

Fierce Clashes Underway in Chamkani

GARDEZ - Fierce clashes were underway between armed insurgents and security forces on Sunday in various parts of the Chamkani district of southeastern Paktia province, an official said. The clashes broke out on Saturday evening and were ongoing as of Sunday afternoon in Mandokhel, Sarangara, Sulimankhel and several other areas after the insurgents stormed security posts of local and border police, the district chief said.

Eng. Eid Mohammad Ahmadzai told Pajhwok Afghan News the security forces had suffered no casualties so far and he had no information if the attackers had



suffered any casualties. He said the attackers had been pushed back, but they still offered resistance against local and border police personnel.

A resident, Mamor Jan, said one local policeman was killed and two border policemen were injured during the clashes. He said the clashes were fierce and still underway, restricting people to their homes. He said residents were deeply concerned about the situation.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said up to 50 security forces suffered casualties in the attacks and the clashes were still ongoing. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Claims Responsibility for Attack in Kabul Airport



MOSCOW - The Taliban group claimed responsibility for a Sunday suicide attack in Kabul international airport, in which three people were killed including a British security contractor, the BBC reported.

The Taliban sent an email to media, saying it carried out the attack. UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond confirmed in a statement that a British security contractor was among those killed in the attack.

"I can confirm that a British security contractor is among those killed in the attack. His family has been informed and my thoughts are with them at this incredibly difficult time. Consular staff stand ready to provide support," Hammond said in a statement.

US Citizen Among Five People Killed at Guest House Attack in Kabul. The Sunday attack near the entrance of international Kabul airport reportedly targeted a European police training mission vehicle.

Apart from the British citizen, two Afghan teenage girls were killed in the attack, while another 18 people were injured. On Thursday, the Taliban carried out an attack on a hotel, killing 14 people, including a number of foreigners. The Taliban group, formed in the 1990s, seeks to enforce Sharia law in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The group is known for terrorist attacks and multiple human rights atrocities against authorities and civilians in both countries. (Sputnik)

Commander Among 5 Taliban Killed in Faryab

MAIMANA - A Taliban commander Muallah Mohammad and his four fighters were killed in a security force operation in northern Faryab province, local officials said on Sunday.

The incident happened in Khan Chahar Bagh district on Saturday after a



joint military operation launched to clear the insurgents, Provincial Police Chief Abdul Nabi Elham said.

He said that the Taliban commander last year abducted a number of police officials and killed them in Khan Chahar Bagh. He added that the civilians and military forces were not harmed in the operation.

The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident.

Khan Chahar Bagh is one of the insecure areas in the province in which insurgents have activity and target local security forces. (Tolnews)

18 Taliban Insurgents Killed in ANSF Operations

KABUL - At least 18 insurgents have been killed in a series of coordinated operations over the past 24 hours by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said in a statement on Sunday.

In addition, 5 insurgents were injured. The operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Paktiya, Paktika, Kandahar, Sar-e-Pul, Jawz-



jan, Kapisa, Uruzgan, Baghlan, Faryab, Badakhshan and Kunduz provinces, the statement

said. "During the same 24 hour period, Afghan National Police discovered and defused 3 different types of IEDs placed by enemies of Afghanistan for destructive activities in Nangarhar, Parwan and Zabul provinces," it said. The MoI, however, did not comment on whether any security force members were injured during the operations. (Tolnews)

2 Pilots Wounded in ANA Helicopter Crash

KABUL - An Afghan National Army (ANA) helicopter has crashed in capital Kabul during exercises, leaving two pilots wounded, officials confirmed on Sunday.

Brig. Gen. Dawlat Waziri, deputy spokesman at the Ministry of Defence (MoD), told Pajhwok Afghan News the helicopter crashed due to technical fault in Khake-Jabar district in the afternoon.

He added only two pilots were wounded in the crash and they were in stable condition. (Pajhwok)

Three Killed in Kabul Suicide Car Bombing

KABUL - At least three people were killed and 18 injured early Sunday morning in a suicide car bombing close to the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, according to a Ministry of Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqqi, two women were among the dead and among the injured were eight women and three children. All victims appeared to have



been civilians. According to officials, the bomber had targeted foreign troops in the area. A spokesperson for Resolute Support Mission said shortly after the incident that they had not had any ... (More on P4)... (15)

Two Lecturers Injured in Kabul Explosion

KABUL - At least two lecturers were injured in an explosion inside the Kabul University on Saturday night, security sources said.

