

Civil Society Sidelined in Peace Talks: Rafiee



KABUL - Civil society activists on Sunday slammed the High Peace Council (HPC) for giving them no representation on the panel, saying its work would not be fruitful in the absence of social workers. Azizullah Rafiee, the Afghanistan Civil Society Association head, accused the government of sidelining civil society organisations and being indifferent toward them. He told Pajhwok Afghan News peace parleys had not yielded a positive outcome because the process lacked the backing of other groups. Peace would come about as a result of political, military and social

consultations. On the social plane, he claimed, civil society groups had made many achievements in promoting peace in far-flung areas. Civil society activists made their presence felt even in localities under insurgent control. With the help of local elders and religious scholars, they have effectively conveyed the message of peace to people, Rafiee added, implying their input could make the process of negotiations more meaningful. Yasin Negah, an activist in Kabul, said civil society's role in peacemaking was not yet perceptible. "We don't remember if the government or HPC has spoken to civil society organisations about promoting peace." Negah alleged despite civil society's active role in oversight of government performance, promotion of human rights and participation in elections, the authorities had not paid considerable attention to them. He believed achieving peace would be possible only when local elders, religious... (More on P4)...(22)

Farah Fighting Leaves Civilians' Houses Damaged

FARAH CITY - At least five militants and an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier were killed and eight militants and ANA soldier wounded and scores of civilians' houses were demolished in fierce overnight clashes in western Farah province, an official said on Monday. Ghausuddin, chief of Pushtud district, told Pajhwok Afghan News around 350 militants were active in Chuck, Dukan, Char-mas and Faizabad villages, firing rockets on ANA positions. The Afghan security forces, he said retaliated and forced rebels to leave the area. At least five militants and one ANA soldier were killed... (More on P4)...(23)

2 Civilians Dead in Faryab, Logar Violence

MAIMANA/PUL-I-ALAM - A civilian was died in a bomb blast in Andkhoy district of northern Faryab province while a doctor was gunned down by unidentified gunmen in central Logar province, officials said on Monday. Sultan Sanjar, administrative chief for Andkhoy district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a mine placed inside a rickshaw went-off in the city's square, which left one civilian dead. But a resident wishing anonymity said that it was a suicide attack. He added the explosion took place at a 200 meters distance from the police headquarters. Elsewhere, a doctor was killed by armed rebels in Pul-i-Alam City, the provincial... (More on P4)...(24)

NDS Seizes Explosives-Laden Vehicle

LASHKARGAH - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency - has seized a vehicle laden with explosive materials in southern Helmand province. A statement issued by NDS states that terrorist had planned to use the explosives laden vehicle in a busy part of Lashkargah, the provincial capital of restive Helmand province. The statement adds that

the vehicle was parked in a militant hideout where 15 home made anti-tank bombs, Kalashnikov, pistol, 1500 bullets and military equipment. A video footage issued by NDS shows a strong explosion at the end believed to be the controlled detonation of the truck seized. NDS statements usually do not contain date of the achievements but they come after recent activities. (KP)

Yamgan District Residents Face Acute Food Shortage



FAIZABAD - After Taliban took control of Yamgan district in northeastern Badkhashan province which forced hundreds of families to leave their homes, the rest of the residents were facing acute food shortage, an official said on Monday. The schools in the district were shut and thousands of students deprived of education, director education said. Attaullah said the situation turned horrible as the prices

of food items went up and the resident started eating grass due to lack of foods. The Yamgan district fell to Taliban 10 days back; however, security forces claimed they had retreated tactically. According to Attaullah, the price of 50

kilograms of sugar was 1,200 afghanis but now it surged to 4,000. Similarly the price of a bottle of oil was 100 afghanis and now it went up to 500 afghanis. He said two boys and as many girls school remained closed which deprived 5,000 students from attending their classes. As many as 600 individuals had fled the area after it fell to Taliban and got shelter in areas under security forces control... (More on P4)...(20)

94 Insurgents Killed in ANSF Military Operations

KABUL - At least 94 insurgents have been killed in a series of coordinated operations over the past 24 hours by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said in a statement on Monday. In addition, 49 other insurgents were injured and six arrested.



dahar, Uruzgan, Logar, Khost, Kumar, Paktiya, Herat, Badghis and Helmand provinces, the statement said.

"During the same 24 hour period, Afghan National Police discovered and defused 42 different types of IEDs placed by enemies of Afghanistan for destructive activities in Ghor, Nimroz and Helmand provinces," it said. The MoI, however, did not comment on whether any security force members were injured during the operations. (Tolnews)

Sherpao Asks Pak Govt. to Address Kabul's Reservations

KABUL - Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, chief of Qaumi Watan Party (QWP), expressed concern over Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's statement against Pakistan and asked the federal government to address reservations of the neighbouring country, Pakistani media reports.

