

LIRIAN MILITARY COMMAND SAYS END OF WAR IN SIGHT!

After over a year of intense violence, a Lirian military affairs official has reported that a conclusion to the war is drawing closer. The deployment of advanced Lirian technologies and the strategic prowess of Her Majesty's armed forces has led the brave men and women who serve our national interests to strike a series of crushing blows against the Venkess aggressors. Experts predict that the worst of the fighting should be finished by the first snow, at the latest. The news comes, no doubt, as a tremendous relief and sign of hope to the beleaguered people of Acria who have suffered greatly at the hands of the invading armies. Nonetheless, authorities have warned that wholesale capitulation on the part of the Venkestra is unlikely and, as a result, the conflict is likely to be prolonged past the climax of the war. Political pundits and columnists in the capitol city have already begun to speculate whether or not Her Majesty will follow through on rhetoric from the beginning of the war which promised the persecution of the Venkess beyond expulsion from the Acrian territories and pursuit over the Spine itself as reprisal for their affront to the Empire. However, escalating tensions between major powers across Talus and the demands of securing colonies on the new continent may force Her Majesty to stay her hand, or risk overextending the

Iron City Threat Index,

a comprehensive and scientific measure of the city's hazard. Scaled 0 to 10.

This month's Threat Rating:

8.57

The threat rating remains at an elevated level due to a shortage of basic supplies that has begun to strain the commercial and medical establishments of the community. Residents have also been asked to remain vigilant against Venkess raiding parties or Ogwe agitators, who have been expressing increasing dissatisfaction with the status of Ogwe in the camp.

admittedly prodigious capabilities of the Lirian armed forces.

TREATY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MAJOR POWERS STALL

Announcements by Khenti and Jhandihari representatives have forced the Lirian government to return to the negotiating table with regard to the treaty that governs each nation's position towards the Ogwehoweh territories and Iron City. After several months, however, no diplomatic breakthroughs have occurred as a result of reported recalcitrance on all sides.

YOBAN AGRICULTURAL POSTS STRONG GAINS ON BAD WEATHER

Months of unseasonably wet and cool weather in Krieg has led to a crop blight that has affected much of the farmland there. Hailed by some as the bread basket of Liria, Krieg is responsible for producing much of the grains and stone fruits consumed by the rest of the empire. The rising price of Kriegan flour, jams, et cetera, has given rise to a greater demand for imports from the plantations and fruit orchards of the Yoban Peninsula. Yoban Agricultural, the Empire's premier farming and

canning corporation on the Peninsula, has reported record profits and investors have reacted positively, boosting the price of shares by over 30% at the time of printing.

LOCAL PHILANTHROPIST PLEDGES AID

The Cragswagger family has announced the establishment of a new philanthropic venture: the Cragswag-

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ger Foundation for the Education of Undercivilized Children. Backed by funding generously donated by the esteemed Marshall family estate, the Foundation will seek to provide scholarships for exceptionally bright Ogwe and Aniyonema children to receive educations in Lirian boarding schools. Similar foundations organized for the benefit of the Yoban people met with great success.

JHANDIHARI MILITARY LEADER DIES

Rumours are now confirmed that Talhim Kuru, one of the five Jhandihari Commanders in Chief known as "Mehelevi", recently passed away of natural causes — ending a career spanning more than four decades. Kuru began his military career in the Yoban Peninsula prior to Lirian occupation where he devised the terms of the Jhandihari withdrawal from the peninsula when faced with overwhelming

Exchange Rates

All prices in Queen's Oz.

Alder (LA)	0.231
Emir (JE)	1.208
Emperor (XE)	0.008
Kaiser (DK)	0.075

Lirian force. Noting his ability to assess and accurately weigh the pros and cons of a conflict, as well as his ability to reduce casualties in an unwinnable war rather than be blinded by pride, the Emir's government promoted Kuru quickly thereafter to a position of authority where he served proudly for many years until his death. He is survived by two living wives, three daughters, numerous granddaughters and one grandson. He now joins his two sons and three grandsons who died in the line of duty in eternal rest.

Eclectic Fashions of the Frontier, Part I

by Inga Harper, Designer of Lady's Fashions

Having returned safely to Lasai after my whirlwind visit to your charming city and other frontier lands, I find myself reflecting on the subject near and dear to all proper women's hearts; fashion.

My associate Marcela and myself visited your settlement several months back, during your feast. We made some keen observations, and talked to some of the better dressed patrons of your town, and have compiled a list of very important things I do sincerely hope you take to heart.

Lesson One: Never sacrifice stylish footwear for the sake of safety. Your very own Dr. Clerval is a prime example of elegance during duress in her boots with three inch heels that could kill a man. I applaud you. You ladies running around in footwear hardly suited for a Venkestra might want to think about sending out for a catalogue.

Lesson Two: Push the boundaries, with class! The lovely Kajna proves that just because a Jhandihari lady cannot show her face, it does not mean she has to blend in. Rich fabrics suited for every elemental extreme are her forte, and she manages to look lovely and original in her signature deep reds and blacks.

Lesson Three: If you do not want to look like a savage, skip the feathers and fur. I know you have a number of questionable friends, but honestly, you don't have to dress (or smell) like them. Leave their trinkets at home. And never ever think that blue face paint is acceptable. You know who you are.

I will leave you with these for now, I know for some of you these simple three are a big step. Remember, a proper lady in the frontier has one goal in mind, to find a husband, so you need to work hard to stand out!

