

Taliban Threatens Helmand, Civilians Flee

LASHKARGAH - Taliban forces advanced on the capital of the volatile southern province of Helmand on Tuesday amid fierce fighting with government forces that threatened to cut off a major highway and prompted many families to flee. The fighting near the town of Lashkargah comes three weeks after the Taliban won its biggest victory in the 14-year war, capturing the northern town of Kunduz and holding the city centre for three days before government forces regained control. "Helmand's capital appears to be under serious military pressure," a Western official said. "We're hearing reports ... (More on P4)...(15)"



Female Governor won't Back Down Amid Threats, Controversy



KABUL - Sima Joyenda on October 18 in a demonstration organized by political opponents in the provincial capital, Firoz Koh. Her name has been singled out in the country's upper house of parliament amid demands that government appointments be reviewed to prevent an escalation of provincial insecurity. And she has weathered criticism from rights activists at home and abroad after she supported the recent lashing of a young couple for adultery -- a sentence Joyenda knew she would face resistance when she was named governor of her deeply conservative and impoverished home province in central Afghanistan. But after just four months as governor of Ghor Province, Joyenda says the calls for her dismissal that immediately accompanied her appointment have escalated to threats against her life. One of only two women governors in Afghanistan, Joyenda has been the focus of protests at home -- the most recent ... (More on P4)...(18)

ANP Solider Who Defused 300 Mines Seeks Help

KABUL - An Afghan National Police (ANP) officer from Ghazni province, who has defused almost 300 mines in the line of duty, has called on government for help after he lost both hands in a blast. Nazir Ahmad, whose job it was to defuse IEDs, lost both hands while defusing a mine in Ghazni province two weeks ago. Ahmad, who has been in the Emergency Hospital in Kabul for almost two weeks, said that so far no officials have visited him. Nazir had two brothers who were also in the police service. One of them was killed in action and the other left disabled after being injured in the line of duty, he said. "I have been a police officer for almost two and a half years in the 3rd police district of Ghazni and before that I was in Helmand. Every morning I collected and defused mines," said Ahmad. As the sole breadwinner in his family, Ahmad, who has two sons of his own, says he is extremely worried about his family following his accident. "I have a father, a mother, and two children and I have to pay rent for our house. I am afraid my salary gets stopped - if they say now I don't have hands so I can't work they will not pay my salary," Ahmad added. The victim's brother, Mohammad Sami Nazir, said meanwhile that despite Ahmad's commitment and outstanding ... (More on P4)...(17)

20 Taliban Killed in US Airstrike, Clashes with Security Forces in Logar

KABUL - 20 Taliban militants were killed in a U.S. airstrike and raids of Afghan forces in Kharwar District of central Logar province, south of Kabul, on Tuesday night. Police Chief of Kharwar District says that several villages have been cleared of the militants as the result of the military operation by Afghan forces backed by airstrikes. A large number of weapons and ammunition was also seized by security forces during the operation, Brigadier General Dawoud Ah-



madi said. This comes as Taliban have ramped up their deadly campaign across the country. A suicide car bomb explosion for which Taliban were blamed left 14 civilians wounded, some of them critical, in the capital of this province last month. The vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) was detonated when Pul-i-Alam City was crowded with people. (KP)

Daesh Commander in Afghanistan Cuts Ties with Group

KABUL - The self-claimed commander of Daesh in Afghanistan, Mawlawi Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost, announced this week that he has cut ties with the group's leader for the region, Hafiz Saeed, due to his "un-Islamic decisions". He said in a recent statement that Saeed - who is known as the Daesh leader for Khurasan state - has violated Islamic teachings by arresting, killing and harming the prestige of innocent Afghans. Dost, who pledged allegiance to Hafiz Saeed a few months back, said in the statement that he will no longer obey Saeed. He accused Saeed of closing schools and health care centers and mistreating the people of Nangarhar. However some unconfirmed reports suggested a few months back that Hafiz Saeed was killed along with his commanders in an air strike in Nangarhar province. Analysts meanwhile speculate that the so-called Daesh commander's decision will weaken the group's influence in the country. "I believe this split will harm Pakistan because Hafiz Saeed is representing Daesh in Afghanistan on behalf of ISI and this will cut the hands of ISI in Afghanistan. The Afghan government must make good use of this opportunity," political commentator Javed Kohistani said. Daesh - which has seized large cities in Iraq and Syria - emerged in Afghanistan a few months ago after some provincial officials confirmed sightings of its fighters. Daesh has reportedly fought Taliban in Nangarhar, particularly in Achin district, in recent months. (Tolo News)

