

After Years, Paktia-Paktika Road is Now Secure



SHARANA - After several years the situation on the Paktia-Paktika highway returned to normal and people could fearlessly travel on it due to the establishment of new security check-points, an official said on Wednesday. Paktika police chief Brig. Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Rogh Laiwani told Pajhwok Afghan News that new security check-points had been established on the vital road to ensure security. "It was a major demand of the people of Paktika and we are trying to ensure the road is secure and safe," he said. Few months earlier, the Taliban launched a group attack on the Andar district of Ghazni province after which the Ghazni-Paktika Road was closed for traffic as well. Esmtaullah, a resident, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I drive on the Paktia-Paktika Road. In the past, the Taliban would appear on the road but now there is peace and stability." He said most of the time the Taliban would pull off government officials from vehicles and would take them with themselves. Khan Agha, a passenger traveling on the road, said the road had been insecure over the past few years and common people and government officials would not travel on it. Policemen Mohammad Aslam and Zabihullah were overjoyed after the establishment of new check-points on the highway. Due to insecurity on the highway, the two policemen would wait for a security convey to go with it and most of their holidays were wasted, but now they are able to travel to home fearlessly. (Pajhwok)

Nangarhar Ulema Welcome Consultative Loya Jirga



JALALABAD - Some Islamic scholars in eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday welcomed the upcoming Consultative Loya Jirga on peace and demanded international guarantee from both the government and the Taliban about starting their peace talks. Addressing a press conference here, one of the scholars, Mualvi Habibullah Jalalabadi, said in-

dividuals who were committed to the national interest and were aware about people's demands should be part of the upcoming jirga. He said the Nangarhar Ulema supported the Consultative Loya Jirga as it would be a first step to facilitating peace negotiations and ceasefire. He said until international guarantees were not taken from the government and the Taliban and ceasefire agreed,

the ongoing peace efforts would be unproductive. Another Islamic scholar Mualvi Zer Gul said not only ulema but all people supported efforts including the peace jirga that could bring peace to the country. Separately, the Afghanistan Policy Making Group in the eastern zone held a gathering of around 150 civil society ... (More on P4)... (10)



31 Taliban Killed, Scores Injured in Faryab, Ghazni Clashes

KABUL - Thirty-one Taliban insurgents were killed and 28 others injured during security forces separate operations and airstrikes in southern Ghazni and northwestern Faryab provinces, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Wednesday. Four Taliban were killed and one injured during security forces airstrike in the Ziwoj and Mangor areas of Ghazni provinces. In a separate operation conducted by Commandos and Afghan Air Force in Loraga, Spedar, Hotak, Walkh villages of Gillan district, Sarferaz and Bande Barq villages of Girro district resulted in the killing of 16 Taliban and injured 6 others. One vehicle, a motorbike and some weapons were destroyed. Separately, 11 Taliban including two key commanders, Omari and Maulvi Naiem and 21 Taliban were wounded including 3 key commanders, Maulvi Najibullah, known ... (More on P4)... (11)

Taliban Releases 5 Workers of Citizen Charter Scheme



TIRINKOT - The Taliban have released five workers of the Citizen Charter Programme in central Uruzgan province, an official said on Wednesday. Governor spokesman Adam Khan Jilani told Pajhwok Afghan News the workers were abducted by the Taliban as a result of internal rift between the Taliban over some schemes implemented under the Citizen

Charter Programme. They were abducted almost one month earlier on their way from Tirinkot to Chori district. The release of the workers was made possible through the mediation of elders. Mohammad Karim Karimi, deputy head of the Provincial Council, said three released workers ... (More on P4)... (12)

4 Killed, 2 Wounded in Nangarhar Roof Cave-in



JALALABAD - Four members of a family have been killed and two others wounded as a result of a roof-collapse in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Wednesday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the casualties happened in the Mangal village of Rodat district due to heavy rains on Tuesday night. Two women and as many children of

a family were killed and two others wounded in the overnight incident, he said, adding one individual was swept away by flood in the 7th police district of Jalalabad. Governor Shah Mahmood Miakhel, along with Lalpur district police chief and other officials, visited the affected people in Marsang area and provided them with aid. On the ... (More on P4)... (13)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Money matters are highlighted today, Aries. You can expect to spend a lot of time with the calculator as you balance your checkbook or begin to work on your budget. Even if you don't consider yourself particularly good with numbers, you will do a great job. You're conscientious. Success in all endeavors is indicated today.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



An unexpected financial windfall could come your way today, Taurus. You may stand there with an open envelope in your hand, unable to speak. Whether it's an unanticipated bonus, gift, or surprising stock dividend, invest the money wisely. You've spent a lot of money recently, and it would be good for you to begin to replenish the bank account.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Even though you're slaving away at work, your mind is very much on romance. Passion is running high, especially yours, Gemini! If you already have a romantic partner, why not plan an intimate evening together? If you don't yet have someone special in your life, it's likely you will meet someone today or soon thereafter. Make sure you look your best at all times!

