

Khost Gathering Stresses Enhanced Security, Peace

KHOST CITY - A large number of Ulama, tribal elders, civil society activists and youth in southeastern Khost province on Wednesday demanded the government leaders to shun their differences and work for building security and peace in the country. In a gathering organized by the Hiwadpal Zwak Social Network (HZSN), the participants expressed deep grief over loss of precious lives in suicide attacks that jolted capi-



tal Kabul some days back. The HZSN head Sahib Gul Farahad said internal differences between the leaders of unity government had provided a chance to the enemy to carry out such devastating attacks in the capital. He said it was time to focus on building security and improve economic situation of the country otherwise the enemy would carry out such dastardly acts in future... (More on P4)...(22)

Taliban Leadership Struggle Fuels Wave of Attacks in Afghanistan



KABUL - A spike in attacks in Kabul was designed to prove the Taliban's new leader was firmly in charge, the group said, but Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour's position remains precarious as clerics and top militants meet secretly to decide whether to back him.

Divisions are deep over Mansour's appointment as head of the hardline Islamist movement fighting since its ouster in 2001 to overthrow Afghanistan's Western-backed government and re-establish strict Islamic rule. A Taliban spokesman confirmed... (More on P4)...(23)

15 Policemen Dead in Musa Qala Clash

MUSA QALA - A security official wishing not to be named told Pajhwok Afghan News that intense gun battle erupted after Taliban fighters attacked a police check post that left seven policemen dead. Bashir Ahmad Shakir, a senior official in the provincial council, said that insurgents attacked two police stations and killed around 15 policemen. "Taliban reached a police sta-



tion in a vehicle and introduced themselves as commander Raziq's guards. All in a sudden, they opened fire leaving 14 policemen dead in the check post," he added... (More on P4)...(24)

State-Run Hospitals in Kabul Faced with Medicine Shortage

KABUL - Citing acute shortages of medicines, most government hospitals in capital Kabul refused to give medicines to patients, a doctor said on Wednesday. A formidable development which prompted the Ministry of Finance to pledge that the problem would be resolved soon. Dr. Rahmat, Ibn-i-Sina hospital director, had earlier told Pajhwok Afghan News that the required medicine— procured by the Ministry Of Public Health every year— have not been bought for the hospitals. During the last five months, he added due to lack of medicines the patients admitted in the hospital have no choice but to buy medicines for themselves. Currently, he added, they were only providing medicines to emergency patients. He said it could create more challenges for both doctors and patients if the problem was not resolved urgently. Dr. Fazel Mohammad Ibrahim, director of 102-beds hospital in Khair Khana locality, confirmed the problem and said no medicine or other essentials have been bought for the hospitals this year. He said distribution of medicine for the admitted patients had stopped and they only used stocks of last year for emergency patients. Directors of the two hospitals claimed the World Bank (WB) had not provided the Ministry of Public Health with financial means. Dr. Khwaja Qalamuddin Seddiqi, advisor at the Ministry of Public Health, said if the problem continued... (More on P4)...(27)

9 Rebels, 2 ANA Soldiers Dead in Badghis Unrest

QALA-I-NAW - At least nine militants and two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed in Bala Murghab district of northwestern Badghis province, an official said Wednesday. Badghis provincial council head Bahauddin told Pajhwok Afghan News the gun battle erupted after militants mounted attack on



security posts in Akazi area of the district today. He said that nine militants and two ANA soldiers were

killed and six policemen wounded in the ensuing gun fire that lasted for one hour. Civilians suffered no casualties in the incident. Pajhwok Afghan News could not contact Badghis security officials despite repeated attempts. Also, militants did not comment on the clash. (Pajhwok)

Scores Dead, Wounded in Farah Violence

FARAH CITY - At least 19 security personnel and 41 militants have suffered casualties during separate security incidents in western Farah province, officials said Wednesday. Farah Police Chief Fazal Mohammad Samadyar told Pajhwok Afghan News that 30 militants were killed and 11 others including a commander were wounded during separate clashes in Kosha, Gajgin, Kandor, Shah Mubarak and



Sangolak areas of Pushtrud district. He said that the bodies of 11 militants were still lying on the incident scene. Three policemen were also killed and five others wounded during the clashes, he said. But Farah Public Health Director... (More on P4)...(25)

Band-i-Amir: Number of Foreign Tourists Declines

BAMYAN CITY - Amid growing highway insecurity, the number of foreigners visiting ancient sites, including Band-i-Amir, in central Bamyan province has dwindled this year, an official said on Wednesday. Afghanistan's first National Park, Band-i-Amir has a series of six deep blue lakes



separated by natural dams made of travertine in the Hindu Kush mountains at approximately 3,000 metres of elevation, west of the famous Buddhas. One of the few rare natural lakes created by travertine systems, the site has been... (More on P4)...(28)

9 Dead, Dozens Wounded in Offensive, Drone Strike

JALALABAD/SHARAN - At least 14 militants have been killed and 18 others wounded in clearing operation and US drone strike in eastern Nangarhar and southeastern Paktika provinces, security officials said on Wednesday. A statement from the 201st Selab Military Corps said nine insurgents were perished and



18 others wounded during ongoing offensive in the Sherzad, Hisarak and Khogyani districts of Nangarhar province. Ten suspected militants and... (More on P4)...(26)

