

Afghan Conflicts Claim 21 Lives in 2 Days

KABUL - Afghan insurgency and counter-insurgency have claimed 21 lives including 19 armed militants and two security personnel in Afghanistan's northern Badakhshan and Kunduz provinces over the past two days, officials said Saturday. Security forces, according to a local official, have killed six armed Taliban fighters and injured 10 others in Tagab district of Badakhshan province with Faizabad as its capital 315 km northeast of the national capital Kabul city, since Friday. "The security forces launched cleanup opera-



tions in Tagab district yesterday (Friday) and so far six rebels including their group commander Mullah Talha have been killed and 10 others injured," spokesman for provincial government Ahmad NawedFrotan told Xinhua. A security personnel has been killed and three others sustained injuries during the operation which is continuing in the area, the official admitted. In similar conflict, elsewhere in the restive northern Kunduz province ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Security Forces Seize Weapons, Drugs in Logar Raids

PUL-I-ALAM - Security forces have captured a huge cache of weapons and drugs in the Azra district of central Logar province, an official said on Saturday. Salim Saleh, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the security forces conducted search operations in Zamanckhel and Qasimkhel localities late on Friday. The raiding parties recovered five Kalashnikovs, 50 rockets, 40 artillery shells, 4,800 machinegun bullets, 22 mortars, nine hand grenades, three binoculars, as many walkie-talkies and some explosives. Six hundred kilograms of hashish and two vehicles were also seized from the militants by the security personnel, the spokesman added. He said the Taliban showed some resistance during the raids. In an exchange of gunfire, two insurgents were killed and seven others wounded, Saleh said. Hameedullah ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Attack on Tolo TV Staff Raises Private Sector's Concerns

KABUL - A number of representatives of the private sector on Saturday condemned the attack on staff members of TOLO TV and said that media form the main part of private sector.



The attack on staffers of a media organization indicates that the Taliban don't want the private sector to grow, they added. Officials from the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) expressed their deep concerns over the recent spike in Taliban attacks on staffers and facilities of private sector organizations and said that the continuation of these attacks

will push Afghanistan into an economic depression. They said the economic system in Afghanistan is a free market, where private sector plays a key role in the economic growth of the country. Attacks on the capital and

staffers of private companies, if continued, will lead to a major capital outflow, they said. KhanjanAlokozai, the deputy chairman of ACCI, voiced his deep concerns over the attack on staff members of TOLO TV and ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Activists Term Taliban Attack on TOLO Staff Violation of Human Rights

KABUL - Women rights activists on Saturday condemned the Taliban attack on TOLO TV staffers, saying that the incident signals that the Taliban's continued existence is as brutal as ever. "Enemy can not silence the voice of women by plotting such an atrocity," Khadija Yaqeen, head of Baghlan women affairs department said. "We call on the government to serve justice on the perpetrators who planned the attack." "Those arrested in connection to the incident must be prosecuted openly," she said. Members of the Independent Human Rights Commission in Badakhshan have also denounced the Taliban attack on TOLO ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Onion Prices Sharply Increased in Nimroz

ZARANJ - Onion prices have increased sharply in southwestern Nimroz province due to being dependent on imports from Tajikistan, residents say. Earlier the province would produce vegetable enough for local consumption and would send surplus to other provinces, but now due to water scarcity, the province could not produce vegetable to be enough for domestic use. According to shopkeepers, last month, the price of a kilo of onion was 10-13



afghanis but now had shot up and reached 40 afs. Earlier, the crop would be brought from Herat and Farah provinces, but now the onions are being imported from Tajikistan, a shopkeeper, Jan Mohamad, told Pajhwok Afghan News, saying the Tajikistani onions are not as good as the domestic one. There are no cold storages in many provinces of the country and traders could not ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Mild-Intensity Quake Rattles Afghanistan, Pakistan

KABUL - A mild intensity earthquake jolted different parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan on Saturday morning, but there were no immediate reports about casualties. The epicenter was located about eight miles west of the Ishkashim village of north-eastern Badakhshan province, bordering Pakistan's Chitral valley, at the depth of about 56 miles. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) recorded the quake at a mag-



nitude of 5 on the open-ended Richter scale. Bajaur Agency, other tribal areas, Chitral, Buner and Malakand were jolted

by the quake. Residents rushed out of their homes and buildings amid panic. According to PMD, ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

