



Some MPs Oppose Parliament Recess Until Eid Holidays

KABUL - The Executive Board of the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of Parliament on Tuesday announced the house was going into recess until the end of Eid-ul-Fitr holidays, a decision opposed by a number of lawmakers as an illegal move.

After the inauguration of the 17th legislative term of the Wolesi Jirga on May 18, an election was conducted for the speaker position of the house but the poll went controversial.

The lower house is yet to reach a conclusion over the speaker position despite holding 11 sittings so far.

The executive board, tasked with managing the lower house affairs, today announced that the Wolesi Jirga sessions would remain suspended until the end of Eid holidays.

Raees Abdul Khaliq, a lawmaker from northern Balkh province after today's session of the lower house, told reporters that lawmakers in a vote conducted by the executive board decided to suspend the house sessions until the end of Eid holidays due to what he said some legislators' trip to Saudi Arabia for the performance of Hajj and others' trip to their own provinces.

However, 13 lawmakers told reporters that no one had the right to suspend Wolesi Jirga sessions.

Mirwais Yasini, a lawmaker from Nangarhar province, said: "No one has the right to suspend Wolesi Jirga sessions, we will come tomorrow and open the session, the sessions should continue until the speaker of the house is determined."

Gul Rahman Hamdard, a lawmaker from Balkh province, also opposed suspending Wolesi Jirga sessions and said the executive board of the house had made the decision without seeking views of some lawmakers.

Rahima Jami, a representative from Herat *...(More on P4)...(13)*

Ulema Want Targeted Killings of Colleagues Probed



KABUL - Demanding ceasefire before Eidul Fitr between government and Taliban forces, hundreds of Islamic scholars on Wednesday strongly condemned targeted killings of their counterparts.

The scholars holding a gathering in Kabul said the ongoing conflict in the country was killing only Afghans and urged ceasefire.

They said insecurity had recently increased and on both sides only Afghans lost their lives.

Maulvi Gul Ahmad Seddiq Chakari, deputy head of Kabul Ulema Council, said besides security forces and Taliban militants, innocent Afghans were also losing their lives to the ongoing insurgency.

He expressed his deep concern over

recently targeted killings of ulema and said they were not safe in any part of the county.

He demanded ceasefire between the government and the Taliban ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Qadir Qanit, another Islamic scholar, also condemned killing of ulema and urged the government to investigate seriously *...(More on P4)...(11)*

Afghan Forces Seize Truck Carrying Rifles in Paktia



KABUL - Afghan forces have seized a truck which was carrying 358 rifles in Gardiz city of Paktia province, the National Directorate of Security said on Tuesday.

Provincial governor spokesman Abdullah Hassrat said the truck was loaded in Pakistan and aimed to be used for terror activities in the province.

Five people were arrested in connection to the arms smuggling.

Paktia is among the volatile provinces in the east of Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in a number of its districts. (ATN)

Former Supports of Ghani Demand Formation of Interim Gov't

KABUL - The National Solidarity Party of Afghanistan (NSPA) and the Ismaili Council for Afghanistan on Wednesday called for the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan.

The two parties are led by Sayed Mansur Naderi, an Afghan politician, who backed President Ashraf Ghani during the 2014 elections.

Mohammad Reshad Manawi, a spokesman for the NSPA said that the legal tenure of President Ashraf ended on May 22 based on the Constitution and the National Unity Government (NUG) agreement.

He added that *...(More on P4)...(12)*

Helmand Military Attorney Among 3 Killed in Taliban Ambush



LASHKARGAH - At least three people, including a man and his pregnant wife, were killed and two children injured as a result of a traffic accident in the capital of southern Helmand province on Tuesday morning, an official said.

Omar Zwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the accident took place in the Shakra locality of the

Lashkargah at around 6:00am. The accident happened when a motorbike collided with a truck.

