

Notorious Gangster Sentenced to Death

KABUL - A primary court in Kabul on Monday sentenced to death a dreaded gangster involved in a variety of heinous crimes and heading several groups of kidnapers, an intelligence official said. Saidullah, alias Raees Khudaidad, was arrested in September last year as a result of a 36-hour search operation in the 5th police district of Kabul. In a video, he dismissed reports that he had escaped from jail

He has been complicit in a string of kidnappings, extortion, robberies and murder across the country. He allegedly headed a huge network of criminals operating in Kabul and other provinces. The pro-Taliban gangster was complicit in abducting two Italian soldiers in the Shindand district of western Herat province. In an operation aimed at rescuing the soldiers, the warlord was detained by NATO and Afghan

forces. He was detained on Sept. 15 last year during a special National Directorate of Security (NDS) operation, the official told Pajhwok Afghan News. Details about the charges against Khuda-i-Dad and his subsequent conviction would be released shortly, the source said, calling the death penalty an important step toward bringing the notorious commander to justice. ...*(More on P4)...(18)*



Collision Claims 3 Lives; Woman among Victims

KHOST CITY - Three people, including a woman, were killed and four policemen and as many civilians wounded in a traffic accident in southeastern Khost province on Monday, an official said. The accident happened at around 9:00am as a result of a collision between a car and a police vehicle in the Nadir Shah

Kot district on the Khost-Gardez highway, the governor's spokesman, Mubarez Zadran, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Civil Hospital Director Dr. Abdul Majid Mangal said three bodies and eight wounded people had been brought to the hospital. One policeman and two civilians were in critical conditions. (Pajhwok)

2 Soldiers Killed in Roadside Mine Blast

MEHTARLAM - Two Afghan soldiers were killed and another injured in a roadside mine blast in eastern Laghman province early Monday morning, local officials said. The incident took place in Alishing district of the province after their

vehicle struck a roadside mine, a spokesman for the provincial governor Sarhadi Zwak said. The victims have been taken to a nearby hospital, he said. However, no group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. (Tolnews)

Weapon Cache Discovered

FAIZABAD - Security personnel have discovered a huge weapon cache in Badakhshan province, chief of the National Directorate of Security in the province said Monday. "The cache containing arms and ammunitions including rocket-propelled grenades, 82 mm caliber guns and explosive objects was discovered from Tagab district during cleanup opera-

tions there over the past few days," the official, Amir Shah Sadat, told reporters at a press conference here. Tagab district has been a scene of Taliban-led militancy over the past couple of months. The cleanup operations in the district would last for a few more days, the official added. Taliban militants fighting the government have yet to make comment. (Xinhua)

Gas Cylinder Explosion Leaves 1 Dead, 10 Wounded

KHOST CITY - A man was killed and 10 others were wounded in a gas cylinder explosion in southern Khos province on Monday, an official said. Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Faizullah Ghairat told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place when a gas cylinder went off in a shop in Ghazi Babrak Khan Park area around 11 am. He said one civilian was

wounded in the incident. The injured were evacuated to a private hospital for medical treatment, he said. However, a doctor in Babri Gul Hospital, Ashraf, confirmed receiving one body and 10 wounded people from the incident site. He said that the condition of the wounded was stable. An eyewitness, Mohammad Nabi, said that he was in his shop when the explosion occurred. "I saw ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Kandaharis Demand Cut in Transport Fares

KANDAHAR CITY - Residents of this southern city of Kandahar on Monday asked the government to slash public transport fare and fuel rates on the back of the slump in global oil prices. "The price of one litre petrol has dropped to 39 afghanis from the previous 65afs, but no change is brought to the public transport fares," locals said. Noor Ahmad, who lives in the first musical district, said fuel prices were on the decline over the past one month, but the authorities were yet to bring down the fares.



