

Govt. Urged to Restart Mazar Silo and Bakery

KABUL - Workers from the Mazar-e-Sharif Silo and Bakery have called on government to restart operations after it was shut down recently. Closure of operations led to at least 200 people losing their jobs at the grain reserve and bakery in the northern Balkh, officials said Saturday. Head of the silo Mohammad Sadeq Saba said the president has promised to reactivate the bakery at the silo, which he says has now been rented out to a private company. "Currently we do not have products from the silo; what we do



is only the maintenance of the machinery here," he said. He said the bakery at the silo is also not operational and has been rented out to a private company at 118,000 Afghanis per month.

The Mazar-e-Sharif Silo was built in 1984 by the then Soviet Union. At the time, the bakery was able to produce 25,000 pieces of bread every 24 hours - and employed 170 people. The silo itself has the capacity to store 40,000 tons of wheat but currently stands empty. Saba meanwhile said workers hope to purchase at least 11,000 tons of wheat from farmers and store it in the silo in order to use when needed. Meanwhile, a number of workers at the silo blame government for not... (More on P4)...(13)

NDS Prevents Suicide Attack in Baghlan

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) has prevented the occurrence of a suicide attack in northern Baghlan province. A statement released by NDS on Saturday states that they have arrested a would-be suicide bomber from Du Saraka area of Pul-i-... (More on P4)...(14)

Taliban 'Brutally' Kill Young Man in Ghor

KABUL - A 20-year-old boy has been brutally killed by the Taliban in western Ghor province, officials said Saturday. District chief for DawlatYar district Sayed Zia Hussaini told TOLONews that the boy's name was Ahmad and he was newly engaged. He said the boy was on the way to his fiancé's house when he was kidnapped by the Taliban and that he was brutally killed by them after being allegedly tortured for a week. No further details were available and the Taliban has not commented. (Tolonews)

One Killed, 3 Police Injured in Car Bombing



LASHKAR GAH - One attacker was killed while three Afghan police personnel wounded in a suicide car bombing in Afghan southern province of Helmand on Saturday, police said.

"The blast took place in Gereshk district at around midday. The bomber attacked the convoy of Gereshk police chief Mohammad Ismail. The police chief escaped the blast unhurt but three policemen escorting him sustained injuries in the blast," Shah Mahmood Ashina, provincial police spokesman, told Xinhua. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment in the district, the source said. The Taliban militant group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban has intensified attacks over the past months as the militant group tries to take territory and consolidate its positions ahead of winter in the country. Helmand, notorious for poppy growing, is also a Taliban stronghold. (Xinhua)

1 Killed as Faryab Governor Escapes Taliban Ambush

MIAMANA - The provincial governor for northern Faryab province, Syed Anwar Sadat, escaped unhurt from a Taliban ambush on Saturday evening. The incident took place around 4:45 pm local time after Mr. Sadat was returning to the provincial capital following the inauguration of housing projects in Andkhoy district. An official privy of the development said a security guard of Mr. Sadat was killed following the attack. Mr. Sadat attended a ceremony for

the inauguration of housing projects for teachers and disabled individuals (Shahrak-e-Mualimeen / Shahrak-e-Mualileen) in Qaramqool area of Andkhoy. The Minister of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA) Syed Sadat Mansoor Naderi was also present during the inauguration of the housing project. Faryab is among the relatively volatile provinces in northern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating and frequently



carry out insurgency activities. Several Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were captured a Moldovan pilot was killed after a helicopter made emergency landing in Pashtun Kot district of Faryab province last month. (KP)

Afghan Forces Detain would-be Suicide Bomber, Foil Terror Attack

KABUL - Afghan security forces have captured a would-be suicide bomber in the northern province of Baghlan, the National Directorate for Security (NDS) said on Saturday. "A would-be suicide bomber named Manaj has been detained after personnel of NDS carried out a special operation in Pul-e-Khumri city, capital of Baghlan province," the intelligence agency confirmed in a statement. One explosive vest, two mobile phones and a station wagon vehicle were seized during the operation, the statement said, without revealing the exact date

of the raid. "The captive tried to conduct a suicide attack in a crowded area of the city," it said. The statement added that the timely arrest of the man has foiled a major terror attack and saved the city, some 160 km north of the Afghan capital, from an expected tragedy. The Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants recently as the Taliban militant group has been attempting to take territory and consolidate its positions ahead of winter in the Central Asian country. (Xinhua)

Taliban Kill 3 Civilians in Jawzjan

JAWZJAN - Taliban militants have killed three civilians who had stood up against insurgency in northwestern Jawzjan province, officials said Saturday. Colonel Abdul Hafiz Khashi, Jawzjan's police chief said the incident took place in Kulkoldash area of Faizabad District on Friday night. He added that the assailants came on a motorcycle and fled the area after killing three young men in front of a shop. Taliban have claimed



responsibility for the attack. Jawzjan was one of the comparatively secured provinces in the northwestern part of the country but its security situation has been deteriorating most recently. Taliban have ramped up their activities in Jawzjan which has prompted armed-mobilization against them in parts of the province. (KP)