Speaking at a meeting on Sunday, Sherpao said such statements would undermine bilateral relations between Kabul and Islamabad. "Both countries have been victim of terrorism and extremism. The time is ripe to re-establish cordial and friendly relations with each other

to bring long-lasting peace and economic prosperity in the region," he added. Earlier, in a letter to Pakistani leaderships, Ghani had requested specific steps to end the Taliban's sanctuary in their country and help in addressing their violent campaign inside Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

Qatar Secures Release of 4 Tajikistani Soldiers Abducted by Afghan Taliban

KABUL - At least four Tajikistani soldiers were freed by Taliban militants group in Afghanistan after Qatari authorities mediated for their release. "Under the directives of HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatari mediation succeeded in the re-



lease of four soldiers from Tajikistan who were captured by Taliban in December on the

Northern borders of Afghanistan," a statement by Qatar's Foreign Affairs Ministry said. The statement further added that Qatar's efforts were out of the state's commitment to humanitarian values. "Qatar is using all its resources and diplomacy to save lives," the... (More on P4)...(21)

Five Civilians Wounded in Paktia Explosion

GAHDAIZ - Five civilians have sustained injuries in a landmine explosion in Sayed Karam District of Paktia province. Brigadier General Zalmai Oryakhil, the police chief of Paktia province said that five civilians were taken to hospital after their vehicle ran over a landmine this morning. Oryakhil added that there is a child and a woman among the five wounded in the blast. Hospital sources have announced them out of danger. Security forces have initiated an investigation into the incident. (KP)

1 Dead, 9 Injured in Khost, Paktia Blasts



KHOST-GARDEZ - A civilian was killed and nine others wounded in two separate blasts in south-eastern Khost and Paktia provinces, officials said on Monday.

4 Policemen Killed in Qarabagh Ambush

GHAZNI CITY - 4 policemen, including 2 Afghan Local Police commanders, were killed in a gun battle with militants on Monday in the Qarabagh district of Ghazni province, an official said. Shafiq Nang, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News ALP commander Baloch and Nisar were killed while another wounded in a face-off with the insurgents. Militants suffered casualties but he had no exact figure to share. ALP soldier Mohammad Anwar confirmed killing of two commanders and injuring another in an ambush. (Pajhwok)

Brig. Gen. Faizullah Ghairat, Khost police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News a civilian was killed and three others, including a policeman, wounded when a bomb in went-off at around 10: am near Speen mosque in Khost City, the provincial capital. The injured, he said were instantly shifted to a local hospital. Kazim, an eye witness, told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion was so powerful that it shook the entire locality. A number of wounded were evacuated to hospital in police vehicles. Maj. Gen. Zalmai Oryakhil, Paktia police chief, said five persons including women and children were injured in a bomb blast in Said Karam district. He said that all the wounded were in stable condition. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

There are so many things you want to start today that you can't keep up with your own agenda. The noisy Gemini New Moon joins forces with impetuous Mars in your 3rd House of Information, filling your mind with data that can actually prevent you from seeking the deeper meaning of your experiences. You may be preoccupied with all the external commotion now.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You're unabashedly concerned about money now that the Gemini New Moon is activating your 2nd House of Resources. Unfortunately, you might not be able to relax until your material world feels secure. It's disconcerting if you're consumed by the realization that you're not as financially comfortable as you wish. But, nothing is stopping you from reconsidering where to go next.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

If you're all tangled up in your thoughts now, remember that curiosity is a common Gemini trait and you need to play out all the alternatives before narrowing it down to just one. However, the inquisitive Gemini New Moon prompts you to obsess over irrelevant details. It's natural to feel a bit lost in your own mental maze, but you're perfectly safe and exactly where you need to be today.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your powerful dreams serve a very important purpose now, and you would quickly lose interest in your future without the inspiration they provide. You often look back to the past when you are worried about what's ahead, but the mischievous Gemini New Moon dancing in your 12th House of Destiny may have your fantasies working on overdrive.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