"I have a shop in Shorandam area and I hire taxi to go home against 40 afghanis fare which I used to pay earlier as well," he said. He lamented taxi drivers were refusing to reduce fare despite the major slump in fuel prices in the global market. Izzatullah, another resident of Kandahar City, also complained transport fares remained constant. He said earlier buses plying between Kandahar City and the Spin Boldak border town ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

6 Suspected Militants Killed

KABUL - Six suspected insurgents were killed and four others were wounded in a drone attack in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region near the Afghanistan border on Monday. Pakistani media, monitored here, indicated the death toll could go up as some of the injured were in critical condition. The

unmanned aircraft struck a compound in the Shahi Khel area of Shawwal sub-district. According to Dawn News, the drone fired two missiles at the compound, but identity of those killed could not be ascertained immediately. Shawal valley, off-limit to journalists, lies on the border between North and South Waziristan. In June last year, the Pakistan military launched a counter-insurgency offensive codenamed 'Zarb-i-Azb' in the region. On January 15, seven suspected militants were killed, and five others injured in a similar raid in South Waziristan. (Pajhwok)

Protesters Demand Closure of French Embassy

KABUL - Hundreds of Afghans protested in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital of eastern Nangarhar province against a French satirical magazine which published a caricature of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). The protesters demanded closure of the French embassy in Kabul while chanting "Death to France" and burning the French flag.

Moneychangers Protest Colleague's Kidnapping

KUNDUZ CITY - Moneychangers in northeastern Kunduz province staged a protest against the kidnapping of a colleague, warning of closing down their businesses. Currency dealer Mohammad Nabi, who came under attack from unidentified gunmen, was taken hostage and his 12 years old son wounded in Mestiri Khana area of Kunduz City on Sunday. A large number of moneychangers, jewellers and businesspeople took to the streets, warning to close the Kunduz business centre if their kidnapped colleague was not rescued soon. Moneychanger's Union ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Two Border Guards of Tajikistan Wounded in Shootout

BISHKEK - Tajik-Afghan border The number of border guards of Tajikistan wounded in a shootout on the border with Afghanistan on Sunday morning reached two, reports Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty referring to medical facilities of Kulob (200 km southeast of Dushanbe). Earlier, an officer of the border troops of Tajikistan, who was seriously wounded in the

Inmates Memorise Holy Quran

ASADABAD - Sixteen prisoners have memorised while 27 others learnt the exegesis of the Holy Quran at a seminary in central jail of eastern Kunar province, officials said on Monday. Col. Noor Rahman Noor, the prison commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News, they opened the religious school for prisoners a few months back. Both students and teachers are prisoners. Of the 325 individuals held in the facility, 100 attended the seminary and study religious education from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. They are

taught religion and vocational skills. Forty-three of them were awarded certificates at a ceremony today. The prisoners could join different professions, Noor said, asking local authorities to provide the seminary with computers. During the certificates-awarding ceremony, independent human rights commission head Sabrina Hamidi remarked prison could simultaneously be a place of learning and correction. She said they did not receive any complaints from Kunar prison in the past year when inmates

were treated well. Positive changes in the prison administration helped inmates exercise their rights, Hamidi added. Governor Shuja Al Mulk Jalala asked the trainee inmates to benefit from the Madrasa. Jalala donated the prison 408 books on different subjects. One of the prisoners, Hiwat, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they had no problem and enjoyed facilities. He thanked the government for providing the education inside jail. A 40 years old prisoner, Ahmad Shah who ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You really don't want to explain every decision you make today because you believe that logic isn't always the most important factor. Talking about your choices now can actually detract from your experience; you prefer to focus on the present moment and simply follow your intuition. Thankfully, you don't need anyone's approval for what you are feeling.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might have a set plan in mind for how the day should unfold, but you can't expect others to be able to read your thoughts. It makes more sense to climb out on a limb and let someone close to you know what you want now. But even if you share your hopes, you still may be misinterpreted if a friend or relative makes an incorrect assumption about your intentions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have very specific emotional needs today, yet it's tricky to find the right words to convey them. To complicate matters further, it's all too easy to imagine the worst because your dreams are overflowing into the real world, making it nearly impossible to separate illusion from reality. Thankfully, struggling to discern the truth isn't necessary if you are willing to allow fact and fiction to exist side by side.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your natural sensitivity to the feelings of those around you is a lot to handle today if you get into a disagreement with someone close to you. Your resistance to change only adds to the confusion, especially if you're afraid of losing your sense of identity. Fortunately, you can capitalize on the gentle Mars-Neptune conjunction by consciously softening your stance while still maintaining your current position.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Hiding your emotional intensity isn't usually a viable strategy because feelings gain power when they are suppressed. Nevertheless, the Moon's short-lived conjunction with controlling Pluto may provoke a melodramatic meltdown. However, if you are frustrated by certain people's inability to do their jobs, losing your temper clears the air of pent-up tension.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Don't be so certain that you know what's happening because your reality filter may not be working all that well today. You might have enough stars in your eyes now to prevent you from seeing what's right in front of you. There are specific tasks that need to be done, but your lack of focus makes staying on track nearly impossible.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may feel as if you've stepped into a world of paradox today. The veil between this world and others is thinner than usual, but you're also quite attached to your creature comforts while pleasure-seeking Venus opposes excessive Jupiter. Don't resist the flow of images that arise from your imagination, even if you can't understand what they mean or what action you should take.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You can tell that your inner landscape is undergoing dramatic psychological change for the better. Although your key planet Pluto is touched by the evocative Moon this morning, other cosmic influences keep the energy steadily moving toward the light. This is an opportunity to step into the shadows, dredge up the past and then let the spiritual process do its magic.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You might be hesitant to place too many expectations on current events, yet you're still feeling quite optimistic about your future prospects. There's nothing wrong with wanting more from life as long as you can avoid obsessing over the idea of success. Your adaptability makes the difference between frustration and happiness.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

