

Dozens of Vulnerable Families Receive Edible Items



KHOST/JALALABAD - A number of civil society organizations provided dozens of vulnerable and deserved families with wheat and other edibles in southeastern Khost and eastern Nangarhar provinces on Tuesday.

Nasir Ahmad Rokhan, a civil society activist, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a civil society organization collected financial aid and then bought wheat had they distributed among needy families.

Rokhan urged well-off people to provide assistance to needy and vulnerable families.

Gul Wazira, an old woman in Khost, told Pajhwok Afghan News her husband and three sons died and now she looked after her orphan grandchildren.

She appreciated the civil society activists for extending aid and assistance. Several other residents of Khost praised the assistance and demanded more in the holy month of Ramadan.

Separately, Ikramullah Ikram, director of a civil society in Jalalabad, the provincial capital of Nangarhar province, told Pajhwok Afghan News the aid was distributed among persons who lost their family elders. The edible consists of sacks of flour, rice, edible oil, sugar, bean, pulses, green tea and several other items.

12-Member Taliban Group Busted in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - A 12 members group of Taliban, including a notorious commander, was detained during search operation in southern Helmand, security official said on Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Nabi Jan Mulakhail, provincial police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces arrested a group of militants including commander Sher

23 More Nangarhar Rebels Join Peace Process

JALALABAD - At least 23 armed rebels, including two commanders, have joined peace committee, member of a peace committee said on Tuesday.

Malak Nazir, head of peace committee, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 23 insurgents joined peace process who were earlier involved in ant-state activities in the area. The militants, he said would renounce violence and work for nation and country building. The group has surrendered all their heavy and small weapons



which were handed over to concerned authority, Nazir added. Nangarhar Governor Salim Khan Kanduzi praised the decision of the armed group after joining the peace renouncing violence. He said that the government would pay salaries to them for at least six months and later they would be provided with a source of income. Zarin Khan, commander of the militants, said: "I had ten fighters under my command I brought six of them along with me. We were involved in...(More on P4)...(21)

67 Welfare Projects Put Into Service in Ghor

FEROZKOH - Benefitting around 8,000 families, some 67 different welfare projects have been completed and put into service in western Ghor province, an official said on Tuesday.

The projects executed under the National Solidarity Program (NSP) include asphaltting of a 92-kilometer road, reconstruction of six water dams and as many hydropower projects. Other projects include construction of eight embankment walls, three water reservoirs, digging of 47 wells and others. Regional NSP director Gulzaman Naib told Pajhwok Afghan News



the projects costing 74 million afghanis were implemented in Dawlatyar, Dolina, Saghar, Tolak and Chaharsada districts, benefitting

around 8,000 families. He said the projects provided facilities like drinking and irrigation water, electricity and rescuing residential homes from flood risks.

A resident of Tukhman village of Chaharsada district, Gul Ahmad, said they had to face many problems in finding clean drinking water in the past. But now they were able to find safe water in front of their homes, he added.

He said 240 families benefited from the water supply project and some people had planted trees in front of their homes after the availability of water, which...(More on P4)...(22)

Gunmen Kill Prayer Leader in Nimroz



ZARANJ - Two unidentified motorcyclists gunned down prayer leader in Chakhansoor district of southwestern Nimroz province, an official said on Tuesday. Aqa Mohammad Fazli, the town's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News Haji Hakim was killed on Monday night by biker riders when he was on his way home after offering Tarawih prayers. Fazli said the prayer leader was accompanied by his nephew who survived the attack. Haji Hakim was prayer leader of Noori Mosque and secretary of the Chakhansoor development council. The district chief alleged he was killed by Taliban insurgents. Maulvi Hizbullah, Hajj and Religious Affairs director, said: "Killing of a fellow Muslim is unislamic act. The killers have no regard even for the holy month of Ramadan."

