

(1) 28 Dead...

My room's caved. I don't know what happened next." Workers of the hotel, which is located about 200 meters from the incident site, suffered injuries, the man added. Tamim, 26, was hit by shrapnel in his foot while standing in front of his shop. He said several shopkeepers near him were injured as windows panes fallen on them.

Safiullah, seriously injured in his back, said he was selling cigarettes on his handcart in front of the Edigah Mosque. Most of the people killed or wounded were civilians or poor labourers, he added. As usual, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the assault that comes a week after the insurgent group announced the launch of its spring offensive. (Pajhwok)

(2) Abdullah ...

wounded in a car suicide bombing that followed a protracted gunbattle between security forces and an unknown number of Taliban gunmen. The car bombing targeted the VIP protection unit in Kabul, allowing other fighters to enter and exchange gunfire with security forces at around 9am.

Abdullah, who was talking to media-persons at the site of the explosion, said the Taliban's offensive had been effectively repulsed by security forces and today's bombing was carried out in revenge. (Pajhwok)

(3) Ghani Says ...

groups was also on agenda of the meeting. President Ghani thanked the lawmakers in Lower and Upper Houses of the Parliament for their support to the Afghan security and defense forces.

The Deputy House Speaker in Lower House of the Parliament, Zahir Qadir, said Monday lawmakers from both the houses will present their suggestions and plans regarding peace process during the meeting.

This comes as the Taliban group has rejected to participate in peace talks with the Afghan government despite efforts by Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG).

The group consisting of Afghanistan, Pakistan, United States and China representatives called on militant groups to join peace talks in a bid to end the violence through reconciliation process. (KP)

(4) Moscow Fears ...

the large-scale crisis that is threatening the existence of Afghan statehood," Kabulov said at a press conference in Moscow.

Russia could consider the Taliban as a non-terrorist organization if the Taliban fulfills the conditions of national reconciliation and step away from terrorism and could become a political force in the future with Afghanistan's acknowledgment and the UN Security Council's approval, Kabulov said. (Sputnik)

(5) Afghanistan ...

Islamabad since January aimed at jump-starting negotiations. The group had so far held four meetings and its last meeting formally invited the Taliban to arrive at peace talks with the Afghan government in the first week of March, 2016 in Islamabad. But the Taliban under their new supreme leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour refused to appear for the talks.

However, HIA, the second largest militant group after the Taliban, dispatched a delegation to Kabul to hold peace talks with the Afghan government after Ghani and the High Peace Council (HPC) extended the group an invitation.. (Pajhwok)

(6) Govt. Accused ...

lower ranks are rendering sacrifices, but defense and military doctrine does not have a clear plan and strategy. Had they had a clear strategy, today this incident would not have happened in Pul-e-Mahmoud Khan (scene of Tuesday's attack)," said Gul Ahmad Azimi, a senator. "They say that they will make peace and there will be no war anymore, but then we are being killed and we are drowning in blood," said Farida Kochai, another senator.

The senators said that government should not test the patience of people and should immediately devise a clear strategy against militants.

"We want to fight and we support our security forces. The government should hear our voice clearly; we don't want peace with some who are fighting," said Farhad Sakhil, the first speaker of the Meshrano Jirga (Lower House of Parliament).

"We want peace to come, but as we saw they, the Taliban, have announced their spring offensive," said Anarkali Honaryar, a senator. The remarks come just a week after the Taliban launched its so-called spring offensive. The group also recently rejected calls by the Afghan government to join the peace process. Instead, they intensified their attacks around the country. (Tolnews)

(7) Dostum Arrives ...

security officials and discussed with them the offensives to be carried out besides Jawzjan, Faryab and Kunduz in other northern provinces. A local official said it would be decided from which district the operations should be started once the security situation was assessed by the authorities concerned.

The VP said he arrived in the north to launch operations against militants and to teach them a lesson. Dostum had earlier spearheaded operations against militants in northern provinces, but the insurgents resumed assaults after the VP's return to Kabul. (Pajhwok)

(8) Election Watchdogs...

