

HRW Distressed Over Civilian Toll Amid Surge in Air Raids



KABUL - Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Monday raised deep concerns over the possible increase in the civilian casualties in Afghanistan amid the surge in the US air strikes on insurgents. Patricia Gossman, a senior researcher for HRW in

Afghanistan, said the reports relating the number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan is lacking transparency, adding that there is a need to investigate each one of the cases. "It's our concern that there is already an increase in

the air strikes. What we have seen is that the percentages of civilian casualties seem to be going up and among them more women and children are being killed which does indicate that there are civilians being hit," said Gossman.

Meanwhile, officials of the ministry of defense have said that the Afghan security forces are taking all possible measures to ensure the security and safety of the civilians during the counter-terrorism operations.

"Initially there was a lot of concern among the people that over forty or fifty civilians were killed. We announced this by quoting the people, but later the number of people killed, was reduced to nineteen," said Khosh Mohammad, member of Kunduz provincial council.

This comes few weeks after reports from the northeastern province of Kunduz said that several civilians had been killed in an air strike in a village in the province by the foreign forces.

"All commanders and personnel have been directed to ensure the safety of civilians," said MoD deputy spokesman Mohammad Radmanish.

Previously reports surfaced in media that the US had dropped over 3,000 bombs on the insurgents in Afghanistan since the start of the current year until the end of October, a figure which shows a visible increase in the number ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Stay Away from Afghan Conflict, ANP Asks Islamabad

PESHAWAR - A leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) says it wants Pakistan to stay away from the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

A leader of the Pakhtun nationalist party asked the government on Sunday to play a proactive role in restoring peace in the neighbouring country.

Asghar Khan Achakzai, ANP chief for Balochistan province, regretted Pakistani rulers and religious figures played different roles and pushed Afghanistan toward disaster.

Speaking at a condolence reference for Pakhtun nationalist lawyer Mama Azizullah Khan in Quetta, he linked peace in ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Favoritism Alleged in Aid to Khogyani IDPs



JALALABAD - Internally displaced families in the Khogyani district of eastern Nangarhar province have alleged favoritism and disorganization in aid distribution to them.

Some 10,000 families have been displaced in the district due to latest clashes between Taliban and Daesh rival factions.

The clashes erupted about two weeks ago, with thousands of families fleeing to Chamtali desert and other areas.

Some families have moved to the homes of their relatives but a majority of them have either built mud-made homes or erected tents for themselves.

One of them, Shukrullah, ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Ex-Senior Afghan General Jailed for Over 8 Years over Misuse of Authority



KABUL - A former top general in the ministry of interior of Afghanistan has been sentenced to jail for over 8 years on charges of misuse of authority.

The ex-commander of the public order police forces Gen. Zmarai Paikan appeared before the primary court of the anti-corruption justice center and was sentenced to jail on Sunday.

According to the court hearings, Gen. Paikan was found guilty of misuse of his authority while serving as the commander of the public order police forces.

He was also found guilty of negligence in a murder case involving his son who was also serving in the ranks of the public ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Barmal Elders Reopen School to Stop Pupils Crossing Into Pakistan

SHARANA - Tribal elders have reconstructed and reopened a school in Barmal district of southeastern Paktia province for students who attend classes in neighboring Pakistan.

A tribal elder in the district, Sidiqullah, on Monday told Pajhwok Afghan News that over the past eight years, students residing along the border had been going to Pakistani schools for education.

"We reconstructed the school which was destroyed by Pakistani paramilitary forces to provide



these children the opportunity to learn here instead of going across the border."

Meanwhile, another tribal elder in the district, Mubariz Khan, while confirming the matter, said dozens of students now attended the Kamal Border School.

A student of the school, Bakht Mohammad, ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Daesh Rebels Steel Desks, Chairs from Jawzjan School



SHIBERGHAN - Gunmen loyal to so-called Islamic State (IS) or Daesh have stolen desks and chairs from the High School in Darz Ab district of northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Monday.

The governor's spokesman, Mohammad Raza Ghafoori, told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents whisked away the school equipment taking advantage of fog.

"The local residents came to know about the stealing this morning and they informed the district centre. Daesh rebels did not cause damage to the school building and only took away the desks and chairs," he added.

Darz Ab district chief Baz

Mohammad Dawar said the school was situated in Awlad village. Earlier Daesh rebels had torched a girls school in the area.

Education Director Abdul Hai Yashin said: "Forty-two schools have been closed in Darz Ab due to threats posed by insurgents. The Education Ministry has been informed about the situation and Daesh activity," he said. Yashin said Daesh insurgents could do anything they want in areas under their control and local authorities were unable to stop them.

Taliban insurgents hold sway largely in Darz Ab and Qush Tepa districts of Jawzjan. (Pajhwok)

Saffron Cultivation Increases in Kabul

KABUL - Saffron Flower exhibition was launched in capital Kabul on Monday, amid increased cultivation of the lucrative plant in the central province this year.

Omar Jan Mangal, Agriculture and Livestock director for Kabul province, while addressing a gathering here, said the saffron flower festival was aimed at expressing economic and social support to farmers and highlighting economic development of the country.

