

Road Encroachments Irk Herat City Dwellers

HERAT CITY - The residents of Herat City, the capital of western Herat province, have complained against growing number of stalls and vendors on footpaths and the resulting in inconvenience.

They asked the municipality to remove all such encroachments on roads and footpaths so local residents could move with comfort.

Karim Rahmani, a resident of Herat City, said half of the road had been occupied by stalls and vendors but the authorities were



taking no action. "We are in trouble, you can see the entire road is blocked," he said. Ghafar Saeedi, another dweller, said: "The jams are created by illegal parking of vehicles on footpaths which often lead to accidents." Asadullah Noorzai, another resident, said roads had been blocked by vendors and municipality officials did not take action against them. But Faqir Ahmadi, a vendor, said: "no place has been specified for ... (More on P4)...(15)

8 Die in Past Two Days in Avalanches, Snow Storms

KABUL - Heavy snow storms and avalanches have claimed the lives of 28 people in 12 provinces in the past two days and have closed roads in 12 provinces, the Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) said on Saturday. According to ANDMA, over 40 people have so far died in avalanches and heavy snowfalls across the country in the past two weeks. ANDMA said all provinces have witnessed snow and rain in addition to

those who died, a further 43 people have been injured in avalanches and snowfall so far this winter. Many roads in Faryab, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Badakhshan, Ghor, Ghazni, Panjshir, Maidan Wardak, Bamian, Daikundi, Zabul and Baghlan provinces have been closed due to heavy snow storms in the past two days, ANDMA said. "Roads have been closed in 12 provinces, but the problem has been solved in other provinces. The roads ... (More on P4)...(16)

Raped 20 Times in Captivity, Kunduz Girl Seeks Justice

KUNDUZ CITY - Yasmin, a young girl who was recently kidnapped in the capital of northeastern Kunduz province, alleges she was raped 20 times in captivity.

Kunduz crime branch chief, Waisuddin Talash, told Pajhwok Afghan News the girl's family reported to him her disappearance on January 4.

"We mounted a search and succeeded in finding the girl in a house in the Sar Dawra area of

Kunduz City. We also arrested a man with a pistol in connection with the incident," he said.

Yasmin, the victim, said she was raped more than 20 times during her two-month captivity. "I was kidnapped from Ibrahimkhel area by two brothers, who drugged me and later I found myself in a house.

"In the house, two men with pistols sat behind me and I could not go out. One of them raped



me more than 20 times during this period," she charged. Parents of Yasmin de-

manded justice from the government, saying the perpetrators should be ... (More on P4)...(17)

Public Reps Stranded as Snowfall Continues in Ghazni

GHAZNI CITY - Vehicles of the Ghazni provincial council head and several other people are trapped in snow in Nahwar district, authorities said on Saturday.

As a result, a policeman was wounded and a provincial council member taken seriously ill. Continuous snowfall has also blocked the Kabul-Kandahar highway.

Similarly, roads leading from districts to the provincial capital have also



been clogged by heavy snow. A provincial council member, Abdul Jame Jame, told Pajhwok Afghan News the council head, Khal-iqad Akbari, and other

members paid a visit to a number of districts. "Their vehicle was trapped in the snow in Nahwar district on their way back to Ghazni City. ... (More on P4)...(18)

Snow Lashes Nimroz for 2nd Time in 6 Years

ZARANJ - Residents and farmers in southwestern Nimroz province on Saturday said snowfall lashed the province for a second in six years, hoping for enough agricultural produce.

Mohammad Akbar Sharifi, the provincial Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Department head, told Pajhwok Afghan News the snow hit Nimroz for a second time this year on Friday night, ending a six-year-old dry spell.

In Zaranj, the provincial capital, citizens measured six centimeters of snow. They were upbeat about a significant increase in agricultural production this year.

They termed the snowfall a good omen for development and improvement of the agriculture as last year's harvests of melon and water-melon were 170,000 tonnes including 35,000 tonnes of wheat. The harvests were expected to increase by 20 to 30 percent.

