

# Infant and Maternal Mortality Rate on Rise in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - Doctors at Bost Hospital in the militancy-riddled southern Helmand province have said that ongoing conflict and security threats have had a significant impact on the health of pregnant women in the area, and that there has been a sharp increase in premature births.

Health specialists in Helmand have said that a surge in violence has resulted in the increase of premature babies and in an increase in the maternal mortality rate.

Doctors said a high number of babies born in the past few months have been born disabled or have been



stillborn. According to the hospital, 333 new born babies were still born or died soon after birth over the past two months - all were premature.

Meanwhile, a number of women have said they went into premature labor because of explosions and the use of heavy weapons around them.

Afghan security forces have been engaged in heavy clashes with the Taliban in the province over the past few months. Clashes have been ongoing on a number of fronts and in suburbs of the provincial capital Lashkargah.

"As much as the sounds created by war is loud, its negative impact on pregnant...(More on P4)...(10)

## Govt. Criticized for 'Silence' over Dostum-Eshchi Issue

KABUL - A number of analysts on Saturday criticized what they called the silence of government over the issue between the First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum and former Jawzjan governor Ahmad Eshchi.

Critics argued that the silence by government reveals the overshadowing of the law and the culture of bullying and waywardness in the country.

"It will definitely help to prevent such acts if government takes action against those who vio-

late the law," said Sayed Jawad Sajjadi, a legal affairs analyst.

"Gun and gun owners rule still continues in parts of Afghanistan and in some parts they overrun security agencies," said Saleh Mohammad Registani, a political analyst.

Meanwhile, Eshchi's family said the former governor will be transferred to Kabul at the first opportunity and then he would be set free.

"We have contacted the...(More on P4)...(11)

## Three Zabul Journalists Injured in Roadside Mine Blast

QALAT - At least journalists from Zabul province were wounded on Friday when their vehicle hit a roadside mine, officials confirmed.

Lal Jan Afghan, Qoudrat and Najib Pakhton from Rana Productions and Zabul Times, were wounded in the blast in Shahr-e Safa district. The journalists had been covering a security forces operation in the Shahr-e-Safa district and where on their way to a local school when their vehicle hit the IED.

Security forces transferred them to the district hospital, officials said.

Two of the journalists are reportedly in a stable condition but the third one is



critical. According to Lal Jan Afghan, from Rana Productions and head of Zabul Times, said they had been travelling to a local school, along with security forces. He said two security force vehicles had been travelling in front of them. When their vehicle passed the IED it

detonated, he said. Afghan said he thinks they had been the target as the two vehicles carrying the security forces passed the roadside mine without any problems.

Meanwhile Najib Pakhton, also from Zabul Times and Rana Productions, said that...(More on P4)...(12)

## Afghan Taliban Hang University Student in Public

Kabul Polytechnic university student was accused by the group of killing a senior Taliban official.

KABUL - Taliban fighters publicly hanged a university student after accusing him of killing a senior intelligence officer.

The militia took Faizul Rehman, a fourth-year student at Kabul Polytechnic university, from his car as he traveled home to visit his family in the Chak district of Maidan Wardak province, about 60km west of the capital Kabul on Thursday.

"They hanged him on Friday in front of [the] public. Local elders tried to mediate to release him, but they failed," Abdul Rehman Mangal, a spokesman for the governor of Maidan Wardak, told AFP news agency on Saturday.

"They accused him of killing Mullah Mirwais, the head of their intelligence in the area," he said. ...(More on P4)...(13)

## 99 Bags of Ammonium Nitride Seized in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - The military has confiscated 99 bags of ammonium nitride and arrested four persons in the connection with the seizure in eastern Nangarhar province.

Afghan National Army's 201st Selab Military Corps spokesman, Maj. Shireen Aqa Faqiri, told a press conference here ANA officials captured the 99 bags ammonium nitride in Shayikh-Misri locality of Sukhrud district.

