

# Intelligence Operatives Detain 7 Kidnappers Including a Woman

HERAT CITY - At least seven kidnappers, including a woman, have been detained in western Herat province, the governor's office said Monday.

A statement from the governor's house said the gang was busted by the National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel. The detainees had confessed to their involvement in kidnapping several residents of Herat City and Iranian nationals, the statement said. It added the detainees had been referred to judiciary organs for prosecution. A day earlier, 15 workers of Halo Trust were rescued from kidnappers in the province. (Pajhwok)



## 5 Killed, 7 Injured in Overnight Paktika Firefight

SHARAN - Two local policemen and three Taliban fighters were killed during an overnight clash in southeastern Paktika province, an official said on Monday. The clash occurred as Taliban insurgents stormed two Afghan Local Police (ALP) posts in Mata Khan district on Sunday night, an ANP official in the district told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said at least three attackers and two ALP members were killed and another three ALP men and four rebels were wounded

in the ensuing clash. Mata Khan police chief Abdul Wadood Andar confirmed the Taliban stormed security posts in Khorakchay area last night, killing two policemen and injuring a third. The wounded policeman had been evacuated to hospital, he said, adding three Taliban fighters were killed and as many wounded in the retaliatory fire. Corpses of the insurgents were still lying at the scene, he said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack ... (More on P4)... (13)

## Palace Guards Accused of Assaulting Hospital Employee

KABUL - Officials at Kabul's Ali Abad Hospital on Monday claimed that three armed men employed by the Presidential Palace security department assaulted a hospital employee who tried to prevent them from entering the emergency room on Sunday night. Hospital officials said the employee, Sharpoor, was so badly beaten he was hospitalized and is in a serious condition. "Last night around 9:30, they (security guards) brought a patient to the hospital. Three armed men were trying to enter the emergency room, but the employee did not allow them to enter and they assault-

ed him. Initially we did not know who the armed were? But later we realized that they were from the presidential palace," said Bashir Ahmad, head of the monitoring department of Ali Abad Hospital. Officials have called on government to take action against those who threaten and assault doctors and hospital employees. "We can no longer tolerate such action against our employees. The government must act and should not allow such individuals to threaten us," Homayoun Tawhid, head of the neuroscience department of Ali Abad Hospital told

TOLOnews. Officials from the Presidential Palace's security department have however rejected the allegations. "I strongly reject the claims about the beating. I am on my way to the hospital to talk about the event with the head of the hospital," said Tahir Gardizi, head of the security protocol department of the Presidential Palace said. This latest incident comes just months after doctors at Kabul Jambhuriat hospital went on a strike following the assault of one of its doctors by armed men. (Tolo News)

## Top Kankor Student Hopes to Study Abroad

KABUL - Faramarz Rahimi, who got the top score in Afghanistan's university entrance exam, Kankor, has appealed to government for help to study abroad. Rahimi said he wants to become a medical doctor and establish a good hospital so as to prevent Afghans from having to go abroad for treatment. His father said his son completed pre-exam courses for two years and achieved a final score of over 340 in the Kankor exam - to become the top student in the country. Rahimi has however enrolled at the Kabul Medical University, which was his first choice. (Tolo News)

## Hate Speech: Taliban App Removed From Google Play Store

KABUL - Aimed to spread propaganda and hate speech, Taliban's app has been removed from the Google Play Store for Android smartphones and tablets, a British newspaper reported on Monday. Called "Pashto Afghan News - alemarah", the application displayed Taliban's news and videos. It was discovered on Friday and taken down shortly afterwards. The Telegraph said. Google's rules on hate speech do not allow apps that advocate against groups of people based on their race or ethnic origin, religion, disability,



A Google spokesman was quoted as saying they did not comment on specific apps. "Our policies are designed to provide a great experience for users and developers. That's why we remove apps from Google Play that violate those policies." (Pajhwok)

## Afghan Dry-Fruit Vendor Shot Dead in Abbottabad

PESHAWAR - An Afghan citizen has been gunned down in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said. Zawaruddin, a dry fruit vendor, was shot dead by an unidentified attacker bang in the middle of the main bazaar in Abbottabad. Local police official Iftikhar Afzal told Pajhwok Afghan News 25-year-old murdered in rush hour in ... (More on P4)... (11)