Men work at a coal market in Herat province on Saturday December 19, 2015. Afghans are preparing heating materials for the upcoming winter in the mountainous country. (Xinhua/Sardar Karimi)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your words are packed with so much punch today that the powerful effect they have on people may surprise you. It's difficult to step out of your own shoes to experience how you come across to others, but the truth is you might not like what you would hear. There's no reason to speak condescendingly or to be purposefully abrasive; you can deliver your point without making an enemy.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might wake up believing you are in possession of the ultimate solution to save the world, but you can't seem to get anyone to listen. The perceptive Mercury-Pluto conjunction intensifies your 9th House of Higher Thought, luring you to join like-minded people in a fight for a higher cause. But even if you think the momentum is growing.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You don't have the time or energy to engage in lighthearted chit-chat today. Although you're often seen as the life of the party, there isn't a valid reason to provide the comic relief when you're currently wrestling with more serious matters. However, your position on an issue may not be as set in stone as you believe, and you won't win any friends by sidestepping an uncomfortable discussion.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Making loud claims about your flexibility now is not the same as actually remaining open to changes in your environment. The problem is that it takes two to tango and not everyone is in the mood to dance. By the same token, someone else's rigidity is outside of your direct control. Nevertheless, you might be so stuck on a specific destination.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You are excited about all the creative endeavors in front of you today. However, reality closes in pretty quickly and reminds you of the commitments you already made for the weekend. You cannot escape your chores while your 6th House of Work and Service is under siege by a ruthless Mercury-Pluto conjunction. Some struggles are just not worth it.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Clear your calendar of all distractions today - even for a short while. A pragmatic approach to an artistic project may bring you to the edge of a breakthrough in your work, but only if you give it enough time. There is a delicate dance between personal expression and your awareness of other people's needs. Moving too far in either direction has negative consequences so be prepared to take an extra minute or two to temper your actions.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

People mean well today, but their unpredictable behavior is enough to drive you crazy. You want to rely on the stability of your environment, but things continue to change, nonetheless. Stop trying to fix things that are not yours to fix. As sages throughout history have told us: the outside is merely a reflection of the inner realms. When you blame someone else, you're also inadvertently blaming yourself.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

No matter how hard you try, you can't stick to your schedule today because nothing seems to be happening on time. It might even feel as if the cosmos has thrown a little chaos into your day just to keep you on your toes. You could obsess about the way things were supposed to go, but lingering over your regrets doesn't lead anywhere constructive.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You are standing at a critical intersection and must rely on your core values to make a significant decision today. Thankfully, you possess the staying power to get the job done while the single-minded Mercury-Pluto conjunction falls in your 2nd House of Self-Worth. Unfortunately, it might be necessary to sacrifice a bit of spontaneity in order to handle your current dilemma.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You are working with a personal agenda today and woe to anyone who stands between you and your mission. Thankfully, no one can win an argument with you since your facts are in order and your delivery is strong. It's almost as if you possess superpowers while Messenger Mercury aligns with unrelenting Pluto in your 1st House of Self. Your persuasive words are backed up by your authoritative manner.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You prefer to downplay your point of view today so you don't have to defend it in public. But your strategy might backfire if you grow resentful of others who impose their beliefs on you. Even simple family dynamics could become complicated if you reach the point where you need to step back in to reassert your control. Fortunately, you can prevent a worse-case scenario from developing.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You want to establish a secure place in your social network and will do nearly anything to make sure you're not left out of the action. Unfortunately, you might be so eager to be included now that you sacrifice your integrity along the way. Reassess your values and decide your limits before you make another move. There are beliefs that shouldn't be denied just for the sake of acceptance by your peers.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Across: 1. Eyeglasses, 6. Mimics, 10. Grave, 14. Afresh, 15. Gala, 16. Component of urine, 17. Territories, 18. Wear away by rubbing, 19. Spar, 20. Meaningful, 22. A D-Day beach, 23. Brownish purple, 24. If not, 26. Anagram of "Star", 30. And so forth, 31. Drunkard, 32. Not warm, 33. Chickadees, 35. Not inner, 39. A member of the Cosa Nostra, 41. A car on a freight train, 43. Blow up, 44. Egghead, 46. Constellation bear, 47. Female sib, 49. Prefix meaning "Modern", 50. Stair, 51. Draw, 54. Frolic, 56. Don, 57. Nutritious, 63. Blind (poker), 64. Wander, 65. Lofty nest, 66. Bright thought, 67. Always, 68. Genus of heath, 69. Standard, 70. Lairs, 71. Deposits of ore.
Down: 1. Break, 2. South American country, 3. Pitcher, 4. Applaud, 5. Sysadmin, 6. Tenderness, 7. Flawless, 8. Brother of Jacob, 9. Phonograph needle, 10. Turbulent, 11. Give a speech, 12. Plateaux, 13. Tubs, 21. Hard fats, 25. Newbie (slang), 26. Crest, 27. Lion sound, 28. Curdled soybean milk, 29. Backwash, 34. Screechers, 36. Legal wrong, 37. Being, 38. Harvest, 40. Ear-related, 42. Love intensely, 45. Invigorate, 48. Distributed equally, 51. Boyfriend (archaic), 52. Japanese stick fighting, 53. Consumer of food, 55. Drop to one's knees, 58. Great affection, 59. Apprentice, 60. Desiccated, 61. Type of cereal grass, 62. Not nays.

Yesterday's Solution: almost, ancient, cancel, cane, carry, constantly, cute, every, incidence, lonely, main, maybe, meter, mumble, national, neon, other, past, patch, pieces, place, proven, search, shake, sponsor, stylist, system, then, there, thrown, tough.

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