

Balkh Residents Stage Protest against PC Member

MAZR-I-SHARIF - Tens of residents of northern Balkh province staged protest against a provincial council member in front of the Finance Ministry and the presidential palace.

Around hundred protesters came from Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, to convey their complaints to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

A fiery protester Haji Shah Agha, a shopkeeper from Mazar-i-Sharif, told Pajhwok Afghan News that based on an agreement with the Hajj

and religious affairs department, as many as 250 people built shops on the property of the department about 40 years back and they pay 1500-60,000afis rent monthly.

But now provincial council member Mohammad Asif Momand has given them a one month notice to vacate the shops.

"We are paying rent and tax to the government and earn our livelihood from our shops for our families. But now, a new member of the provincial council wants to get



control of the shops," the shopkeeper said, adding they would not vacate the shops and the issue should be settled through legal process. Haji Baryalai, another shopkeeper, said since 40 years they were doing their ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Three Key Projects Completed in Khost

KHOST CITY - Three major development projects have been completed in southeastern Khost province, officials said on Saturday.

Mubarez Zadran, the governor's spokesperson, told Pajhwok Afghan News a large irrigation dam and a retaining wall had been completed in Khadr Peeran locality of Khost City, the provincial capital.

Acting governor Abdul Jabar Naeemi, who inaugurated the projects, said many problems earlier faced by residents would be resolved with the projects' completion.

The projects were executed by the provincial Power and Water De-

partment at a cost of 14 million afghanis, which had been provided by the World Bank, he added.

Residents would directly benefit from the dam project that would bring over 4000 acres of land under irrigation.

Meanwhile, construction work on a 4.44-kilometre road has been launched in Tanai district.

The road is being constructed by the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Department at a cost of seven million afghanis, the governor's house said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the construction of a health centre was completed in Garbaz district. Inaugurating the ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

11 Rebels Dead in Military Offensive

SAR-I-PUL City - At least 11 insurgents were killed and 13 others wounded in a clearing operation in northern Sar-i-Pul province, an official said on Saturday.

Police Chief Maj. Gen. Noor-ul-Habib Gulbahari told Pajhwok Afghan News that Security

forces had purged several areas of rebels. He demanded authorities concerned to deploy more Afghan Local Police (ALP) force to bolster law and order in the area.

Taliban, however, have not yet commented on the incident. *(Pajhwok)*

US Congratulates Afghan Cricket Team

WASHINGTON - The White House Friday congratulated the Afghan cricket team on winning its first ever match in the on-going World Cup Cricket tournament, adding that this is a sign of some progress the country is making.

"It is a historic moment for the Afghan people, and we certainly do want to compliment and congratulate them on defeating Scotland in the Cricket World Cup," the White House Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, told reporters at his daily news conference.



In response to a question he said "I do think it reflects that that is a country where they're starting to stabilize the security situation. To have the opportunity

2 Officials Detained over Recent Logar Violence

PUL-I-ALAM - Police have arrested two government officials in connection with recent incidents of violence in central Logar province, an official said on Saturday.

The detainees included Baraki Barak district police chief Col. Mohammad Qasim and counternarcotics department head Mohammad

Khalid, said Mohammad Rahim Amin, the town's administrative head.

Logar police chief Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai confirmed the arrests and said the arrested men had allegedly cooperated with militants in staging their attacks.

They had been handed over to intelligence officials and were currently ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

5 Women Dead in Blast

MAIMANA / SHIBRGHAN - Five women have been killed in a bomb blast in northwestern Faryab province while two men lost their lives in a traffic accident in northwestern Jawzjan province, officials said Saturday.

Maj. Sayyed Gharib, police chief for Garziwan district, told Pajhwok Afghan ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Policemen among 10 Dead in Clashes

LASHKARGAH / JALALABAD - Two policemen and 10 rebels have been killed during clashes in different parts of the country, officials said Saturday. Two policemen, five rebels were killed and seven others wounded in the ongoing Zulfiqar military offensive in southern Helmand province, Police Chief Nabi Jan Mulakhel said.

