

Weapons, Explosives Seized in Kabul Operations: Rahimi

KABUL - Kabul police on Wednesday reported they had seized a large amount of arms and explosives in military operations in Kabul over the past three months. Police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi said at a press conference that police had seized the weapons and explosives - which were intended to be used by insurgents in the capital. He said the deputy head of an insurgent group was also arrested in the city. Rahimi said: "If we had not seized these arms and explosives imagine what would have hap-



pened to innocent people in Kabul." He went on to say police investigations are underway to arrest insurgent groups earmarked to have used these arms. According to him, the weapons and explosives had been well hidden in cars and in homes when found. In addition to the weapons and explosives seized, ammonium nitrate was also found. This is used to make explosives. Rahimi said the insurgent leader Qari Khairullah who was arrested is from Paktia province ... (More on P4)...(9)

Afghanistan Exports 40,000 Tons of Pomegranates



KABUL - Afghanistan has exported 40,000 tons of pomegranates to Pakistan, India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Haji Nasrullah, provincial head of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), said 10,000 tons of the exported pomegranates have been registered in the customs department, and 30,000 tons of pomegranates have been exported unregistered. Majority of the pomegranates were exported by land to Pakistan and India and about 500 tons by air to UAE, added Nasrullah. "The pomegranates that came from districts close to the city are registered, but districts far from Kandahar city do not have ac-

cess to the customs, and their pomegranates are exported unregistered," said Nasrullah. According to Nasrullah, Kandahar offers standard processing of dried and fresh fruits and has the capacity to export to different foreign countries, however, the traders are faced with visa issues. He further added that the Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan had said during his visit to Kandahar that Afghan traders could export their goods to foreign countries through China. This had not been put into action, claimed Nasrullah, who urged the government to follow up with the Chinese government on this matter. (Wadsam)

Two Killed in Separate Shootings in Kabul

KABUL - Unknown gunmen on Wednesday killed a man and a woman in Kabul in two separate shooting incidents, police confirmed. In the first incident, in Karte-Naw, two gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on a 62-year-old woman, whose sister was killed in a similar incident in the same area last year. Jamila Halif was a teacher at a kindergarten and was killed outside the school. However, the motive is not yet clear, said police. Her family has condemned the incident and accused the government of negligence over the sister's death last year, as they say the perpetrators of that shooting were never brought to justice. The deceased's brother, Rohullah Halif, said: "I want my sister's killers to be identified otherwise I promise to set myself alight in front of everyone." An eyewitness said there had been the sound of gunshots. "When I went to look I saw the dead woman lying there." Kabul police said they are investigating the matter and are trying to find out what the motive was. Abdul Rahman Rahimi said: "So far what we can say is our investigations are underway but we assure you we will find these criminals and bring them to justice." This incident happened just hours before the second incident which saw a man being gunned down in Khair Khana area in Kabul. Unknown gunmen allegedly opened fire on Shah Mohammad near the Sayed Al-Nasiri High School. The gunmen fled the scene after killing Mohammad. His family members have also criticized government for not ensuring the safety of its citizens. (Tolonews)

Germany Starts 8 Disaster Prevention Projects in Badakhshan

KABUL -Germany has started eight disaster prevention projects in four remote districts of north-eastern Badakhshan province. The projects started last week include protection walls, irrigation canals and forestation measures which will protect the villagers and their land, orchards and houses from floods and other natural disasters in Shahr-i-Buzurg, Shukai, Kofab and Khowahan districts. Funded by Germany's AFG 16 million through the Badakhshan Natural Disaster Prevention Authority



(BNDPA), the eight projects were chosen and managed by the Community Development Councils (CDCs). "One of the major challenges our communities are facing is flooding. The villages lack forests and proper protection walls to protect their lands and they do not have irrigation canals to water their farmland properly. Every year, residents in our villages lose a huge amount of farming in ... (More on P4)...(10)

Bomb Blast Kills Two Brothers in Ghazni



KABUL - A bomb explosion on Wednesday has claimed the lives of two brothers in southern Ghazni province. The incident took place in Rabat area of Deh Yak District early in the morning.