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



If you had to score your life right now, it would have to be a perfect ten. You look great, your career is going well, and your domestic life is harmonious. Could there be anything more to life? Don't think so. You may receive news of more success at work when an important sale comes through or a project is successfully completed. You have much to celebrate, Cancer!

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You have a lot to celebrate, Leo, especially where your love life is concerned. Today you may receive a communication from your loved one that makes you yearn for this person's company. You've been together a lot recently, attending many dinners and social gatherings, but you've had little one-on-one time. Do what you can to rectify that tonight!

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



There's a lot of work to be done today, and much of it centers on finances. Whether you're working on budgets or investments, you will easily finish the task. Your trusty computer will help you as you discover a new website that supports your efforts or post a question in a financial chatroom that yields many responses. Favorable advancement is likely, Virgo, if not today

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You may be privy to some information today that will ultimately result in financial gain, Libra. You may get wind of a new company and be one of the first investors. Or perhaps what you hear gives you an idea for a new product that you bring to market yourself. The outlook for you is rosy indeed, although your success won't come without putting your own skills and talents to use!

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Expect to receive some great news today, Scorpio. Answer your phone and check email all day, because you never know when it will come. Indications suggest that success in all aspects of your life is coming. You may complete a project to acclaim or submit a report that's accepted without question. These small successes boost your self-confidence, which brings more success.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Your optimistic nature has served you well. This quality makes you a great manager since you can motivate and inspire co-workers. Today you may be recognized for your leadership abilities and can-do attitude. Your reward might be a promotion or bonus, or perhaps another project even more challenging than the last. Your career efforts bring you success. You have a lot to celebrate, Sagittarius!

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You woke up feeling happy and enthusiastic, Capricorn. Your intuition tells you that you will achieve whatever you set your mind to. Whatever your goals - career, education, or personal - you're bound to succeed. If you don't have a significant other by your side to support your progress, all signs indicate that you will meet someone soon. If you have a mate, lucky you!

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

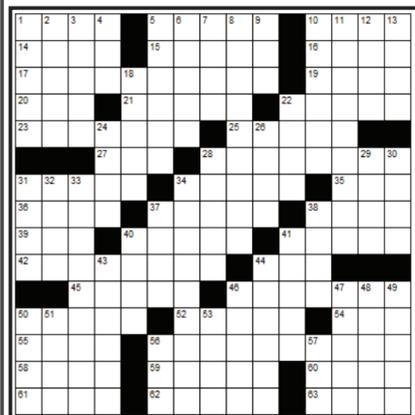


You may feel a little under the weather today, Aquarius. You may even develop sniffles or a sore throat. If so, consider going to the doctor. This can be an especially unwelcome development, as it keeps you from certain activities. If you act quickly, your ailment may not worsen. Take the time you need to feel healthy again before returning to your routine.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You might feel lonely and insecure due to lack of contact with a close friend or romantic partner, Pisces. You might wonder if the person has forgotten you or simply doesn't care anason. You may discover that no neglect was intended and that the relationship is solid. It's better for you to tackle this directly rather than speculate.



Across

- 1. Go to and fro, 5. Suit, 10. Plus, 14. Alleviate, 15. Seed spreader, 16. Low-fat, 17. Alcohol factory, 19. Part of a ratchet, 20. Avenue (abbrev.), 21. Requires, 22. Bloated, 23. Snuggled, 25. Spew, 27. Chatter, 28. Scoundrel, 31. Unstable, 34. The base part of a tree, 35. Sick, 36. Debauchee, 37. Anagram of "Paste", 38. Brother of Jacob, 39. A wise bird, 40. Wish granter, 41. Put forth, as effort, 42. Complainer, 44. Genus of macaws, 45. Pig sounds, 46. Percussionist, 50. A German medieval guild, 52. A carpenter's device, 54. Australian bird, 55. Historical periods, 56. Sermon on the Mount, 58. Cable, 59. Unwarranted, 60. A building for skating, 61. Articulates, 62. Originates in, 63. Boys, ,

Down

- 1. 4-door car, 2. Do without, 3. Donkeys, 4. Nevertheless, 5. Not awake, 6. Meted out, 7. Blown away, 8. Cause to suffer, 9. Attempt, 10. Breed of ruminant, 11. If nothing else, 12. Wood-cutting tool, 13. Unique, 18. Dental filling, 22. Mouthful, 24. Sort, 26. Adult male sheep, 28. Step, 29. Winglike, 30. Oversupply, 31. "Iliad" city, 32. Hawkeye State, 33. Relating to the lungs, 34. Growing old, 37. Benefit, 38. Test, 40. Heredity unit, 41. Blow up, 43. Overlooks, 44. Battalions, 46. A piece of information, 47. TV, radio, etc., 48. Make improvements, 49. Slices of twice-baked bread, 50. Chops, 51. Diva's solo, 53. Stow, as cargo, 56. Passenger vehicle, 57. Website address, ,

Yesterday's Solution



actor, after, alarm, ambulance, around, being bide, bins, cheer, doubt, drink, enjoy, enough, fight, float, foal, fume, grunt, guide, humid, mother, number, plaster, pore, praise, proud, public