He said last year saffron was cultivated on 19.5 acres of land in Kabul,



but this year 3.5 acres more land was sown with the plant. Mangal said during the current year, 23 acres of land produced 12 kilograms of saffron, showing an increase over last year's yield. There was no exact figure about ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You're not interested in casual conversations just for the sake of being social today. Thankfully, you have much to gain from a day of reflection if you shift your focus from your head to your heart. What others think about your temporary unavailability is not your concern. Your time alone is an investment in your emotional wellbeing.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus Ironically, losing yourself in a daydream can be a group project today as ideas are passed back and forth among your friends. The energy of shared emotions is amplified as each person adds his or her perspective to the mix. It's hard to cling to your individual story because you weave such a convincing tale together.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini You can justify your unusual behavior today by sharing your feelings. However, you're more likely to remain uncharacteristically quiet to keep your secrets from being exposed. Nevertheless, you have more support now than you realize, and there may not be a better time to take a leap of faith and start a conversation. Your courage might create ripples you can't imagine.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer You may gain the respect of others today when you demonstrate your emotional self-sufficiency. Although you might enjoy the comfort of a familiar relationship, you need extra space to process your intense feelings now. Your current behavior sends mixed messages to those closest to you who misinterpret your retreat as a rejection.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo Verbalizing your fantasies is nearly impossible today, and you could frustrate yourself trying. In fact, sometimes sharing a dream prematurely can weaken its further development. There is a time and place for everything; paying attention to the signs makes all the difference in the world.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo You can visualize a future that exceeds all your expectations. Unfortunately, you don't know how you're going to reach your desired destination. Thankfully, you possess the good sense to procure a map, so you don't end up on a journey to nowhere. But your refined analytical skills that usually come to your rescue are nowhere to be found today and even reading directions won't come easily.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra You want to take care of everyone at work today, but may grow resentful if they don't acknowledge your support. You are a bit fuzzy about your boundaries and you might commit to more than you can actually deliver. Don't let even the tiniest ambiguity slip by without clarification. Prevent the need to apologize down the road by being a better communicator now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio Your optimism is reinforced by your interactions with others today as they encourage you to follow your dreams. But you're afraid to move forward because you feel as if you haven't uncovered all the information that is vital to your project. Thankfully, you can easily convince everyone you're an expert who has everything under control. You won't miss anything as long as you focus on the big picture.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius You long for a real human connection today, built upon shared dreams and common interests. Taking a risk and revealing your hopes isn't as easy as it sounds now, especially if the other person isn't interested in a heart-to-heart conversation. If there's no one who fits the bill for a meaningful exchange now, don't settle for second best. British actor Nigel Harman wrote, "You've got to aim high and see where you land."

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You are sure that someone isn't telling you everything you need to know today. However, you must make a decision about a relationship, even if you don't have all the information. You might utilize all your favorite tricks to get people talking, but your words could fall on deaf ears. The harder you try, the more self-protected everyone else becomes.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius You're committed to improving your life these days, but don't know where to begin. It makes sense to start small, inventory your assets, and create a concrete plan to reach your goals. Fortunately, little steps can lead you on a journey of epic proportions. But even before you embark, you must take time to put together your dream team that will ultimately ensure your success.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You can tell that something has shifted, but you can't tell exactly what it is. Nevertheless, you're eager to capitalize on this propitious moment once you realize what is actually being offered by the cosmos. It's as if the heavens suddenly give you the approval you've been waiting for. However, it's still up to you to overcome your personal inertia and initiate decisive action.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65.

Across: 1. "Smallest" particle, 5. Belonging to a duke, 10. Imperfection, 14. Gray wolf, 15. Bouquet, 16. Tropical American wildcat, 17. Electrical or crossword, 18. Sequestered, 20. Creative persons, 22. Sports competitor, 23. Travel through the air, 24. S S S S, 25. Social scientist, 32. Salad oil holder, 33. Columbus's birthplace, 34. Possessed, 37. Breezed through, 38. Ink blemishes, 39. Part of the outer ear, 40. Little bit, 41. Soft leather, 42. Mature, 43. In a forceful manner, 45. Shoemaker's awl, 49. Frozen water, 50. Wash, 53. Type of alcohol, 57. Deductive, 59. Cook in an oven, 60. Central area of a church, 61. Split, 62. Former Italian currency, 63. Weight loss plan, 64. Carved, 65. Dash.

Down: 1. Seaweed, 2. Unit of pressure, 3. Death notice, 4. Altered, 5. A finger or toe, 6. Website addresses, 7. Loving murmur, 8. Dogfish, 9. Not first, 10. Experiences, 11. Harps, 12. Mountain crest, 13. Walks through water, 19. 8th Greek letter, 21. Notch, 25. Leave in a hurry, 26. Killer whale, 27. Prompted, 28. Leers, 29. Crystal-lined rock, 30. ___ alia, 31. Mayday, 34. Expect and wish, 35. Cain's brother, 36. Declare untrue, 38. Passenger vehicle, 39. Habitable, 41. Light-haired, 42. Wealthy, 44. Belonging to the peerage, 45. African antelope, 46. Hawaiian veranda, 47. Debonair, 48. Arm of the sea, 51. Carve in stone, 52. Anger, 53. Overhang, 54. Found on a finger, 55. Gumbo, 56. Low-fat, 58. Bovine, birdbrain, burl, capital clams, cotton, derivatives, desperate, doubt extreme, follow, food, forthright, freeze, goal grant, hedge, insane, invest, liberal, lode, martial, opening, orbit paper, patent

Yesterday's Solution: M A R T I A L B Z S S X L, T S E V N I N P U C Y O A, D G T K N A A O H R D R R, E N T S C T R E T E L B E, S I A H E O M G O T W I B, P N P N G E T E O T O T I, E E T I I R S M A L C L, R P V X W V R A S H L E E, A O A E G D E H H S O Z D, T C A P I T A L T S F E O, E X T R E M E P W R O E U, B I R D B R A I N N O R B, S E V I T A V I R E D F T