The explosion took place near to the Science Faculty after an Improvised Explosive Device was placed at the area, according to the sources.

No further details were available but police say they have launched an investigation into the incident.

No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the incident. (Tolnews)

NDS Seizes Explosive Material Disguised as Baby Powder

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) seized hundreds of bottles of Potassium Chlorate disguised as baby powder in a raid in Kabul on Sunday.

According to the NDS the substance, used to make explosives, was packed in baby

powder bottles - 384 in total. The bottles were in cardboard cartons and were seized at a warehouse belonging to an import company in District 8 - Shah Shaheed - in Kabul.

The NDS said in a statement that the bottles had been imported by the Haqqani insurgent network from outside the country.

"The potassium chlorate was transferred from outside [the country] for the launching of the suicide attacks and blasts," read the statement.

Two years ago Pentagon research ... (More on P4)... (16)

Ex-ANA Officer Transplanted Hands after Losing His Own in Explosion



KABUL - Indian doctors have transplanted two hands to an ex-Afghan National Army (ANA) officer who had lost his own in the explosion of a landmine he was trying to defuse in Afghanistan.

Based on the report of The Indian Express the successful operation went on for about 15 hours by more than 20 doctors of Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre located in the city of Kochi, Kerala state.

Abdul Rahim, 30, an Afghan Army captain lost both hands while defusing a landmine in western Kandahar province about three years back.

He was transplanted the hands of a 54 years old Indian man from the state of Kerala who was brain dead accident victim.

Dr. Prem Nair, director of the hos-

pital said that before the transplant was carried out, the family of the victim was contacted who agreed to the donation. After the agreement of the victim's family, doctors then connected the victim's hands to the body of the Afghan officer. Hospital claimed that this could be the first time an Afghan is transplanted both hands after losing his own.

Professor Subramania Iyer who is heading the plastic surgery department in the hospital said that Abul Rahim regained considerable amount of function of both hands but he still will be in the hospital for at least another ten months for intensive physiotherapy.

Indian doctors had conducted their first double hand transplant in the same hospital in February 2015. (KP)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Building your nest egg is at the top of your list as the solid Taurus New Moon highlights your 2nd House of Resources. The cosmic emphasis is on your personal finances for the month ahead, so take stock of your assets and put your accounts in order. However, the judgments you make about yourself impact your earning power more than you think.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You have a special opportunity to see yourself clearly today as the New Moon falls in your 1st House of Personality. This is a rare chance to reevaluate your emotional process with a fresh perspective, which could change your life for the better. But unless you act on your newfound self-awareness now, you might slip back into old patterns.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's an opportune time to uncover any thoughts you have tucked away in your subconscious mind. The Taurus New Moon favors your 12th House of Privacy, yet moving emotions out of denial and into a shared reality deepens the intimacy in your relationships. Mercury's retrograde turn might tempt you to sidestep the intensity by intellectualizing your feelings; instead, seize the moment and open your heart to those you love.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Surrounding yourself with allies seems like a natural thing to do while the Taurus New Moon activates your 11th House of Community. Spending time with a group of like-minded people happily sets the social stage for the next few weeks. However, you still might doubt your decisions today, but don't let that stop you from following through with your initial intentions.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Although it's your time to shine in the public eye, you may want to hide from the attention once you get it. Today's Taurus New Moon occurs in your 10th House of Career, casting a bright spotlight on your professional life. But you might be afraid that you won't be able to live up to everyone's expectations. Your uncharacteristic self-doubt only gets in your way.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are pulled in opposite directions as you attempt to be practical and philosophical at the same time. The earthy Taurus New Moon encourages you to be dependable, yet its influence on your 9th House of Big Ideas destabilizes your plans. Meanwhile, mischievous Mercury's retrograde turn makes it tougher to resolve the opposing forces. It takes practice to keep your feet on the ground while aspiring toward the heavens.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Courage is your secret weapon as the fixed Taurus New Moon fortifies your 8th House of Transformation. You have more than enough staying power to stick to your position until you learn significant truths about who you really are at your core. This process is not about anyone else, although others may push you deeper and pull you into uncomfortable emotional realms.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You want to pursue your own interests, yet might not be able to get the alone time that you crave. Don't fritter away precious energy worrying about your current schedule because you can always find time to be by yourself later on. The Taurus New Moon stimulates your 7th House of Significant Others now, offering you a magical opportunity to strengthen your relationships.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Focusing your energy on the nitty-gritty details of life can be annoying for you. Today's utilitarian Taurus New Moon triggers your 6th House of Habits, presenting you with opportunities to improve your diet and exercise program. Oftentimes, you are so intent on understanding the big picture that you forgetfully brush aside the more practical concerns. Once you see the mundane things clearly, use your best to carry out your plans.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

