

Armed Men Kidnap 15 Baghlan Factory Workers

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Unknown gunmen reportedly kidnapped at least 15 workers, including engineers and technical staff, from a cement factory and a coal extraction company in Baghlan province. The executive director at Ghor Cement Factory, Sarwari, confirmed the incidents, which took place on Sunday morning. The other kidnapping occurred at Afghan Coal in Baghlan. Officials from the two companies said that two armed men, known



as Mirwais and Pacha, stormed the companies and took the employees by force. Reports from the area say that the armed individuals also seized at least eleven vehicles belonging to the coal company along with military equipment belonging to the companies. According to company officials, the armed men hoisted green flags over the company buildings after kidnapping the employees. (Tolnews)

Taliban Attack on Taiwara District Repulsed; 7 Fighters Killed



FEROZKOH - Seven fighters were killed and 11 others wounded as they attacked the Taiwara district of western Ghor province, where a Taliban-designated governor is marshaling his troops in a bid to capture Pasaband town, an official said on Monday. Governor Ghulam Nasir Khazeh told Pajhwok Afghan News dozens of Taliban assailants, led by their shadow Governor Maulvi Taimour, attacked the Taiwara district centre with heavy and light weapons at around 1:00am. He said the Taliban wanted to capture the district centre but the attack faced with a befit-

ting response from security forces and the clash continued for about four hours. Khazeh said the Afghan National Army supplied necessary equipment for troops in the district and the situation had returned to normal. He added the Taliban had been trying to seek public support for their activities and organised fighters but their efforts had been frustrated. Abdul Zahir Tamim, administrative chief for Taiwara district, said in a telephonic conversation with this scribe the Taliban's shadow governor had previously served as the group's military chief in southern Helmand province. (Pajhwok)

36 Insurgents Eliminated in Counter-Terrorism Operations: MoD

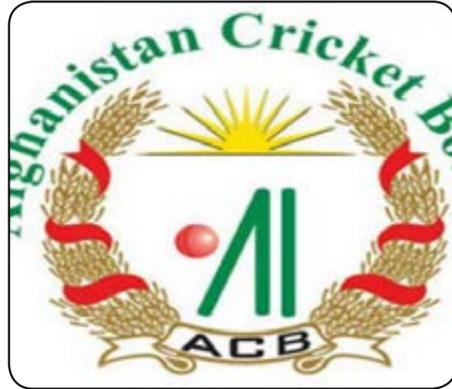
KABUL - Dozens of insurgents have been eliminated killed in fresh counter-terrorism operations in different parts of the country, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) claimed on Monday. "As a result of the clearing operations by Afghan security and defence forces, 36 armed insurgents, including two of their commanders, and were killed," a statement from the ministry said. The operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Paktia, Maidan Wardak, Kan-



dahar, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Sar-i-Pul, Herat, Jawzjan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar and Helmand provinces. Backed by heavy artillery and air force, the forces killed 22 militants, including a commander Zardahar, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Sar-i-Pul, Herat, Jawzjan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar and Helmand provinces. Two fighters, including a dreaded terrorist named Abdullah, were killed ... (More on P4)... (17)

No Head Coach Offer from ACB: Yousaf

KABUL - An ex-Pakistan Test cricketer on Monday denied receiving an offer from the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) to work as head coach with the national team. Following Inzamamul Haq's appointment as chief selector of the national team by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on April 18, the Afghan head coach slot fell vacant. The Express Tribune quoted Mohammad Yousaf as saying: "My agent did apply for the post but I have not received any reply from the ACB." Yousaf



represented Pakistan in 90 Test matches, scoring 24 centuries and 33 fifties. He also played 244 ODIs, hitting 15 tons and 64 half-centuries. (Pajhwok)

