

Man Chops off Wife's Ears in Balkh

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - A man allegedly chopped off both ears of his wife during domestic violence in northern Balkh province, an official said on Tuesday.

Balkh police spokesman, Shirjan Durrani, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Kushinda district. He said the man cut off both ears of his 21-year-old wife, Zarina, before fleeing. Durrani said police were investigating the incident, but the accused remained at large. Mazar-i-Sharif public hospital head, Dr. Noor Mohammad Faiz, said the woman was delivered to the hospital on



Tuesday morning.

He said the woman's ears had been cut off and she was in trauma, however, her condition was stable.

The victim, Zarina, said from her hospital bed that her husband suddenly woke up at midnight and attacked her and cut off her ears with a knife. "I haven't committed any sin. I don't know why my husband did this to me." Separately in another incident of violence, a youngster killed his uncle over a land ownership dispute in Balkh district, deputy police ... (More on P4)... (14)

Angry Macroryan Residents Want Heating System Fixed

KABUL - Some residents of the Macroryan neighbourhood of Kabul complain the central heating system (CHS) remains operational only for a short period of time in the harsh winter.

But officials in charge of CHS insist the facility goes down only during power outages. They plan purchasing a generator to address complaints from occupants of the Russian-built apartments.

They blame some residents for tampering with the heating system, something that often leads to its failure.

But Mohammad Hassan Ahadi, an inhabitant of the Macroryan 1, told Pajhwok Afghan News the CHS had been out of order for a week and a half, although, there was no electricity problem.

He explained the issue had been resolved somehow, but five to seven hours of loadshedding on a daily basis caused disruptions of the heating system.

Zabihullah Rafea, a resident of Macroryan 4, grumbled: "I live in a three-room apartment and pay 15,000 to 17,000 afis for a heating ... (More on P4)... (15)

6 Security Personnel Surrender to Taliban in Faryab

MAIMANA - Six security personnel, including three policemen, have surrendered to the Taliban in the Khwaja Sabzposh district of north-western Faryab province, a well-placed source revealed on Tuesday.

An official, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News. "Led by Sakhi Dad, the policemen at the Shah Sawar check-post also handed six Kalashnikovs, a machine gun, a

rocket and 3,500 bullets to the Taliban."

He warned the security situation of the area would deteriorate with the surrender of the six security personnel and capture of the check-post by the militants. He asked the government for the deployment of more troops.

Meanwhile, gubernatorial spokesman Abdul Karim confirmed the surrender of the security officials and fall of the



check-post in Khwaja Sabzposh. However, he gave no further details. (Pajhwok)

3 Killed As Taliban Militants Vehicle Hit IED

LASHKARGAH - At least three Taliban insurgents were killed after their vehicle struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in southern Helmand province.

According to the local government officials, the incident took place in Kajaki on Monday while the militants travelling in a hatchback type vehicle. The officials are saying that the IED was previously planted by the militants in Sar Chashma

area. At least two militants belonging to a Taliban commander, Ajmal, were wounded and the vehicle was totally destroyed in the explosion.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far.

Taliban militants and insurgents belonging to other militant groups are frequently using Improvised Explosive Device



(IED) as the weapon of their choice to target security forces and government officials. However, in majority of such ... (More on P4)... (16)

Badakhshan Avalanches Cause Casualties, Damage Homes

FAIZABAD - One man was killed and another seven were wounded in two avalanches in the Raghistan district of northeastern Badakhshan province. Some houses were also destroyed, officials said on Tuesday.

The avalanches occurred in Sopah and Guljar villages of the district on Monday night, Sayed Abdullah Humayun Dehqan, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said the avalanche in



Sopah village killed one individual and inflicted injuries on another seven. The wounded were evacuated to the district hospital. Dehqan said another avalanche hit Guljar village, destroying and ... (More on P4)... (17)

Three Insurgents Killed While Planting Roadside Mine

QALAT - A local Taliban commander, along with two other armed Taliban members, were killed on Monday night when their own explosives detonated while they were planting a roadside bomb on the main road of the Arghandab district of Zabul province.

According to the Ministry of Interior (Moi), two other armed Taliban were wounded in the incident.