He said every bag contained 50kg of ammonium nitride and total



weight of the fertilizer was 5950kg. The four detainees are under investigation and would be introduced to the judicial organs, Faqiri said, adding the Taliban used the banned agriculture input in making explosives. (Pajhwok)

## 5 Soldiers, 8 Taliban Militants Killed in Farah Battle

FARAH CITY - At least five Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and eight Taliban militants have been killed during a clash in western Farah province, an official said on Saturday.

Commander of 207th Zafar Military Corps Brig. Gen. Mir Asadullah Kohistani told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants attacked ANA checkpoints in the provincial capital and the fight continued for several hours late on Friday night. He said at least eight



militants and five ANA soldiers were killed and four military personnel and 13 fighters wounded in the incident in the Shamalgah locality of the city. Obaidullah, a resident of the area, said 13 ANA soldiers...(More on P4)...(14)

## 3 of a Family Killed, as Many Injured in Paktika Blast

SHARAN - Three members of a family were killed and as many injured in a roadside bombing in Gomal district of southeastern Paktika province on Saturday, the governor said.

Mohammad Ilyas Wahdat told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Amankhel locality and the dead included a woman.

He said the victims had gone to a mountainside for collecting firewood when they stepped on the hidden mine and caused it to explode. The governor accused militants of planting the bomb.

Saifullah, a resident of the area, confirmed the blast and said the victims belonged to the same family. (Pajhwok)

## Civilians Suffer Heavy Casualties in Afghan Forces, Taliban Clashes

KANDAHAR CITY - The civilians in southern Kandahar province suffered heavy casualties during a 4-day clash that ended on Thursday night.

According to the local government officials, the clashes took place in Nish district between the Afghan forces and the Taliban insurgents.

Provincial police spokesman Zia Duran said the Taliban insurgents were forced to leave the district after around 100 additional forces were deployed to the area. He said at least



29 Taliban insurgents were also killed during the clashes along with 4 policemen.

The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. This comes as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said late in October that the mission has documented 8,397 conflict-related civilian casualties (2,562 deaths and 5,835 injured) ...(More on P4)...(15)

### Outlook Horoscope

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

Your social interactions are infused with a strong sense of ethics today. A supportive sextile between your ruling planet, Mars, and unyielding Saturn gives you the courage to uphold your code of honor or help a friend in need. After your work is done, you may feel like shifting gears and engaging in stimulating discourse with friends as the Moon meanders into conceptual Aquarius. C.S. Lewis wrote.

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

Any incomplete business left over from the workweek should be fairly easy to conclude in a timely manner this morning. Serious Saturn lends a hand to ambitious Mars in your 10th House of Career, allowing you to execute your tasks efficiently. Fortunately, you're not in this alone as a friend will be there to support you if you need a little help.

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

Nothing gets your adrenaline pumping quite like a spirited discussion where each facet of a topic is explored. You have a propensity for getting your message across in a compelling way, and you might find yourself receiving an endorsement from a friend or partner that helps you drive the point home even more. Chances are that later in the day you'll be more interested in bouncing ideas around than building a flawless argument to test against someone else.

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

More often than not, what it really takes to resolve a conflict or bring something to completion is an act of service or sacrifice. That's exactly how it feels early in the day, when your willingness to do the work no matter the cost allows you to finally wrap up an issue whose time has come.

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

If you have any qualms about your relationship with your significant other, perhaps it's a good idea to simply do something fun together. You may be pleasantly surprised by how helpful it is to spend some stress-free time outdoors, or to share in an activity you both enjoy but haven't made the time for lately.

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

It's gratifying to see a list with all the boxes checked, and that's precisely what yours will look like at the end of the day. You're eager to knock out those household chores and in fact, with the strategic Capricorn Moon's presence in your 5th House of Playfulness, the tasks will feel more like a game than work. Once you've crossed everything off your to-do list, it's right on to making the next one.