A man and his pregnant wife were among three people killed while two children were injured in the incident, the official added. The injured were taken to hospital for treatment. The truck driver was arrested. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Commander Among 12 Militants Killed in Maidan Wardak



KABUL - At least 12 Taliban insurgents including a local commander of the group were killed and six others injured in clashes with the Afghan security forces in Maidan Wardak province, Interior Ministry (MoI) confirmed. In a statement released on Wednesday, MoI said that the incident has taken place en route to Maidan Shahr-Jalez on Tuesday night.

According to the statement, at least 12 Taliban fighters including a local commander of the group were killed and six others wounded in the incident.

The Taliban commander was identified as Saddam, who was involved in destructive activities at Badam area in Nirkh district of the province. The Taliban militant group yet to make a comment about the incident. Maidan Wardak is among the volatile provinces located in the central part of Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents have a huge presence. (ATN)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Organizing your office and paying bills are likely to be on your agenda today, Aries. You could feel overwhelmed by the tasks, and you might be tempted to put them off. It's better to take it slowly until you get everything done. You don't have to do them all at once. This should lessen the stress. Spend a quiet evening at home.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Excessive food and drink could have you feeling rather sluggish and indifferent to everything. This can get in the way of your usual kindness and affection, but it shouldn't. Get some rest, take a stomach remedy, and get back to your old self! You might also be tempted to overspend at some point. Think about it first!

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Today a number of chores around the home could have you feeling overwhelmed, Gemini. Family members might abandon you, leaving you disgruntled. Do the most pressing and leave the rest for when they're home! There might be a difference of opinion between you and your mate. Try to see both sides of the issue and circumvent any serious disagreements.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Some minor but annoying communications could interrupt your routine today. You won't appreciate the distraction, Cancer, but it's best to take care of whatever it is and then go back to your tasks. You might have to spend part of the day running errands. Traffic might have you frazzled. Spend the evening relaxing at home. You've worked hard and you deserve it!

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Boredom and apathy could tempt you to run to the mall and spend a lot of money on luxuries. You might overindulge in food and drink. This can make you feel better temporarily, Leo, but in the end all you will have is an empty wallet and a stomachache. Treat yourself, but don't throw caution to the wind. This feeling will pass by tomorrow, and you don't want to regret your day!

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



A lot of activity could take place around home today. It could involve a number of visitors, or it could simply be a lot of work that needs doing. Either way, you might feel a bit frazzled, and the temptation to run away from it all might be almost irresistible. Relax! There's no need to stress out. Just do what needs to be done and enjoy the rest of the day.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



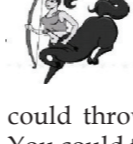
News of unforeseen success could come your way today, leaving you reeling and breathless. You might feel a bit dazed, Libra, like you don't know what to do with yourself. It might take a while to gather yourself. A lot of letters and phone calls may come your way, some routine, some congratulatory. You could write or call a number of your friends. Some errands may be necessary.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Social events or group activities may prove draining today, as a lot of people might want to take advantage of your talents. Your kind, accommodating nature might cause you to try to make everyone happy, Scorpio, but this isn't realistic. You might stress yourself to the point of not caring what gets done. Be discriminating about what you commit to doing.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Excess is the word for today, Sagittarius. You may feel overly optimistic and enthusiastic about everything, and you could throw yourself into it all a bit too eagerly. You could take on more than you can handle. There is the danger of tiring yourself out physically. You could also go the other way and become very lazy, not wanting to do much of anything. Remember, moderation is the best approach.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Today you might feel a little depressed and apathetic, like you don't care what happens right now. You might try to get your mind off those feelings by spending money. This works, Capricorn, but don't spend any more than you have to. These feelings really have more to do with the past than the present. If old pain wells up, let it go. Tomorrow all will seem a lot better!