"Snowfall leaves a good effect on underground water, it swells up water wells; because Nimroz faces deficit water and underground water wells ... (More on P4)...(24)

2 Dead Bodies Recovered in Khost's Ismailkhel District

KHOST CITY - Two persons were found shot dead in Ismailkhel district of southern Khost province on Saturday, an official said.

Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Faizullah Ghairat, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the men killed by gun shots were found in Mashkona area of the district this morning. They were killed somewhere else but their corpses had been ... (More on P4)...(19)

Militants Kill Religious Cleric and His Wife in Paktika Province

KABUL - Unknown militants have shot dead a religious cleric and his wife in southeastern Paktika province of Afghanistan.

According to the local government officials, the couple was shot dead in Yousuf Khel district.

Provincial police chief Abdul Rauf Masoud confirmed the incident and said unknown militants stormed into the house of the cleric. Without providing further information regarding the ... (More on P4)...(20)

Badakhshan Avalanche Leaves 10 Dead, a Dozen Injured

FAIZABAD - An avalanche in the Mayami district of southeastern Badakhshan province has claimed 10 people's lives and injured 12 others, officials said on Saturday.

The avalanche hit 25 residences in Ghami Bala area on Friday night, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) provincial head told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Syed Abdullah Humayun Dehqan said 16 of the houses were destroyed by the snow-slide. "As



snowfall continues over the past two days, more than 1.5 metres of snow has been recorded. "In Ghami Bala area,

where the tragedy occurred, the dead and wounded people were being retrieved from the ... (More on P4)...(21)

Nimroz Woman Jumps to Death after Dispute with Husband

ZARANJ - A woman jumped to death from the third storey of her house after a verbal dispute with her husband in southwestern Nimroz province on Saturday, an official said. Women Affairs Director Amina

Hakimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the 23 years old woman, Nargis, died after she jumped from the third floor of her house in Zaranj, the provincial capital. "I visited the woman in hospital; ... (More on P4)...(22)

2 Arrested with 60kg of Drugs in Nimroz

ZARANJ - Police have arrested two persons and recovered more than 60 kilograms of drugs from their possession in southwestern Nimroz province, an official said Saturday. Police chief Brig. Gen.

Ghulam Jilani Abubakar told Pajhwok Afghan News counter-narcotics police recovered 53 kg of heroin from a vehicle in Apreshim area of Zaranj, the provincial capital. ... (More on P4)...(23)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You're revving your engine and raring to go, confident you can make magic happen as you speed to your destination. However, the practical Taurus Moon would rather rein in your enthusiasm and remind you that a steady pace is safer, albeit less exciting. It's natural to leap before you look, but the unknown sometimes holds unfathomable secrets which are impossible to predict.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



An internal nudge stirs secret desires, but you're not yet ready to kick into high gear and initiate action. You prefer to stay in your comfort zone and keep your plans private, enjoying things the way they are instead of pushing change too early. Trusting your gut when it recommends caution is wise today, especially when it's impossible to know what's around the next corner.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Although you love dancing to the upbeat rhythm of those around you, you secretly long to be alone today. You are a bit fearful that you might miss the time of your life as your social scene is lit up with exciting possibilities. However, Luna's presence in your 12th House of Privacy indicates you can benefit from a quiet retreat to recharge your batteries. The good news is there will be plenty of opportunities for frivolity over the weekend.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Your appetite for success and recognition continues to grow, but you still don't want to rock the boat. The cosmic dance of Venus and Mars in your 10th House of Publicity draws you toward the spotlight, but you worry that your friends might think differently of you if you act too large and in charge. You wonder if whispers are floating around you.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Your mind swirls with fantastic visions and you wish you could cultivate these colorful saplings into towering giants overnight. You're acutely aware that coming across as overly enthusiastic and promoting your enterprise too soon could lead to a disappointing flop.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You're motivated to take courageous steps of self-improvement, but you want to gather more facts and fill in the details to your plan first. The steadfast Taurus Moon grazes in your 9th House of Higher Education, encouraging you to keep chewing the food for thought before jumping to any conclusions. Unraveling inner stories is mysterious and time-consuming work that will provide you with the answers you need.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You are surprised by how unapologetic you are in your personal interactions today. Your craving for passionate engagement with others drives nearly everything else out of your mind. However, the sensual Taurus Moon advises you to do more than just skip from thrill to thrill; nurture the more stable connections that sustain you, instead. You can keep wearing the rose-colored glasses.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You wake up ready to take on the world and you believe you possess the strength to pull it off. However, you may have to rethink adding more to your plate to avoid letting others down when they need you today. Although it might feel as if you must postpone work on a creative project to be there for a friend.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You can't wait to make the most of the upcoming weekend, whether you're spicing up your romantic life or singing karaoke with your best buds. Your heart is set on celebrating life's pleasures, but be aware that things you say in the heat of passion might weave webs which could trip you later. Pacing yourself is a smart strategy if you want the good times to last. The key to keeping your equilibrium is knowing when you've lost it.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Hard work is more fun when you get to see immediate results from your efforts. You're eager to roll up your sleeves and tackle domestic projects with gusto, but be careful that you don't go overboard and bite off more than you can chew. Although you're longing to move mountains, the serene Taurus Moon encourages you to partake in simple pleasures like watching a movie, baking cookies or looking at childhood

