

Policemen Among 17 Hurt in Paktika Twin Blasts

SHARAN - At Least 15 Civilians And two Policemen Were Wounded in Two Separate Explosions in Sharan, The capital of southeastern Paktika province on Wednesday, eyewitnesses and officials said. Sher Ahmad, An eyewitness, told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosions took place between Shahidan square and provincial civil hospital of Sharan around 9:00am. He said the first incident was a hand grenade attack and the second was a landmine that exploded when people gathered for helping the injured of the



first blast. He added 17 people including 15 civilians and two policemen were wounded in the twin explosions. Paktika Civil Hospital Director Chenar Gul Seddiqi, confirmed receiving 11 wounded people from the first incident. He said the health condition of two policemen and three civilians injured in the incident was critical and sent to Kabul hospitals for better treatment. However, an official of the hospital who wished to go unnamed said that 17 people including eight of them municipal cleaners...(More on P4)...(15)

UNAMA Condemns the Deliberate Killing of 26 Civilians

KABUL - The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Wednesday condemned killing of 26 civilians by a group of armed men in Ghor province. The assailants deliberately shot and killed the male civilians in the Ghalmin area of Chaghcharan district in Ghor province after have taken them hostage earlier the same day while they collected fire-wood in the Kasi area of Firozokh. Reports received by UNAMA indicate that the armed men killed the hostages in retaliation for the death of their commander during fighting with Afghan National Security Forces. The fate of a number of other hostages remains unknown. "I am outraged by these senseless and brutal killings," said Pernille Kardel, the Deputy Secretary General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Acting head of UNAMA. "This is an atrocity and the perpetrators must be held accountable." UNAMA recalls that the murder of civilians, as well as the taking of civilian hostages, are serious violations of international humanitarian law that all parties to the armed conflict - including ...(More on P4)...(16)

Punjabi Militants Have Stronghold in Khashrod District

ZARANJ - Punjabi militants having created a stronghold sometimes attack security forces' check-posts in Khashrod district of southwestern Nimroz province, the provincial police chief claimed on Wednesday. Brig. Gen. Ghulam Jalani Abubakkar told reporters here they had no exact information about the mentioned fighters, but they had strongholds in Razi-Balochi, Khair-Abad, Kandahari localities of Khashrod district. He added the Punjabi militants in the past were affiliated with Taliban, but

now they operated separately and were in possession of advanced binoculars through which they targeted security forces during night. A security official, who did not want to be named, said the Punjabi Taliban numbered around 200 who sneaked into different parts of the district over the past six months. He said most residents of the district had been displaced due to insecurity. (Pajhwok)



Child Killed, 8 Injured as Mortar Hits Wardak Hospital

KABUL - A child was killed and eight people were injured in a Taliban-fired mortar strike on the civil hospital in the capital of central Madian Wardak province on Wednesday. The Taliban militants fired mortars into Maidan Shahr city targeting security posts on the Kabul-Kandahar and Maidan Shahr-Bamyan highways this morning. A provincial council member, Sharfiullah Hottak, told Pajhwok Afghan News one of the mortar shells fired by Taliban militants hit the Maidan Shahr Civil Hospital, killing a child and injuring eight other patients including children. He said a security post belonging to the public order police was surrounded by Taliban mili-

tants on the outskirts of Maidan Shahr. Reinforcements on the way to the public order police security post also came under a Taliban ambush, he added. Hottak said one mortar shell also landed near Maidan Shahr municipality, but caused no casualties. Governor's spokesman, Abdul Rahman Mangal, was unaware about the attack on the hospital, but said Taliban's assaults on other areas of the city had been repulsed. A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said all roads of Maidan Wardak province had been blocked by the militants. Militant attacks on maidan wardak police headquarters and other government facilities were underway, he said. (Pajhwok)

NDS Arrest Two Suspects Plotting Attack on Indian Consulate

KABUL - Afghan security services detained two on suspicion of plotting an attack on an Indian consulate. Employees of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Afghanistan have detained two people suspected of preparing an attack on the Indian consulate in the east of the country, local media

reported on Wednesday. The administrative center of the province is the city of Jalalabad, where in January a number of explosions took place near the foreign consulates. Afghanistan between Devil and Deep Blue Sea Government forces in Afghanistan are fighting the ... (More on P4)...(17)

