

26 Killed, 30 Missing in Faryab Snowstorm

MAIMANA - At least 26 people were killed and six others wounded in a fresh snowstorm in northwestern Faryab province, officials said on Sunday.

Faryab Governor Sayed Anwar Sadat told Pajhwok Afghan News that 70cm and 80cm snowfall had been recorded in Maimana, the provincial capital, and districts, calling the current snowfall as unprecedented in four years.

He added 26 people including a child and women were killed and 30 shepherds were missing, fearing the death toll could rise.



Sadat said 500 houses were destroyed in Qarmaqol district and roads to some districts were blocked.

Deputy police chief of Faryab, Col. Mir Amanullah Zafar, according to initial information suggested that the fatalities occurred in in Balcharagh, Pastunkot, Dawlatabad, Qarmaqol and Aandkhui districts. Nine people were wounded.

He added security forces had been directed to reach out to the affected families and determine their number in order to be assisted in-time. (Pajhwok)

Snowfall, Freezing Weather Claim 14 Lives in Jawzjan

SHIBEGHAN - Snowfall and freezing weather have claimed the lives of 14 people, including two children, in the northern region of Afghanistan over the past 24 hours, officials said Sunday.

According to the officials, 10 people have lost their lives due to snowfall and freezing weather in Jawzjan and the neighboring Saripul provinces and four others died in Badakhshan since early Saturday. "Five shepherds have been frozen due to heavy snowfall and chilly weather in Darzab district of Jawzjan province over the past 24 hours," district governor Rahmatullah Hashar told Xinhua. Five more people, including two ... (More on P4)... (13)



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Nangarhar Airstrike Kills 5 Daesh Foreign Fighters

JALALABAD - At least five Daesh or so-called Islamic State (IS) foreign fighters were killed during airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Sunday.

Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News air and ground offensive had been ongoing round-the-clock by joint security forces in Sipai area of Kot district.

Five foreign IS militants had been so far killed, he said, without specifying their identities. He denied any casualties to civilians in the air raid.



According to local officials, operations had been launched against Daesh in Kot and Haska ... (More on P4)... (14)

River Basin Head in Baghlan Kidnapped

PUL-I-KHUMRI - The head of river basin in northern Baghlan province has been kidnapped by suspected militants, an official said on Sunday.

Baghlan police spokesman Zabihullah Shujah said the chief of northeastern zone basin Eng. Mohammad Naim Nawabi was travelling from Pul-i-Khumri, Baghlan's capital, to neighboring Samangan province when he was kidnapped along with the driver and a relative.

He added police had initiated investigation and efforts to secure the release of the kidnapped persons. (Pajhwok)

Herat Bus-Trailer Collision Wounds 16 Passengers



HERAT CITY - At least 16 passengers, including women and children, were wounded in a bus-trailer collision in western Herat province, an official said on Sunday.

Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, Herat zonal hospital spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News a passenger bus, on its way to Herat from Kabul, ploughed into a trailer in the Shabad area of Adraskan district on Saturday night. He said 16 people suffered injuries, including three women and two children. The wounded were admitted to the provincial zonal hospital and they are said to be in stable condition.

Meanwhile, Kamran Ali-zai, the provincial council head, said transport companies had promised their drivers would avoid speed and observing all traffic rules.

If drivers involved in recent traffic accidents on the Kabul-Herat highway were found having violated their commitments, the transportation ... (More on P4)... (15)

11 Militants Killed in Clash with Troops in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - At least 11 Afghan militants were killed in clash with Pakistani armed forces in the country's northwest tribal area of Kurram Agency on Sunday, local Urdu media reported.

Dawn News said that two security personnel were also injured in the clash that took place along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Quoting unidentified army sources, the report added that the militants, carrying sophisticated weapons, were trying to enter Pakistan from Kurram Agency when they were spotted and killed by the Pakistani troops.

Identities of the killed militants have not been revealed yet.

The clash came following the closure of Pakistan-Afghanistan border by the Pakistani authorities due to security reasons, after the recent string of terrorist attacks in Pakistan, which left over 100 people killed and over 350 others injured.

Major General Asif Ghafoor, director general of Pakistani army's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations, said earlier in a statement that militants are carrying out attacks in Pakistan on the directions of the hostile powers and from sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

The military also summoned Afghan embassy officials to the army general headquarters earlier on Friday morning and handed them a list of 76 terrorists hiding in Afghanistan to either take action against them or hand them over to Pakistan.

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5 Civilians Injured in Laghman

MEHTARLAM - Five Afghan civilians, including a child, were wounded in a bomb attack in the eastern Laghman province on Sunday, said the provincial government.

"A sticky Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attached to a private vehicle was detonated in Ali Shing district's bazaar at around midday, injuring five innocent civilians," it said in a statement.

Among the injured people was a 10-year-old girl and the injured were shifted to a main hospital in provincial capital of Mehtarlam, the statement added. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast so far.