Gunmen Kill Leading Tribal Elder in Herat

HERAT CITY - Unidentified gunmen shot dead a leading tribal elder in western Herat province, an official said on Wednesday. Ihsanullah Hayat, the governor' spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News Haji Zarif was first kidnapped by unidenti-



fied gunmen when he was on his way home from a local mosque late Tuesday night. He further said the attackers managed to escape the area, after killing the tribal elder, but police has started investigations to nab the killers. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Curbing your enthusiasm sounds like a smart strategy today, but your excitement will probably overtake your common sense. Naturally, it's not wise to express everything you feel because some desires are better kept to yourself. You could stir up a hornet's nest if you broadcast your needs to everyone before reassessing the ramifications of your actions.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

It's highly tempting when an unexpected event offers you the good fortune to participate in a mind-blowing activity. However, you're still likely to honor previous commitments and exhibit some self-restraint. Thankfully, you should be able to play both sides of the game and embark on the adventure as long as it doesn't upset family dynamics at home.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Ironically, a fortuitous twist to today's events can add to your concerns about your future, but there's no need to worry if you remain flexible about your current plans. Although it might feel as if you are at an impasse, the transition you have been dreaming about could occur without much resistance now. Your life is on the upswing, even it's not unfolding according to your timetable.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your current fascination with being different reveals a surprising side of your personality. You may not be interested in the opinions of others now, so unsolicited advice won't have much impact on your current choices. This is the opportunity you've been anticipating; go ahead and act like the nonconformist you secretly want to be -- even if it's just for a day.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

If you can't be the leader of your pack, you'll likely want to leave it and head out on your own. In any event, the same old routine is not appealing to you as the willful Sun in your sign syncs up with rebellious Uranus. Be insistent about your independence if you want to shake things up. Fortunately, if you share your plans with those you trust, you might be pleasantly surprised by their support.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're wary of relying on others because you're afraid someone might do a disappearing act just as things get serious. Ultimately, the apparent instability of those around you may be a reflection of your unwillingness to participate in an unhealthy relationship. But you don't have to convince anyone to do your bidding now. It's your turn to star in your story instead of waiting for anyone else to steal the show.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Sticking to your schedule isn't so simple today because unforeseen events make it nearly impossible to carry on with your original plans. Nevertheless, there's no reason to be agitated by things you cannot control. Let a few lower-priority projects slip for a day or two. Putting the pieces back together in a more constructive manner will be easier once you break the routine.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Sometimes innovation requires hard work, yet inspiration seems to strike today without much effort on your part. Positive change is in the air, so stop trying to manage your life by worn-out rules. But your plans might fall apart if you assume a laissez-faire attitude. However, revising your playbook for the day gives you the edge you need.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

There is a wide gulf between your need for emotional security and your craving for a new adventure. Your plans are being stress-tested by an anything-goes trine from wild Uranus to the brilliant Sun in your 9th House of Big Ideas. Unfortunately, your overconfidence might entice you to gamble foolishly on something less important. Being a creative visionary is admirable, but not if you jeopardize your recent progress.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

A cosmic wake-up call rings through on all your digital devices, reminding you to include others in your latest plans as electric Uranus trines the Sun in your 8th House of Investments. Go ahead and reveal your best ideas with a possible partner. Someone who respects your integrity will see the positive potential in your thinking and will likely jump in to join your endeavors.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Somehow you can get away with the craziest of ideas today. In fact, you're quite skilled at taking an ingenious concept to a whole new level now. Your coworkers may urge you to put your thoughts into action, even if they want you to modify some details of your plan first. This is dangerous territory because accommodating someone else's concerns could actually weaken your strategy.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

The atmosphere is crackling with excitement and your life is buzzing with surprises; however, you might not be so amused with the current uncertainty. You have had your share of unexpected detours lately, and you're not looking for any more delays now. Luckily, your resiliency empowers you to improve your plan and achieve a successful launch. Be daring in your thinking and persistent in your execution.



Across
1. A neutral color, 5. Line of a poem, 10. Sun, 14. Indian music, 15. Gladden, 16. Ripped, 17. Nonsectarian, 19. Train track, 20. Spelling contest, 21. Equestrian, 22. Father, 23. Gist, 25. Nannies and billies, 27. G, 28. Diversified, 31. Exploded stars, 34. Labyrinths, 35. Mineral rock, 36. Matured, 37. Public transit vehicles, 38. Not a single one, 39. Implore, 40. Fathered, 41. Bottoms of shoes, 42. Legumes, 44. Letter after sigma, 45. Make fun of, 46. Informant, 50. Splines, 52. Spacious, 54. Animal doctor, 55. Square block, 56. Tableware, 58. Website addresses, 59. Drop to one's knees, 60. Border, 61. Encounter, 62. Woe, 63. Accomplishment.

Down
1. Diving bird, 2. Contests of speed, 3. Chills and fever, 4. Sweet potato, 5. City in Italy, 6. Leave out, 7. Dash, 8. Daydreamed, 9. Snake-like fish, 10. Layers, 11. An inedible mushroom, 12. Desiccated, 13. Depend, 18. Sea eagles, 22. Speaker's platform, 24. Quaint outburst, 26. Mining finds, 28. Flower jars, 29. Sea eagle, 31. Apprehends, 32. Curved molding, 33. "Animal, or mineral", 34. Slaying, 37. Life stories, 38. Person, place or thing, 40. Resorts, 41. Nymph chaser, 43. Hate, 44. At an opportune time, 46. Interlaced, 47. Avoid, 48. Twilled fabric, 49. Horse, 50. Pond gunk, 51. Attraction, 53. Margarine, 56. Calypso offshoot, 57. Married,

Yesterday's Solution
average, behind, bleak, block, chalk, cling, combination, confuse, damsel, direct, else, employ, error, focus, found, glance, history, horse, inept, lease, limit, maniac, mason, moan, oatmeal, otter, plane, quack, quick, rust, silk, state, sting, tern, think, triple, vanish.

