38. Avowed, 39. Bristle, 40. Sledding, 42. Exclamation expressive of regret, 43. Standards, 44. Grass cutting tool, 45. Garden tool, 47. Eastern Standard Time, 48. Soil, 49. Finch-like bird, 56. Decorative case, 57. Broad valley, 58. Lofty nest, 59. Gambling game, 60. Not odd, 61. Rock, 62. Biblical garden, 63. A musical pause, 64. Dispatches, .

Down

1. Dagger handle, 2. District, 3. Shower, 4. At one time (archaic), 5. Bullfighter, 6. Confuse, 7. Beige, 8. Part of a comparison, 9. Not northern, 10. In a non-hurting manner, 11. Electronic letters, 12. Hobbles, 13. Checks, 21. Unruly crowd, 25. Beer, 26. Skirt lines, 27. By mouth, 28. French cheese, 29. Designation, 30. Eras, 31. Large mass of ice, 33. Breaststroke, 34. Chair, 35. Carve in stone, 36. Rice beer, 38. More conniving, 41. Deity, 42. She plays roles, 44. South southeast, 45. Located, 46. Wrinkled fruit, 47. What's happening, 48. Apollo astronaut Slayton, 50. Overhang, 51. Beers, 52. 8 bits of data, 53. Weightlifters pump this, 54. Peel, 55. DDDD,

Yesterday's Solution

allow, ballad, clam, community, cork, direct discuss, drink eagle easel, empty, gross leave, local, march, muse network, owner, peace, premature, ready, really roam, rocks salary, slat, smile, spike

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