

Heavy Snowfall Closes Salang Pass for Traffic Again

CHARIKAR - The key Salang Pass situated in central Parwan province and connecting the capital Kabul with northern provinces of the country has been blocked for traffic due to heavy snowfall and snowstorm, an official said on Friday. Gen. Rajab, the safety and security in-charge of Salang Pass, told Pajhwok Afghan news the strategic Salang Pass had been closed from Thursday evening and may remain closed for 72 hours. He said all kind of vehicles had



been stopped at the Malkhan and Khenjan areas of Baghlan and Tajekan district of Parwan. He said his department was prepared to deal with unfortunate incidents or avalanches. According to the latest information he said 75 cm snow had been fallen in the northern Salang and 85 cm snow had fallen in the southern Salang. He said the pass would not be opened for traffic until the safety and security of vehicle and road was not ensured. (Pajhwok)

Policemen Among 8 Dead in Uruzgan Clash



TARINKOT - Two policemen and six Taliban have been killed during a clash in central Uruzgan province, an official said on Friday. 2nd Lt. Zainullah, senior police officer, said the clash took place Thursday night in Solai area of Tarinkot, the provincial capital.

He said 12 Taliban and three policemen had been wounded in the overnight clash which continued for hours. The injured policemen had been transferred to the hospital for treatment. Taliban have not yet commented about the clash. (Pajhwok)

Policeman Among 34 Dead in Clash, Drone Strikes

JALALABAD - One policeman and 33 Daesh rebels have been killed in an overnight clash and US drone strikes in the Kot, Haska Mena and Achine districts of eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Friday. Police Chief Brig. Gen. Syed Gul Aqa Rohani told Pajhwok Afghan News militants attacked local police check-post in Khaksar locality at around 3:00am last night. The attack he said was

repulsed effectively and heavy losses inflicted on the rebels. Kot district Chief Haji Syed Rahman could not be reached for comments despite multiple efforts made by Pajhwok reporter. Security personnel in Kot, who wished to go unnamed, said five policemen have been killed as many wounded and over 20 Daesh rebels eliminated in the last night clash. The clash erupted after



rebels attacked security check-posts. Daesh rebels have not commented about the overnight clash. Separately, 21 Daesh rebels have been killed and six others wounded in US ... (More on P4)...(12)

Afghan Forces Kill 18 Militants in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - At least 18 Taliban militants have been killed and several others injured as clash for the control of Sangin district in the southern Helmand province has been continuing, a security official said Friday. Afghan forces backed by fighting aircrafts launched major offensive to evict militants from the key district Sangin, have also destroyed five hideouts of the Taliban outfit over the past couple of days, said



the official who wanted to go unnamed. "Taliban notorious commander Mullah Furqani is also among those killed in the crackdown. Taliban militants who have been fighting

to overrun Sangin district and exert pressure on provincial capital Lashkar Gah, a key town in the western region, are yet to make comment on the situation. (Xinhua)

Gunman Kills Cleric and His Wife

KABUL - An Afghan official says an unknown gunman has fatally shot a cleric and his wife in the country's eastern Paktika province. Mohammad Alias Wahdat, provincial governor, said Friday the incident happened Thursday night in the Yusuf Khail district. Wahdat said the gunman entered the house and shot the cleric and his wife. Two of their children who were in the house survived. Police investigating say it's not clear who was behind the attack and no one immediately claimed responsibility. Meanwhile, Gul Agha Roohani, chief of police in eastern Nangarhar province, said Islamic State group militants stormed the security posts in the district of Kot early Friday, killing at least one police officer. He said 12 militants were killed by Afghan security forces. (AP)

Police Officer Killed in Kunduz

KUNDUZ - A police officer has been killed in the northern Kunduz province in Afghanistan, a local security official said Friday. Unknown armed men sprayed bullets on Abdul Wadood, local police commander, outside provincial capital the Kunduz city Thursday night, killing him on the spot, said Abdul Khalil, the security official. Zabihullah Majahid, a spokesperson for the Taliban ... (More on P4)...(13)