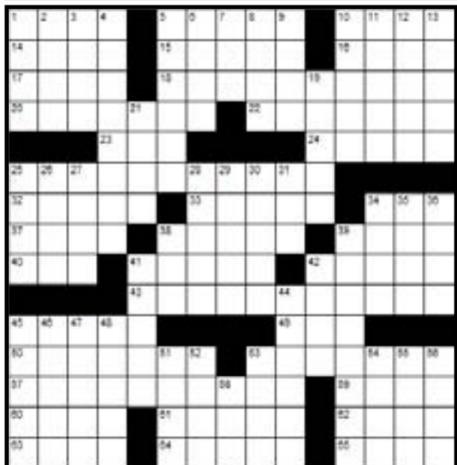
There seems to be a lot at stake today and you're tempted to take extreme action to turn the tide in your favor. However, micromanaging emotional tension can backfire if you fall short of keeping up with all the complex interactions. Maintaining control over too many variables is a study in frustration.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A bubble of rainbows and unicorns might be all you need now to protect your dreamy confidence from intrusions by reality. Luckily, your imagination is the wellspring of your future. However, Jupiter's opposition to sweet Venus in your sign makes everything look better than it is and can set you up for disappointment.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You have an eye on the distant horizon now as you consider the vast array of possibilities ahead. Your current need to redefine your goals intensifies as you learn more about the politics of current events in your life. However, you may be driven more by your fascination with a fantasy today than by a realistic goal.



Across
 1. Trudge, 5. Place, 10. A romantic meeting, 14. Relating to aircraft, 15. Metaphor, or hyperbole, 16. Dogfish, 17. Meal in a shell, 18. Rancor, 20. Songbird, 22. Weird, 23. Triangular sail, 24. Not over, 25. Bookings, 32. Weaving machines, 33. ___-garde, 34. Put clothing on, 37. Knife, 38. Highly skilled, 39. Heredity unit, 40. Snake-like fish, 41. Cognizant, 42. Swindle, 43. Clarifies, 45. Noodles, 49. Santa's helper, 50. Asserted, 53. Mixture, 57. A type of craftsman, 59. Cry, 60. Chops, 61. Graven images, 62. Sea eagle, 63. Backside, 64. Threadbare, 65. Shower with love,
Down
 1. Taps, 2. Jump, 3. Killer whale, 4. Doorpost, 5. A rapidly flashing light, 6. An old spelling of "True", 7. Dawn goddess, 8. Mimics, 9. Fender blemish, 10. A type of small, mammal, 11. Alter, 12. Slight color, 13. Consumer of food, 19. Believe in, 21. Trailer trucks, 25. If not, 26. Memo, 27. Objective, 28. Gentlewoman, 29. Each and all, 30. Scruffs, 31. Explosive, 34. Sandwich shop, 35. A single time, 36. Catches, 38. Reverence, 39. Laughed loudly, 41. Maxim, 42. Foundry, 44. Very small, 45. Ottoman title, 46. Change, 47. Decelerates, 48. Anxious, 51. Arab chieftain, 52. Early 20th-century art movement, 53. Exuviate, 54. Roman emperor, 55. Lady's escort, 56. Type of sword, 58. Drunkard

Yesterday's Solution
 candy, cede, common, condition, contact, correct, deal, every, experience, fewer, fort, hers, hired, human, immune, known, learn, modern, needle, organ, other, people, person, prevention, reduce, saliva, sane, screen, share, since, single, stage, taken, toilet