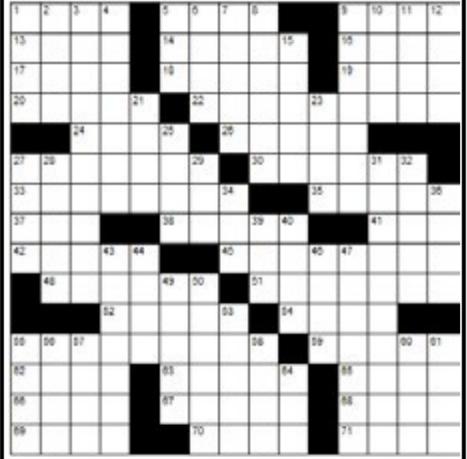
You might feel more capricious than usual, yet your current lightheartedness won't totally override your serious outlook on life. The Taurus New Moon emphasizes your 5th House of Creativity, motivating you to enjoy pursuits that are close to your heart. Although you may grow preoccupied with expressing your inner child now, just take the fun in stride along with your ongoing responsibilities.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Celebrating your own personal renewal shouldn't be taken lightly, especially as the Taurus New Moon rejuvenates your 4th House of Roots. Even if you have a full day of commitments, you can still escape from your regularly scheduled responsibilities to be with your loved ones for a while. Or, maybe you just want to carve out a slice of solitude to recharge your batteries.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

There's no reason to be self-critical if you can't settle into a routine today. The Taurus New Moon in your 3rd House of Communication brings a constant stream of information into your life, making it difficult to relax. Minimize the chaos by cutting back your social obligations and avoiding non-essential interactions. Thankfully, the simple act of setting priorities enables you to establish a previously elusive rhythm.



Across

1. Auspices, 5. A long way off, 9. Yachting cap, 13. Habit, 14. Slumber, 16. Copied, 17. Overhang, 18. Lariat, 19. Type of cereal grass, 20. Celebrities, 22. Bags of wool, 24. A jaunty rhythm, 26. Caper, 27. Not success, 30. A company of performers, 33. Issuing commands, 35. Dusk, 37. 12 in Roman numerals, 38. Willow, 41. South southeast, 42. Abominable snowmen, 45. Psychological disorders, 48. Words to a song, 51. Queen of the jungle?, 52. Nautical miles, 54. Cashews and almonds, 55. Outlying areas, 59. Artist's workstand, 62. Pearly-shelled mussel, 63. Daughter of a sibling, 65. Ascend, 66. Flower stalk, 67. Talk, 68. Charged particles, 69. Ripped, 70. Sea eagle, 71. 1 1 1 1

Down

1. Female sheep (plural), 2. Satyr, 3. Falsehood, 4. Germless, 5. American Sign Language, 6. Imperfection, 7. Fable writer, 8. Vacation destination, 9. Hardly coarse-haired sheep, 10. Sweeping story, 11. Kiss lightly, 12. Midmonth date, 15. Located near the poles, 21. Aspersion, 23. Kiss, 25. Threesome, 27. Cunning, 28. Disney mermaid, 29. N N N N, 31. Ownership, 32. Relieves, 34. Martini ingredient, 36. Untidyness, 39. Snake-like fish, 40. Wreckage, 43. Annoying, 44. Drop down, 46. Debauchee, 47. One of the Great Lakes, 49. Metal money, 50. Streak, 53. Drive, 55. Dethrone, 56. "Do ___ others...", 57. Layer, 58. Glance over, 60. Feudal worker, 61. Not more, 64. Barely manage.

Yesterday's Solution

across, again, alone, attention, blank, brooks, camel, canes, concept, contract, crown, crutch, every, expect, grunt, guess, hover, lawyer, lock, mast, naked, novice, path, plots, really, rise, rose, shine, short, stream, tail, teach, tern, threat, tore, track, trail, trick, unload, vase, waver, wren.