If you're struggling to hold on to the status quo at work, it's helpful to reassess your goals while the clever Gemini New Moon is triggering your 11th House of Dreams and Wishes. Your mental agility enables you to run circles around others now. However, you must also be willing to learn something new about yourself or people will think you're just playing games.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Others are supporting your pursuit of a particular professional path now that the interactive Gemini New Moon emphasizes your 10th House of Career. However, you have additional goals that might not be recognizable by your current choices. Thankfully, it isn't necessary to reveal your inner conflicts yet. In fact, sharing your true feelings today only confuses your coworkers and complicates matters even more.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You are highly motivated to let go of desires that only have a small chance of being fulfilled as the whimsical Gemini New Moon highlights your 9th House of Big Ideas. You have reached a fork in the road where you're eager to make dramatic changes in order to spice up your life. Even if you're impatient to embark on your next adventure, you still have to put your plans in order.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Be careful about complicating a tricky situation today as the scattered Gemini New Moon influences your 8th House of Intimacy. You are fueled by an insatiable desire to explain the unexplainable as you drive toward achieving your lofty goals. Your current assumption that the outcome will be an all-or-nothing one muddies the waters even more.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You could be struggling to find a balance between pursuing your dreams and living up to everyone else's expectations. The dualistic Gemini New Moon is tempting you to leave your fate in the hands of others. Your current dilemma stems from your illusion that you can have it both ways. Thankfully, your diplomatic skills rise to the occasion, but you still must eventually make your choice because you can't serve two masters at once.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

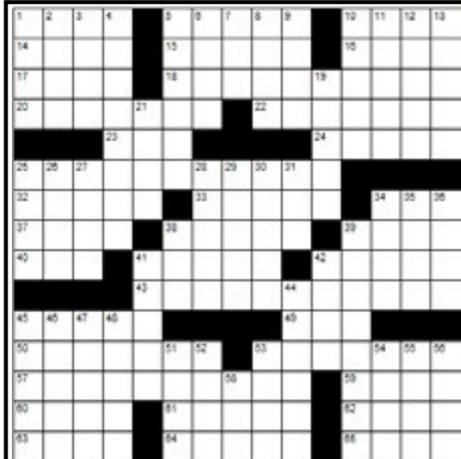
A coworker might believe you are acting selfishly today, but you know that you must attend to your own needs before you can truly help those around you. You may feel a bit overwhelmed now with everything that's going on; you won't be much good to yourself or anyone else until you establish a workable rhythm in your everyday life.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You may be so quick to change your story for each new audience that it's hard to know where you stand on any given subject. The flexible Gemini New Moon inspires your 5th House of Romance, motivating you to share your feelings. But don't be overly concerned about impressing anyone with your song and dance; if you please yourself, everyone else will jump on your bandwagon now.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You're highly protective of your home and family because subconsciously you realize that everything can't stay the same forever. The fickle Gemini New Moon occupies your 4th House of Foundations today, prompting you to overcompensate and justify your behavior as you cling to familiar feelings. Ironically, it's your attachment to the past that destabilizes the present.



Across

- 1. Faux pas, 5. Look at with fixed eyes, 10. Scoundrels, 14. Soft drink, 15. Spiral-horned antelopes, 16. Ends a prayer, 17. Air force heroes, 18. Indifferent, 20. Blend, 22. Withhold, 23. Frequently, in poetry, 24. ___ alia, 25. Very tiny, 32. Runs in neutral, 33. Be in a rush, 34. British ruler in India, 37. Tailless stout-bodied amphibian, 38. Dye with wax, 39. Flower holder, 40. Shades, 42. Pig sounds, 43. Eye doctor, 45. 4-door car, 49. 7 in Roman numerals, 50. Venus and the Earth, 53. Liable to sin, 57. Esteem, 59. Nile bird, 60. 500 sheets, 61. Center, 62. A pack of playing cards, 63. Sea eagle, 64. Backsides, 65. Large North American deer (plural).

Down

- 1. Fraud, 2. Hubs, 3. Holly, 4. Led a church, 5. Women's garments, 6. Melody, 7. Commercials, 8. Regretted, 9. Feudal worker, 10. A marker of stones, 11. Extent, 12. Look closely, 13. Contemptuous look, 19. Piquant, 21. Flying saucers, 25. Small amount, 26. False god, 27. Burrowing marine mollusk, 28. Cantillate, 29. Surpass, 30. Light refractor, 31. Bother, 34. Hindu princess, 35. Demands, 36. Joke, 38. Hit on the head, 39. Virus killer, 41. Silly mistake, 42. Ear-related, 44. Happenings, 45. Surplus, 46. Church officer, 47. A type of small mammal, 48. Japanese cartoon art, 51. Pack down, 52. Blend, 53. Publicize, 54. Cain's brother, 55. Notch, 56. Sounds of disapproval, 58. Actress Lupino.

Yesterday's Solution



advice, afternoon, alone, amaze, apart, caution, choice, civet, dash, daughter, dream, effort, enough, fear, frantic, fright, generator, hanger, heart, incredible, money, monster, movie, plead, pride, sharp, slide, sorry, south, therefore, think, toad, video.

