

Afghan Forces Destroy 6 Heroin Labs

LASHKARGAH - The Afghan security forces have destroyed six heroin labs, as the war-hit country struggled to fight the narcotics, said Defense Ministry on Sunday. The Afghan National Army's Special Forces carried out operations in Sangin and Naw Zad districts of southern Helmand province on Friday, destroying six heroin factories, it said in a statement posted on the ministry's website. Among the drugs and materials, 1,000 kg of morphine, over 16,000 kg of am-



monium chloride, 277 barrels of a chemical substance which has been used in making heroin, were also destroyed, the statement added. "One militant was killed and two others wounded as a result of the raids, which were conducted on confirmed tip-offs, and the security force also destroyed four vehicles, three motorcycles and six weighing scales," the statement noted. Helmand, notorious for poppy growing, is also a known Taliban stronghold. ... (More on P4)... (13)

11 Taliban Militants Detained in Kandahar

KANDAHAR - Security forces have captured 11 militants loyal to the Taliban outfit in Taliban former stronghold the southern Kandahar province, National Directorate of Security (NDS) or the country's spy agency said in a statement released here on Sunday. According to the statement, the arrested militants are Afghans and were active against government interests in parts ... (More on P4)... (14)

21 People Die in Cold Weather across the Country

KABUL - At least 21 people have died in the past few weeks due to the cold weather and heavy snowfalls in parts of the country, officials said. The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) on Saturday said in a statement that the bad weather has claimed the lives of at least 21 people in 15 provinces ... (More on P4)... (15)

Husband Pushed Me into Drug Addiction: Zarmina

PUL-I-ALAM - A woman from central Logar province, pushed into addiction by her husband, has resorted to begging to buy illicit drugs. Zarmina, 45, is a resident of the Baraki area of Baraki Barak district. Hailing from an honorable family, her wedding took place in a graceful environment, but financial woes and other problems forced the couple to migrate to Iran, where her spouse slipped into addiction. Zarmina says her life partner also compelled

her into consuming narcotics and currently both of them are addicts. "We have six daughters and a son. My husband has married off our daughters in return for small amounts of money. "We had a wonderful time spending the money. Later, we ran out of cash and I started begging. It has been a year that I don't have any information from my husband." She spends 100 afghanis daily on buying drugs. Zarmina does drugs in a dark corner. "Some peo-



ple give me money while others make illegal and unethical demands on me. I don't know what the future holds in store for me," remarks the woebegone woman. She ... (More on P4)... (16)

Olympic Committee Welcomes Malaysian Cyclists

KABUL - Afghanistan National Olympic Committee on Sunday welcomed the two Malaysian cyclists who recently arrived in Afghanistan bringing with them messages of peace and solidarity. The Malaysian cyclists are expected to leave Afghanistan in the next few days for Iran. They will make their way through the border in Herat province. The cyclists have travelled over 10,000 km, in an epic journey that will

end in Saudi Arabia. According to the Olympic committee, the arrival of the Malaysian cyclists in Afghanistan was a milestone in promoting peace and stability in the country. Their visit was also hailed as a boost for cooperation and bilateral relations between the two Muslim nations. The Malaysian cyclists said that they want to show the world that Islamic nations support global peace and stability efforts and that they condemn war and violence



around the world. "We are delighted to be here in Afghanistan; this will further promote our relations; we are conveying a message of peace and to say that Islamic countries never support war and they always support promoting peace," said Malaysian cyclist Amirul Arif. (Tolonews)

Paktia Police Thwart Bid to Kidnap Trader

GARDEZ - Police on Sunday claimed foiling a kidnapping bid and arresting four persons in southeastern Paktia province. Police chief Brig. Gen. Qadar Gul Zadran identified to Pajhwok Afghan News the four detainees as Inayatullah, Wakil Shah, Hamidullah and Ghazi Gul. The four men were arrested in Baldah locality of Gardez, the provincial capital, when they tried to kidnap a shopkeeper named Khalid. He said police arrested the four persons after



a clash. The police also seized two vehicles and some weapons from the kidnappers. (Pajhwok)