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

It's prudent to manage any domestic affairs that need settling while you have the support of the committed Capricorn Moon. A sense of accomplishment in your creative life leads to satisfaction and puts you in the mood to enjoy the rest of your weekend. If all goes according to plan, you and your friends will be on the same page when it comes to having fun after the Moon shifts into your 5th House of Spontaneity later in the day.

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

Duty calls as you check your wallet today. Sorting out financial affairs isn't anyone's favorite cup of tea, but luckily, you have the support of pragmatic Saturn in your 2nd House of Finances. Don't procrastinate; organize your accounts and pay your bills before you phase completely into weekend mode.

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

If there's something you want to vocalize, there's a good chance you can step up and deliver your message with the trademark maturity of seasoned Saturn today. You're quite invested in whatever is near and dear to your heart and it's unlikely that you'll waste any energy beating around the bush. However, the mood changes when Luna moves into your 3rd House of Travel.

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

Receiving usually feels better than losing something but, paradoxically, that's not always the case. Sometimes the greatest gift is to let go of an item on your crowded plate. Evaluate how much space you're giving yourself to breathe between all the things you care about and eliminate anything that's cramping your style. Do what feels good today, even if your reasons aren't clear to others.

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

Your friends have your back today as you present your point of view with integrity. This energetic shift comes just in time if the world recently seemed to be marching on without you due to your low energy. Resolute Saturn strengthens action-hero Mars in your sign, accentuating your organizational skills and blessing you with much-needed stamina to complete whatever you start.

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

Although your friends are already bustling around with their weekend activities, you're not quite ready to join the party. Your mind is set on achieving your career goals or improving your social status as dynamic Mars supports steely Saturn in your 10th House of Public Persona. Whatever stirs you deep inside may provide just the fuel you need to drive you toward successful completion of a project.

**Across**

1. Strangely, 6. Apex, 10. Black, in poetry, 14. One of the Canterbury pilgrims, 15. Haul, 16. Quick note, 17. Log home, 18. Large, 19. Invigoration, 20. Exact opposite, 22. Permits, 23. Emanation, 24. Sleeping sickness carrier, 26. Shredded cabbage, 30. Directed, 31. Ambition, 32. Barbershop emblem, 33. Leg joint, 35. Looks with amazement, 39. Opposed, 41. Yellowish, 43. Mix together, 44. Not barefoot, 46. Greek letter, 47. Derisive laugh, 49. Half of a pair, 50. Actors in a show, 51. Drunk, in slang, 54. Cried, 56. Train track, 57. Ousted, 63. Doing nothing, 64. Pueblo ceremonial chamber, 65. Creepy, 66. D D D D, 67. Foment, 68. Abounds, 69. Terminates, 70. Not there, 71. Take as one's own.

**Down**

1. Killer whale, 2. University administrator, 3. Money owed, 4. 57 in Roman numerals, 5. Busybody, 6. Followers, 7. Campaign, 8. Wise men, 9. Excrements, 10. Symbolic, 11. Type of cap, 12. Leaves out, 13. Hangman's knot, 21. Wrecked ships, 25. Anagram of "Sing", 26. Unwanted email, 27. Balcony section, 28. Winglike, 29. Having no apparent gravitational pull, 34. Acquit, 36. Stop for a horse, 37. Sets of articles, 38. Leave in a hurry, 40. Tidy, 42. Expert, 45. Notwithstanding, 48. An oriental tobacco pipe, 51. and groom, 52. Burdened, 53. Lubricated, 55. 8th Greek letter, 58. Atmosphere, 59. Marsh plant, 60. Chocolate cookie, 61. Weakling, 62. Where a bird lives.

**Yesterday's Solution**

ahead, alter, behind, bless, brat, care, chapter, commit, count, dearth, development, entertain, every, except, extra, garage, great, haggle, hearth, honesty, hotel, mens, moth, mount, nurse, phone, record, smart, snit, stoke, support, tier, times, truth, trust.

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