

People from East Rally in Kabul against Insecurity

KABUL - Coming all the way from Nangarhar, dozens of people on Wednesday staged a protest demonstration in Kabul against what they called increasing insecurity in the eastern zone. Last week, a suicide bomber struck a guesthouse of a provincial council member, Obaidullah-Shinwari, killing 13 people, including tribal elders, and injured 14 others in Jalalabad, the provincial capital. On Jan. 13, seven security officials and three attackers were killed and another 11 people were wounded on Wednesday morning following a sui-



cide attack and a gun-battle that lasted four hours near the Pakistani consulate in Jalalabad. Dozens of Nangarhar residents on Wednesday staged a protest rally in front of the parliament building in Kabul, demanding security in eastern provinces. Speaking on behalf of civil society groups of Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman and Nuristan provinces, Mirwais Omarkhel, told the rally that insecurity incidents had lately increased in Nangarhar where ... (More on P4)... (17)

India-Supplied Gunships to be First Used in Helmand

KABUL - The Indian-supplied Mi-24D gunship helicopters were ready for operations in Afghanistan and they would be first used against insurgents in southern Helmand province, an official said on Wednesday. Indian Prime Minister Nanendra Modi had officially handed over the fighter helicopters to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah at the Kabul International Airport last month. Afghan Air Force (AAF) Chief Lt. Gen. Abdul Wahab Wardak told a gathering here that three of the four Russian made helicopters had been delivered to Afghanistan and were ready to kick-off operations in the Afghan air. Indian military attaché Brig. Gen. Narayan was also present on the occasion. Wardak said two of the Mi-24D copters would be dispatched to Helmand province this week where they would be used against insurgents in the ongoing operation against militants. Bordering Pakistan, Helmand has been the scene of intense clashes between ... (More on P4)... (18)

14 Rebels Killed, A Dozen Wounded in Faryab Clash

MAIMANA - At least 14 Taliban have been killed and 12 others wounded during a clash in the Ghormach district of northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Wednesday. Maj. Reza Rezae, spokesman for the 209th Shahin Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash erupted after the Taliban attacked Afghan National Army (ANA) convoy in the Kunjak locality on Ghormach-Qaisar Highway. He said the clash took place early on Tuesday and lasted for seven hours, one ANA soldier was wounded and a truck and a crane belonging to civilian were burned after



a rocket fired by the Taliban hit it. But Obaidullah, the shadow district chief of the Taliban for Ghormach, during a telephonic conversation said one Taliban fighter was killed and another wounded in the clash. Abdul Rahman, the resident of locality, said the truck carrying the skins of animal was overturned in the area where there was clash between security forces and the Taliban. He said the truck was being rescued by a crane when ... (More on P4)... (19)

Militants Storm Pakistan University, Kill at Least 20

CHARSADDA - Armed militants stormed a university in volatile northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least 20 people and wounding dozens a little more than a year after the massacre of 134 students at a school in the area, officials said. A senior Pakistani Taliban commander claimed responsibility for the assault in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, but an official spokesman later denied involvement, calling the attack "un-Islamic". The violence nevertheless shows that militants retain the ability to launch attacks, despite a country-wide anti-terrorism crackdown and a military campaign against their strongholds along the lawless ... (More on P4)... (20)

Major Kabul Hospitals: Where Money Makes the Mare Go

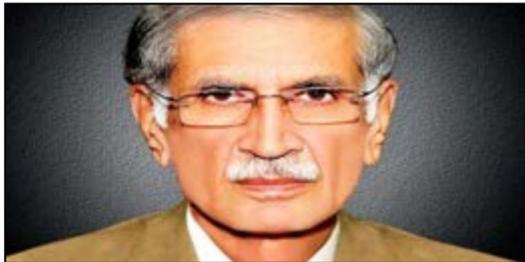
KABUL - Residents of Kabul and patients from other provinces gripe about doctors' misbehaviour and gratification demands from medics at the main government-run hospitals in the nation's capital. They say hospital rooms have faulty no heating system, causing patients serious problems in the harsh winter. Nurses on duty pay attention to those who grease their palms, visitors allege. Attendants blast some midwives for angrily shouting at women in labour while others do



not balk even at insulting them at the time of childbirth. This rough treatment delays and, in some instances, adds to childbirth complications. Most of these complaints were shared with Pajhwok Afghan News by patient attendants at the oft-crowded Isteqlal and Rabia Balkhi Hospitals in the heart of Kabul. Muzhgan recently gave birth to a baby at the Isteqlal Hospital, ... (More on P4)... (21)