Life Across the Continent

by Khalid Imad
Abdul-Alim Sharif,
Resident Correspondent

"Life Across the Continent" is a twelve-part series in which the author describes his practical experience with the various cultures of Talus. Part travelogue, part digest, we hope these articles provide you with a taste of life across the known world.

Part II: Life of the Xingsol

One of the more misunderstood cultures in Talus, the Xingsol people are often perceived as downtrodden, begrudgingly serving a single potentate. To agree with this view would do a disservice to a varied and dynamic nation whose culture evolved to reflect a careful balance between duty and pride.

The Xingsol are a people who take great pride in their place in the world. This is most pronounced in their innermost provinces, where it is as if there was a common understanding between every person in this land as to the way that the world should operate. From the simplest farmer to the wealthiest bureaucrat, everyone has a place within the grand design of their Emperor, whose wisdom carries the heart of their nation through strife into prosperity. Even in the outermost provinces, where slave-trading and great cruelty is common, craftsmen take pride in their handiwork and each tribesperson serves with utmost loyalty to their leader.

The Xingsol nation is divided into many provinces, each of which is managed in the Emperor's name by a magistrate. In the heart of the country, closer to the Emperor's palace, a very strict and elaborate bureaucracy has grown up. Each tier of government answers directly to the one above, starting from the

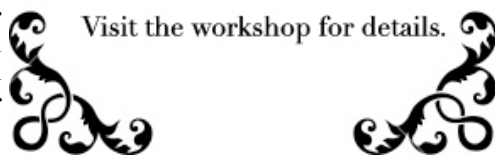
local bailiff up through the provincial magistrate until everything makes it way into the court of the Emperor.

The government of the borderlands differs greatly from this very orderly system. While they owe fealty to the Emperor and magistrates are appointed by the Emperor's court, the actual work of governing the communities is left to local chieftains and warlords. These men and women rule the Xingsol of the outer provinces by fear and force, and are given a great deal of autonomy by the bureaucracy of the central provinces.

Universally, however, Xingsol people are very mindful of law and painstakingly respect the word of law. If you encounter a Xingsol in your community who seems to act out of sorts, take the time to explain your local laws and the punishments meted out for breaking them. You may find them much more agreeable once they understand the law of the land



Mr. Janus Barrow and Mrs. Sanura Kaniik would like to invite you to join the Iron City Alchemists Guild. Assistance with research, government backing, and use of the Iron City workshop could be yours! All you need to do is volunteer a little of your time.



and its consequences. Some communities lean heavily towards certain trades, such as farming or silk harvesting, which means that the majority of the locals, their slaves and their bondsmen will work in one way or another with that trade. Because of this, craftsmen and laborers take pride in their work, as

Stock Listings	
Latest quotes provided courtesy of Dawkins & Emberwell Brokerage. All prices listed in Qoz.	
Equity Market	Price
D&E Composite Index	14.6
Dornham Royal Teas (DRT)	10.9
Lirian Steamship & Foundry (LSF)	39.4
Amalgamated Coal & Galvacite (ACG)	14.9
Yoban Agricultural (YA)	9.4
Farthingham Tool & Leather (FTL)	7.2
National Bank of Liria (NBL)	22.3
Royal Tonics & Distilling (RTS)	10.6
Northern Railway & Locomotive (NRL)	14.7
United Lirian Textile (ULT)	4.5
First Galvanic & Semaphore (FGS)	20.1
Bosswink and Bosswink Assay & Mining (BBM)	12.4
Fourth Age Shipyards (FAS)	9.2
Bond Market	Price
30 Day Royal Exchequer Bond (100 Qoz).....	99
60 Day Royal Exchequer Bond (100 Qoz).....	97
90 Day Royal Exchequer Bond (100 Qoz).....	95
One Year Royal Exchequer Bond (100 Qoz).....	90

this is a reflection of their community and each Xingsol identifies very strongly with their town or tribe. This is reflected most in the quality of craftsmanship found throughout this nation. Every village has beautifully-carved woodwork, colorful silks, magnificent stonework and finely-crafted manacles.

One of their most misunderstood cultural traits is their apparent desire to please others. This behavior is often perceived as submissive or servile. They do not seek to serve others, but rather to impress them so as to bring favor to their community. Due to the hierarchical nature of their government, once a community has gained the favor of a local administrator or tribal chieftain, they can count on their prolonged favor over that of neighboring communities. Should that administrator then impress the court of the Emperor with this community, even greater favor

will follow. Therefore, locals will strive to impress strangers on the chance that they are able to bring favor to their community, especially foreigners whose place in the bureaucracy is unknown. After all, you may be a simple traveler or a foreign dignitary from a far-away land, so they will afford you the same courtesies either way.

The best way to gain respect from Xingsol people is to honor their ways and show admiration for everything they present to you. Too often are Xingsol criticized for their perceived lack of personal impress or freedom, something that please others. This behavior is often perceived as society. Respect their place within their culture, show gratitude and admiration for all they provide you and you will find yourself the object of their attention and favor.

Khalid Imad Abdul-Alim Sharif is a Jhandihari scholar who has studied many of the cultures of Talus during his travels. A fan of various cultural dance styles, he still trips over himself when dancing the Waltz, a popular Lirian dance style.

The opinions of the authors presented herein do not represent the attitudes and opinions of the Iron City Post-Intelligencer or its staff.

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