2 US Soldiers Hurt in Parwan Suicide Bombing

CHARIKAR - Two American soldiers have been wounded in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in the Bagram district of central Parwan province, the US military said on Wednesday. Charlie Cleveland, spokesman for the US forces in Afghanistan, told Pajhwok Afghan News the troops were on a patrol late on Tuesday when hit by the IED blast. Two soldiers sustained minor injuries in the attack, according to the spokesman, who said

one rocket was fired at the Bagram Airbase, but it was destroyed and there were no casualties. Abdul Shakor Qudusi, the district's administrative chief, confirmed a US force's convoy was targeted by a suicide bombing. He said two foreign soldiers sustained minor injuries in the attack. Haji Shamsul Haq



Sheikhani, a provincial council member, said the suicide bombing in Bagram involved a red Corolla vehicle, bearing registration number 5137. (Pajhwok)

Prayer Leader Killed in Jawzjan's Darzab District

SHIBERGHAN - A prayer leader has been killed by Islamic State (IS) or Daesh rebels in Darzab district of northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Wednesday. Abdul Hafiz Khashe, the provincial deputy police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the victim, Mohammad Nabi, also taught religious lessons to children in Qazal village of the district. Daesh militants told local residents that Nabi

sexually harassed minor boys. Samiullah, a local resident, said the slain imam had a dispute with a former prayer leader of the same village. He said he had no information if the murder resulted from the dispute between them. Rahmatullah Hashar, the Darzab district chief, confirmed the killing of Mohammad Nabi but had no idea about the motive behind the murder. (Pajhwok)

Sharbat Gula Arrested in Pakistan over Fake ID Card

KABUL - Sharbat Gula, an Afghan woman who became famous after her picture featured in National Geographic Magazine in 1985, has been arrested by Pakistani Sharbat Gula was photographed at the age of 12 by Steve McCurry at the Nasir Bagh refugee camp situated on the edge of Peshawar in 1984. She gained worldwide recognition when her photo featured on the cover of the June 1985 issue of American National Geographic Magazine. According to Dawn.com, Gula was arrested on Wednesday by Federal Investigation Authority over



making a fake Pakistani ID card. Accused of fraud, she is currently in FIA custody for investigation. Pakistani ... (More on P4)...(18)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Although responsibilities continue to pile up at work today, you're still tempted to skip out for a long lunch or a walk in the park. You may dream and scheme about running away even if it's not a smart idea. Thankfully, the closer you get to your planned escape, the more you doubt the wisdom of your move. You don't need to do anything drastic to find pleasure now.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You find it easier to take a positive stance on nearly any question today. However, it would be a mistake for someone to judge you as being overly optimistic. Although you wish there was a silver lining to every cloud, you lean toward a more pragmatic perspective. You can't get away with pie-in-the-sky thinking now; everything must crystallize into reality.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You might take a professional obligation seriously only after kicking and screaming in protest. But whether or not you put on a show to convey your displeasure, you're unlikely to be happy about having to narrowly focus your attention and make specific things happen. Unfortunately, being a grown adult comes with its responsibilities and sacrifices. Stop complaining and get to work. A bad attitude is like a flat tire, you can't go anywhere until you change it.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You don't have to venture very far to find satisfaction today. Although your home and family life rewards you with a strong source of connection to your soul, tentatively stepping out may be the best thing you can do. Nevertheless, it's crucial to stay within your comfort zone now, because it will be harder to relax if you're trying to manage many complicated variables.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You can effortlessly turn on the charm now and those around you will fall under your spell. Nevertheless, giving your plan some forethought today enables you to muster support from the very same people who were previously talking behind your back. It's fine to confront an issue directly as long as you don't slip into an interrogator or prosecutor role.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You may be more fastidious than anyone else you know, but your willingness to let go of your need for perfection can be the catalyst for a magical day. Instead of wasting hours on the tiniest details, use your judgment skills to decide what is possible today. Naturally, you don't want to sign off on sloppy workmanship, but there is a point-of-no-return when your eye for quality overwhelms common sense.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You can't miss today when it comes to setting your goals. In fact, your charismatic manner captivates the imagination of everyone you encounter and easily enrolls their assistance in your latest project. But you might leave out some of your story when soliciting other people's participation because you want the support of the community. However, one insignificant white lie will, inevitably, lead to others.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You possess the magic keys to the door of prosperity today; all you need to do is open the lock and step through the portal. Making money is simple when you first become involved, however, the work begins once you're on the other side and accept the new opportunity. What appeared to be Easy Street turns out to be No-Free-Lunch Boulevard.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Your social life is a source of joy these days, especially if your friends go out of the way to express their love or affection. But something is brewing behind the good news and you feel its presence, whether or not you can discern its origin or form. Denial is not advised today, but neither is digging too deep. If you start lifting up rocks to see what's under them, you're going to find something unpleasant sooner or later.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Rewards at work arrive without any sort of warning today, catching you off guard. However, once people start to recognize your ongoing contributions, you begin to grow uncomfortable with the prospect of needing to deliver more of the same. Your optimism in the here and now might be soaring, but your ponderous concern about the next wave of events has you secretly worried.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