Taliban on their website claimed credit for killing of Haji Hakim. (Pajhwok)

Flooding Destroys 50 Homes in Takhar



TALOQAN - Nighttime flash flooding destroyed at least 50 homes and caused financial losses to residents in the Namak Ab district of

northeastern Takhar province, the district administrative chief said on Tuesday. Abdul Sattar Asfiya told Pajhwok Afghan News the flooding erupted last night in the Nakhchir valley, destroying 50 homes, a mosque, a health clinic and a school. There were no casualties as residents aware of possible flooding after heavy rains during daytime had climbed the mountain, he said. Residents suffered financial losses and aid was yet to reach them, the official said. Natural Dis-

asters Management Authority head for Takhar, Abdul Raziq Zinda, also confirmed the flooding. He said a response team had been sent to the affected area. The team was expected to reach the area until evening because there was no road to the area, where people used horses and mules for transport.

Zinda said further information about the flooding would be shared with the media after the response team completed its investigation. (Pajhwok)

With No Gain to its Credit, HPC Called a White Elephant

FARAH CITY - Residents of western Farah province view the High Peace Council (HPC) as a white elephant, with no concrete achievement to its credit. They also demand a radical change in current peace strategy so as to make it responsive to popular aspirations. Former

president Hamid Karzai had tried several times to eradicate violence and reach out to the Taliban insurgents. In order to pave the ground for formal peace negotiations, Karzai visited Pakistan more than 21 times. However, the conflict rages on to date -- and with greater ferocity. After the

inauguration of the national unity government, President Ashraf Ghani also visited China and Pakistan in an attempt to bring peace to the country. The overwhelming objective was to convince the Taliban into coming to the negotiating table. Later, high-ranking...(More on P4)...(24)

School Headmaster, Iranian Driver Kidnapped

HERAT - Unidentified gunmen have kidnapped the headmaster of a government school and an Iranian driver separately in western Herat province. Aziz Rahman Sarwari, acting director of the education directorate of Herat province confirmed the abduction of the headmaster of Abu Bakar Sediq School. He said that Mohammad Qasim was kidnapped from an area close to his home in Shindand District last night. In a separate incident, unknown armed men kidnapped an Iranian truck driver from Shebash area on Herat-Islam Qala Road yesterday.

Reports suggest that the gunmen first fired at the tyres of the vehicle and when it stopped they kidnapped its driver. Iran's consulate in Herat province confirms the abduction. Mehdi Shah Rukhi, a senior official at the consulate said that Jawad is the third...(More on P4)...(25)

Former Jihadi Commander among three Gunned Down



KHOST CITY - Unidentified armed men have gunned down three people including a former Jihadi commander in Khost province.

The incident took place in Logharo Peerano area of Tani District yesterday afternoon. Zmarai Haqmal, governor of Tani District said that the former Jihadi commander Delawar Shah was returning to his home from the provincial capital in a vehicle when unidentified gunmen opened fire on him. He said Delawar Shah's son and nephew were also traveling in the vehicle and all three lost lives in the attack. According to Haqmal, the former Jihadi commander did not have personal enemies but was supporting government and militants might have targeted him due to this reason. Haqmal said gunmen fled from the area following the attack but security agencies have launched an investigation to arrest them.

