

MP Wants Security Forces Better Equipped

SAR-I-PUL - A lawmaker from northern Sar-i-Pul province after visiting the frontline in support of Afghan security forces demanded the government to equip the country's security forces to thwart challenges diligently. Major clearing operations have been ongoing since last week in Sar-i-Pul after the insurgents intensified their activities in the province. Lawmaker Sayed Anwar Sadaat said in or-



der to boost morale of security forces he wore military uniform and visit-ed them in Bulghali locality at a distance of 18 kilometres from the provincial capital. "The aim of my visit is to prove to these people that their representatives ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Businesswomen Complain Lack of Markets

KABUL - At an all-female handicraft exhibition in Kabul on Monday, a number of Afghan businesswomen expressed frustration on the lack of proper markets to promote their brands and products. During the exhibition, officials of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) declared that the lack of comprehensive capacity and strategy building for females and inadequate financial resources were



two im-portant factors that have undermined the opportunities for expansion for businesswomen of this country. "We do not have ac-

Long Draught Leads to Decline in Wheat Crop



SHIBERGHAN - The long spell of draught forced farmers not to cultivate wheat on their 10,000 hectares of land in northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Monday. Agriculture Director Sayeed Masood said good rainfall last season resulted in wheat cultivation on 76,000 hectares of land which produced a bumper 67,000 tonnes of wheat crop. "We witnessed record decrease in wheat crop by almost 10,000 hectares this season," he said, warning that there would be ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Afghans Support Peace Talks with Taliban: Survey

KABUL - Majority of people across Afghanistan welcomed peace parleys with Taliban but a handful of people opposed the overture because they doubted Pakistan's role in the process, a survey said. The survey conducted by Pajhwok Afghan News interviewed 100 people including 25 women from all 34 provinces. After formation of the unity government bilateral relations with the neighboring Pakistan has flourished and was termed "miraculous" by Pakistan's interior min-

ister. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's government has praised Pakistan's efforts in Afghanistan's peace process and said the time was ripe for talks to commence. Based on reports a representative of Taliban is in Islamabad for pre talks. Taliban, however, has not yet formally commented on the issue. Eighty of the interviewees in the survey has sternly supported these talks but has laid down several conditions. Securing the country's national interest, giving



priority to women's rights and building upon the achievements of the last 14 years have been cited as the main condition. Some of the ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Afghan Carpets Sold to World Markets under Paki-stan Brand

KABUL - Head of the carpet weavers union in northern Afghanistan, Abdul Satar Bigzada has raised concerns of Afghan carpets being, in his words, "smuggled" to Pakistan and exported to world markets under Pakistan's brand. According to Bigzada, this year Afghanistan weaved over 2.5 million square meters of carpets, of which 1.5 million of it was illegally sent to Pakistan under the pretense of cleaning the carpets, instead the carpets were exported to global markets from Pakistan. "We have only registered between 20 to 22 thousand square me-

ters, while we know we've produced over 2.5 million," he said. "Northern Afghanistan is producing 70 percent of Afghanistan's carpets, but we have registered less than what was produced. If this isn't smuggling, I don't know what is." Bigzada called on the National Unity Government (NUG) to prevent Afghan goods from being smuggled into Pakistan, stressing that money is lost in this as well as a chance to sell goods in the global market one day. Fifty year old Mohammad Safa, a carpet weaver and carpet shopkeeper in Mazar-e-Sharif, criticized the government's lack of support in the handicrafts business that can turn around the country's economy. "If the government actually assisted the weavers in providing the materials, the country would witness a significant growth in this industry," Safa said. "We are asking that the government support handicraft." Afghanistan's handicrafts have circulated in more than 80 countries, which can play a massive role in the development of the country's economy if resources begin to surface to support the opportunity. ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