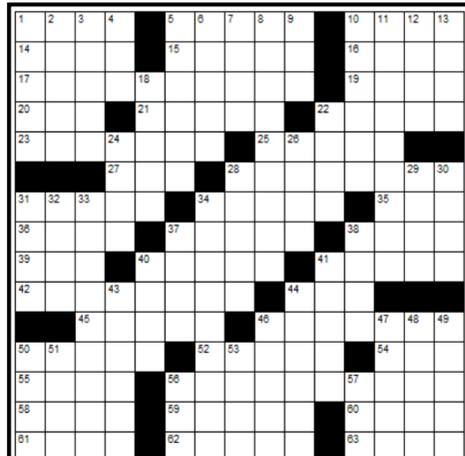


It's as if you're a wolf in sheep's clothing today. The words you speak reflect your current air of self-confidence but they don't paint the entire picture. You could talk about an unpleasant subject and others still might walk away smiling. They hear what you say in a context that puts a shiny surface on your analysis now.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



No matter how critical people are when judging your work performance today, you still might see things from a wider perspective. But your ability to sense the universal energy doesn't take away from the value of the feedback you receive now. Rather than assuming a defensive posture, open your heart and listen. If you can feel the love instead of focusing on your mistakes, the chances for personal growth improve.



Across

- 1. Briskly (music), 5. Quickly, 10. Remnant, 14. Anagram of "Dome", 15. Celebrations, 16. Genuine, 17. Compensate, 19. Beige, 20. Apprehend, 21. Map within a map, 22. French for "Room", 23. Gist, 25. Andean animal, 27. Effeminate, 28. Deceiving by a mock action, 31. Vomits, 34. Widely known, 35. Japanese apricot, 36. Historical periods, 37. Bygone, 38. Parsley or sage, 39. French for "Friend", 40. Extraterrestrial, 41. Blockheads, 42. Inducements, 44. Bro or sis, 45. Criminal, 46. The shaved crown of a head, 50. A loose coverall, 52. African virus, 54. Holiday drink, 55. Jacket, 56. Brotherhood, 58. Against, 59. Kidney-related, 60. At the peak of, 61. Pear variety, 62. Strangely, 63. Flippant.

Down

- 1. French science-fiction writer, 2. Anagram of "Aside", 3. Graves, 4. Large flightless bird, 5. Wing, 6. Analyze syntactically, 7. Wings, 8. Stockmen, 9. East southeast, 10. Imagined, 11. Rectified, 12. Nobleman, 13. Adhesive, 18. 999922, Found on most beaches, 24. FFFF, 26. Mortgage, 28. Evanesces, 29. Roman emperor, 30. Tomcats, 31. Tiny sphere, 32. Ground forces, 33. Trench coats, 34. Wavered, 37. Hodgepodge, 38. Imps, 40. Out of control, 41. Kuwaiti monetary unit, 43. North Pole area, 44. Alone, 46. Complete, 47. Come together, 48. Turbine part, 49. Country of the Nile, 50. Anagram of "Cabs", 51. Not stereo, 53. Musical group, 56. To and ___, 57. Short sleep.

Yesterday's Solution

SCUBA SCAR AVOW
TOPAZ ERNE NICE
OVOLLO DIAL TIRE
PENETRABLE HEAPS
HEN AARON
CUSPID POSSA
ANTIC PUBESCENT
MAJUE SAREO IDEEA
PUNGENTLY STEER
RAVES DUENDE
WHITTE HAG
ROOM LARYNGITIS
ORCA BOOE EDEMA
SMUG PLAIN SLEPT
ESSE EYRA TENSE

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