2 People Killed, 1 Missing in Bamyan Heavy Snowfall

BAMYAN CITY - Two people have been killed, as many wounded and one went missing due to heavy snowfall and snowstorm in the Yakawalang district of central Bamyan province, an official said on Friday. "These people were traveling from one village to another in Zarena area when trapped in snowstorm," said Abdul Rahman Ahmadi, the governor's spokesman. He said 23 ... (More on P4)...(14)

Laghman Clash Leaves 3 Policemen Hurt

MEHTERLAM - Three Taliban, including group leader, and as many policemen have been wounded during a clash in eastern Laghman province, a statement from the governor house said on Friday. The clash took place Thursday night in Shaheed Baba and Basram localities of Alingar district, the statement said. Taliban group leader Noor Rahman was among the injured rebels, according to the state-



ment. It added three policemen injured in the fire fight had been evacuated to the hospital. Alingar is among the in-

Children Direct Traffic on Mountain Pass for \$4 a Day

KABUL - On a mountain pass outside of capital Kabul, trucks barreling down the highway slow down when 11-year-old Sedaqat waves his homemade sign to warn of a hairpin turn. He spends the entire day out in the bitter cold, working as a volunteer traffic warden on a treacherous bend in the road and accepting tips from grateful drivers. On a good day he'll make the equivalent of \$4, which he'll use to support his family. Sedaqat, who like many Afghans has only one

name, is one of several children who make money as volunteer traffic wardens on the Maipur Pass, along the main highway from the capital, Kabul, to Pakistan. The highway cutting through the jagged peaks is clogged with overloaded trucks, busses and cars, in a country where reckless driving and poor road maintenance contribute to an untold number of deadly accidents. Sedaqat says his main worry is the exhaust fumes, which make his ... (More on P4)...(15)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Life is breathed into your daydreams today as they cross the veil which separates fantasy from reality. Desirous Venus debuts in your 1st House of Personality, imbuing you with charm, courage and a splash of impatience. You're unwilling to lay down your sword and surrender now; you're ready to go after what you want without compromise.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Something marvelous is beginning to brew, and you're craving peaceful solitude where you can listen to the quiet music that is playing deep within your heart. Alone time is essential for incubating your ideas, but unfortunately, the world doesn't wait around for anyone. The down-to-earth Taurus Moon makes a challenging aspect to the forward-thinking Aquarius Sun.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You're an expert on the field of verbal athletics, able to play both sides of a conversation with finesse. However, you may begin to grandstand and swing for the fence now that acquisitive Venus suits up in independent Aries. This impassioned approach to your aspirations is exhilarating, but the grounded Taurus Moon reminds you to take a timeout when needed so burn-out doesn't sabotage your game.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Your vocational goals take center stage and it's time to see if your preparation has paid off. Vivacious Venus strides into your 10th House of Career today, eager to refashion your public image and take you to new heights. It may not be your nature to speak up and demand satisfaction, but you're beginning a new phase in which you find your voice rising above the rest.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Expanding your repertoire can be exhilarating now, and you're eager to strive for the next level by mastering something new and exciting. However, your immersion into the world of learning may prove to be more like diving into an ocean than a swimming pool. Insatiable Venus surges into impatient Aries.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



The path to the top isn't always a straight line, and you're acutely aware of the rigorous testing that must happen to prepare yourself for advancement. Nevertheless, the heat is intensifying, requiring you to face the deep changes that rumble within. Magnetic Venus enters your 8th House of Metamorphosis, turning your gaze away from the outer world. Self-transformation is a bold and admirable task, and you're up for the challenge now.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Cupid's arrow has been dipped in a passion potion and directly hits its target today. Sassy Venus saunters into sexy Aries, highlighting your 7th House of Partnerships and setting your heart on fire. You approach your relationships with new certainty, unafraid to boldly state exactly what you want. Limber Libras often adapt to the needs of others, and this move toward decisive action may render you more impatient than usual.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Your closest companions want your time and attention today, but a complex inner atmosphere ties an easy decision into a rather complicated knot. While you prefer to relax with the ones you love, passionate Venus blazes into your 6th House of Wellbeing, encouraging you to get off the couch and spice up your routine.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You're eager to paint the town red when vibrant Venus dances into impulsive Aries, lighting up your 5th House of Play like a city skyline. Instant gratification is the name of your game as you see no reason to hold anything back. However, a tense square between the objective Aquarius Sun and the practical Taurus Moon reminds you to rearrange your priorities before throwing your schedule out the window.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Everyone knows you're ambitious by nature and it's not uncommon for you to bring your work home. However, your attention is shifting to what you can do to make your place more beautiful as stylish Venus charges into energetic Aries, emphasizing your 4th House of Foundations. An aggressive attitude toward home-improvement lends itself to quick execution of your undertakings.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

