

Ambassador Mohib Meets Atlantic Council Members

KABUL - The Afghan ambassador to the United States has met senior Atlantic Council officials on the situation in Afghanistan and Donald Trump's team. "I provided an overview of the current political and security landscape in Afghanistan and the region," Hamdullah Mohib said in a statement after the meeting. The diplomat also told Atlantic Council Executive Vice President Damon M. Wilson, and Director of South Asia Bharath Gopalaswamy how the US could play a constructive role in resolving outstanding issues in the region.



"I also highlighted the progress in certain areas in Afghanistan as well as challenges that the government is resolved to address for stability and development," he added. The Atlantic Council called Afghanistan an ally and pledged playing a crucial role in important policy debates about the region. The Council members said they had already planned to organize events on South Asia and invite ambassadors of certain countries and experts to discuss major policy areas. (Pajhwok)

Car Accident Left Zabol Journalist Paralyzed



KABUL - Journalists in the province on Friday called on other journalists and institutions supporting journalists to help Wissa. Matiullah Wissa, a journalist employed by Shaikh Mati radio station in Zabol province, sustained serious head injuries in a car crash last month and has been left paralyzed. Wissa had been on his way to Shahr-e Safa district to cover a story when the accident occurred. According to colleagues of Wissa, the car rolled after he lost control. They say Wissa has not only been paralyzed but it also now deaf and cannot speak. "Media institutions and other organizations have not helped him with treatment," said Ahmad Faizan, a local reporter in Zabol. "Wissas was a good colleague to us," said Rafiq Hoodman, another reporter in the province. Wissa is 18 years old and was the sole breadwinner of his family. His father died a few years ago and he has had to support his family. His two younger brothers are still in school. "My brother's situation is not good and I hope that government or other institutions send him abroad to be treated," said Noorullah, brother of Wissa. Journalists in the province on Friday called on other journalists and institutions supporting journalists to help Wissa. "Wissas family's financial situation is not good and he has not yet recovered. No government or ... (More on P4)...(19)

18 Insurgents Eliminated in Security Operations: MoD

KABUL - Eighteen militants have been killed and 16 more wounded during security operations in different provinces, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Friday. The insurgent casualties happened during offensives in Nangarhar, Nuristan, Ghazni, Paktika, Uruzgan, Zabol Faryab, Kunduz and Helmand provinces over the past 24 hours. A statement from MoD said a militant commander was among the injured. A suspected fighter was detained with an explosives-packed vehicle in Hel-



mand. Elsewhere Taliban security official Mohibullah Kohdamani was killed as security forces ambushed his group in Baghlan province on Friday. Xinhua quoted local security official Mohibullah Kohdamani as saying: "Acting upon an intelligence report, ... (More on P4)...(15)

Suicide Jackets, Explosives Seized in Kabul

KABUL - Intelligence agents have found a depot of arms, landmines, suicide jackets and other explosives in the seventh police district of Kabul, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said on Thursday. Three suicide jackets prepared for bomb attacks were defused by experts, a statement from the spy network said. Six hand grenades, 15 bags of explosives, two remote controls, eight remote boxes, bullets and a mobile phone were recovered from a briefcase during a raid. Terrorists wanted to use the weapons and explosives for suicide attacks, the statement read, claiming a possible loss of precious lives had been prevented. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Key Commander Killed

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Taliban key commander Mullah Sibghatullah has been killed as security forces ambushed his group in Baghlan province on Friday, security official Mohibullah Kohdamani said. "Acting upon intelligence report, the security forces organized ambush early Friday in Baghlan Markazi district of Baghlan province as a result Taliban important commander Mullah Sibghatullah was killed and his men fled away," Kohdamani told Xinhua. Sibghatullah was involved in organizing terrorist activities over the past few years in Baghlan-e-Markazi district and adjoining areas and his physical elimination could prove a major blow to the insurgents operating in Baghlan province. Taliban militants have not commented. Meantime, army spokesman in the northern region Abdul ... (More on P4)...(18)

Azra Road Emerges Main Drug Smuggling Route

PUL-I-ALAM -The Azra road in central Logar province has turned into a major drug smuggling route, creating security problems for the town's residents, local officials say. Hameedullah Hameed, the district's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the road was being used as a drug-trafficking route over the past few years. "Smugglers, using the route for trafficking drugs to other provinces, have been paying



money to the government's armed opponents," the district chief alleged. He said the militants were fuelling insecurity in the district to let the smugglers continue with their illegal activity. Drugs from Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan, Badakhshan and ... (More on P4)...(16)

Fabrics Company Starts Functioning in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - A textile fabrics manufacturing company "Afghan Tailoring" on Thursday started functioning in eastern Nangarhar province. Mohammad Hassan Mohsin, the company head, told the opening company said he started the business with an initial investment of five million afghanis. He said 30 people had already been employed and their number and the amount of investment would be increased in future. Mohsin said his ... (More on P4)...(17)

Taliban Set Free Abducted Athletes in Wardak

KABUL - Local officials on Thursday said Taliban militants released athletes they had kidnapped in central Maidan Wardak province. Governor's spokesman, Abdur Rahman Mangal, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban abducted nine sportsmen from a car on the Jalriz district road Tuesday last. He said three of the abductees were released the same day and six others were freed after local elders' mediation on Wednesday. The sportsmen



were released without any deal, he said, adding the men had joined their families. An official, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok the athletes ... (More on P4)...(20)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