Bicycle Bombing Wounds 8 Including 7 Civilians

MAIMANA - A bicycle bombing that rocked northern Afghan province Faryab's capital Maimana city on Monday wounded eight people including seven civilians, a senior police officer said. "A bomb planted by terrorists on a bicycle exploded next to a police vehicle in Maimana city at 03:00 p.m. local time today, injuring eight people including seven civilians and a security personnel," Nazir Mohammad Khan told Xinhua. He said windowpanes of several houses and shops at nearby were smashed. Earlier, an official on the condition of anonymity confirmed that two persons were killed and ... (More on P4)... (18)

Shooting of Romanian Soldiers: 3 Afghans Arrested

KABUL - Three Afghans have been arrested in connection with an 'insider attack' that left two Romanian soldiers dead and a third wounded in southern Kandahar province. The Romanians were training Afghan police officers Saturday morning when two men wearing Afghan police uniforms opened fire, Romania's Defense Minister Mihnea Motoc said Monday. Two soldiers died later at a hospital and the third was transferred to Germany



for treatment, Motoc said, adding the Romanians returned fire. An investigation is under way. Motoc asked President Klaus Iohannis to bestow the Star of Romania award on the two soldiers, post-mortem. The defense ministry says Romania has 631 troops serving in Afghanistan and has had soldiers there since 2002. (Pajhwok)

Ex-Mayor Killed in Blast, 2 ANA Troops Die in Mishap in Faryab

KABUL - A former mayor and two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed and four others wounded during separate incidents in northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Monday. Dawlatabad district police chief, Col. Nima-tullah Tofan, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Faizullah, a former mayor of the Dawlatabad district, was killed when a magnetic bomb attached to his vehicle went off early on Monday. "Currently he held no government post but played a cooperative role between government and people and also helped implement some projects in the district," the police official said. Separately, two ANA soldiers were killed and another four wounded when the military vehicle they were travelling in overturned in Ferozai ... (More on P4)... (19)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Your feelings are intrinsically connected with the central purpose in your life and you can impact others deeply now as long as you stay true to yourself. However, people won't necessarily agree with your position even if you're willing to discuss your differences. In fact, you could be so in tune with your intentions today that there's no need to talk about it any further once you share your perspective.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You're quite animated today, but people may not fully understand your intensity. In your eagerness to make your point you could oversimplify your presentation, which can create problems if others take your words at face value. Be careful, since a small misunderstanding about a missing fact might turn a simple discussion upside down.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



In theory, you should be unbeatable today when your words align with your intentions. However, conversations grow complicated if your message is garbled as interactive Mercury disappears into the Sun's intense radiance. You could be thinking clearly, but your thoughts are highly subjective now that the Moon is activating your sign. It's admirable to have faith in your convictions but don't try to use logic to convince anyone else of the validity.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You are swimming in deeper waters these days and possess an opportunity to enrich your relationships if you have the courage to sink into the emotional depths. Paradoxically, your life might feel one dimensional now as the retrograde Mercury-Sun conjunction grinds your thoughts to a temporary standstill. It's futile to rely on your brain to figure out the dynamics of passion.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're still trying to find a comfortable middle ground before you make a difficult decision, but it's tough if there are important emotional issues at stake. Your brain overflows with sensible ideas while the Sun aligns with cerebral Mercury today, prompting you to initiate action immediately. Trust your logic instead of waiting to receive approval from anyone else.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You may be fantasizing about an exotic adventure that will take you far from the mundane world. Pulling out all the stops in your imagination enables you to dream about your future without holding back. Visualize buying an airline ticket and heading off into the great wide open with a carefree heart. It might be challenging to transform your thoughts into reality now, but anything is possible as long as you keep the faith.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Push past your tendency to keep everything light and easy. Creative juices are flowing in your imagination today, yet you must be willing to embark on a quest to get the rewards. You want to do what's right, but you might be challenged to figure out exactly what that means. Although it's fine to discuss your plans with someone you trust, saying too much now could disperse the energy prematurely.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You might catch glimpses of the mysteries that are usually unreachable and unknowable while the doors to other dimensions are unlocked today. However, it's likely that someone will ruffle your feathers by attempting to pull you into the mundane world. Fortunately, you are the captain of your own ship. Stand up for your rights, but don't back yourself into a corner in the process.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