## 5 of a Family Shot Dead and Injured in Khost

KHOST CITY - A Special Forces commander and his guard shot dead two women and injured three other people including a woman in southeastern Khost province, police said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday night when the Special Forces commander, Marwat, and his guard Noorullah entered a house in Matoon area of Khost City, Khost police chief Maj. Gen. Faizullah Ghairat told Pajhwok Afghan News. Marwat and his guard opened fire at the family, killing two women and in-



juried another woman and two men, he said, adding the family had no prior enmity with Marwat. The commander was detained but his guard managed to flee, he said. Marwat was under police interrogation. A resident of the area, Bismillah said the incident took place at around 1am. The injured were in stable condition, he said. (Pajhwok)

## 2 Dead as Blast Rips Through ALP Official Guestroom

JALALABAD - Two people were killed and 10 others wounded as a result of an explosion in the Khewa district of eastern Nangarhar province on Monday, an official said. Attaullah Khogyani, the

governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion ripped through the guestroom of an Afghan Local Police (ALP) official in Sarjal locality in the afternoon.

He did not name the ALP official but said the victims of the blast were civilians. The injured were evacuated to the Nangarhar Civil Hospital. They are said to be in stable conditions. (Pajhwok)

## Taliban Ambush Leaves 6 Police Killed in Jawzjan

SHIBERGHAN - Half a dozen policemen were ambushed and killed by Taliban insurgents in northern Jawzjan province on Sunday, an official said. The attack took place in Chahi area of Mordian district shortly after 3pm, the town's administrative head, Zabih Zahid told Pajhwok Afghan News. The police were on a patrol in the area when came under ... (More on P4)... (12)

## Three Kidnapped Youths Released after Ransom Paid

KABUL - Three youths kidnapped on the Kabul-Daikundi highway in Jalrez area of Wardak province a week ago have been released. Relatives close to the released

youths said that security officials did nothing to help with their release and instead the families were forced to sell their land and other possessions to raise the three

million Afghanis ransom demanded by the kidnappers. "We were not able to pay the ransom, eventually we sold our land so we ... (More on P4)... (14)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

You're itching to make an escape today because you believe you could lose your chance if you don't act immediately. Unfortunately, you might climb too far out on a limb if you don't stop to think about where you're going and when you plan on returning. This isn't the best time to test your invincibility, even if you're sure you can't go wrong.

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

Someone's feelings might sound over-inflated today and you're not sure how to react without creating more drama. Paradoxically, the issues seem to be more externally based and less about your personal dynamics. It may even feel as if fate is playing a significant role in the events that are unfolding around you. However, there's no need to worry about loss of control.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A complicated issue with a family member continues to require your attention, but this personal matter becomes easier to manage now, even with your busy work schedule. Although your nerves are still on edge, the stress is finally beginning to settle down. The biggest problem is your heightened emotional reactivity. Try something as simple as counting to ten before responding to anyone else's demands.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're uncharacteristically driven to step outside of your normal safety zone today. In fact, staying at home is not a viable option now. Even if you feel blissfully content in your relationships, there is plenty to gain by exploring new ways of expressing your love. You don't need to take a big risk to reach out a little further than you did in the past.

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

Your world would run like clockwork if only you could catch up and synchronize your internal rhythm to the current pace. It's not like you can alter the external events; you must change your inner dynamics. Like Cinderella, you are able to transform a disappointing set of circumstances into a magical experience by putting a positive spin on it.

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

A most auspicious day may be in store for you as the radiant Sun forms a supportive sextile with lucky Jupiter in your sign. Instead of just gazing into your future, move toward the horizon of your choice. Don't let this cosmic opportunity slip through your fingers without positive action on your part. Even making a tiny adjustment to your direction today improves your chances of reaching your destination tomorrow.

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

Looking at your life through a spiritual filter today enables you to reframe a problem from a healthier perspective. Ironically, nothing much has changed on the outside, but your new and improved attitude can make all the difference in the world. You're tempted to share your optimistic outlook with others, but you might only dissipate your energy if you waste time justifying your beliefs.

