

350 Militants Operating in Badakhshan Province: Governor

FAIZABAD - Up to 350 anti-government insurgents are operating in the northern Badakhshan province, provincial governor Ahmad Faisal Bikzad said Sunday. "A total of 350 militants are active in Badakhshan province and conducting terrorist activities," Bikzad told reporters here. Foreign nationals including some from Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are also among militants fighting in Badakhshan province, mostly in the restive Wardoj and Jarm districts, the provincial governor asserted. He also noted that some of the foreign militants are living along



with their families. However, the governor warned to launch major offensive soon to diminish them if the militants continue to operate in Badakhshan province. (Xinhua)

22 Insurgents Renounce Violence in Sar-e-Pul

SAR-E-PUL - At least 22 insurgents including their commander surrendered their weapons and joined the peace process in northern Sar-e-Pul, local officials said on Sunday. "Twenty two insurgents including their commander joined the peace process. Their commander, named Khal Mohammad, joined the peace process on two previous occasions," provincial governor, Mohammad Zahir Wahdat said. "The commander has promised this time that he will not join the insurgent group again," Wahdat said. Provincial council officials have said that Khal Mohammad is now fighting against the insurgents in Sheramha area of Sar-e-Pul city. However, the Taliban has not yet commented on Khal Mohammad's move. (Tolnews)

NDS Detains 7 Active Member of Taliban

KANDAHAR - National Directorate of Security (NDS) has arrested seven Taliban members in southern Kandahar province. "NDS members have arrested a group of seven Taliban terrorists during a special operations in Kandahar city," a statement released by NDS stated. According to the statement the terrorist group of Taliban was involved in terror plots including planting mines, targeting tribal elders and religious scholars. The statement reveals that a number of ammunitions were also seized from the group during the operations. (ATN)

Drone Strike Kills 12 Taliban in Southeast

KABUL - An Afghan official says a drone strike killed 12 Taliban fighters in a volatile district bordering Pakistan. Ahmad ZaiAbdulzai, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said Sunday the dead included three Afghans and nine foreigners, usually a reference to Pakistanis. The strike late Saturday took place in Khogyani district, where insurgents have been active for months. Abdulzai says the Taliban's shadow governor for the district was



among the dead. The region is also known for the presence of fighters loyal to the Islamic State group, who have fought with Taliban and government forces this year. Abdulzai says 150 IS fighters were killed or wounded during a two-week military operation to clear them from the Achin district. He says checkpoints have been established to ensure they do not return. (AP)

Afghan Crackdown Operation Kills 26 Militants in 2 Days

KABUL - Afghan security forces ongoing crackdown against Taliban fighters have claimed the lives of 26 militants in the militancy-ridden country since Saturday, officials said Sunday. In the latest fight against militants, which was launched Monday morning in Sipira district of the eastern Khost province, eight armed insurgents were killed, district governor Mohammad Azim told Xinhua. He also said that the operation backed by helicopter gunships has been continuing since early



morning in the area. Sipira district, which borders Pakistan's remote North Waziristan tribal area, has been regarded as Taliban's hotbed in the eastern Khost province with Khost city as its capital, 150 km southeast of Afghan national capital Kabul city. Earlier in the day, the Afghan Interior Ministry in a statement released here reported killing of 18 Taliban militants during series of operations across the country. "Units of police backed by the army have killed 18 militants during ... (More on P4)... (15)

Traffic Mess a Daily Practice for Kabul Residents

KABUL - "God knows when the road is asphalted and when the city gets adequate transport system to move smoothly from one place to another," a Kabul resident Bashir Ahmad told Xinhua on Sunday. Standing alongside a muddy street in Karta-e-Now locality in the eastern edge of Kabul city and waiting for bus to reach his colleague on time, Ahmad, 19, said that mostly he is late in classroom because of so many traffic jams and lack of proper transport system. Afghan capital Kabul, a city with some 5 million residents, doesn't have metro or any other subway or transport system to help commuters move from one part of the city to another easily. The muddy roads, battered and congested streets usually causes traffic mess and traffic jam in the city especially whenever there is rain or snow. Suffering from traffic jam is a daily practice for Kabul residents, especially in rainy days. "More than an hour of rain can change parts of Kabul city to lake," Ahmad said jokingly. He also whispered laughingly that a donkey-cart owner charged 20 Afghans to take pedestrians from one side of the street to other in Charah-Sarsabzi square, a neighborhood in northern part of Kabul city four days ago because the area was turned to a semi-lake due to rain on Thursday. Before the factional fighting in Afghan capital Kabul city 30 years ago, electronic ... (More on P4)... (16)