6 Militants Killed, 10 Injured in Badakhshan

FAIZABAD - Six Taliban militants have been killed and 10 others sustained injuries as clash flared up in Tagab district of the northern Badakhshan district on Friday, spokesman for provincial government, Ahmad NawedFrotan,

said Saturday. "The security forces launched cleanup operations in Tagab district yesterday and so far six rebels including their group commander Mullah Talha have been killed and 10 others injured," Frotan told Xinhua. A security personnel has been killed and three others injured during the operation which is continuing in the area, the official admitted. Taliban militants who are active in parts of Badakhshan province are yet to make comment. *(Xinhua)*

Road Accident Claims 4 Lives, Wounds 3 in Kandahar

KANDAHAR - Four people were killed and three others injured as a passenger bus collided with a mini-bus coming from opposite direction in Miwand district of

the southern Kandahar province on Saturday, said spokesman for provincial government, SamimKhapalwak. Without giving more details, the official blamed reckless driving for the accident, saying investigation has been initiated into the case. Over a dozen people were killed and more ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Five Students Killed after their Vehicle Plunged Into River in Nuristan

KABUL - Six people, including five students, have lost lives after the vehicle they were traveling in plunged into river in eastern Nuristan province. Local officials say the students were returning home after taking part in the university entry test in Paroun, the province capital, late Friday afternoon. The students reportedly came from Nangaraj High School of Noorgaram District. The incident also left three other students wounded. Nuristan is one of the remote provinces of Afghanistan where locals complain that government has not paid attention to the reconstruction. Most of its bridges are still the old ones in damaged condition. Only few roads have been paved in Nuristan and most of its highways are still dust roads. *(KP)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might believe the strength of your convictions is enough to overcome a challenging relationship issue now. The Leo Full Moon emphasizes your 5th House of Self-Expression, possibly triggering an emotional outburst that can help your cause as long as you remain reasonable. Don't ride roughshod over other people's feelings; if you inadvertently offend anyone.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your tireless patience with a domestic concern is stretched to the breaking point as the Leo Full Moon activates your 4th House of Family. The dynamics of a minor crisis are complicated by pressures that prompt you to juggle the private aspects of your life with public responsibilities. Just don't let laziness get in the way of what must be done now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Planning for the future is just as necessary as keeping up with your current commitments. However, the fiery Leo Full Moon is shining in your 3rd House of Immediate Environment, indicating that your life is incredibly busy now. Consider where you want to go from here and start creating proactive plans to reach your goals. Achieving tangible success may take longer than you think, but don't let frustration hijack your ambitious trajectory.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You Crabs are naturally more susceptible to the energy of the lunar cycles than the other signs, and the proud Leo Full Moon highlighting your 2nd House of Values is no exception. You feel a sense of urgency to hold on tightly to your current position. Nevertheless, a project that hasn't reached fruition might begin to lose its appeal today, making you wonder if it is wiser to walk away before it's too late.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You may seem extremely intense while the extroverted Leo Full Moon illuminates your 1st House of Self. Luna's opposition to the willful Sun in your 7th House of Relationships can trigger contentious arguments now, especially if you just assume communication will solve a difference of opinion today. Actually, you might scare someone away with your brazen confidence.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You must respond to an emotional dilemma as today's demonstrative Leo Full Moon exposes your 12th House of Secrets. You are obsessed with figuring out how you can express yourself while also maintaining your privacy on certain aspects of your life. Partially sharing information can be tricky business because you may find it tough to stop talking once you start. Set clear limits before you open your mouth.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You might inadvertently squelch the fun at a social gathering now that the warmth of your key planet Venus is constrained by her arrival in conservative Capricorn. Nevertheless, the playful Leo Full Moon reflects your 11th House of Friends, encouraging you to tell someone what you need. Luckily, others will take you seriously without misunderstanding your demands if your intentions are pure.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