Southern Africans Urged to Support Investigation into US Attack on MSF Hospital

CAPE TOWN - The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders (MSF) on Tuesday urged people in Southern Africa to support its petition drive for an independent investigation into the U.S. attack on an MSF hospital in Afghanistan. The petition aims for over 300,000 signatures to urge U.S. to consent to an probe by the International



Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC) into the deadly airstrikes on the Kunduz Hospital on Oct. 3, which killed 12 MSF staff members and 10 patients and wounded more than 30 people, MSF said in a statement emailed to Xinhua. MSF launched the petition ... (More on P4)...(16)

3 Security Guards of UNAMA Wounded in Jalalabad Explosion

JALALABAD - Three Security guards of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) have been wounded in a bomb explosion in Jalalabad city, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province. Colonel Hazrat Husain Mashriqiwal, spokesman for the police HQ of Nangarhar said that the bomb was attached to a police vehicle which exploded around 12:30 pm this afternoon. The victims were shifted to Nangarhar Regional Hospital for treatment. No group has immediately claimed responsibility or the explosion. This was at least the fourth explosion in Jalalabad city in less than two weeks. Two of them including the one that occurred close to the house of Haji Abdul Zahir Qadir, first deputy of the Lower House of Parliament or Wolesi Jirga, have been claimed by Daesh. (KP)

U.S Fighter Jet Damaged in Afghanistan Mission



WASHINGTON - A U.S. F-16 fighter jet was hit by small-arms fire in Afghanistan last week, forcing the pilot to eject auxiliary fuel tanks and spare munitions, military officials said. The pilot was flying over Paktia in eastern Afghanistan on Oct. 13 when one of the jet's stabilizers and some munitions were hit, said Pentagon spokesman Army Maj. Roger Cabiness. The pilot was forced to jettison two external fuel tanks and three pieces of munitions, and returned to the base unharmed. "Our pilots routinely face threats from the ground, however they are well-trained and prepared to respond to any threat or attack," U.S. Air Force Capt. Susan Harrington said. It is not clear what type of weapon was used to attack the aircraft, but Pentagon officials said ... (More on P4)...(19)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You may breathe a sigh of relief today because it seems like recent tensions are beginning to subside. Although there are positive signs that make you smile, you won't likely get the full resolution you seek. You're not in an optimal position to make significant progress but, at least, you're growing more confident about the future. There's nothing to be gained by being overly ambitious now.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You're happily surprised by how quickly things change today as you're catapulted out of your regular routine and shot into a new orbit. Although the quirky Aquarius Moon might not bring emotional comfort, it sounds a loud wake-up call to remind you of the radical ideas you set aside recently in your quest to fit in. Your fan base is solid now, so you really don't have anything to lose.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Oddly enough, your growing sense of freedom may relieve your need to rebel against the status quo. Although you don't feel as independent as you wish, at least some restrictions appear to be lifting now. But don't spoil your opportunity to be productive by frittering away your precious time. Stay as focused as you were when you were under pressure and you might just accomplish more than you ever thought possible.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

The slow pace of change might not be speedy enough for you today. You are acutely aware of how far you have already traveled on your journey, but there's still a huge gulf between where you are now and where you want to be in the future. However, there's no point in dwelling on your limitations. Instead of constantly comparing your current progress to your beautiful dreams.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Unexpressed feelings foment unrest in your life, but you can't seem to find the real source of the problem. Paradoxically, the closer you get to the truth, the more obscured the answer becomes today. Although it may be wise to dig deep on other occasions, this isn't one of them. Leave the sleeping mysteries alone while you redirect your attention to those things that are most obvious.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

So much has happened in your life over the past few months, yet you might not be able to see the ramifications of the changes yet. Although the transition continues to evolve slower than you wish, your life is undergoing a subtle-but-total transformation. Instead of ruminating over your past mistakes, focus on small tasks that you can start and finish in a day. Rather than working harder, work smarter.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Instead of stressing over a recent lost opportunity, try a more radical solution to your woes, like letting go and trusting the universe. Ironically, taking a well-deserved break may carry you further toward success now than if you push relentlessly ahead. It's essential to revitalize your creativity and reestablish your center. Don't be concerned if you aren't very productive today.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might want to disconnect from your emotional roots today because you don't want anyone to perceive you as being overly needy. You can outwardly demonstrate an apparent aloofness so no one suspects that you're actually feeling quite vulnerable now. However, your reverse psychology could backfire by amplifying your sense of alienation and deepening your sorrow.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Unfinished projects continue to pile up at work, yet you could find time today to play a bit of catch-up. You might give yourself the luxury of relaxing later if you can stay on task during the day. But there is simply too much going on for you to check out completely. It may help to create a detailed list of everything you want to accomplish and then cross the items off one at a time.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