ANSF Kill 33 Insurgents, 29 Lay Down Arms

KABUL - Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have killed 33 Taliban militants during series of operations across the country, with 29 others laying down arms in the northern Badakhshan province over the past two days. Units of police backed by the army had killed 33 militants during series of operations across the country over the past 24 hours, the Ministry of In-

terior said in a statement released here Monday. "A total of 33 armed Taliban militants have been killed over the past 24 hours during operations conducted in Takhar, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Maidan Wardak, Ghazni, Paktiya, Herat and Farah provinces," the statement said. The police backed by the ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Female PC Members Want Enhanced Security

JALALABAD - After losing a colleague to a bomb attack, female provincial council members of eastern Nangarhar province on Monday expressed concern over their security. Angiza Shinwari, a member of the Nangarhar provincial council, was seriously injured in a bomb blast in Jalalabad, the provincial capital over a week ago and was shifted to a Kabul for

treatment, but died of her wounds at a hospital. Nangarhar female PC members said that they were worried about their security and the government should ensure their protection. The PC has 19 members including 15 of them men while the rests were women. Nilofar Aziz, a provincial council member, told Pajhwok Afghan News: ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Women Rights Protection Committee Formed

SHARAN - A six-member committee with representation of four religious scholars and two women has been formed to protect women rights in southeastern Paktika province, an official said on Monday. The formation of women rights protection committee was decided at a gathering held here to discuss current condition of women in the

province. Bibi Hawa Khwasinwal, women affairs director, said: "It is the prime responsibility of all stakeholders, including Ulama, to eliminate all hurdles causing violence against women in our society." Deputy Governor Attaullah Fazli said that authorities would take tangible steps to improve women plight and halt ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Protesters Denounce Violence against Women

KABUL - A number of civil society activists and residents of the capital Kabul on Monday vehemently denounced violence against women and demanded the perpetrators be brought to justice. Over hundreds of people gathered in front of the Supreme Court in the morning to raise their voice against excesses directed on women. Zahra Saqib, a civil society activist, told Pajhwok

Afghan News that violence against women had increased manifold in the country due to violation of established laws. She said the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) reported 4,250 cases of violence against women including murder, sexual assaults, forced marriages, and harassment during the past 11 months. ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might have grown accustomed to repetitive waves of energy that continue to surge through your life these days. But the Moon's current visit to your sign is another reminder of the big changes that are unfolding right before your eyes. You are quite excitable and easily overwhelmed by your emotions today. Opening your heart to a close friend could make you feel uncomfortable at first, but it has the potential to deepen your relationship.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Social commitments pile up on your calendar, making you realize that you don't have much time to spare. You might need to clarify your boundaries by emphatically saying no if you have spread yourself too thin. However, hiding in your cave isn't the wisest course to take just because you have too much on your plate.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You want others to think you are happily embracing the future as you smile your way through the day. You might pretend that all is well now, but you're probably afraid of being misunderstood if you tell others how you really feel. Although you're usually adept at steering clear of unnecessary melodrama, your impulsive actions may inadvertently stir up an uncomfortable level of intensity today.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Although you recently were comfortable swimming in emotional waters, it seems as if you're being hauled up onto dry land now. It's time to act on your feelings instead of just passively experiencing them. Unfortunately, memories of a previous rejection arise when you swing into motion. You may consider pulling back in your shell, but it's healthier to take a few deep breaths and honor your past before pushing through the resistance.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You are handed a "Get Out of Jail Free" card today, and your confidence soars as you imagine all the possibilities ahead. There's little that can hold you back as the fiery Aries Moon joins rebellious Uranus in your extroverted 9th House of Big Ideas. You have more than enough momentum to make new plans for the future, even if you haven't fully processed what is occurring in the present moment.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You might be frustrated with your own fluctuating moods today. You're itching for new experiences even if you're constrained by promises you made in a relationship. Nevertheless, something unexpected reawakens buried desires and inspires you with the excitement of living in the moment. Paradoxically, you can't just forget about your previous commitments, leaving you conflicted about how to spend your time.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

