

### Paktia Elders Ask Taliban to Declare Truce Before Eid



**GARDEZ** - A number of tribal elders and religious scholars in southeastern Paktia province on Tuesday urged the Taliban to announce a ceasefire before Eidul Adha and take real steps towards lasting peace in the country. The participants of the gathering called on the Taliban to end the four-decade-old war by first declaring truce and taking real measures in this regard.

Ahmad Jan Faizi, a tribal elder and member of the People Peace Movement (PPM), expressed hope the latest Qatar negotiations would succeed. He suggested national interest should be held supreme over personal interest in the ongoing peace efforts.

Faizi termed truce a base for peace and said: "Ceasefire is the first step towards peace and it should be taken and without truce, peace would be impossible and I hope the 8th round talks would give fruitful result."

Zahir Oryakhel, another tribal elder, said the government represented all countrymen and without direct talks with the government, peace and stability was not possible.

He accused the warning parties of being busy protecting their own interests in the ongoing Qatar talks by trying to get leverage.

Mualvi Arab Gul Hussian, a religious scholar, said the ongoing conflict had not only destroyed the country's economy but was responsible for social destruction of the Afghan society. "Preventing this war is the responsibility of all people, including ulema, who should raise their voices."

He said, "Peace is a divine order and this is our responsibility to work for peace."

Mualvi Abdullah, another scholar, termed the ongoing conflict as of others and said the war continued for foreigners' advantages and offered Afghanistan only destruction.

He urged Taliban leaders to end this war and first announce a truce and take practically steps for real peace in the country. (Pajhwok)

# Scandinavian \$12m Aid to Help Empower Afghan Women



**KABUL** - The governments of Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway have signed an agreement to provide \$12 million in assistance to UN's Women-Afghanistan in Kabul, a statement said on Monday. The assistance will support UN Women to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in Afghanistan for four years 2019-2022, the statement said. With the support, the UN women will deepen its work with the government, civil society and the

people of Afghanistan in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in four priority areas directly or indirectly covering 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The assistance would help ensure women's meaningful participation in peace and security, including gender in humanitarian action and address violence against women and girls through supporting comprehensive services for survivors and scaling up evidenced based approaches to the primary prevention of violence.

The assistance would be also helpful in increasing women's access to economic opportunities and engagement in the economy and support women's participation in leadership and governance. Nicolaj A Hejberg Petersen, Ambassador of Denmark, said: "Afghanistan has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment, however, the challenges for women in Afghanistan are massive." He said participation of women in all aspects of ...*(More on P4)...(8)*



### Nimroz Growers Happy with Melon, Watermelon Yield

**ZARANJ** - Agriculture officials in southwestern Nimroz province say the yield of melon and watermelon reached 1.5 million tonnes this year, showing a considerable increase. Agriculture Director Mohammad Akbar Sharifi told Pajhwok Afghan News around 315,000 tonnes of watermelon and 551,000 tonnes of melon had been produced in the province last year. But this year, the yield increased several times following rains, which had a positive impact on the production of the fruits.

He said around 30,000 hectares of land were cultivated with melon and watermelon in the province this season.

Most of the watermelon and melon were produced in the Chakhansur district of the province, he said, adding they had asked the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock (MoIA) for facilities to export the fruits.

Farmer satisfaction and concerns ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

### Mps Want to be Part of Intra-Afghan Negotiating Team



**KABUL** - Wolesi Jirga members on Tuesday demanded membership in the government's peace negotiating team with the Taliban, saying the government did not consult with the parliament regarding the creation of such a delegation.

On July 31, the Afghan government announced the creation of a 15-member negotiating team for peace talks with the Taliban. Mirdad Khan Najrbaei, a lawmaker from Ka-

pisa province, told today's session of Wolesi Jirga that the ongoing talks between the Taliban and the US envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, remained ambiguous.

He said at least two lawmakers should be made part of the government's negotiating team.

He said the presence of lawmakers in the negotiating delegation would help clear the ambiguities in ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

### IED Blast in Kabul Leaves Five Dead



**KABUL** - At least five people were killed and seven others were wounded in a magnetic IED explosion in the north of Kabul on Tuesday afternoon.

The Ministry of Interior said the explosion was placed on a bicycle and targeted a vehicle of the Interior Ministry Counter-Narcotics Department which was passing through the

road. The blast happened in Parwan Bostan Circle in Khairkhana area in Kabul's police district 11 (PD11) at around 4 pm Kabul time, the ministry said.

This comes after a rise in attacks in the city of Kabul which have left dozens of people dead and wounded. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. (Tolo news)

## Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aug 7, 2019 - This is a passionate, creative day, Aries. Your blood is hot and passion is on your mind. With luck, you have a significant other who can benefit! If not, you will have to find another way to burn off that energy. Invite a close friend for a jog. You're in the mood to socialize. If you can't have physical intimacy, be satisfied with emotional closeness.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Aug 7, 2019 - You may feel a bit short on inspiration today, Taurus. Don't be discouraged! Start whatever project is in question, even if your thoughts are elsewhere. During the course of the "bad" work you may churn out at first, your muse gently alights on your shoulder. It sometimes takes a little discipline to lead to delicious rewards!