It's back to the daily grind for you today. You may prefer daydreaming about an upcoming trip, escaping into an adventure novel or getting lost in a good movie, but there are important things that you must do, instead. Unfortunately, your work prevents you from broadening your horizons and moving beyond your immediate obligations now. But don't just chain yourself to the desk; as a compromise.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Someone may be trying to emotionally manipulate you, but it's nearly impossible to tell who is behind this alleged plot. Thankfully, you might find a reward that you weren't even looking for now if you're willing to let go of control and just paddle along with the flow. The pleasant surprise for everyone is what happens when you become more spontaneous in your behavior.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You could be called upon to perform some kind of caretaking duties for someone close to you. Perhaps a family member or an elderly neighbor is in need of your support. Don't shut anyone out even if you think you are incapable of offering assistance today. Keep the communication channels wide open so everyone still feels connected.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Previous uncertainty transforms into a practical vision of how you want your future to play out, and you are ready to make a serious effort to manifest it according to your plan. But the signs of change could pass unnoticed if you're not paying close attention. Unfortunately, your desire to reach your destination may not be enough to guarantee success. Consider relaxing your timetable or revising your itinerary.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-63.

Across: 1. Pear variety, 5. Lacquer ingredient, 10. Assist in crime, 14. Sea eagle, 15. Rope fiber, 16. Extinct flightless bird, 17. Lunch or dinner, 18. Tympani, 20. A painkiller, 22. Gist, 23. Vagrant, 24. Tall woody plants, 25. A vegetable stew, 32. Leaves out, 33. Contemptuous look, 34. Slime, 37. Walk in water, 38. Coming up, 39. Epic, 40. Timid, 41. Declares, 42. Express audibly, 43. Animals with backbones, 45. Blockade, 49. What we breathe, 50. Senior, 53. Virtuosity, 57. Mediator, 59. Angers, 60. Sought damages, 61. Aircraft, 62. Half-moon tide, 63. Being, 64. 4-door car, 5. Not guys.

Down: 1. Chancel, 2. Mining finds, 3. Break, 4. Chaste, 5. Inuit, 6. Mortgage, 7. Eastern Standard Time, 8. Spouse, 9. Ailments, 10. Venomous snake, 11. Carried, 12. Draw forth, 13. Volumes, 19. Banana oil, e.g., 21. Tracks, 25. Seating sections, 26. Nursemaid, 27. Neat, 28. Doorkeeper, 29. Unreactive, 30. Rental agreement, 31. Directed, 34. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 35. Curved molding, 36. Paddles, 38. "Maria", 39. Hungry, 41. Stave off, 42. Murres, 44. Desolate, 45. Feel, 46. Blockage of the intestine, 47. Borders, 48. Crystal-lined rock, 51. What we kiss with, 52. Harvard rival, 53. ___ fide, 54. Component of urine, 55. Genuine, 56. Vipers, 58. Little bit.

Yesterday's Solution: abort, bread, cede, coma, dads, error, fine, flint, flirt, forlorn, gaiety, genius, greed, hoard, infraction, injury, invent, judge, lard, lilt, medley, merry, mire, mixture, muddy, neat, offense, organ, orifice, paltry, peat, quart, rogue, scream, small, supernatural, teen.

GENIUSORIFICE
FLIRTMFORLORN
OABGEFXFLINT
QUARTDEISMAILL
GREEDLNNTIGHT
ORGANESFYXSHR
MUDDYERKTCON
PSUPERNATURAL
GAIETYMCDRERM
NVLABORTEEADE
WRETCHRIMDMBR
INJURYROGUEXR
JUDGEYINVENTY