

Helmand Officials Accused of Complicity in Kidnappings

LASHKARGAH - Helmand provincial council members and civil society activists on Saturday alleged high government officials were involved in abductions and preventing police from arresting kidnapers. Farhad Dawari, head of civil society coordination body, told a press conference security forces had arrested several kidnapers in the recent past but some government officials got them freed.



Without naming the government officials who supported the kidnapers, he said at least 11 kidnapers had been arrested last week. "Amid security fears, parents avoid sending their children to school. Therefore, the government should take serious action to trace the kidnapers and arrest them." Bashir Ahmad Shakir, provincial council member, confirmed the involvement of several high government officials in... (More on P4)...(16)

Year-Long Jawand Land Dispute Settled after Loss of 6 Lives



QALA-I-NAW - The resolution of a year-long land dispute between two irresponsible armed groups has had a positive impact on the security situation in the Jawand district of northwestern Badghis province. Provincial council member Mohammad Farid Akhizai told Pajhwok Afghan News the dispute over land ownership between

Mullah Kabir and Amir Mohammad erupted a year ago. Both backing the government, the men have armed supporters. Mohammad hails from Korich and Kabir from Gashak - villages lying cheek by jowl. The public representative says clashes over the land tract have killed two supporters of Kabir and four... (More on P4)...(17)

6 Passengers Abducted on Farah-Nimroz Highway

FARA CITY - Unidentified gunmen have abducted six passengers from the Suor locality of Farah City, the provincial capital of western Farah province, an official said on Saturday. Police Spokesman Iqbal Baher told Pajhwok Afghan News the passengers were traveling in a 303 bus of Kabul Karwan Transportation Company from Farah to Nimroz province. He said the gunmen



stopped the bus at around 3:00am in the Suor locality and got the six passengers off the bus. Police had opened investigation into the incident, he added. Abdul Samad Farahi, head of transportation department, said the abducted individuals were truck drivers who wanted to go to Nimroz for work. (Pajhwok)

Baraki Barak District Chief Survives Taliban

PUL-I-ALAM - The administrative chief for the Barak-i-Barak district of central Logar province escaped unhurt in a Taliban attack on Saturday, an official said. Deputy police head Col. Qari Mohammad Waraham confirmed the assault on Mohammad Rahim Amin, the district chief. He said Rahim and his bodyguards were not harmed in the attack. "I was on my way to the district centre from Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, when the rebels attacked our convoy," said Rahim. He has been Baraki Barak's administrative chief for the last five years and has been attacked several times. He suffered injuries in one of the attacks in the past. (Pajhwok)

Kunar's Former Provincial Council Head Found Dead

ASADABAD - Unidentified gunmen have shot dead the former provincial council (PC) head for eastern Kunar province, an official said on Saturday. The body of Mia Hassan Adil was recovered in the limits of the Khewa district

of Nangarhar province, police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Habib Syedkhel told Pajhwok Afghan News. Adil hailed from the Manogi district of Kunar and served as provincial council chief. He was a 12th class graduate and a

commander of the Hezbi-Islami party during jihad. After the success of mujahidin, he resigned from active politics. Adil, however, returned to lead the presidential campaign for Dr. Abdullah in Kunar. (Pajhwok)

Civilian Among 5 Dead in Zabul Gun battle, Blast

QALAT - As many as four Taliban fighters and a civilian were killed and three more people wounded in two separate incidents in southern Zabul province, an official said on Saturday. Ghulam Jillani Farahi, the provincial police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News at least four armed rebels were killed during an armed clash between

security forces and Taliban on Friday on the out skirt of Qalat. Security forces seized a vehicle as a result of the gun-battle, he said. Separately, a civilian was killed and two others were wounded when a rickshaw carrying hit an improvised explosive device (IED), Taliban militants have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

ANA Soldier Among 3 Dead

HERAT CITY - One Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier and two Taliban fighters were killed and three other insurgents wounded in separate incidents of violence in western Herat province on Saturday, officials said. One ANA soldier was killed and four others wounded in an explosion in Shindand district early morning, Najibullah Najibi, a spokesman for Zafar Military Corps told Pajhwok Afghan News. The injured soldiers had been carried to the hospital who are said to be in good conditions. Separately, two Taliban fighters were perished and three others wounded during a clash in Chesht Sharif district, Governor Spokesman Ihsanullah Hayat told Pajhwok Afghan News. Security forces escaped unhurt in the attack, he further added. (Pajhwok)