Watch Afghanistan. Meanwhile, head of Afghanistan Civil Society Elections Network (ACSEN), Jandad Spinghar, said: "I think bringing reforms to election [systems] does not need a special budget; what it needs is a will and action. The NUG's legitimacy will be undermined if this process is delayed further."

The Presidential Palace meanwhile spoke of efforts being done to bring reforms to electoral bodies. "Government is committed to bringing reforms to the electoral system. The Election Commission's Selection Committee has officially started its activity and the president's decree on electoral reforms will be sent to parliament in the near future," said the president's deputy spokesman, Shah Husain Murtazawi.

The remarks by the electoral watchdogs come after the NUG has faced a barrage of criticism recently over what critics claim is continued delays in bringing reforms to the electoral system and electoral bodies. (Tolnews)

(9) Afghan...

Up to 11 education personnel were killed, 15 injured and 49 others were abducted by militants in different places in the country in 2015, the report said. (Xinhua)

(10) Noor Calls...

Jawzjan and Faryab provinces. He said Balkh was always threatened by insurgency from its neighbouring provinces, but security forces had always thwarted terror attacks with people's help.

"It is high time to support Afghan forces and wage a public uprising against Taliban insurgents," he said, calling on elders to convince people to rise against the enemies.

"Over the past few years, the central government was deceived by ene-

mies. In winter, the enemies plead for peace, but in spring they start clashes," he said. (Pajhwok)

(11) UK, US...

morning commute, and people who have stepped forward to help defend their fellow citizens," the embassy said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and families and friends of those affected. We stand with the people of Afghanistan and we will continue to advocate for the Afghan government's peace process that will bring an end once and for all to callous attacks against its people."

Meanwhile, the prime minister of Pakistan conveyed his immense grief over the heinous terrorist attack that led to the loss of precious lives and left hundreds injured.

In a letter to President Ashraf Ghani, Nawaz Sharif wrote: "On behalf of the people and the government of Pakistan, I strongly condemn this brutal act and offer my heartfelt condolences to Your Excellency and the bereaved families."

Such incidents continued to remind of the scourge of terrorism remaining a major threat to peace and stability of the two countries, societies and the region at large, the prime minister observed.

It served as a tool for the perpetuation of senseless violence in societies inflicting immense pain and suffering on the people, he said, adding eliminating terrorism required firm resolve as well as coordinated approach.

"I would like to reiterate Pakistan's unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations," Sharif concluded.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond condemned the appalling attack and extended his condolences and sympathies to the families and friends of those killed and injured in Kabul. Pajhwok)

(12) Joint Afghan...

strong business and transit hub in the region, he said.

Iran has been trying to encourage their entrepreneurs to invest in Afghanistan to provide create jobs for Afghans and provide cost-effective products to citizens, the envoy said. (Pajhwok)

(13) U.N. Reviews...

the harm caused by narcotics and protecting human rights.

The Global Commission on Drug Policy, a non-governmental group that includes prominent figures such as billionaire philanthropist Richard Branson and former U.S. Secretary

of State George Shultz, criticized the U.N. declaration as "long on rhetoric but short on substance."

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, also writing in the Guardian, said "the time has come for the world to transit into a different approach in its drug policy." (Reuters)

(14) EU-Turkey ...

European Union needs Turkey more than Turkey needs the European Union," Erdogan said to cheers in a televised speech to municipal leaders in Ankara, denouncing as "provocative" the European Parliament report.

He lashed out at the report for not praising Turkey's hosting of some 2.7 million refugees from the war in neighbouring Syria. (Monitoring Desk)

(15) Syrian Peace...

"terrorists."

"We told (UN Special Envoy Stefan) De Mistura that what is being achieved in New York is being undone here in Geneva. Because while the UN Security Council has considered that the Mufti of Ahrar Ash-Sham a terrorist, this group has a representative here in Geneva who is accepted by the United Nations," said the head of the Syrian government delegation Bashar al-Jaafari. (Xinhua)

(16) Libya's...

sees the Government of National Accord (GNA) as the best hope for oil-rich Libya, which has been roiled by turmoil since the 2011 ouster and killing of Moamer Kadhafi.

Concern has been compounded by the expansion of the Islamic State group in Libya, where the jihadists have set up a bastion just 300 kilometres (185 miles) from Italy across the Mediterranean.