It's natural to express yourself passionately in your work today because the Leo Full Moon heats up your 10th House of Career. Paradoxically, you can maintain a sense of objectivity even if your emotions are an integral part of the equation. But don't wait for people to create your reality now; instead of sitting on the sidelines or playing the role of a cheerleader.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your heart is fixed on setting aside your previous plans so you can pursue a bigger and better goal. The melodramatic Leo Full Moon amps up your 9th House of Adventure today, but keeping your life in balance is a smarter strategy. Unfortunately, you could miss a real opportunity if you aim too high. Follow a practical course of action now, instead of jeopardizing your emotional and fiscal security.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

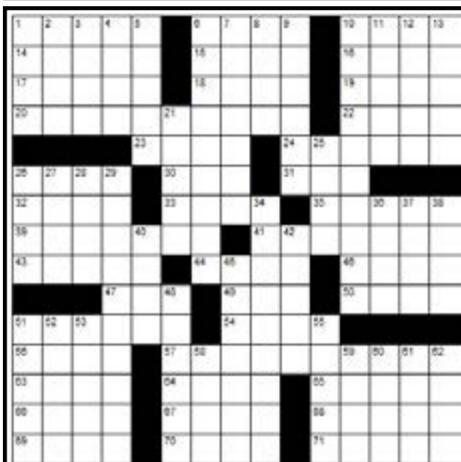
Although you might be afraid that people will judge you negatively, your authority doesn't need to slip as long as you are honest about your concerns. The lively Leo Full Moon fires up your 8th House of Deep Sharing today, feeding fears if you're feeling emotionally vulnerable. Meanwhile, Venus shifts into your reserved sign, tempting you to overcompensate by hiding your feelings.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Opening your heart is advisable today as long as you don't go overboard with your true confessions. The childlike Leo Full Moon casts your 7th House of Relationships in the spotlight, provoking you to share your feelings about your romantic attractions. Just remember that what you don't say now might have greater significance than what is spoken aloud.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Nearly any physical exercise will help calm your nerves, but you'll feel much happier if you accomplish something useful while exerting yourself today. The innocent Leo Full Moon brightens your 6th House of Work, creating a palpable tension between your playful desires and your current obligations. Of course, you can reduce the stress by expending some of your excess energy sweating at the gym.



Across

- 1. Trounce, 6. "Smallest" particle, 10. Desire, 14. Eagle's nest, 15. Part of the outer ear, 16. Lazily, 17. College administrators, 18. Blockhead, 19. Hint, 20. Unable to read, 22. Composer Jerome, 23. Asperion, 24. Black Sea port, 26. Lipids, 30. Accomplished, 31. Disencumber, 32. Two-toed sloth, 33. Being, 35. Grind together, 39. Affinity, 41. Penny-pinching, 43. Napped, 44. Absorbs, 46. Appear, 47. 52 in Roman numerals, 49. Faster than light, 50. Wood that is cut, 51. Bug, 54. Feudal estate, 56. Weaving machine, 57. Loud, 63. Small island, 64. Sea eagle, 65. Soup server, 66. Many millennia, 67. Not more, 68. Arm of the sea, 69. Vesicle, 70. Charges, 71. S-shaped moldings.

Down

- 1. Dry riverbed, 2. Part of a foot, 3. By mouth, 4. Short skirt, 5. Vermin, 6. Philanthropists, 7. In the direction of, 8. Death notice, 9. Shooting star, 10. Evil, 11. Runs in neutral, 12. Aspersions, 13. Doglike nocturnal mammal, 21. Church officer, 25. Excavates, 26. Pelts, 27. A Freudian stage, 28. Adhesive strip, 29. Add-on, 34. Void, 36. Region, 37. Killed, 38. Song of praise, 40. Ear-related, 42. A small island, 45. Umbrage, 48. Reflexive form of "It", 51. Of a pelvic bone, 52. Offensively curious, 53. Flies alone, 55. Page, 58. Tall woody plant, 59. Telephoned, 60. Doing nothing, 61. Away from the wind, 62. Catches.

Yesterday's Solution



brace, bridle, clap, cola, consume, control, death, defeat, emotional, fierce, flash, frame, gest, hedge, honest, label, lair, lend, lethal, limp, manor, order, packet, patch, plate, platter, procedure, rank, receive, refer, repent, separation, shock, shred.