Suicide Car Bombing Leaves 1 Dead, 12 Others Wounded in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - At least one person was killed and twelve others were wounded following a suicide car bomb attack in southern Helmand province this afternoon. According to the local government officials, the suicide bomber targeted a vehicle convoy of the security forces in Lashkargah, the capital city of Helmand province. Provincial governor spokesman, Omar Zwak, said the suicide bomber detonated a Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) in Bolan area of the city. In the meantime, eyewitnesses in the area said the vehicles of the Afghan and foreign forces were crossing the area when the incident took place. No group including the Taliban militants has so far claimed responsibility behind the incident. Helmand is among the volatile provinces in southern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating in its various districts and often carry out insurgency activities. (KP)

Afghan Nationals Fleeing Homes Once Again



PESHAWAR - Hundreds of Afghan nationals who had fled Pakistan amid fears of a crackdown in the beginning of the year are once again crossing the Torkham Border into Pakistan. Speaking to The Express Tribune, a large number of Afghan refugees said deteriorating law and order, lack of civic facilities, devastated job economy and militancy have forced families to shift back to Pakistan. "I see at least 150 families coming to Peshawar each day," said a refugee who currently resides in K-P. "These poor people have to leave all their belongings behind to not invite suspicion since household items are banned as a measure to discourage migration of refugees into the country." He added that Afghan nationals have to undergo a process of migration twice in one year which is both arduous and distressing. There are at least one million unregistered Afghan refugees living in Pakistan ... (More on P4)... (17)

Eight Districts of Nangarhar Receive Ambulances

KABUL - Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) provided eight ambulances to eight districts of eastern Nangarhar province. The ambulances operational with modern health equipments were handed over to the representatives of the health facilities of Khogyani, PachirAgam, Kot, Achin, LalPura, Gushta, Khewa and Dur Baba districts in Jalalabad city. During the hand-over ceremony on Saturday, Nangarhar governor Saleem Khan Kundozi said that these ambulances would play a vital role in approaching to patients on time. He advised the health officials to provide 24/7 services to villagers in their respective areas. Doctor Najibullah Kamawal, head of the public health directorate of Nangarhar said that the ambulances are equipped with modern medical instruments and the district medical teams would be able to better serve patients in emergency situations. He said the ... (More on P4)... (18)

Seven Afghans, one Ukrainian Killed in Helicopter Crash in Slovakia

KABUL - Seven Afghans and one Ukrainian have lost lives in a helicopter crash in central European country of Slovakia, the country's interior ministry said on Saturday. Reuters news agency reports that a Ukrainian civilian helicopter that illegally entered Slovak airspace and crashed on Wednesday killed eight people aboard including a Ukrainian pilot and five men and two women from Afghanistan. According to the report, Slovak authorities have said an unidentified helicopter was detected in Slovak airspace on Wednesday night. They said Ukrainian authorities have not confirmed that any aircraft had crossed the border ... (More on P4)... (19)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might assume that working hard today will enable you to complete everything expected of you. However, a creative aspect between the Sun and ingenious Uranus can ignite distracting fireworks. An unexpected series of events could suddenly transform your day into a temporary obstacle course. Nevertheless, don't blame your troubles on anyone else.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

There are too many alternatives to choose from today as you contemplate where you want to go next. But your resources are limited by the current circumstances, forcing you to be clever enough to find the best route to your goals. Whether you lack money or time, don't pilfer your energy by micromanaging the details of every contingency.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's growing more apparent that you can't do every single thing you set your heart on, even if you're ready to give it your all. Unfortunately, burning your candle at both ends will exhaust you without any guarantee that you will accomplish your goals. Try a totally different tactic now by employing self-discipline right from the start. Paring back your activities will make you more productive in the long run.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Being sensitive to the needs of others is one of your most admirable traits, but it's unhealthy if your happiness is totally dependent on someone else's feelings. The problem with placing the sole determinant of your emotional well-being in other people's hands is that you can't take responsibility for their shifting moods.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Although this should be a day of rest, you're already worried about tomorrow. You're acutely aware of the increasing emotional tension that exists between you and your workmates. Unfortunately, you may not know how to navigate these dicey dynamics. You might mistakenly believe you can change your behavior without addressing your true feelings.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Thankfully, the intensity level at home seems to be more manageable today, yet you're still not convinced that everything is truly returning back to normal. To the contrary, you might be wondering if anything in your life will ever be the same. Luckily, you don't need to take major action now. Although this is a stressful period, maintaining a positive outlook on current events has a direct impact on the future.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may create an unnecessary crisis by attempting to squeeze one too many activities into your busy schedule today. There's so much to do that you can't possibly feel satisfied by the amount you manage to accomplish while the ambitious Capricorn Moon visits your 4th House of Family. Unfortunately, your stress level won't likely prevent you from attempting the impossible.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Perhaps you recently missed a chance to share what's on your mind with your friends. Unfortunately, the window of opportunity is starting to close, so you must get the conversational ball rolling as quickly as possible today. You might want to wait for the perfect moment to declare your truth, but the time for contemplation is over.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You must be serious-minded about your current commitments and you expect others to respect your no-nonsense attitude. However, you still may be unable to concentrate on your pressing obligations due to your wandering imagination. Saying all the right words is easy; however, it's quite another thing to put them into action. Good intentions won't take you as far as you want to go today.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