People smugglers are also feeding on the chaos, with a surge of illegal migration to Europe from Libya.

Formed under a power-sharing deal agreed by some Libyan lawmakers in December, the GNA has been working to assert its authority but needs formal endorsement from parliament and support from a rival administration.

British aid. (Monitoring Desk)

(17) IS 'Has Sent ...

and that car number plate reading devices are in use around the airport.

More than 50 suspect packages have been dealt with since the Brussels attacks, he said.

"The threat is still there, it's serious and possible," Mr Van Tigchelt said. "We have to stay alert."

Belgian authorities believe they have "destabilised" the network that carried out the March 22 suicide attacks on the Brussels airport and subway, killing 32 and injuring hundreds. (Monitoring Desk)

(18) German City ...

generally begin with the letter abbreviation of the municipality the vehicle has been registered in, followed by one or two-letter combinations and several numbers.

This is not the first time a German city has stopped issuing controversial license plates.

The Bavarian city of Nuernberg recently banned the combination "N-PD," an abbreviation for Germany's notorious far-right National Democratic Party, whilst residents who want to use "N-SU" - letters that were used by right-wing terror organisation National Socialist Underground - "will have to request special permission with a specific reason," according to Steffen Kessler, a spokesman for Nuernberg's regulatory agency. (Monitoring Desk)

(19) Germany Cracks...

the authorities that at least these eight people were involved was the first in which they had publicly linked a particular organization with some of the hundreds of attacks on refugee shelters over the past year. (NY Times)

(20) Raul Castro ..

apparent lack of discussion about substantive new reforms to Cuba's stagnant centrally planned economy. Even high-ranking government officials had speculated in the weeks leading up to the Seventy Party Congress that Machado Ventura could be replaced by a younger face associated with free-market reforms started by Castro himself. (AP)

(21) Syria Air...

killed in shelling by Islamist rebels on the government-held Shiite village of Kafra.

In Damascus province, at least seven people were killed and 10 wounded in strikes on Bala, in the rebel-stronghold region of Eastern Ghouta, the monitor added. (AFP)

(22) India will

court decides whether to dismiss the petition.

The diamond is on display in the Tower of London, set in the front of the Queen Mother's crown.

For many Indians, the loss of the Koh-i-Noor is symbolic of British colonial rule and its return is viewed as partial compensation. (Monitoring Desk)

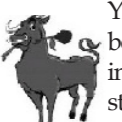
Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Obstacles seem to be popping up in your path and your plans might not turn out as expected today. A series of minor delays could prompt you to doubt your ability to reach your goals as assertive Mars backtracks through your 9th House of Future Vision. But don't look to anyone else for your answers, even if you're feeling insecure.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Your confidence is growing by leaps and bounds and you will continue to gain strength in your own convictions day by day. But instead of rushing off to the next great thing, give yourself time over the weeks ahead to absorb your recent accomplishments. Developing a deeper sense of self-awareness isn't particularly fun because you Bulls would rather plow the fields than analyze your feelings

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You may need to contend with an angry partner or coworker now that combative Mars is backpedaling in your 7th House of Relationships. But someone else's negative emotions become more problematic when you don't express your own feelings for the sake of convenience. If you are upfront about your needs, others might not have to lose their tempers trying to get you to talk. Be the bigger person and reveal your heart before anyone asks.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You may grow restless with your life these days because it seems like everything is about your job now. Naturally, there's more going on in your world but simply keeping up with all your obligations can drain your energy. Fortunately, the gentle Libra Moon encourages you to balance work with play. But don't try to make any big changes yet; maintaining your daily routine is enough.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Although you're known for your creative outlook on life, something is holding you back now. You possess the energy to follow through with your plans, but may be fearful that your ideas aren't good enough. This emphasis on self-analysis can wreak havoc on your outer world, causing you to read signals incorrectly or to judge a current situation based upon an old hurt.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Domestic responsibilities weigh heavily on your shoulders these days, possibly preventing you from embarking on a new course. Fortunately, you're not in a hurry; you want this change of direction in your life to be built on a solid foundation. However, waves of frustration can be overwhelming when you realize how much there is yet to be done. Just remember, the big shift is not going to happen overnight, so you may as well take care of your personal business.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



