

# Pakistan Ponders Close Scrutiny of Seminaries' Funding

KABUL - In an effort to effectively enforce a national action plan against terrorism, Pakistan is considering close scrutiny of funding of thousands of religious schools, a media report said on Wednesday. The complex issue of seminary funding through unconventional means came up for discussion at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad late on Tuesday, Dawn reported. Most of Pakistan-based

religious schools receive funds from Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran and the UAE. Islamabad will try to take them into confidence on the issue. Ambassadors of the countries would be consulted on how they could check unregulated fund transfers to religious schools, particularly those linked to outlawed organisations, the newspaper said. In order to deal with the challenge, the meeting proposed annual audit



of seminary funds be made mandatory. "We can make seminaries statutorily responsible to declare all sources of funding," one participant said. In an expected reaction, the Ittehad-i-Tanzemat-i-Madaris (ITM), which

claims to have around 25,000 schools running under its patronage, opposed the initiative. ITM leader Mufti Muneebur Rehman hit out at the government for "unnecessarily" raising the issue of seminary financing. "How can a government which itself is surviving on foreign funding check others doing the same?" he asked. Abdul Qudoos, speaking for the Wafaqul Madaris Al-Arabia -- an umbrella body for seminaries of the Deobandi school of thought -- said their main source of funding was donations from locals. (Pajhwok)

# Kabul-Based Iodised Salt Factory Seeks Govt. Support

KABUL - Officials of an iodised salt factory say they could supply table salt to all provinces if the government invests in the plant in Kabul. Established in 2003, the "Ayenda-i-Darakhshan" (Bright Future) Factory has the capacity to produce up to 200 tonnes of salt a day. Earlier, officials would import the commodity but they invested \$200,000 to start own production. Mir Agha Sharif, the owner, complained the government had awarded salt mining contracts to individuals who had factories. "Our business has declined because every salt factory owner cannot afford to win a contract." He recalled: "In the past, our factory would produce 200 tonnes of salt, but when more plants were estab-

lished, we started producing about four tonnes of iodised salt a day." He said his factory produced good-quality salt and never received any complaint from clients in Kabul, Parwan, Maidan Wardak, Logar and Bamyan provinces. The factory owner said they produced salt in line with standards set by the Public Health Ministry. They mixed one kilogram of iodine with 18 tonnes of salt. A kilogram of iodine cost \$50, he added. Dr. Mohammad Hashim Wahaj, who runs a private hospital, said iodised salt was healthier than ordinary salt. "Iodised salt prevents dangerous diseases and helps in physical growth and overcomes iodine deficiency." The Ayenda-i-Darakhshan factory owner ... (More on P4)... (17)

# Alleged Suicide Bomber among 6 Held in Kandahar

KANDAHAR CITY - Six militants, including a would-be suicide bomber, have been detained by intelligence operatives in southern Kandahar province, officials said on Wednesday. The group was busted along with guns and explosives during special operations, according to a statement from the National Directorate of Security (NDS). The detainees planned to target high-ranking security officials in the province.



Twenty-seven magnetic bombs, 10 rocket-propelled grenades (RPG), 7 hand grenades, and three motor-bikes were seized. Meanwhile... (More on P4)... (15)

# Border Police Personnel among 5 Found Dead in Paktia

GARDEZ/KABUL - Ten people including four border policemen have been killed in different parts of the country during the past 24 months, officials said on Wednesday. The bodies of the four policemen and one civilian were found in the Dand-i-Patan district of southeastern Paktia province on Wednesday morning, the police chief said. Brig. Gen. Zalmai Oryakhel told Pajhwok Afghan News the corpses were recovered in Moqbil Dara area. The policemen had gone home



in Kurram Agency across the Durand Line. The police chief had no idea where actually the policemen were killed and by home. With an investigation into the incident ongoing, the bodies were sent to Kurram. In Kabul, the Ministry

# Power Sharing Prevented Needed Structural Reforms in Cabinet: Analysts

KABUL - Government officials and political analysts criticized the National Unity Government's intended cabinet structure on Tuesday, arguing that President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah had the chance to bring fundamental and much-needed reforms to the executive branch but

failed to do so because they prioritized politics over effective governance. The head of the Department of Strategic Studies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Faramarz Tamanna, said that it was and remains a dire need that redundant offices among the ministries be eliminated or bet-

ter integrated. A number of political analysts who spoke with TOLONews agreed, saying the existence of parallel ministries contributes to the ineffectiveness of government policy and economic instability. Some have gone so far as to say the new cabinet, based on the nominations, ... (More on P4)... (16)