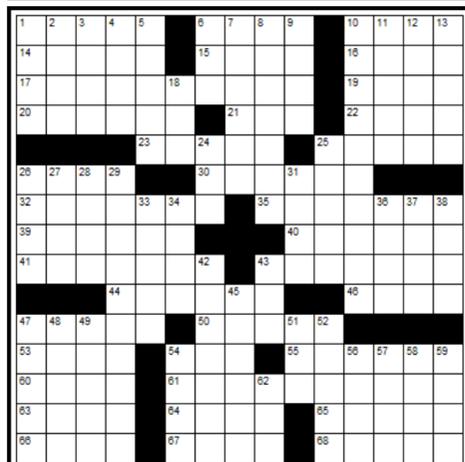


After juggling a hectic schedule, it's time to downshift and enjoy some peace and quiet. However, your thoughts begin to race as resolute Venus strides into your 3rd House of Mind, and soon you're itching to tell your new ideas to anyone who will listen. Intense Pluto joins the conversation, warning that your fervency could be an overcompensation stemming from a complex inner dynamic.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



The frenetic pace is settling down and you're proud of yourself for taking the busy week in stride. Your confidence is bolstered by beautiful Venus as she enters assertive Aries today, accentuating your 2nd House of Self-Worth. Doubts fade into the past as it becomes easier to pursue the things you want. However self-assured you feel now, be sure to make the best choice, not just the bold choice.



Across
1. Mystic, 6. Not fully closed, 10. ___ slaw, 14. Log home, 15. Tibetan monk, 16. Chalcedony, 17. Vengeful punishment, 19. Flexible mineral, 20. Shooting star, 21. G, 22. Verse, 23. Tall woody plants, 25. Sea eagles, 26. Exhausts, 30. It crosses a river, 32. Disquiet, 35. Blimp, 39. Pique, 40. Cove, 41. A flavorful addition, 43. Clique, 44. Withstand, 46. Writing table, 47. Catapulted, 50. Encounters, 53. Feces, 54. American Sign Language, 55. Large indefinite amount, 60. Therefore, 61. Mistress of a chateau, 63. Place, 64. Greek letter, 65. Leave out, 66. Contributes, 67. Accomplishment, 68. Earthquake.
Down
1. Fraud, 2. Undulation, 3. Incite, 4. Not yours, 5. Metal bar, 6. A high alpine meadow, 7. Coastal diving bird, 8. Memory loss, 9. Be worthy of, 10. Compacted, 11. Scallion, 12. French school, 13. Tests, 18. Mistake, 24. Diminish, 25. Everglades bird, 26. Petty quarrel, 27. Relating to aircraft, 28. Brace, 29. Prodigious, 31. Prank, 33. Utilizing, 34. Cleave, 36. Employ, 37. Colored part of an eye, 38. Glance, 42. Detective (slang), 43. C, 45. Empathize, 47. Grave marker, 48. Sensational, 49. Exhorted, 51. Foot digit, 52. Bottoms of shoes, 54. Corrosive, 56. Broad valley, 57. 53 in Roman numerals, 58. Terminates, 59. Appear, 62. Little bit.

Yesterday's Solution
SCAB SMITTE SLIT
NADA MAGES PORE
NEAR THINGS EGHS
BOP PLODS HEIST
SETTLER EPICS
PLEAT COACH TIRE
EXAM TRUCK MACHINE
AIR ROOST BUSED
TITMOUSE PIT
HILLS PANOPLY
BOWISE THONG ROE
EROS QUISTIE ROUS
SERE OWNER ESSE
TOMS ANTISY DYES
absent, adorn, awkward, backward, child, clumsy, dairy, dally, dirge, float, gauche, goose, hiatus, hula, ladle, laxative, mistress, nick, orchid, pithy, plate, regret, ride, roustabout, said, sheep, shorts, slave, space, spoke, spoon, stove, tarry, taut, terse, that, thief.

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