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

Follow your gut instincts today, especially if you're struck with a brilliant idea about doing a repetitive job in an entirely new way. Luckily, you're not restrained by your old patterns now, inspiring you to analyze your work methods in a vastly different light. Although your innovative plan might not produce tangible results, you won't ever know what could happen unless you give it a try.

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

Nothing will hold you back now if you can continue to find the positive in every situation. However, you may be so confident that you forget to take the time to consider the consequences of your actions. Fortunately, your key planet Jupiter is your guardian angel today, blessing all decisions that impact your career trajectory. Nevertheless, explore each of your options prior to committing to one path.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

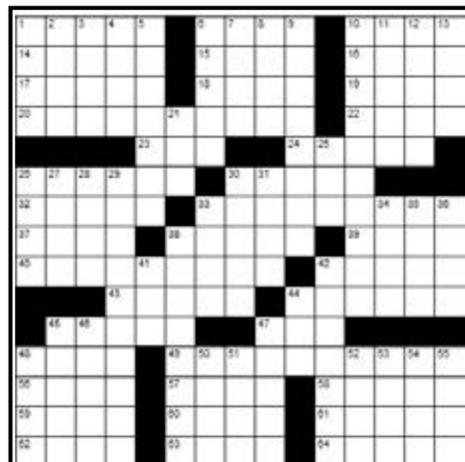
You're not sure what to make of the stressful interpersonal dynamics at work. It may seem as if you're out of sync with your associates, but you don't know whether or not to confront the differences or let them pass in silence. A flexible attitude can help to a point, but eventually you might need to say what's on your mind. Hold out as long as possible and then speak your piece when it is appropriate.

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

Oddly enough, you must tread carefully because the stress level is so low now. This extra concern is especially necessary if you fall into an entitlement zone where you think everything should just land at your feet because you deserve it. Nevertheless, the golden ring is not going to arrive on its own accord; you must stretch your wings to reach for the prize.

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

Your future looks so bright today you may be temporarily blinded by your optimism, secretly relieved that the resistance you recently faced is history. You might feel as if you spent too much time trying to overcome a single obstacle, but nothing will be gained now by walking down Memory Lane. It's more important to focus on collaborating with the right person to accomplish your objectives.



#### Across

- 1. Work hard, 6. Not in danger, 10. Envelop, 14. Winged, 15. Found in a cafeteria, 16. Sharpen, 17. Frenzied, 18. Skin disease, 19. Is indebted to, 20. Bed coverings, 22. Gave temporarily, 23. Reverence, 24. Unreactive, 26. Assault, 30. Mentors, 32. Abyss, 33. Stuck-up, 37. Flows, 38. Grain disease, 39. Fail to win, 40. Certifying, 42. Utilize again, 43. Quotes, 44. Bumped around, 45. Ecu, 47. Flee, 48. Fizzy drink, 49. Kirk's starship, 56. Court order, 57. Filly's mother, 58. Assistants, 59. Kitty (poker), 60. Always, 61. Gather, 62. Untidiness, 63. Colors, 64. Gladden.

#### Down

- 1. Young sheep, 2. Wings, 3. Musical group, 4. Ear-related, 5. Repossess, 6. Condition, 7. Coy, 8. A temple (archaic), 9. Vision, 10. Middleman, 11. Oarsman, 12. Concerning (archaic), 13. Annoyance, 21. A wise bird, 25. Born as, 26. Unit of land, 27. Cold-shoulder, 28. Found on most beaches, 29. Affiliates, 30. Indications, 31. All excited, 33. French cheese, 34. Gloomy, 35. Being, 36. Accomplishment, 38. Prized, 41., 18-wheeler, 42. Violent disorder, 44. Glass container, 45. Carried, 46. Makes changes to, 47. Lascivious looks, 48. Travelled through water, 50. Fleet, 51. Tall woody plant, 52. Small brook, 53. Bright thought, 54. Chair, 55. Feudal worker.

#### Yesterday's Solution



ammunition, anchor, attic, beard, bell, blink, breach, burst, cheek, lass, cream, debut, fable, financial, first, flicker, hostage, limit, major, notorious, pinch, please, pleat, poach, press, rascal, risk, rumor, sink, stark, stuff, torus, trail, trick, true, yield, yodel.