# Herat Shooting Leaves Tribal Elder Dead

HERAT CITY - Unidentified gunmen killed a tribal elder in western Herat province, an official said on Wednesday. Noor Gul, who was a doctor by profession, was critically wounded after the assailants opened fire on him late on Tuesday. The tribal elder succumbed to his injuries on his way to hospital, police spokesman Abdul Rauf Ahmadi told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said police had started an investigation into the shooting. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

# 13 Insurgents Arrested in Clearance Operations

KABUL - Security forces have arrested 13 insurgents during clearance operations in different parts of the country. A statement issued by the ministry of interior Wednesday morning states that eight insurgents were also killed and another wounded in confrontations with the security forces erupted during the operations. Security forces have also seized explosives, weapons and ammunition from the positions of the terrorists, the statement adds. According to the statement the operations were conducted in past 24 hours in Paktya, Paktika, Ghazni, Farah and Herat province. The operations were jointly conducted by Afghan National Police, Afghan National Army and the personnel from the National Directorate of Security (NDS), the statement says. (KP)

# 6 Taliban Insurgents Killed While Planting Roadside Bombs

GHAZNI CITY - At least six Taliban insurgents were blown up by their own explosives in south-eastern Ghazni province of Afghanistan on Tuesday. The Ministry of Interior (Moi) said the insurgents were blown up in separate incidents while they were placing a roadside mine in the main road of Gilan district, Ghazni province, yesterday.

A statement by Moi said "In the meantime, a Taliban mine planter was killed by his own explosives while he was placing a roadside mine in the main road of Afshan region, Trinkot city capital of Uruzgan province." The statement further added that the Afghan National Police are working diligently with local leaders and the public to ... (More on P4)... (18)

# Jawzjan Policeman Detained for Molesting Boy

SHIBERGHAN - A policeman has been arrested in northern Jawzjan province for allegedly raping a five-year old boy, officials said on Wednesday. Col. Mohammad Rahim, crimes department head, told Pajhwok Afghan News the policeman, 17, had family terms with the minor. "The policeman frequently accompanied the boy. On getting an opportu-

nity, the cop took him to an abandoned house and molested him," Rahim said. He added local hospital officials had confirmed the rape, but the accused denied the allegation. The accused has warned the boy against complaining to his family. Human rights officials in the north expressed dissatisfaction with the way such ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Outlook Horoscope

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

A friend or coworker might tell you something that you prefer not to hear today, but you're so involved with talking about your career plans or a specific project that you don't even notice. Instead of being wrapped up in your own version of the story, refocus your attention on the point that others are trying to get across. Carry the light of your awareness when stepping into the shadows that appear in front of you.

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

Finding simple pleasures within your regular work routine is your fastest path to happiness today with the gracious Libra Moon visiting your 6th House of Habits. You are at your best now that the important things are going according to your plan. Nevertheless, you're not fully satisfied; you're yearning for more excitement in your life.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You thrive on the creative buzz you receive from the artistic Libra Moon now as she dances through your 5th House of Self-Expression. Your exuberance is amped even higher now that electric Uranus is rattling your cage. You're in a playful mood, yet still eager to do something productive with your most colorful ideas. However, there is no need to be worry about the end result yet; just take enough time to express yourself as boldly and authentically as you can.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Logical analysis isn't usually your primary consideration when making decisions because you seafaring Crabs are emotional beings. However, you may grow anxious as your rational thoughts lead to one conclusion while your heart chooses to head off in a different direction. Exploring all desires is a luxury, but it's safe as long as you keep them within your imagination.

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

You are so busy that you don't have time to pursue your heart's desire today. Perhaps you have simply tried to pack too much into your schedule. Or maybe you have details to settle that you thought were already completed. Either way, don't get lazy and let your responsibilities slide, even if you wish you could take the day off.

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

Carve out some time to uncover the hidden meanings behind the information coming your way now. Fortunately, there's great potential in the future of your relationships because there may be an opportunity for healing, especially around issues of love and romance. The Sun is still shining brightly in your 5th House of Fun, yet it's tricky to know how deep you need to dig in order to overcome whatever's blocking your creativity.