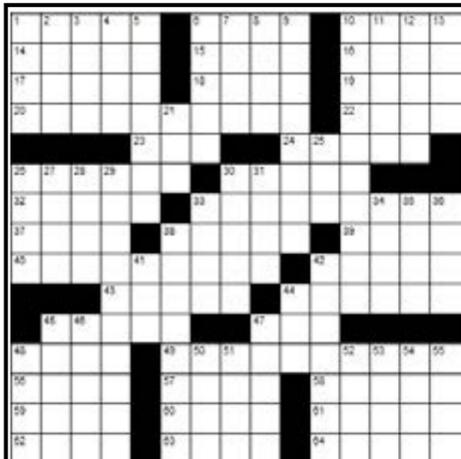
A highly productive morning goes a long way to ease the current pressure in your life. But slacking off before you do your chores is not your modus operandi, especially when there are so many people counting on you. Get down to work instead of wasting time replaying your recent accomplishments or fretting about missed deadlines. Just tie up as many loose ends as possible to fully prepare for the busy week ahead.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You could grow weary and discouraged today, especially if all of your hard work hasn't yet paid off. However, you may have made more headway than you realize, since the moody Moon's shift into your sign might color your perceptions with doubt or deception. But don't shut down your awareness even if you want to escape from your feelings.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Although today may be a harbinger of exciting new beginnings, the Moon's presence in your 12th House of Endings also brings good fortune if you're willing to reflect on the past. But don't get too hooked by the mundane world or you could miss the intuitive inspiration that's bubbling up from your subconscious. There are unseen forces at work now and your subtle impressions can be instrumental.



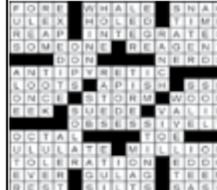
Across

- Closes, 6. Pinup's legs, 10. Spouse, 14. Basic belief, 15. Scallion, 16. X X X X, 17. A kind of macaw, 18. Sea eagle, 19. Edges, 20. Circuitous, 22. Make do, 23. Fury, 24. Packs to capacity, 26. Alternate route, 30. Pale with fright, 32. A part of the small intestine, 33. Elected official (New England), 37. Deliver a tirade, 38. Not silently, 39. Hawkeye State, 40. Subjugating, 42. Church officer, 43. Corrosives, 44. Fast, 45. Clique, 47. 3 in Roman numerals, 48. A reserve of money, 49. Sin, 56. 53 in Roman numerals, 57. Agitate, 58. Bog hemp, 59. Does something, 60. Small island, 61. Spry, 62. Netting, 63. A covered garden walk, 64. Performance scores.

Down

- Sun, 2. Protagonist, 3. Two-toed sloth, 4. Small slender gull, 5. Arena, 6. Parish land, 7. Relating to aircraft, 8. List of options, 9. Drew, 10. Profit oriented, 11. Adage, 12. Temporary workers, 13. Being, 21. Arrive (abbrev.), 25. Record (abbrev.), 26. Calamitous, 27. Distinctive flair, 28. 10 10 10 10, 29. Eccentric, 30. Long times, 31. Strike heavily, 33. Skidded, 34. Style, 35. Blown away, 36. Not, 38. Female flyer, 41. Play a role, 42. A witty saying, 44. Female sib, 45. Liquid from fruit or vegetables, 46. Pieces, 47. Arm of the sea, 48. Deception, 50. Optimistic, 51. Afflicts, 52. Indian music, 53. Arab chieftain, 54. A lustrous fabric, 55. Views.

Yesterday's Solution



affect, application, author, broke, chair, citizen, crisis, ears, email, forge, forlorn, fought, future, gloom, happy, hopeful, lonely, louse, mute, partner, party, photo, pins, pluck, pore, puce, rally, retirement, right, sere, spade, store, strong, tower, weary,