Peace in Pakistan, Afghanistan Interlinked: Khattak

KABUL - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Parvaiz-Khattak on Wednesday said peace in Pakistan could not be achieved until violence continued in Afghanistan. Khattak was talking to reporters after a deadly Taliban attack on Bacha Khan University in northwestern Charsadda district. At least four attackers entered the university and opened fire on students and faculty members, killing at least 20 students and an assistant professor and injuring another



50. The mastermind of the APS Peshawar attack, Omar Mansoor, of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Geedar group has claimed the attack. But a TTP spokesperson Muhammad Khorasani confirmed ... (More on P4)... (22)

Yemeni Citizen Pleads Guilty to Killing US Soldiers in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - A Yemeni national on Tuesday pleaded guilty to charges of murdering US soldiers in Afghanistan. Ali Alvi al-Hamidi, 31, also pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to Al-Qaeda and receiving military training from the terror group. The guilty plea took place before Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis of the Eastern District of New York. At sentencing, al-Hamidi faces a maximum of life imprisonment. "Ali Alvi al-Hamidi went to the FATA to join al-Qaeda, received training from the terrorist organisation and later fought alongside the Taliban ... (More on P4)... (23)

ANA Recruitment in Badakhshan up by 20pc this Year

FAIZABAD - Up to 2,845 youth have been recruited into the Afghan National Army (ANA) in the northeastern province of Badakhshan, officials announced on Wednesday. The appointments were made during the current solar year (beginning in March 2015). On average 350 to 360 soldiers were recruited a month, said the commander of the ANA recruitment section. Col. Mujtaba Sadat told Pajhwok Afghan News the number of recruits was higher than the target fixed by the Ministry of Defence. At times, 60 youth were recruited in a single day, he said. A resident of Faizabad, Rozi Mohammad (22), joined the ANA in a spirit of defending Afghanistan's sovereignty and territory by fighting against the enemies of the county. Additionally, the ... (More on P4)... (25)

Weapons Snatched from Policemen after Poisoning in Nuristan

KABUL - A policeman has snatched weapons of two colleagues after poisoning them in a security post in eastern Nuristan province. Hafiz Abdul Qayoum, Governor of Nuristan province said the incident has taken place in Want Waigal District. It is yet unknown if the escaped policeman had links with militants or not but security agencies have been looking to find and arrest him. ... (More on P4)... (24)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Starting new projects can be quite exciting since you can't wait to see what's next. Although your mind is on fire with lots of amazing ideas, you're not interested in jumping into an unstable set of circumstances just for the thrill factor. But you need to know that even the most brilliant plans you initiate now might not produce tangible results for at least another week.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might think you are rounding a corner now and are ready to apply everything you know to get ahead at work. But even your most innovative plan will fail unless you can thoroughly ground it by taking the most practical approach. Leaning on your peers is tempting but only carries you so far. Even if you receive unexpected support today.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your efforts may be for naught today, especially if you try to accomplish too much at once. You want to participate in every cool activity on your radar, but it's best to limit your involvement in projects that don't further your agenda. Trusting your initial impulse is dangerous now because you are likely to underestimate the resources needed to complete a task. Just do the best job you can without making promises that are impossible to keep.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

It's tempting to fantasize your way to success because today's vision can grow into tomorrow's reality. However, the Moon's presence in your 12th House of Imagination gives you the wrong impression if you play out a familiar scenario in your mind and assume it will automatically occur. One way to take control is to color your mental pictures in with as much detail as possible.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