It may be discouraging when people get in the way of your progress because they don't really understand your intentions. However, exerting too much control over your own schedule can prove self-defeating now that action-hero Mars is back-stepping in your 3rd House of Immediate Environment. Don't waste energy trying to mobilize your coworkers.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Your reaction to changes at work may be darker and more intense than anyone prefers, but it's not your responsibility to make others comfortable by hiding your needs. Vulnerable Venus squares ruthless Pluto today, requiring you to face feelings that are buried in the depths of your subconscious. Express your emotions, but do it kindly and without blame.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



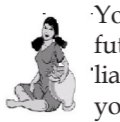
It's to your advantage to reconsider a budget that you thought would carry you comfortably through the rest of the year. Your traditional planetary ruler Mars is retrograde in your 2nd House of Money for the next couple of months, bringing up financial concerns. However, some of your worries might be based upon an irrational fear of not having enough, rather than on the actual bottom line.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



It's important to exercise a little caution before saying yes to more than you can handle now. Your life is complicated by the fact that action-hero Mars is hanging out in your sign due to its retrograde motion, which can fuel your enthusiasm and drive you to take too much. But karmic Saturn is also in the picture, requiring you to pay the price for any bad decisions.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You are motivated to establish plans for your future, but you can get so hung up in the brilliance of your ideas now that you can't get your scheme off the ground. Additionally, with retrograde Mars setting up shop in your 11th House of Social Networks, you might wait for an invitation that never arrives. If there's a dream you wish to pursue, make it happen.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



The notion of getting ahead in the real world captivates your attention today. Red-hot Mars is camped out in your 10th House of Career, making this a great time to drive steadily toward your professional goals. But its retrograde motion can bring about detours and delays, so avoid getting lost in self-criticism if you don't immediately get what you want.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-64.

Across: 1. Neighborhood, 6. Talon, 10. Applications, 14. African virus, 15. Affirm, 16. Roman emperor, 17. Tempter, 18. "Your majesty", 19. Grizzly, 20. A group of representatives, 22. At one time (archaic), 23. Center of a storm, 24. Stop, 26. The concluding part, 30. Doorkeeper, 32. Foe, 33. Indefensible, 37. Anagram of "Cabs", 38. Killer whales, 39. Colorful (Scottish), 40. In a thrifty manner, 42. Gladden, 43. Vocalization, 44. Flatter, 45. Insect stage, 47. South southeast, 48. A Freudian stage, 49. A society of women, 56. Cogitate, 57. Greek letter, 58. Tidal bore, 59. Weightlifters pump this, 60. Identical or fraternal, 61. Femme fatale, 62. Fender blemish, 63. 36 inches, 64. Amount of hair, Down: 1. Bawdy, 2. Double-reed woodwind, 3. Not warm, 4. Away from the wind, 5. For the most part, 6. Hindu social division, 7. 57 in Roman numerals, 8. Relating to aircraft, 9. In Britain, they're spanners, 10. Intolerable, 11. Clairvoyants, 12. Delete, 13. Classify, 21. Yes to a sailor, 25. Poetic dusk, 26. Gala, 27. 12 in a foot, 28. Close, 29. Uncertain, 30. Parental brother, 31. Remain, 33. Relating to urine, 34. Fiber source, 35. Tardy, 36. Pitcher, 38. Indolence, 41. Mist, 42. Tallest mountain, 44. East southeast, 45. Accustom, 46. A worker of stone, 47. Rise, 48. Among, 50. Hawkeye State, 51. Blend, 52. Found on most heads, 53. Monster, 54. Mining finds, 55. Lairs

Yesterday's Solution: TALL SORTS SUDS, ARIA OBEAR ANEW, LEEK NEGLIGIBLE, LANEWAY EMANATE, WET STRAP, CLANK ADRERIE, IEXILLE WREN'S RID, DINK SERIN DADA, EST SALON WANLY, EXTRAITES, APPLE CRYVABY, DREADED CRYVABY, DONNY BROOK AERO, JESSE QUITS NOTIR, DIVER OPTED KINEE

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