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Aug 7, 2019 - Gemini, you may feel like you're running in several directions at once. You're so scattered that you don't feel like you're accomplishing anything important. That's just the nature of the day. You have many loose ends to tie up. It's hard to concentrate on the big picture when you're out of groceries. Do whatever maintenance needs doing so you can move on to bigger things.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Aug 7, 2019 - Today you may be inspired to have a little fun with your looks, Cancer. You may wish to change your hair cut or experiment with different colors or styles of clothing. It would be fun to get out of your routine, even if it just means donning funky sunglasses or bright Hawaiian patterns. You will feel lighter and more flirtatious.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Aug 7, 2019 - Today's energy has you re-thinking all areas of your life, Leo. If you aren't as challenged by your job as you think you should be, perhaps it's time for a change. The trick for you will be figuring out what it is that you want to do. You have a tremendous amount of creative ability.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Aug 7, 2019 - You're ready for dramatic change in your life, Virgo. It isn't that you're dissatisfied with your career or personal life. Rather, you feel like you're missing out on something great, if you only knew what. Be receptive to whatever opportunities arise and explore them all. You may find the answers you seek through travel or more education. Bring a friend if you're afraid to explore on your own.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Aug 7, 2019 - Libra, expect to meet someone new who will be a tremendous influence in your life - probably in your career. If you've been frustrated by your lack of progress up the corporate ladder, take heart. This new person may be able to show you another way up. In spite of your frustration, you should continue to work in your usual manner. You're on the right path, even though you may doubt it now.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Aug 7, 2019 - You've been on a wild ride for several months, Scorpio - all that excitement in your personal life and career! If major changes for the better haven't yet occurred, know that they will. A promotion is in order, most likely accompanied by a raise. Don't act so surprised - you've had this coming for a long time. Celebrate tonight with someone dear to your heart.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Aug 6, 2019 - Take things to the limit today, Sagittarius, and then go beyond. This is one of those days in which people may go to extremes, especially emotionally. You have the right to push the boundaries and see how far you can go. There's no need to delay. If you're going to do something, do it now. There's an intense surge of power that should be there to help you along your way.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



Aug 7, 2019 - Foreign lands and new opportunities beckon today, Sagittarius! Keep your eyes and ears open as these opportunities may come to you from an unusual or unexpected source. You're ready for a change of some kind in your personal or professional life. It's up to you to take steps in whatever new direction you decide to go.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

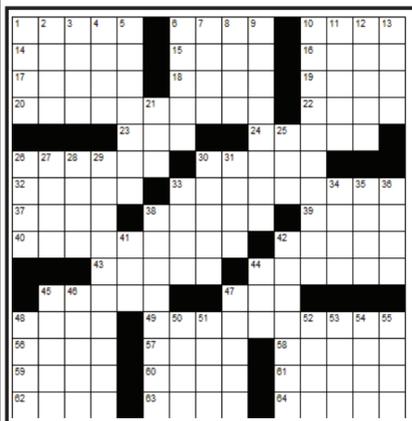


Aug 7, 2019 - The astral energy indicates that you may have extra money in your pocket, Capricorn. Take care to invest this money wisely rather than spend it all. You will be happier sacrificing short-term gratification for future financial gain. Positive relationships and socializing are indicated this evening. Make a point to get together with close friends and loved ones.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Aug 7, 2019 - This will be an interesting day provided you keep your eyes and ears open to the opportunities that arise. Don't be afraid to take on new challenges. Even if you feel unsure about your abilities, embrace the chance to test them. If others think you're up to the challenge, you should give yourself the same benefit of the doubt! New friends are indicated - make a point to smile.



#### Across

- 1. Penniless, 6. Circle fragments, 10. Try, 14. Batman's sidekick, 15. Formal dance, 16. Biblical garden, 17. Iniquities, 18. Two-toed sloth, 19. Implored, 20. Exploding, 22. Anagram of "Silo", 23. Commercial, 24. Clothes, 26. A misleading fabrication, 30. Flora, 32. Overweight, 33. Milkmaid, 37. "Oh my!", 38. In shape, 39. If not, 40. Passerines, 42. Anoint (archaic), 43. Overly sentimental, 44. High regard, 45. Fable writer, 47. Dip lightly, 48. Hair salon process, 49. Leather shorts, 56. Sea eagle, 57. Decorative case, 58. Zapupe, 59. Mortgage, 60. Whacks, 61. On the up and up, 62. Check, 63. Flower stalk, 64. Shades of blue, ,

#### Down

- 1. Engendered, 2. Wander, 3. Death notice, 4. Prefix meaning 1000, 5. Trap, 6. Borders on, 7. Hindu princess, 8. Family group, 9. A slothful person, 10. Conduct, 11. Improvise, 12. Bobbins, 13. Concludes, 21. Annex, 25. One or more, 26. Anthracite, 27. With competence, 28. Close, 29. Appraisal, 30. Strike an open palm, 31. Untruths, 33. A hamlet (South African term), 34. Away from the wind, 35. Small island, 36. Consider, 38. Social drinkers, 41. Ghost's cry, 42. Paving material, 44. Hearing organ, 45. Eagle's nest, 46. Anagram of "Sneer", 47. Anagram of "Dimes", 48. Fur, 50. French for "State", 51. Hoodwink, 52. Curved molding, 53. Epic, 54. Wicked, 55. Catches, ,

#### Yesterday's Solution



- bargain, barge, basic, binge, blanket, blues, bright, bring, casual, cringes, cross, dear, debate, drain, early, exact, gain, gang, glasses, growing, guide, hinge, hurry, jacket, leech, light