Bride Price Lowered, Fine Imposed on Lavish Weddings

SHARAN - The rate of walwar (bride price) has been brought down and a cash fine imposed on unnecessary expenditure on lavish wedding meals in some district of southeastern Paktika province, a reform body said on Saturday. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Paktika Reform Council head Abdul Hai Sahibzada said they stoutly supported by lo-



cal tribal elders in lowering the walwar in the provincial capital, Yousafkhel, Mata Khan

and Sar Roza districts. "For unmarried youth, the bride price has been fixed at 250,000 Afghanis and 350,000 afs for a man tying the knot for a second time," he said, recalling that the rate previously ranged between Rs1 million and Rs3 million. Under the council's decision, he added, no one was allowed to spend lavishly on marriage... (More on P4)...(18)

2 Civilians, 2 Police Injured in Nangarhar Blast

JALALABAD - At least two civilians and two policemen were injured in a blast in eastern Nangarhar province early Saturday, local officials said. The incident took place at about 9:30am local time in Jalalabad, the capital of the province after a bomb, which was placed in a wall near the police headquarters, exploded injuring two civilians and two policemen, a spokesman for Provincial Governor, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said. The injured were taken to a nearby hospital in the city. Police have started investigations into the blast, he said... (More on P4)...(19)

Ex-Jihadi Commander Shot Dead; 5 ALP Men Killed in Infighting

MAIMANA - A former jihadi commander and five Afghan Local Police (ALP) members have been killed in separate security incidents in northwestern Faryab province. Pashton Kot district chief Abdul Qadir Qadiri told Pajhwok Afghan News commander Ghaibullah was killed on his way from Maimana, the provincial capital, to his home. He

came under attack from unidentified gunmen' in Chaqmaq area last night. He said Ghaibullah was leading pro-government... (More on P4)...(20)



At Least 2 Dead as Daesh, Taliban Rebels Clash in Zabul

QALAT - A fierce battle erupted between Daesh and Taliban militants in southern Zabul province, an official said on Saturday. Haji Momand Nusratyar, Arghandab district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News at least two Taliban rebels had been killed in the overnight clash. He said Taliban supporters had flocked

from other areas to Kotli, the site of the gun-battle, to support their associates. The clash could resume between the rival sides, he warned. The district chief did not have information regarding Daesh casualties. No group has commented about the incident so far. Hundreds of anti-state rebels from both warring parties have been



killed in eastern Nangarhar and western Farah provinces in recent weeks. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

No matter how serious your intentions are, it's too soon to say whether or not you'll be successful at getting much accomplished. You can be quite the convincing salesperson now, but you may be as good at fooling yourself as you are at misleading others. If someone accepts your over-the-top expectations as the truth, you might have to face the music when the facts are discovered.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

A little voice in the back of your mind is warning you to tread carefully in your relationships. Meanwhile, your closest friends may be cheering you on, encouraging you to make your move. Nevertheless, there's no reason to justify your caution to anyone if you aren't ready. However, you're more inclined to take a chance and start a discussion on a sensitive topic as the day wears on.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're inspired to share a spiritual experience, weave your words into a poetic phrase and put a positive spin on nearly everything you say today. Happily, your current idealism motivates you to reestablish a solid connection with a loved one now. However, underlying tension won't likely disappear overnight. Do whatever you can to alleviate the stress, but remember that repairing a relationship is an ongoing work in progress.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You often choose to keep your feelings under wraps because you're afraid of being judged or criticized. Nevertheless, today's effusive Sagittarius Moon urges you to blurt out whatever is on your mind before considering the consequences. Pushing through your natural resistance allows you to follow the current advice of the cosmos.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You want to be as positive as you can in everything you do now that the cheerful Sagittarius Moon harmonizes with the Sun and Mercury in demonstrative Leo. But it's tough to connect with others in a lighthearted manner if you're still holding on to stressful memories of the recent past. Luckily, you can still come through for those you love if you concentrate on being real, rather than on being liked.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are dancing with such wild abandon today that you might forget to pay attention to little things like the music and the steps. Thankfully, you still have your common sense intact because graceful Venus blesses you with a cool, calm and collected perspective. Although you want to be open and honest, keeping some things secret may be appropriate now. Just don't let your caution morph into apathy in the process.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Surprisingly, you could be the most practical one in the group today because the recent Venus-Saturn square is rattled by the reflective Moon in your 3rd House of Communication. You can easily discern what is real and what is an illusion. Although your friendly demeanor disarms others, your inner perfectionist and logical thinking are running the show now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might achieve more than you expect today once you get into your groove. Tying up loose ends actually feels satisfying and your self-confidence grows with each task you complete now. Remember, nothing will hold you back for long, except your own self-imposed limitations. Stick to your agenda and continue building momentum throughout the day.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