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

You are painting your life using a very wide palette of feelings now. You're attracted to new and different ways of having fun, even if you are judged for following your bliss. Unfortunately, people may see you as moodier than usual today, but establishing a spiritual practice can help to settle your erratic emotions. Silently build your case for whatever actions you are taking but don't say too much about your plans just yet.

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

You may seek solace within the confines of your own inner world today since the evocative Moon is lingering in your 12th House of Secrets. Thankfully, you know that your ability to create peace in your life begins with accepting your own feelings. But it's not wise to overdo the everything-is-wonderful philosophy or you won't be motivated to initiate the changes necessary to be truly happy.

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

You might be living in a bubble where you believe that the good times will last forever, but they won't. Nevertheless, you have nothing to fear now. Every cycle must wax and wane in its own time, as does the light of the silvery Moon. Even if you have recently been riding an emotional high, the energy shifts today and you may have to moderate your exuberance. But there's no reason to be discouraged if you can't pursue every desire.

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

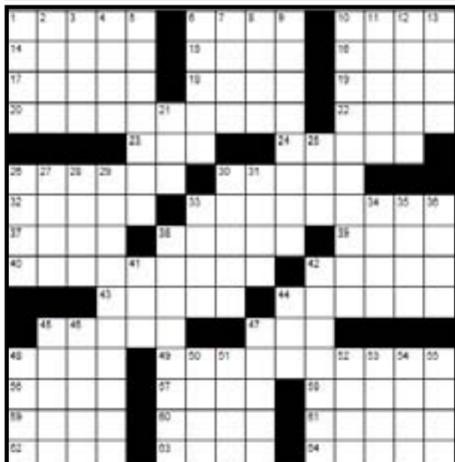
You want everyone around you to be satisfied and will do your part to make it happen. Nevertheless, you're not prepared to sacrifice your integrity for any reason. You might have to face a dilemma now that creates stress from these two conflicting points of view. Ultimately, you must play the role of the judge and decide how the next phase of your life unfolds.

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

Your charisma is off the charts and you're on the prowl for excitement today. Although you might try to keep your energy on an even keel, your mind is racing as you consider all the things you want to do. Practicality is not one of your immediate concerns as rebellious Uranus connects with indulgent Venus in your sign.

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

You intuitively pick up subtle messages that inform you of the needs of others, yet it's nearly impossible to get a clear read on the incoming signals today. Someone's behavior may appear to be out of control and you're concerned enough to step in to help now. Even if you're ready to swing into action, you still might restrain yourself at the last moment due to a lack of confidence.



**Across**  
1. Play a guitar, 6. Kiss, 10. Prison, 14. A kind of macaw, 15. Ripped, 16. Forearm bone, 17. Ascends, 18. A soft sheepskin leather, 19. Spurs, 20. Unfeeling, 22. Fortitude, 23. "Eureka!", 24. Motif, 26. Ungroomed, 30. Very prickly woody vine, 32. French school, 33. Spiders, 37. Not closed, 38. Skims, 39. Dwarf buffalo, 40. Entreated, 42. Bold, 43. Debauchees, 44. Votes that block a decision, 45. Monster, 47. Indian bread, 48. "Darn!", 49. Emphasize, 56. A sharply directional antenna, 57. Storm, 58. Emissary, 59. Prefix meaning 1000, 60. Barely managed, 61. Ancient Roman magistrate, 62. Biblical garden, 63. Stitches, 64. Deposits of ore

**Down**  
1. Indian dress, 2. Snip, 3. Coarse file, 4. Component of mammalian urine, 5. Back rub, 6. Stripes, 7. Newbie (slang), 8. By mouth, 9. A branch of biology, 10. A massive inexorable force, 11. Warning signal, 12. An independent film company, 13. Not first, 21. Timid, 25. Derisive laugh, 26. Untidy one, 27. Hoopla, 28. Cards with 1 symbol, 29. A coming into being, 30. Hillsides, 31. South African monetary unit, 33. Dull pain, 34. Within, 35. An amount of medicine, 36. Articulates, 38. Commutations of military service, 41. Dawn goddess, 42. Refined, 44. Delivery vehicle, 45. Plait, 46. American symbol, 47. Requires, 48. Dam, 50. Birthday or cheese, for example

**Yesterday's Solution**  
around, assist, black, change, clue, coach, crease, crisp, empty, expect, first, flee, fresh, from, lapel, later, minute, moat, moment, neon, oppose, pale, panther, paper, physical, pint, pomp, pound, power, regular, retire, rise, score, shoulder, simple, slip, snag

