



### Traders Block Torkham Gate to Press for Demand

JALALABAD - A number of Afghan traders have shut the Torkham gate against exports after their spare parts loaded vehicles remained parked in western Herat province for months, causing them 'huge' losses.

The traders said the Ministry of Finance had stopped hundreds of their trucks full of spare parts in Herat province, inflicting huge losses on them.

On Thursday, the protesting businesspeople also erected a tent in Torkham border town in Moman-dara district of eastern Nangarhar. Khalil Rahman Shinwari, one of the traders, said 1,700 disassembling vehicles for spare parts in containers remained stranded at the Herat Customs Office for the last four months.

He said 700 of the cars belonged to Torkham traders and they had so far incurred huge losses as a result of the vehicles' blockade.

Shinwari said he had shared the issue several times with the officials concerned, but none paid attention. Another protesting trader, Zir Gul, said they would keep the border gate closed and continue their protest until their problems were resolved.

Meanwhile, shopkeepers in Torkham town also complained their sales had been at a standstill due to the stranded vehicles in Herat and they lost a high amount of money they were supposed to earn every day.

Rahmanullah, one of the shopkeepers, said their spare parts business was good until recent past but slowed down after spare parts stopped reaching their market. Nangarhar ...*(More on P4)...*(14)

# Taliban Prevent Clerics from Leading Funerals of Dead Soldiers



KHOST - Khost residents on Thursday claimed that some clerics in the province refuse to perform funeral prayers for fallen Afghan National Security and Defense Forces (ANDSF) soldiers on due to threats against them by the Taliban.

According to Eid Mohammad, one resident, his brother Khial Mohammad was an ANA soldier who lost his life during a counter-insurgency operation in Janikhel district of the province.

Eid Mohammad said local clerics in his home town refused to conduct

his funeral prayer ceremony.

"Our own local Mullah did not come to perform the prayer ceremony for my brother," said Eid Mohammad.

"When we asked the Mullah why he would not conduct the funeral prayers of a security forces member who was his ...*(More on P4)...*(13)



### Salang Highway Reopens for Passenger Vehicles

CHARIKAR - The strategic Salang highway has been reopened for passenger vehicles after two days of closure following snowstorms, an official said on Friday. Abdul Basir Habibi, who is responsible for protection and maintenance of the Salang highway, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the snowstorm at the southern part of the pass ended last midnight, paving the way for traffic resumption.

"Now the air is clear and sunny at the Salang pass and except heavy vehicles, all other vehicles can travel on the road by using chains," he said.

Habibi asked passengers and drivers to avoid speed, extra weight and keep winter equipment, warm clothes, food, additional mobile phones and fuel.

He said 150 centimeters snow had amassed on the Salang pass and the temperature there dipped to minus 18C at night.

The highway connects central capital Kabul with nine northern provinces. (Pajhwok)

### 23 Militants Killed in Past 24 Hours, Says MoD



KABUL - Nearly two dozens insurgents have been killed and four others wounded during operations over the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defense said on Friday.

The military operations were carried out in five provinces --- Nangarhar, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan and Helmand --- a

statement from the ministry said.

It said a landmine making factory was destroyed in Kandahar and a Taliban hideout targeted in Uruzgan province during the operations. The security forces also confiscated a number of weapons and ammunition in Nangarhar. (Pajhwok)

### 10 Alleged Criminals Nabbed in Kabul: Interior Ministry



KABUL - The Interior Ministry on Friday said police had detained ten alleged criminals from various police districts of Kabul. Interior Ministry's acting spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the alleged criminals

were arrested on Thursday in the first, second and ninth police districts of Kabul.

The detainees were involved in armed robberies and other crimes and currently they were being investigated, he said. (Pajhwok)

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



A meeting may take place today that you don't want to attend, Aries. It could be long and boring, but you should still make the effort to listen. Colleagues will want to discuss the issues with you afterward, and you might learn something in spite of the boredom. Think of it this way - it's only an hour or so. Concentrate on what's being said and not on the clock.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



A project could be successfully completed today, Taurus. Discussions may already be taking place about the next one, but you aren't inclined to think about that, at least not right away. You will want to bask in your accomplishment and relax for a while. No one can blame you for that, so don't worry if you don't go to brainstorming sessions.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



- If you're involved in the study of a particular subject, Gemini, today you might want to bury yourself in your books and learn as much as you can. This is good, because your concentration is especially good. Go to the library or a private room where you won't be distracted and hit the books. Find some new works on the subject if you can. You might discover some surprising information.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