According to the district's governor Karimullah Ameer, the victims had loaded apples in a vehicle and were driving towards Ghazni city when their vehicle ran over a Taliban-planted roadside landmine. Meanwhile, the province's Police Chief Brigadier General Aminullah Amarkhil said that the victims belong to Rabat village. Reports suggest that Taliban have a strong presence in Deh Yak District especially around its Rabat village. The militant group had earlier urged Rabat villagers to remove the Afghan Local Police (ALP) security post from their area if not then be ready for consequences. (KP)

Govt. Probes Arrested Student Links to IS Group

KABUL - An Afghan official says the government is investigating links between university students and extremist groups following the arrest of 27 students in connection with a pro-Islamic State demonstration.



Javed Faisal, spokesman for Afghanistan's chief executive Abdullah Abdullah, said on Wednesday the authorities want to ensure universities do not become hotbeds of extremist activity. The 27 students were arrested during a raid this week

at Nangarhar University in the eastern city of Jalalabad. The national intelligence agency said banners and other extremist paraphernalia were seized during the raid, which came after a student rally on the campus last week in support of the IS. IS affiliates have built a presence in eastern Nangarhar province this year, fighting government forces and Taliban. They are believed to control some districts near the Pakistan border. (AP)

10 Taliban Militants Killed in Helmand



LASHKAR GAH - Ten Taliban militants, including two group commanders, have been killed in the southern Helmand province on Wednesday, police spokesman in the province Shah Mahmud Ashna said. "Taliban militants attacked some police checkpoints in Nad Ali district early Wednesday and security forces

returned fire and so far 10 rebels including two group commanders have been killed," Ashna told Xinhua. There were no casualties on security personnel, the official said. Taliban militants who are active in parts of the restive Helmand province haven't commented on the latest clashes. (Xinhua)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

It's time to face your own ghosts before jumping in to tackle the issues of your friends and family. Your role within your peer group can become quite muddled over the months ahead if you don't conquer your fear of getting lost in the crowd. You may be searching for happiness through your relationships, but serenity of mind and heart cannot be found until you first find peace within yourself.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your rigidity can get the best of you today unless you notice the warning signs in time. Observe your tendency to grow agitated while you are defending your position or arguing your point of view. Stop long enough to reconsider your priorities before you engage in any unnecessary power struggles. Your conclusions will help you decide if you need to hold your posture or if you benefit more by letting it go.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your long-held beliefs could be the source of duress today. It's not that the waves of self-doubt are threatening to your well-being, it's just that dancing at the edge may bring up old fears that stand in the way of your creativity. Although your past might be holding you back now, give yourself permission to have fun interacting with others, anyhow. You won't fall over the cliff as long as you stay conscious of the present moment.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Maintaining your individual perspective while still remaining receptive to the opinions of others is more complicated than you think. Contrary to your current logic, your uncertainty is not a sign of instability. Instead, it may be more representative of your resiliency, allowing your emotions to move in their naturally fluid manner. Still, it's critical to keep up your regular routine.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