Daesh Free 5 Civilians, Still Hold Dozens in Captivity

JALALABAD - Daesh or Islamic State militants have set free five civilians the group had kidnapped among several others few months ago in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Sunday. Attuallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News Daesh rebels had kidnapped dozens of civilians in Pachiragam district a few months ago and the five freed men were among them. He said the government had struck ... (More on P4)... (17)

'Taliban' Behead Boy, Chop off His Hands in Logar

PUL-I-ALAM - Taliban militants have beheaded a 19-year-old boy and chopped off his hands in the capital of central Logar province, an official said on Sunday, but the rebels rejected having hand in the incident. The governor's spokesman, Salim Saleh, told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants captured Salman last night in Padkhab Shana area and cut off his head and both hands. "Salman had gone somewhere last night, when he was returning home, ... (More on P4)... (18)

IS Forces Women to Wear Afghan Clothes in Western Mosul

NINEVEH - A local source in Nineveh province revealed that the Islamic State group is forcing women to wear Afghan clothes and carry weapons in western Mosul, Alsumaria News reported on Sunday. The source said, "Leaders of the Islamic State group forced women in western Mosul to wear male Afghan attire, as well as carrying weapons to join the battle against security forces." "Meanwhile, members of the Islamic State executed three women, by firing squad, for refusing to



join the combat against security forces in Refaei neighborhood, in western Mosul," the source added on condition of anonymity. Noteworthy, security forces are preparing to storm the areas in western Mosul, after three months of battles in the eastern side of the city and liberating it completely. (I NEWS)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're rarely afraid to go after your heart's desires, but your true motivation for wanting to be on top rises to awareness today. Cerebral Mercury joins powerful Pluto in your 10th House of Ambitions, retrieving insights about your drive to succeed. There's no use doubting the reality of these revelations or using escapist behaviors to repress them.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Everyone runs to you when they need someone dependable, but now you're pondering who you call upon when you need help. Your 9th House of Big Ideas serves as the conference room for messenger Mercury and incisive Pluto, prompting you to take a good look at what you believe and why. While you should avoid resisting any insights that arise now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Looking at the world through curious eyes is a gift unto itself, but looking within is an intimidating prospect. Perhaps that's why you typically avoid delving too deeply, preferring to skim over many ideas rather than follow one through to the end. However, the cosmos draws you into your personal underworld to finally face the issues you usually ignore. Hidden fears and problems that have been swept under the rug are now brought into your conscious mind for you to address.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

The curtain is pulled back today, uncovering a cold harsh truth about a close relationship. Everyone has secrets they feel they must hide from even their most intimate companions. Nevertheless, if you've been keeping too much sealed away for fear of rejection, it will likely be reflected by someone near and dear to you now.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You have a natural tendency to run yourself into the ground, believing your supply of stamina is endless. However, your habits are catching up with you and you're not getting off the hook this time. Mental Mercury is carrying an urgent message from your 6th House of Health, where your constant striving to be the best may cause your physical wellbeing to suffer.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Everyone knows that working hard and taking care of your health are cornerstones of good living, but having a creative outlet is just as important for your soul. Mischievous Mercury aligns with insightful Pluto in your 5th House of Spontaneity, calling your inner child out to play. Neglecting recreation may not help you progress professionally as much as you think. While you don't have to quit your job to become a renowned artist.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Old memories bubble up to the surface accompanied by a bittersweet sense of nostalgia. Methodical Mercury is sending a message in a bottle from your 4th House of Family, inviting you to revisit a childhood insecurity or painful trauma. You may try to suppress these recollections today, but there's no denying their impact on who you are as a person. Be gentle with yourself during this period of soul-searching - you'll be stronger for it afterwards.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

A dawning realization about the way in which you convey your messages begins to slowly dominate your thoughts. Sometimes you don't notice how your comments sound until they're already out in the open; conversely, often you wish you had spoken up only after it's too late.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your money is on your mind and your mind is on your money, but there's something lurking beneath your financial preoccupation that deserves your immediate attention. Your value systems are under examination by the keen eye of Mercury and the penetrating gaze of Pluto. An epiphany reveals what holds worth in your life, and the truth may be hard to swallow now.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