No group had claimed responsibility for the attack by the time this report was filed. (KP)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your intensity is on the rise, yet you may feel moody and withdrawn today, filling you with contradictions. Unfortunately, you're bothered by the same things that wouldn't necessarily concern you on some other day. Additionally, you might grow annoyed with your own denial because you don't want to confront the source of the current irritation.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Work is stressful these days, but you can't just stay home to avoid the tense dynamics. Although your heart might not be totally committed to what you're doing, you need to show up in a responsible manner. Even if you have doubts about your ability to deliver the goods, don't hold back just because you're feeling insecure in the moment.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may experience a bit of an emotional letdown. Although you might be afraid that you're going to miss all the action, nothing could be further from the truth. There is plenty for you to do if you focus on solidifying what you started over the past month. In the meantime, treat yourself to a gift of some quiet time for a change; after all, you need the rest so you will be fully prepared for the work ahead.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Happily, your confidence is irrepresible now, even if obstacles resurfaced this week to slow your progress. Luckily, superhero Mars shifts into your sign this morning, boosting your stamina and motivating you to start your latest version of your action plan. Although it's not your intention, you could run over someone else's agenda today without even realizing it.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your expressive personality has been working on overdrive and you may have spent too much time socializing without producing anything of lasting value. However, your needs are changing now that energetic Mars is hiding out in your 12th House of Spiritual Mystery. Instead of dreaming about receiving recognition from your peers, you're fantasizing about running off to a monastery.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are known for taking your commitments very seriously, but it is best not to overdo it today. If your sense of loyalty to a friend stems from guilt, it's wise to keep your motives to yourself. Honesty is an admirable trait, but you really don't need to express everything all at once. Nothing will be gained by telling your whole story now except a colossal headache. Give others a chance to reflect on what you say before complicating things more.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Seeking balance is a never-ending struggle, but this search for harmony triggers a familiar conflict between home and career today. You might be inclined to take on more responsibility at work without sufficient energy to follow through on your ambitions. Or, maybe family obligations are tilting the scales away from your professional aspirations.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Walking away from an emotional confrontation doesn't indicate that you aren't willing to fully experience your feelings. It's just that you believe your involvement won't add anything positive to an already complicated situation. The Moon's presence in your 12th House of Privacy delivers the message that sometimes keeping your reactions to yourself is the healthiest thing to do.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You are often fun-loving, even cavalier, as you journey through life, so you may surprise others during this more introspective phase. Even if you're emotionally reserved now, don't shy away from acknowledging a difference in perspective if it will improve the current dynamics. Simply work through any conflict that arises today by adding a dash of self-deprecating humor.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You're resigned to the fact that you have to put your shoulder to the wheel, but you're willing to do whatever it takes since the stakes are so high. However, you aren't necessarily ready to get started immediately, even if there is already a lot of work waiting for you. You might justify your current inaction by claiming you're reserving your energy for later on when you will need it.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

There are such a limited number of options in front of you now that you could feel trapped by your own familiar patterns. Unfortunately, you may have sacrificed your independence for an emotional security that you're not even sure you want. Luckily, talking about your dilemma is the first step toward finding a solution.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You might be angry with a friend or lover, though it's challenging to say anything without making the situation worse. Although your conflicted emotions are playing out on the relationship stage, this is because of your inability to express your passion. You feel irritated because your actions aren't truly representing your feelings. Fortunately, there's no need to resolve the differences between your inner and outer realities now.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

Across: 1. Swindle, 6. All excited, 10. Rubber wheel, 14. Dynamism, 15. Magma, 16. Biblical garden, 17. Willow, 18. A metric unit of weight, 19. Absorb written material, 20. Pleasant in personality, 22. Geographic illustrations, 23. Consumed food, 24. Travels on water, 26. Distance, 30. French for "Morning", 32. Shade of white, 33. Generously, 37. Short skirt, 38. A protective covering, 39. Boyfriend, 40. Bountiful, 42. Sneaked, 43. Days of the month, 44. Meadows, 45. Put out, 47. Female sib, 48. Modify, 49. A payment of money, 56. Countertenor, 57. Pinnacle, 58. African virus, 59. Observed, 60. A musical pause, 61. Adjust again, 62. Being, 63. "Sure", 64. Seethes. Down: 1. Henhouse, 2. A flexible pipe, 3. Arab chieftain, 4. Mimics, 5. Low-pitched, 6. Seaweed, 7. Dress, 8. Egg-shaped, 9. Gambler, 10. Temporary, 11. Something to shoot for, 12. Harvests, 13. Terminates, 21. Greatest possible, 25. What we breathe, 26. Not stiff, 27. Wicked, 28. Not a single one, 29. A flat circular stone, 30. Subtract, 31. Cain's brother, 33. Vitality, 34. Loyal (archaic), 35. Territory, 36. Laughs (slang), 38. Bookish, 41. Letter after sigma, 42. Female siblings, 44. Hale, 45. Runs in neutral, 46. Locations, 47. Coming next after the fifth, 48. Convenience, 50. Type of sword, 51. Plateau, 52. Incite, 53. Schnozzola, 54. A ball of yarn, 55. Dines.

Yesterday's Solution: accountant, being, bleach, board, bonus, clock, condition, confiscate, cream, dozen, faint, fast, fence, flake, flesh, flirt, fume, funny, gaff, hatch, impression, investigate, jolly, luxury, mash, mouth, node, offend, office, passion, patch, tempt, website.

Word search grid with words hidden in the letters.