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Ingenious ideas are never far behind you unconventional Aquarians, but your mind is racing faster than ever as each new thought seems more vibrant than the last. The same passion brightens your conversations today and your friends are likely to be entertained by your exuberance. There's no harm in being enthusiastic, but words taken out of context can land you in bizarre situations that even the sharpest minds can't foresee.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



What seemed like hopeful thinking in the recent past seems more tangible now, and you're excited to put your money where your mouth is. The dependable Taurus Moon plods through your 3rd House of Communication, prompting you to put your goals into words before giving chase. You're right to believe that you can attract what you want, so be mindful of what you wish for today.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Across: 1. Tucks away, 6. Level, 10. Nile bird, 14. Synagogue scroll, 15. Humdinger, 16. Plateau, 17. Mountain crest, 18. Food thickener, 19. Gloomy atmosphere, 20. Moonshiner, 22. Regrets, 23. Parasitic insect, 24. Excrements, 26. Consciousness, 30. Soak, 31. It is (poetic), 32. 57 in Roman numerals, 33. Holly, 35. Cut wood, 39. A company that flies, 41. A dais, 43. Tartan, 44. Canvas dwelling, 46. Midmonth date, 47. A farewell remark, 49. Caviar, 50. Pig sound, 51. Overwhelm, 54. Iridescent gem, 56. Afflicts, 57. Fish seller, 63. Chair, 64. Pearly-shelled mussel, 65. Feel, 66. Behold, in old Rome, 67. Prig, 68. Delete, 69. Doe, 70. Feudal worker, 71. Propelled with oars. Down: 1. Knife, 2. Lawn mower brand, 3. Chocolate cookie, 4. Light bulb unit, 5. Mantelpiece, 6. A small fipple flute, 7. Baggage, 8. Wings, 9. Gun enclosure, 10. Showman, 11. Boyfriends, 12. A small island, 13. Chip dip, 21. Shoemaker's awl, 25. Essence, 26. Smack, 27. Wicked, 28. Former Italian currency, 29. Tactic for obstructing legislation, 34. He fears foreigners, 36. Dry riverbed, 37. Biblical garden, 38. Writing table, 40. Bucolic, 42. Water vapor, 45. Ablation, 48. Flow out, 51. Alleviated, 52. Daughter of a sibling, 53. Candied, 55. Unsuccessful person, 58. Hotels, 59. Roman emperor, 60. Chew, 61. Being, 62. Marsh plant.

Yesterday's Solution: SWAMI, AJAR, COLE, CABIN, TAMIA, ONYX, AVENUE, MICA, METEOR, GEE, POEM, TREES, ERNES, SAPS, BRIDGE, PERTURB, AIRSHIP, AROUSE, DESIRE, TOPPING, COTERIE, ENDURE, DESK, SLUNG, MEETS, TIRO, ASLT, OODLES, ERGO, CHIATELLAINE, LIED, TOTA, ELIDE, ADDS, DEED, SEISM.

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