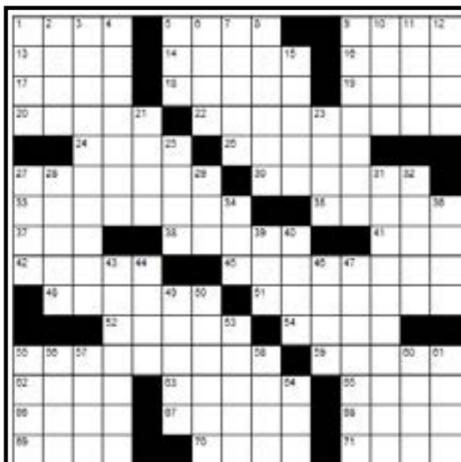
You might claim you're not obsessed with getting ahead now, but the dynamics of a relationship are changing and you want to make the most of the situation. It's tempting to ignore the immediate pressure, but the current emotional instability may be just the catalyst you need to propel you into your next developmental phase. However, it's not just about seizing an irresistible opportunity.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Floating through the day by doing as little as possible sounds like a recipe for fun, but you won't likely get away with this lovely plan of escape now. Although you might linger over the breakfast table, you may retrospectively wish that you worked harder in the morning. You can't accept a surprise invitation later in the day if you're not finished with your chores.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Your confidence wanes as the day wears on, and you might have second thoughts about attending a social event later this evening. But retreating for a short while prior to your night out enables you to emerge physically revitalized and emotionally refreshed, ready to fight off unnecessary change. Don't be afraid of expressing your own power now, even if you think that you should wait for a better time to act.



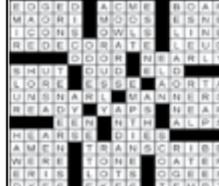
Across

1. Gave money, 5. A small wooded hollow, 9. Flower holder, 13. Tip, 14. Lengthways, 16. Angle of a leafstalk, 17. Blips, 18. A fabric resembling velvet, 19. Express in words, 20. Attune, 22. Winners, 24. Novice, 26. Ancient Persian gold coin, 27. Embodiment, 30. Expose, 33. Welcomers, 35. Caper, 37. Martini ingredient 38. Nigerian monetary unit, 41. Ribonucleic acid, 42. Religious splinter groups, 45. Egyptian tourist attraction, 48. Deduce, 51. Overshadow, 52. List components, 54. Dispatched, 55. Sleep longer than intended, 59. Strainer, 62. Kid, 63. Practical, 65. Principal, 66. Bit of gossip, 67. Subtract, 68. Utilized, 69. Formally surrender, 70. To tax or access, 71. Kittens' cries.

Down

1. Dad, 2. Corrosive, 3. Restlessness, 4. Notwithstanding, 5. Dip lightly, 6. Test, 7. Delineated, 8. A four-wheel covered carriage, 9. Where the Pope lives, 10. Chopping tools, 11. Sediment, 12. L L L L, 15. Gain knowledge, 21. Gait faster than a walk, 23. City in Peru, 25. Portent, 27. Hens make them, 28. Jimmied, 29. Historic period, 31. Exotic dancer, 32. Varieties, 34. Take in slowly, 36. Carryall, 39. Type of whiskey, 40. Circle fragments, 43. Ancient Roman gallery, 44. Seats oneself, 46. Beers, 47. The least possible, 49. Partial veil, 50. It induces nausea, 53. A river through Paris, 55. Ear-related, 56. Briskly (music), 57. Barely managed, 58. Add, 60. Opinion, 61. Terminates, 64. S.

Yesterday's Solution



alert, aloe, area, blame, bloom, ceded, celebration, chant, choke, clock, coal, contrary, course, cross, crypt, eclipse, erupt, forget, front, funeral, hitch, jest, level, lowly, lozenge, mate, object, outmoded, practical, proud, ruse, sites, spectacle, truck.