With one foot in a world of righteous rules and one foot leading you to a radical new concept of self, there is a delicate balance between what you used to think and who you are becoming. The nearly inaudible rumble of change in the atmosphere may drive you to reflect on issues of power and control lurking beneath the surface. There's no need to isolate yourself.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Often change is good for stirring up the energy, but it still can be uncomfortable while it is occurring. The deep cosmic shift you sense drives you to seek emotional intimacy while the Moon travels through your 7th House of Partners, activating intense interactions and heart-tugging connections. Despite the deep undercurrent today, the holiday cheer is like a bright light in the dimness of winter.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Happily, the tension between a new group of friends and your long-established social network is temporarily alleviated. Your optimism seems to twinkle through the rush of the day at just the right times. However, the Moon moves into melancholy Scorpio and your 6th House of Daily Routine, so don't ignore any sniffles or headaches today. Put your body first even though there are many more exciting attractions calling out for your attention.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Emotions run high as you do your best to adapt to changing demands in a blink of an eye. The Moon slips into fellow water sign Scorpio today, heightening the intensity with which you express your feelings. Fortunately, the tenuous balance between your previous priorities and your current goals triggers unlikely inspiration and the determination to take your ideas to the next level.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You possess the surprising ability to incorporate tried-and-true methods of expressing yourself with a blast of unconventional thinking today. Your tendency to talk big may work in your favor as you frame your message with a creative twist. However, the Moon swims into secretive Scorpio and your 4th House of Home and Hearth.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

There are times to tear down your old psychological foundations and times to build something new, but today there is space for both. You are passionate about an innovative approach to saving or earning money while a fortunate Sun-Jupiter connection inspires you to grow your wealth. However, you may be single-minded now, so make sure you don't come across as overly fanatical in your communications with others.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Ironically, your possessions may begin to possess you today when the obsessive Scorpio Moon casts her light into your 2nd House of Material Things. It could be easier to get what you want now, but you still must choose your words and actions with integrity. The cosmos gives the gift of balance between your typical ways of communicating and a fresh new slant on how you interact with others.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

A creative insight may come seemingly out of nowhere today, prompting you to see yourself in a whole new fashion. As you stop to reconsider where you stand, you're able to acknowledge your old value systems while seeking an innovative new method of working for what you want.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Although you move through the day with your characteristic exuberance, on the inside you may be longing to retreat into the sanctuary of your own mind. The Moon's shift into brooding Scorpio activates your 12th House of Secrets, which could provoke dark thoughts and feelings. Thankfully, you can count on your friends to lift you up and out of your own shadows with the cosmic assistance of a cheery Sun-Jupiter connection.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

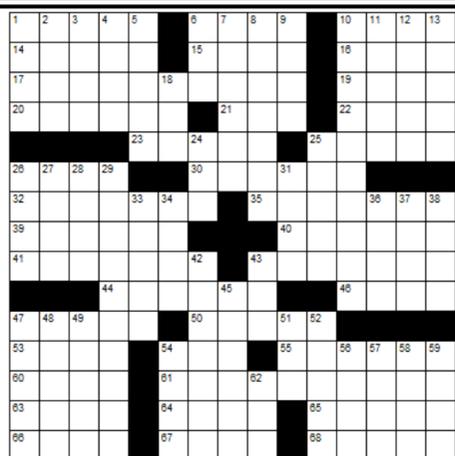
You may feel possessive of your friends today, and even a little jealous if they are busy with plans that don't include you. However, people are just trying to uphold their social obligations now and it's unwise to take their preoccupation personally. When you stop to think about it, you recognize the transitory nature of the world at large and are prepared to overhaul your psyche to match the external changes.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

There is a subtle but persistent hum in the background that's a harbinger of imminent social change. However, more immediate circumstances draw your attention to managing personal issues in the here and now. The Moon enters ruthless Scorpio and your 10th House of Status, magnifying your desire to be on top. Although your ambitions drive you to reach great heights.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Although you are busy attending social events and spreading holiday cheer, there's a sneaking suspicion in the back of your mind that something isn't quite right. The Moon's shift into leery Scorpio might raise fears of deception or betrayal. In fact, paranoia could hijack your fun festivities if you give it your permission. Luckily, a trusted friend holds the key to helping you view things in a totally different manner.



Across
1. Stave, 6. Throat-clearing sound, 10. Small freshwater fish, 14. Show respect towards, 15. Mentally irregular (slang), 16. Prima donna problems, 17. Offensive, 19. Kick, 20. Lethargic, 21. Make lace, 22. Start over, 23. Implant, 25. Fable writer, 26. Naval jail, 30. Arousing, 32. Hearable, 5. Emit, 39. Mountain range, 40. Scanty, 41. Subjugate, 43. A cowboy movie, 44. Groom-to-be, 46. Feudal worker, 47. Fruit of the oak tree, 50. Dining room furniture, 53. Short skirt, 54. Be victorious, 55. Large lizard, 60. French cheese, 61. Inadvertent, 63. Computer symbol, 64. Bucks and does, 65. Put one's foot down, 66. Care for, 67. Doing nothing, 68. Volumes.
Down
1. Not barefoot, . See the sights, 3. Stake, 4. Ancient marketplaces, 5. Found around a painting, 6. Beer, 7. Automobile horn, 8. S. American country, 9. The bulk, 10. Devalue, 11. Chills and fever, 12. Condominium, 13. Prevent legally, 18. Athletic facility, 24. Spelling contest, 25. Assistants, 26. Headquarters, 27. Wreckage, 28. Midmonth date, 29. Romantic female friend, 31. Docile, 33. Genius, 34. Magma, 36. Anagram of "Sage", 37. Small slender gull, 38. Sea eagle, 42. Inveigled, 43. A spider spins this, 45. Declare null and void, 47. Extent, 48. "Odyssey" sorceress, 49. Scallion, 51. Cover, 52. Excrete, 54. Dry riverbed, 56. "Do ___ others...", 57. "Smallest" particle, 58. What a person is called, 59. Austrian peaks.

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

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