A sudden epiphany may surprisingly open new doorways in your quest for love and romance. But this newly found awareness won't necessarily make life easier, for you can plainly see where your pride gets in your own way. You are known for your generosity of spirit and have plenty of affection to bestow on others. Rest assured that you can improve your most important relationships.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You don't feel like following the rules at work today because you're afraid that you might lose the substantial progress you've already made. Usually, your mental flexibility allows you to incorporate new information and make rational choices based upon what you learn. But if you spend time fighting the inevitable now, you may end up missing important facts which can return to bite you later on.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You might find yourself trapped in a difficult situation today, but this dilemma has probably been brewing for quite a while. However, your frustration reaches a climax now as you realize there isn't an easy way out. Unfortunately, a sudden breakthrough won't necessarily bring you a fast solution. Just keep moving toward your own vulnerability so you come out the other side even stronger.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You could be somewhat disconnected from your innermost feelings but, oddly enough, this disassociation won't necessarily make you uncomfortable today. Think of it as a short vacation from your personal world of intensity. You haven't lost anything essential; whatever passion you're missing now will return shortly. There's no reason to panic if you just observe your process.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Although you may be over the rainbow with optimism today, you still have much to gain by taking life more seriously. Keep the communication channels wide open, even if something pops up on your radar screen that is less than positive. Don't remain silent just to preserve a cavalier appearance. It's more crucial to talk about what is real now than what is possible. Honesty is the best policy for all parties involved.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your tail is dragging today, especially if you haven't been taking proper care of yourself. Your energy is running on empty and the stresses you are currently juggling may seem like just too much to manage. Although your discomfort might be physical, the solution will be found in the spiritual realms now. Rest while you can, for you're going to need all your strength to face the challenges in front of you.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your moods continue to shift throughout the day and your current changeability takes its toll on those closest to you. Still, it's critical to keep expressing your feelings today, regardless of the resistance you might receive from others. Let your fluctuating needs register on the surface, for everyone will see through your attempts to hide them, anyway.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

A vaguely familiar issue is back for another round of contemplation now. Handling this blast from the past may be rather stressful, for you're not in the mood to talk about your feelings today. The good news is you don't need to say anything at all. This emotional journey is about facing your shortcomings, examining your fears and learning from your mistakes. A little bit of courage goes a long way to pave the road to a brighter future.



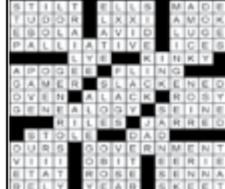
Across

- 1. Laser light, 5. Skin layer, 10. Cunning, 14. A single time, 15. Egg-shaped, 16. Largest continent, 17. Exotic dancer, 19. Ceremonial splendor, 20. Mineral rock, 21. Deservedly receives, 22. Panderers, 23. Enigma, 25. Dish, 27. A late time of life, 28. Together again, 31. Evanesces, 34. Mobile phones, 35. Beam, 36. 1 1 1 1, 37. Carapace, 38. Plunge, 39. Caviar, 40. Discharges, 41. Cuts into cubes, 42. Aliens from the Red Planet, 44. Hairpiece, 45. Brandish, 46. A style of roof, 50. Stairs, 52. Overact, 54. Prefix meaning "Modern", 55. He writes in verse, 56. Ingenuity, 58. Style of hairdo, 59. Change, 60. Away from the wind, 61. Being, 62. Tired, 63. Catches.

Down

- 1. Breast, 2. Vestibule, 3. Units of land, 4. Japanese apricot, 5. Old person, 6. Each and all, 7. A soft sheepskin leather, 8. Spells incorrectly, 9. Citrus drink, 10. Large North American deer, 11. Three-dimensional, 12. Not stiff, 13. Blabs, 14. Rinds, 22. Shallow metal containers, 24. T T T T, 26. Quiet time, 28. Stinks, 29. Overhang, 30. Colors, 31. A mold for setting concrete, 32. Dwarf buffalo, 33. Bush-like herbs, 34. A steep climb (flying), 37. Secure against leakage, 38. Excavates, 40. Untruths, 41. Restaurant, 43. Walk quietly, 44. Overly diluted, 46. Relocation company, 47. Anoint (archaic), 48. Adjust again, 49. Units of medicine, 50. Disgorge, 51. Spinning toys, 53. Of higher order, 56. Bird call, 57. Indian bread.

Yesterday's Solution



answer, arrival attic, blaze, brash, cease, color, confusion, cupcake, edible, emerge, fright, handy, harry, hatch, hurry, joust, league, lean, lisp, nation, neat, onion, orbit, plenty, profit, real, report, reserve, return, splice, stand, steel, torsion, total, tryst.