The line between commitment and codependency is hard to define today because it's your natural inclination to make other people happy. But the Moon's presence in your 7th House of Relationships is a stark reminder of how difficult it is to be true to yourself when someone else is an integral part of your life. Although fulfilling your own needs could create stress, taking care of yourself also makes you a better partner in the long run.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You are exploring new territory close to an unfamiliar emotional edge today, but it might be smart to keep your feelings to yourself. Your patience has run out and you are nearly ready to do something that you'll probably regret. Thankfully, it's totally your choice; you don't have to do it.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're feeling lucky enough to win the lottery today, which could tempt you to gamble more than is prudent. Maintaining a positive attitude is always a wise strategy, but your unflagging optimism might be too much of a good thing now. Risk-taking won't automatically lead to loss, but taking a tried and true path improves your chances for success even more.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You can see the distant horizon now and your ambitions propel you toward your destination. However, your foundation may be weak if you don't trust your own perceptions. You might be so self-critical that you doubt your ability to sustain productivity when you move into unfamiliar territory. You could exhaust yourself by trying to prove your invincibility.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You may spend your day running around in circles, distracted by one thing after another. Anything that's new and different reminds you that breaking free from routine is always an option. But you don't need to wait for additional reasons to make your move. Exercise your right to be as creative as you please. Just remember that your current decisions aren't necessarily about life-changing matters.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You might be having trouble completely letting go of your past and fully immersing yourself in the next phase of your journey. However, it's crucial to accept the feedback you receive from the universe at this time. There's no reason to allow discouragement to overtake the promise of the future; the current challenges are meant to help propel you toward your goals rather than stopping your progress.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Across: 1. Winged, 6. A long way off, 10. Armed conflicts, 14. Wish granter, 15. No, 16. Weightlifters pump this, 17. Consumer of food, 18. District, 19. Adriatic resort, 20. Apathetic, 22. Doe, 23. God of love, 24. Leopardlike cat, 26. Abominable Snowman, 30. How old you are, 31. Neither, 32. Dash, 33. Multicolored, 35. Signed, 39. Bad-mouth, 41. A former Turkish term of respect, 43. Late actor Christopher, 44. Location, 46. Clairvoyant, 47. Writing liquid, 49. Mesh, 50. Dispatched, 51. Cave, 54. A social club for male undergraduates, 56. Emanation, 57. Helicopter, 63. Flaccid body fat, 64. It ebbs and flows, 65. Infantile paralysis, 66. Tumbled, 67. Baking, pliance. Down: 1. How old we are, 2. Jump, 3. Against, 4. Layer, 5. Creepy, 6. Comparisons, 7. Anticipate, 8. Mimics, 9. A rational motive, 10. Woodland, 11. Disney mermaid, 12. Cowboy sport, 13. Sound of contempt, 21. Snares, 25. Hairdo, 26. 365 days, 27. If not, 28. Adhesive strip, 29. Unavoidable, 34. Impeding, 36. Leg joint, 37. Biblical garden, 38. Soil, 40. Lease, 42. Relating to a fetus, 45. Heathen, 48. Genuflect, 51. Bloop, 52. Governs, 53. Not written exams, 55. Varieties, 58. Apiary, 59. Drill, 60. Holly, 61. Type of cereal grass, 62. Specks.

Yesterday's Solution: avert, awake, before, chocolate, choice, convention, council, engine, fear, fight, finest, friend, fruit, gate, husbands, judge, lair, march master, minute, permanent, poetry, rain, relieve, resort, reveal, riot, rivers, runt, ruse, state, storm, swamp, toilet, truck, usher, wager.

Word search grid with words: COUNCIL, RIVERS, COMPANION, PERMANENT, DOW, NAHWEFINESTAA, VRIAVERTSTORM, ECBGEJUDGEORP, NHYEARNAWAKET, TMLRLATFFPCLE, IFAKBEFOREPIN, OIJSLSFRUITOEG, NGUITUSHEREVI, CHOICEMINUTEN, STATEORZDCRUE, CHOCOLATEKYTV.