In a separate report, a top Taliban recruiter was arrested on Monday following ... (More on P4)... (18)

4 Killed, 12 Injured in Minibus-Truck Collision in Herat

HERAT - Four people were killed and 12 others wounded after a minibus collided head-on with a truck along a highway in Afghanistan's western province of Herat on Tuesday, a local official said.

"The incident occurred in Aziz Abad locality of Shindand district early morning. The killed and injured were shifted to Herat Regional Hospital, in provincial capital Herat city, where five of the wounded remained in ... (More on P4)... (19)

Austrian Court Sentences Afghan Teenagers to Prison Over Gang Rape

KABUL - An Austrian court sentenced three Afghan asylum seekers to prison on Tuesday over the gang-rape of a woman at a train station last year, a case that fuelled debate over immigrants and security during the country's presidential election.

The rape of a 21-year-old in a station toilet in Vienna last April was one of the first serious crimes committed by asylum seekers after Austria was swept up in Europe's migration crisis in 2015, and was covered at length by

the tabloid press. Coverage of the attack and others like it appeared to play into the hands of the anti-Islam Freedom Party (FPÖ), which argues that migrants pose a security risk. The FPÖ presidential candidate last year came close to becoming the first freely elected far-right head of state in Europe since World War Two.

Although detailed statistics are not published, the police have said that in general there has been a rise in petty crimes since

the migrant influx but no significant increase in serious crimes like murder and rape.

The Vienna court sentenced two Afghan 18-year-olds to six years in prison and one 16-year-old to five years, a court spokeswoman said, adding that the maximum sentence was halved to 7-1/2 years because the accused were under 18 when the attack took place.

It was not immediately clear whether they would appeal. ... (More on P4)... (20)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're aware from a rational standpoint that you should probably stick to the tried-and-true when it comes to your finances, but you keep convincing yourself that this next brilliant scheme might be the one to outdo them all. Unfortunately, taking chances isn't likely to evoke the instantaneous magic you expect.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You may find yourself further from practicality than you bargained for in your effort to think outside the box. Grounding your ideas is a challenge as mental Mercury is coerced by unruly Uranus and go-getter Mars. You might try to lean on your friends for objectivity, but even they seem to have their heads in the clouds today. Happily, you get a break later when the ephemeral Moon moves into your 12th House of Rest.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It's hard to tell what's real and what's fiction today as wild rumors circulate around the water cooler. You might be completely convinced that your friends and coworkers are talking about you behind your back, but it's important to consider that you could just be worried for no reason. You may finally feel brave enough to step up and face the hearsay directly after the Moon marches into confident Aries and your 11th House of Social Circles.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're wondering if you heard someone right as words seem to dissolve and change immediately after they're spoken. The spiritual Pisces Moon encourages you to have faith, but you're concerned that none of your work tasks will get done if you expect the Universe to do them for you. Fortunately, the Moon shifts into enterprising Aries.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Irrational thoughts run wild over your mental landscape, leaving you a bit breathless with all the possibilities. Separating the wheat from the chaff isn't as simple as it seems when the fuzzy Pisces Moon is involved, filling your mind with idealistic notions and the promise of escape from the mundane.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

The world is softened around the edges and reality seems more pliable than it should. It's questionable whether the facts even matter from behind your rose-colored glasses. You're lost in a daze today, imagining the perfect partner as the reflective Moon glides into romantic Pisces, highlighting your 7th House of Relationships. Idealized standards can lead to major disappointment, so do your best to avoid getting swept up in a feeling that may not last.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You're fascinated by someone's ambitious goals, but you can't seem to summon the energy to fully commit to getting on board. The sensitive Pisces Moon fumbles through your 6th House of Wellbeing, attracting peculiar symptoms and perhaps even a slight case of hypochondria today. Fortunately, confusing ailments disperse into thin air after Luna switches into hot-to-trot Aries.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Fear of being misunderstood creates inner conflict between blurring out your feelings and letting things stew inside. You may decide to use art or music to express your volatile emotions rather than vocalizing them, especially since your moods are changing rapidly.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're questioning the things you normally take for granted today and wondering how much they really matter. You're a heartbeat away from purging your closet of any items you think are tying you down. However, the sentimental Pisces Moon begs you to remember that some things have special value because of their place in your heart. At some point, you might decide that the internal tug-of-war is too complicated.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Employing even your highest quality fog lights won't increase visibility as much as you wish, forcing you to bide your time until the haze lifts. Once the mental mists blow past, your challenge is to keep your plan realistic when reactionary Uranus and warrior Mars rally in your 4th House of Foundations, urging you to forge a new set of rules from the ground up. General George S. Patton said, "Better to fight for something than to live for nothing."