It seems as if your current life path is on a collision course with your dreams once you realize where you're going today. However, learning the truth is only the first step in a longer process that can help you break through blocked energy in a relationship. Free yourself from responsibilities you no longer need to carry by letting go of old habits and unhealthy patterns.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your natural efficiency often separates you from others because you are less worried about social acceptance than you are about getting the details exactly right. Nevertheless, your pursuit of perfection could become a major obstacle on your way to finding happiness today, especially if you feel the pressure of being short on time. Sometimes it's wiser to be expedient rather than getting stuck struggling with the minutiae.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You are certain your future holds the promise of success and you're willing to wait a little while longer if you think it will help you get what you want. Nevertheless, your patience is running thin and your desires are growing strong. Luckily, it's more constructive to be optimistic because you truly believe that your hard-earned rewards are right around the corner.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Although channeling most of your energy into your career may be required these days, you still need to schedule a little downtime for yourself. The Sun's shift into conceptual Aquarius and your 4th House of Home and Family motivates you to downplay professional pressures so you can focus on more personal goals.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're conflicted about your options today, yet you know the importance of keeping your word. But with serious Saturn settled into your sign for the long haul, you're tired of being the one who rides to the rescue to bail someone out at the last possible moment. You're tempted to just let things fall apart now, but it's not a smart idea to abandon your commitments.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Making an appointment is easy today, but showing up for one may be a lot tougher. However, your current story is not about irresponsibility or disrespect. It's just that you might choose to avoid making commitments for a while because you believe it's wise to explore all your options now. Unfortunately, your newfound compulsion to keep a flexible schedule is counterproductive to your ambitions.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You've been patient long enough; you're pacing the floors, anxious to make your move. The Sun's shift into your heady sign may find you sitting on pins and needles. The road ahead leads into unknown territory, which might surprisingly rattle your nerves. Fortunately, you can reduce the negative effects of your uncertainty by recognizing the pressure comes from within.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You don't want everyone to know your business now that the Sun is camping out in your 12th House of Secrets. Although there's no need to hide your emotional reactions from your friends, it's still prudent to use discretion when revealing your true feelings today. It's really not about the words you speak since people are able to read your intentions through your actions.

Across

1. Unit of pressure, 5. Tossed, 10. Largest continent, 14. Wreckage, 15. French for "Queen", 16. Central points, 17. Enamored, 19. Regretted, 20. Play a role, 21. Stream, 22. Musical groups, 23. Scorn, 25. Unexpired, 27. A high alpine meadow, 28. A standard or typical example, 31. A type of plastic, 34. Quilt part, 35. Prefix meaning "Modern", 36. Mining finds, 37. Segments of DNA, 38. Anagram of "Sage", 39. Not high, 40. Tweaked, 41. Flat circular plates, 42. Entraps, 44. Detachable container, 45. Refute, 46. Asserted, 50. S-shaped moldings, 52. Audio communications, 54. In song, the loneliest number, 55. Marsh plant, 56. An irresistible impulse to travel, 58. Phone, 59. Aquatic mammal, 60. Chills and fever, 61. Backside.

Down

1. Threesome, 2. 1/16th of a pound, 3. Fissures, 4. Ribonucleic acid, 5. Cliché, 6. Throw with effort, 7. Liturgy, 8. Discomfited, 9. Married, 10. Frightened, 11. Measurements of water depth, 12. Chilled, 13. Helps, 18. Quaver, 22. Ho-hum, 24. Remits, 26. Circle fragments, 28. Windows, 29. Eccentric person, 30. Nonvascular plant, 31. Mouselike animal, 32. Weightlifters pump this, 33. Current event short films, 34. Pass into or through, 37. Mentor, 38. Assistant, 40. Checks, 41. Painful grief, 43. Sewing tool, 44. A gripping hand tool, 46. Venomous snake, 47. Edge tool, 48. Follow as a result, 49. Discourage, 50. Killer whale, 51. Equipment, 53. Against, 56. Expression of surprised admiration, 57. Chemist's workplace.

Yesterday's Solution

abstract, accuse, against, alarm, artificial, batter, bland, combination, cups, discover, empire, experience, fabric, fiddle, hilarious, injection, learn, lunch, market, meal, mobile, nothing, papa, prove, read, resume, rife, seed, snit, summary, tact, tail.

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