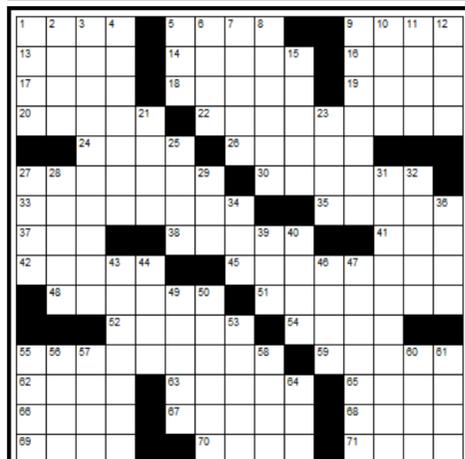
You're finally able to relax and enjoy the weekend, which is precisely why you also have the mental space to contemplate some heavy issues. The person you're becoming is called into question as analytical Mercury joins evolutionary Pluto in your 1st House of Personality. A surprisingly thorough self-assessment comes seemingly out of nowhere, allowing you to see yourself with new eyes - the good, the bad and the ugly.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

What starts as a normal day takes a philosophical turn, even though you may be the only one who realizes it. Secrets are unearthed as cerebral Mercury aligns with probing Pluto in your 12th House of Invisibility. Once brought to light this confidential information isn't likely to disperse without being acknowledged. Privacy and secrecy aren't the same thing.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You start the day only to be stopped by a cosmic knock on the door. Swift Mercury and shrewd Pluto arrive with a message from your 11th House of Hopes and Dreams. You often feel like you can't decide where you want to put down roots, wishing instead that you could float along unhindered to explore whatever stirs your soul. However, a prominent landmark arises on the proverbial horizon, and you're suddenly clear on your desired destination.



Across

- 1. Policemen, 5. 10 10 10 10, 9. A box or chest, 13. French for "State", 14. Quickly, 16. Smell, 17. "Your majesty", 18. Sofa, 19. No more than, 20. Cicatrices, 22. Think, 24. Furry mammal, 26. Female demon, 27. A newborn lamb, 30. A mastiff, 33. More drowsy, 35. Remove errors from, 37. Female sib, 38. Fangs, 41. 52 in Roman numerals, 42. Kick out, 45. Friendliness, 48. A type of insect, 51. Angered, 52. Duck down, 54. Nurse shark, 55. Sugared, 59. Iron or steel, 62. Half-moon tide, 63. "Bye", 65. Lasso, 66. Backside, 67. Ringworm cassia, 68. At one time (archaic), 69. Equal, 70. Absorb written material, 71. Colors.

Down

- 1. To tax or access, 2. Ear-related, 3. A disorder of memory, 4. Germless, 5. Little bit, 6. Sweeping story, 7. Belly button, 8. Dung beetle, 9. Companion, 10. Notion, 11. Classify, 12. Tall woody plant, 15. Colonic, 21. Trim, 23. Fasten, 25. Make a sweater, 27. Being, 28. Not dead, 29. G, 31. Mandatory, 32. Cunning, 34. Regulation (abbrev.), 36. Decorate with gold leaf, 39. Foot digit, 40. ___ Kong, 43. Any ivy-like plant, 44. Blockhead, 46. Apothecary's weight, 47. Irrigated, 49. Notions, 50. Sex, 53. French for "Queen", 55. Break, 56. Used to be, 57. Lack of difficulty, 58. Spanish lady, 60. Church alcove, 61. Permits, 64. Unhappy.

Yesterday's Solution

CROFT PITAT CUSS
HELLO TISLE OTTIG
DHOOT UOSIT NITE
COOPERATOR GLEN
MEMO ARREST
BOLT HELP DOE
ALABR ANEW AGISM
REDUBIT ERACHE
SOEUR SLAIG TOES
BIG IRE ENDS
DETACH BING
AXED EVENTUALLY
TARO FTIRE LXITII
ECRU TEAS CLAMP
STAR OWLS HERBS

agent, aisle, awful, begin, brag, bride, central, cruel, danger, deem, dine, either, exhaust, expectation, filter, final, garage, gleam, herd, living, marry, medicine, method, moment, money, mountain, pain, pang, plant, please, policy, realm, rocky, swami.

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