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

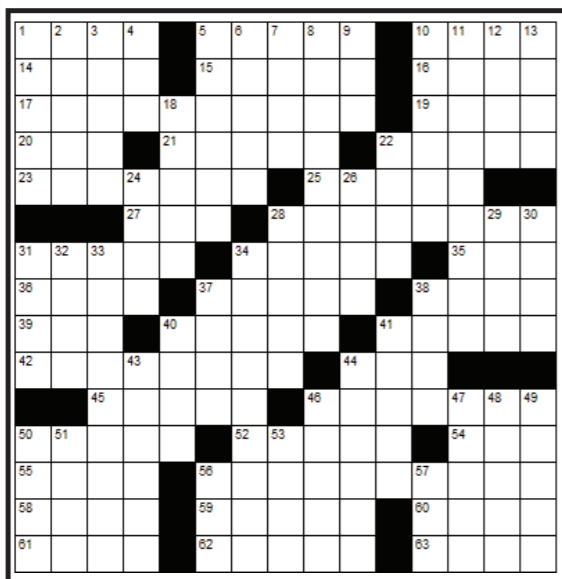


Today you might be with friends who want to go out on the town and spend money. Shopping, eating in fancy restaurants, or going to dance clubs could be in their plans. This is fine, Aquarius, as long as you don't get caught up in the excess. Find a happy medium between spending too much and acting like a party pooper.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pressure and worries involving home and family could get in the way of your concentration today, Pisces. There may have been a quarrel with a household member that weighs on your mind. The best way to deal with this is to give yourself and everyone else time to cool down. Later you're likely to find that it has all blown over.



Across

1. Back talk, 5. Pierces, 10. Python, 14. Pearly-shelled mussel, 15. Killer whales, 16. Atop, 17. n outline of a solid object, 19. Petty quarrel, 20. Not cold, 21. Offensively bold, 22. Im nizations, 23. Scrutinize, 25. Aspirations, 27. Center of a storm, 28. Migratory American songbird, 31. Gadabouts, 34. Apple or orange, 35. Foot digit, 36. Craving, 37. Impose, 38. Declare untrue, 39. Eastern Standard Time, 40. Only, 41. Flower jars, 42. Blatched, 44. Top part of an apron, 45. Odorous glandular secretions, 46. Back rub, 50. Ancient Athenian philosopher, 52. Make fun of, 54. One time around, 55. Steals, 56. Very loudly (music), 58. Qualified

Down

1. Raw fish, 2. Negatively charged particle, 3. River muds, 4. Comes after Mi and Fah, 5. Origin, 6. Delicacy, 7. Does something, 8. Dressing room, 9. South southeast, 10. Unit of dry measure (4 pecks), 11. Antonyms, 12. Protective ditch, 13. Picnic insects, 18. Complies, 22. Smudge, 24. Flippant, 26. Death notice, 28. Salt water, 29. Not a single one, 30. Lock openers, 31. Delight, 32. Dethrone, 33. Deserving of respect, 34. Ottoman, 37. Antiaircraft gun, 38. Applies lightly, 40. Likewise, 41. Holding devices, 43. Beginning, 44. Fundamentals, 46. French for "Morning", 47. Pretext, 48. Street urchin, 49. Lyric poem, 50. Baby buggy, 51. Part of the outer ear, 53. Sea eagle, 56. A tree fruit, 57. Take in slowly,

Yesterday's Solution

BOWLED, GROUP, CARB, GRATED, ERNE, OGGIE, SERAG, CZAR, NAVE, CONTINUOUS, FIEF, COBWEB, CHILLO, ILLIAD, COURTESAN, SELL, ROUSE, NAME, FOLG, BIRTH, GIGGLE, FAITH, GREENS, MANTS, BEG, AFTER, ILL, SHERR, AFTER, SNOW, EASE, NAVE, ACME, RUSE, ISLES, REAR, SLED, CHEST

S C O R E D I R P O T P L
R U N D E R S T A N D A U
B E Q U I R K K E R V R F
Y R W U M Z V T I I F O R
M N I O E D X V X N A U E
J A N C P E E E I F I S D
L E Y U K L N F H R L E N
Y B S B F A T C O A U A O
R R I I E Y A N N C R F W
A E G Z M O P T A T E T Q
E A N O C P P S P I K E K
W K A E N S L N X O G R Y
T A L E N T Y E G N I R F