This isn't the day to make investments, Cancer. You may read in the paper or online about some hot new stocks, but be very careful. If you're interested, consult a professional before investing money. Even after you've talked to an expert, it's still a good idea to wait a day or two before you make the investment. Any hot tips you receive today could be rather doubtful. Be patient.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Does a love partner appear to be moody today, Leo? One moment your friend may be enthusiastic and optimistic about the future, and the next moment overcome with gloom. Don't let this get to you, and certainly don't get overly upset with your partner. Listen rather than talk, and be patient. Tomorrow your friend's moods should be back to normal.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Are you working two jobs, Virgo? Today one could demand a lot of you, probably at the expense of the other. You tend to be very conscientious and responsible, so this might bother you, but don't let it get to you. The day may come when the situation is reversed. Everyone around you knows that you're an asset to the enterprise, even if there are times like this when you have to ask for a break.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Your natural urge to innovate may seem to have vanished today, Libra. You may not feel like doing anything outside of routine tasks that you can do automatically. You're suffering from low biorhythms, so don't fall into the trap of thinking you're turning into a lazy bum. Relax today, and tomorrow.

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



The urge to stay in and rearrange your furniture might hit you today, Scorpio. You may want to clean out the shelves in your kitchen, add some new knickknacks, or rearrange your books into specific classifications. This may be a lot of work, but it will also be a lot of fun. Get other members of the household to help and turn it into a party.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Are you expecting an important communication, perhaps business related, Sagittarius? If it comes today, it will probably come late. If you feel you must sit around and wait for it, find something else to do in the meantime or you will drive yourself crazy. If it doesn't arrive by the end of the day, resign yourself to waiting. Don't panic. It will come soon enough.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



A check you've been expecting to receive by mail will probably be delayed, Capricorn. It's nothing to worry about. Chances are it got hung up at the post office and will arrive soon. Don't waste your time worrying needlessly. If you feel it necessary, make contingency plans for getting by. Your money is coming. Hang in there.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

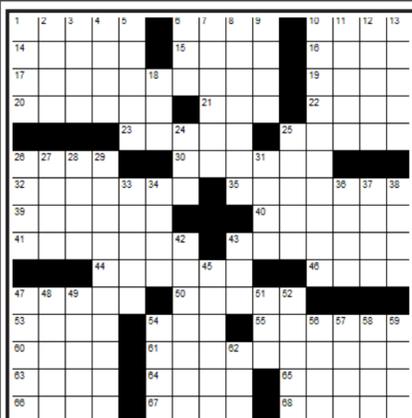


You may not be your usual cheery self today, Aquarius. Gloom may have come over you. You may doubt everything that happens in your life. No matter how promising a career, romance, or money matter seems, you think the worst. Treat yourself today. Get a massage, relax in a hot tub, and rub and soak out those doubting spirits. That will get you through the day.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Happy memories of a beloved grandparent may float to the surface today, Pisces, and you may wonder why. Something or someone you've encountered in the past few days may have reminded you of this person. It's nice and it isn't an accident. What personality trait of yours does your grandparent call to mind? A psycho-emotional issue associated with this trait may need to be resolved now.



### Across

- Cheerful, 6. Rabbit, 10. Forearm bone, 14. Accustom, 15. Acted like, 16. French for "We"
- Blockhouse, 19. Clothing, 20. Afternoon nap, 21. Cheery, 22. Type of sword, 23. Something of value, 25. Iron, 26. Country bumpkin, 30. Horselaugh, 32. Senselessness
- Demean, 39. Rattle, 40. Lifted, 41. Judicial writ, 43. Breathing heavily, 44. Captivate
- Lack of difficulty, 47. Enclosed shopping centers, 50. Judges, 53. Affirm, 54. A sizeable hole, 55. Loutish, 60. The thin fibrous bark, 61. Apparent, 63. Layer, 64. Flower stalk
65. Site of the Trojan War, 66. If not, 67. Feudal worker, 68. Homes for birds,

### Down

- Snake sound, 2. Against, 3. Unadulterated, 4. Not amateurs, 5. Busybody, 6. Derisive laugh
- Orbital high point, 8. Connected by kinship, 9. Countercurrent, 10. Protect by insurance, 11. Jeweler's glass, 12. Naked models, 13. Donkeys, 18. Petrol, 24. Timid, 25. Heathen
- Edges, 27. Two-toed sloth, 28. Leavening agent, 29. Granite ware, 31. Sister and wife of Zeus, 33. Graphic symbols, 34. A tart spicy quality, 36. Largest continent, 37. Lair, 38. Border
- They love to inflict pain, 43. Dowel, 45. Obtained, 47. Not glossy, 48. Utilize, 49. Runs
51. A very long period, 52. Indian antelope, 54. Sit for a photo, 56. Dossier, 57. Nile bird
58. A promiscuous woman, 59. Skirt lines, 62. An uncle,

### Yesterday's Solution

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