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your thoughts are going off like a line of firecrackers today causing you to switch direction each time a new piece of information enters the picture. You're convinced that secrets hiding in plain sight could be the key to unlocking incredible discoveries, but reckless Uranus is pranking trickster Mercury in your 12th House of Mystery, blowing everyday occurrences out of proportion.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

The rallying cry for an idealistic social cause could be so stirring that you're willing to write a check or volunteer your time to whoever asks as long as it moves the operation forward. Be sure that it makes sense before pledging your resources, because you're susceptible to swindling prior to the Moon's shift into independent Aries. It's prudent to hold off on making any major decisions until you're certain you know what you're signing up for.

Across

1. Subject, 6. Not more, 10. Lacquered metalware, 14. Hemp, 15. French for "State", 16. Affirm, 17. Not upper, 18. Unit of land, 19. Back, 20. Deletion, 22. Circle fragments, 23. Foot digit, 24. An electronic musical instrument, 26. Pale, 30. Distend, 32. Not silently, 33. Covered, 37. Curtailed, 38. Things we can eat, 39. Former Italian currency, 40. Crisis, 42. Shine, 43. Smidgens, 44. Hogfish, 45. Cravat, 47. "Eureka!", 48. Sandwich shop, 49. Audacious behavior, 56. Chocolate cookie, 57. Wander, 58. Forbidden, 59. Place, 60. Sea eagle, 61. Arm joint, 62. Permits, 63. Accomplishment, 64. Davenport.

Down

1. After-bath powder, 2. Double-reed woodwind, 3. Chess piece, 4. Frosts, 5. Neck artery, 6. Rental agreement, 7. Carve in stone, 8. Indian dress, 9. Sons of a new spouse, 10. A lively whirling dance, 11. Blatant, 12. Filter, 13. Makes a mistake, 21. 16 1/2 feet, 25. Long-haired wild ox, 26. Rate, 27. Astringent, 28. Old stories, 29. Salacious, 30. Voting groups, 31. Gentlewoman, 33. ___ fide, 34. Fastens, 35. Historical periods, 36. British title, 38. Shackled, 41. Slime, 42. Allowed, 44. Which person?, 45. Eagle's nest, 46. Mixture of rain and snow, 47. Possessing a weapon, 48. A girl's toy, 50. Not aft, 51. A temple (archaic), 52. Story, 53. Wanes, 54. A chess piece, 55. Ouches.

Yesterday's Solution

T	U	T	U	N	E	I	T	A	L	A	R		
A	N	O	N	N	A	T	I	R	A	R	O	P	E
L	I	E	S	R	I	V	E	R	F	R	O	N	T
C	O	D	I	C	I	L	S	N	E	A	K	E	R
G	Y	P	A	S	S	A	G	E	R				
C	O	U	N	S	E	L	L	O	R	S			
O	N	S	E	L	L	O	V	A	T	F	O	R	
L	E	D	S	E	M	E	N	T	U	R	I	E	
L	E	D	S	E	M	E	N	T	A	N	E	L	E
T	O	R	S	O									
E	P	I	T	O	M	E	S	S	E	N	C	E	
M	E	D	I	T	A	T	I	V	E	O	E	R	
P	R	E	P	W	A	D	E	R	E	R	I	S	
T	A	R	E	S	T	A	R	T					

always, argue, binds, boring, brick, chase, contemplate, detest, discover, eagle, energy, engage, erode, every, first, happy, insist, mainly, milk, newt, physical, pitch, policy, program, rang, ready, reek, responsible, sadden, ore, spend, think, ties.

F P O L I C Y G R E A D Y
I A Y O Y O U N G S T E R
R L S P E N D R A R G U E
S W P P R T W E N G A G E
T A I R P E O S T H I N K
H Y T O H M R P D E P D G
C S C G Y P K O I N S N S
H O H R S L S N S E I T A
A E E A I A H S C R N B D
S V A M C T E I O G S R D
E A A G A E E B V Y I I E
M A I N L Y T L E D S C N
N E R O D E X E R I T K W