People can't help but experience your inspirational side now that the evocative Moon is back in your fiery sign. Your passionate appeal could motivate others to subscribe to your ideas today whether your perspective is accurate or not. Naturally, you wouldn't mislead anyone intentionally, but the pictures you now paint with your words can be so pretty that everyone wants to participate in your story.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

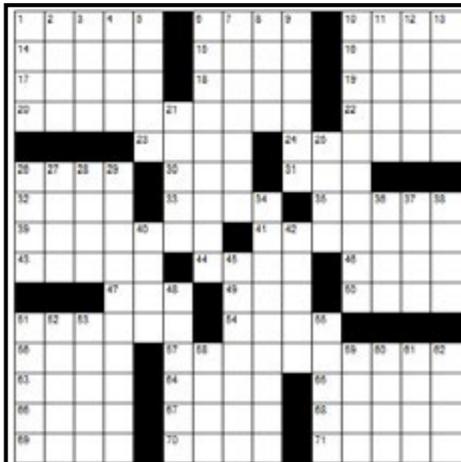
You're uncharacteristically inclined to dramatize everything you say today, making it tough to maintain your credibility. However, you can utilize the expansive nature of the fearless Sagittarius Moon to defend others who may not be as eloquent as you. There's no reason to rush the process now; your words carry more weight when you give them plenty of time to fully sink in.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your friends come knocking at your door for advice today while the Moon's presence in your 11th House of Dreams and Wishes creates utopian visions of the future. Your strategy is to focus on the potential prosperity now rather than the fear of scarcity. Fortunately, you can have a positive impact on others if you maintain an optimistic outlook.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You want your friends and relatives to acknowledge your competence at work while the Moon is highlighting your 10th House of Public Status. Nevertheless, you must balance your desire for efficiency with your need to have fun. Prioritize the tasks in front of you; if you finish the most important ones now, you'll earn the right to kick back later. Don't squander your reputation when there's so much at stake.



Across
1. Earthquake, 6. Anagram of "Cabs", 10. Rapsallions, 14. Breathing problem, 15. An enclosure, 16. Defrost, 17. Rituals, 18. Foment, 19. Beseech, 20. Image breaker, 22. Liturgy, 23. Close, 24. Acts, 26. Distinctive flair, 30. Reverence, 31. Confederate soldier, 32. Part of a skeleton, 33. Satisfy, 35. Fertile area in a desert, 39. Contraband, 41. Mandible, 43. Hockey footwear, 44. Male deer, 46. Shoestring, 47. Flee, 49. Frozen water, 50. Historical periods, 51. Calm, 54. Bluefin, 56. Allies' foe, 57. Mix, 63. Style of hairdo, 64. Big party, 65. Parts portrayed, 66. Swarm, 67. French for "State", 68. Smidgens, 69. If not, 70. Unusual, 71. Overact.

Down
1. Indian dress, 2. Sweeping story, 3. Within, 4. Observed, 5. A worker of stone, 6. Rapsallions, 7. Nightclub, 8. How old we are, 9. Superior to another, 10. Unbelievable, 11. Excellence, 12. Dish, 13. Infections of the eye, 21. Stop, 25. Cat sound, 26. Wanes, 27. Search, 28. Dwarf buffalo, 29. Causing irritation, 34. Blurt out, 36. Fly high, 37. Ancient Peruvian, 38. Views, 40. Low-fat, 42. Proxy, 45. Existing in name only, 48. Scanty, 51. Fry briefly, 52. Kick out, 53. Carnival attractions, 55. Eagle's nest, 58. Information, 59. Space, 60. Countertenor, 61. Nipple, 62. Being,

Yesterday's Solution
additional, advise, anniversary, anymore, before, birth, cancel, canon, charge, dates, dead, different, driver, expectation, federal, flavor, flea, gene, hart, honey, hose, hover, impact, jerk, lever, muse, nature, purse, quest, rash, rend, seeks, seen, shear, stand, stern, tense, tracks, trauma, truth.