The anti-government militants use IEDs to target security forces but the lethal weapons also inflict casualties on civilians. On Saturday, 11 children were wounded after ... (More on P4)... (17)



Women sit at the border gate of Torkham in eastern Nangarhar province on Sunday February 19, 2017. (Xinhua/Rahman Safi)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Stillness may be good for the soul, but you're all about plugging into the here and now. You're anxious to get on the road to the next adventure even though a little voice in the back of your head is reminding you that you don't feel as sure as you act. Regardless, it seems like there are bigger fish to fry while canny Mercury stimulates your 11th House of Long-Term Goals.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



It seems as if the universe is saying "show me the money" today, prodding you to make your next move. You always appreciate a little more time to consider your options, but it feels like you must brush off any worries and proceed anyway. Fortunately, your ideal destination comes into focus once you take your first steps and your path becomes clear.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You're naturally inquisitive mind keeps you busy, but now you must put your ideas to work. You want to learn about your chosen endeavor in a way that goes beyond normal curiosity as penetrating Pluto whispers in trickster Mercury's ear. You may even block out the noise that usually distracts you because you wish to remain inspired rather than let inconsequential details hijack your focus.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You're finally able to take a step back from a situation that hits close to home. It's less daunting to navigate delicate issues of the heart once you gain the perspective you need. Recalling words of wisdom from long ago reminds you of advice that you have since put on the shelf. You're inspired to embrace the future armed with objectivity.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're craving some thought-provoking debate to test your oratory skills, and you're likely to find someone who's willing to oblige today. The buoyant Sagittarius Moon inflates your confidence, prompting you to push buttons to provoke a strong reaction. While spirited discussion can feel like a game sometimes.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



A sudden realization reveals ways to streamline your daily routine and improve the quality of your life. Small adjustments can change the whole game when it comes to your well-being, and there's something refreshing about rearranging your living space. However, in your haste to start your new projects, you might overlook that someone feels left out of your process.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Your imagination is hooked up to cosmic jumper cables and it's firing on all cylinders. Your curiosity is piqued as innovative Mercury activates your 5th House of Creativity, while mysterious Pluto offers a jewel from the depth of your psyche. You might be so amused by playing with a concept that you purposely evade the truth that you could be spending your time more wisely.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Taking a psychological stroll through the hidden recesses of your mind proves to be more fascinating than you initially imagined. However, you may get so engrossed in your own mental journey that you start to selectively connect only the dots that create the shape you want. Although your carefully managed thoughts are powerful enough to influence reality.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



It's as if you can hold ideas in your hands and turn them over to view all their different facets, giving you the all-encompassing perspective you crave. However, you may not be quite as objective as you think as old stories about self-worth seep into your thoughts without you noticing. If you take a moment to connect with your heart, you might realize not all is as it seems today.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Sometimes it seems like a waste of time to fall prey to discomfort, and you prefer to focus on something more concrete. But today it's undeniable that the tangible and the unexplainable are more interwoven than you want to believe. You may find that a hidden aspect of your character is awakened while methodical Mercury visits your 2nd House of Self-Esteem.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

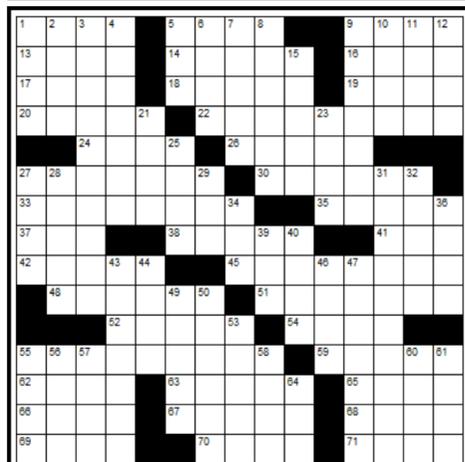


Speaking your dreams aloud makes them seem more real and you're searching for an outlet to vocalize your hopes and wishes. It's not that you need to be validated for your big ideas; you simply don't want to keep all your thoughts to yourself. However, once you start a conversation, you may be surprised by what spills off your tongue.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Your current confidence allows you to comfortably look within to face the internal mechanisms that steer you when you're operating on automatic pilot. It's refreshing to see this part of yourself with new lucidity; however, don't mistake your ability to understand your secret desires conceptually with self-mastery. It's easy to let optimism slide into unrealistic idealism when dealing with the obscure elements that are at play.



Across

- Hits, 5. Diplomacy, 9. Lummock, 13. Foment, 14. Not silently, 16. Rime, 17. Used to be, 18. Donkey, 19. Beige, 20. An elastic fabric, 22. Idiosyncrasy, 24. Burden, 26. Vernacular, 27. Watered down, 30. Chinese temple, 33. Bewitched, 35. Cubic meter, 37. Consume, 38. Hard wood, 41. A state of SW India, 42. Trail, 45. A very tall woman, 48. Wound, 51. Flattery, 52. Russian emperors, 54. Type of sword, 55. Started, 59. Dog-___, 62. Curved molding, 63. Recorded, 65. Identical, 66. Constellation bear, 67. French farewell, 68. Ear-related, 69. Resound, 70. Acquire deservedly, 71. Roman emperor.

Down

- Wail, 2. Comply with, 3. Coffeepot, 4. Breastbone, 5. Bar bill, 6. Astringent, 7. Reef material, 8. Root vegetable, 9. Cigar, 10. Hubs, 11. Paddles, 12. Percussion instrument, 15. An Italian woman of rank, 21. Car, 23. Hens make them, 25. Arid, 27. D D D D, 28. Awkward, 29. Cotillion girl, 31. Pervert, 32. Got up, 34. Man's best friend, 36. Not difficult, 39. Pen part, 40. Harvard rival, 43. Porridge, 44. Ploy, 46. Back of the neck, 47. Treachery, 49. Devilfish, 50. Portico, 53. Old photo color, 55. Masterstroke, 56. Monster, 57. Plateau, 58. Caribou, 60. Arab chieftain, 61. A style of design, 64. Grayish brown.

Yesterday's Solution



allege, answer, avoids, bait, bare, beach, blessing, blink, bonus, branch, carve, design, dismay, focus, friend, give, guilt, hinder, injury, justice, laugh, master, month, objectives, panic, peace, punish, quiet, refuse, require, right, rite, sell, sere, symbol, tenant, twist.