He said militants stormed police check post Friday night in the Marja district which resulted in casualties on both sides. Security officials cordoned-off the area but some assailants managed to flee the scene.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Qari



Yousuf Ahmadi claimed killing five security men in the Tarkha Nava locality. Elsewhere, officials in eastern Nangarhar province claimed killing five insurgents and injuring another in Nazzano and Hisarak districts. Police Spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashraqiwal said four rebels were killed and another wounded during an airstrike that targeted a vehicle in Milwa locality. However, he did not confirm the airstrike was conducted by Afghan forces or foreigners. Separately, a dreaded Taliban commander Maulvi Qureshi was killed during an overnight rebels' attack on police check post on the outskirts Hisarak district, Mashraqiwal said. *(Pajhwok)*

Human Traffickers' Gang Busted

MAZR-I-SHARIF - At least six human traffickers including a woman were arrested in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, an official said on Saturday.

Shir Jan Durrani, police spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that security forces had rescued a kidnapped kid, Hazrat Shah, from their captivity and detained the group allegedly involved in the human traf-



ficking business.

Haji Daud, father of the kidnapped child, told police that his son was abducted last week and the kidnappers were demanding ransom. *(Pajhwok)*

Girl Flees Home to Avoid Falling to Taliban

JALALABAD - A teenager girl fled home and surrendered to army personnel after Taliban insurgents forced her to join them in eastern Nuristan province, an official said on Saturday.

Col. Noman Hatafi, a spokesman for the 201st Selab Military Corps

in the east, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban had long been visiting home of the 18-year-old, Lal Mina, to convince her family to let their daughter join them.

A group of rebels led by Commander Mullah Islamuddin visited her house on Friday night,

Senior Army Officer Commended for Afghan Contribution

NEW YORK - A Dorset Army Officer who helped ensure Afghan security forces were able to secure the population through the 2014 elections is to receive the

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service. Colonel Barry Bennett OBE, formally of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, is from Poole in Dorset. His role saw him

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You might incorrectly assume that you have to solve everyone's problems today. Luckily, you can still be the strong and capable one while also being vulnerable enough to feel someone else's pain. However, you are not required to find a solution right away; neither must you avoid the dilemma. In fact, an alternative approach is to open your heart and experience the predicament without trying to fix it.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

A relative or friend might bug you so much today that you think he or she is trying to pick a fight with you. But don't let a non-issue grow so important that it leads to an unnecessary argument which becomes the focal point of your entire day. If you can successfully sidestep a confrontation now, you should be able to enjoy the fruits of your self-restraint later once they ripen.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Balancing your unflagging need for mental stimulation with your current yearning to chill out can be tricky business. It's not that your interest to interact with others disappears; it's just that you don't want so many distractions when your sensitivity is on high alert. If you are feeling overextended in any part of your life now, take time to recharge your batteries so you are up for the challenges of next week.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

The raw power of your feelings could stop you in your tracks now that the evocative Moon is back in your contemplative sign. However, she also reminds you of how isolated you feel when you don't express your emotions. Unfortunately, it's difficult to communicate your experiences because you worry that your intensity may be too much for others to handle today.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

It's tempting to hide your feelings today, especially if you're not as optimistic as everyone expects.

The moody Cancer Moon is hanging out in your 12th House of Secrets, making it nearly impossible to reveal your uncertainty about the future. Paradoxically, sharing your vulnerability demonstrates your true strength.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Being receptive and responsive to your friends and family may prove to be an enriching experience today, but you must first get over your fear of rejection. Sharing your feelings can set you up for disappointment if others don't react as expected. Nevertheless, you'll never know what might develop if you don't take the risk. Opening your heart allows everyone to know your authentic self.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may try to avoid the public eye today, yet you could be needed by others in a way that puts you front and center with everyone's attention on you.

Oddly enough, it's not that you want to remain unseen; it's just that you feel awkward in the spotlight now. Whether you like it or not, it's time to choose between hiding out and stepping up to the plate.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You can look off into the future and see your distant goals quite clearly now, but you still may be at a loss as how to best reach your destination. Unfortunately, you don't recognize any routes that lead directly to where you want to go. Fortunately, you are drawing on a very deep well of persistence and faith. Your willingness to wait for the right moment will clear the way for your success.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Although it's always wise to deliver on your promises, you have other things on your agenda now as your creativity overflows with passion.

You want to amaze others with your originality, but turning down the volume on your self-expression makes more sense than striking out on your own.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You're confronted with an ambiguous message now, as others say one thing yet do another. You're encouraged by the loving support you receive, but it feels as if something still isn't quite right today. The unspoken judgment is that you're not doing enough, even if you have no idea of what else you could do. Don't let self-doubt creep into your life; focus on the positive feedback to propel you to the next level, instead.

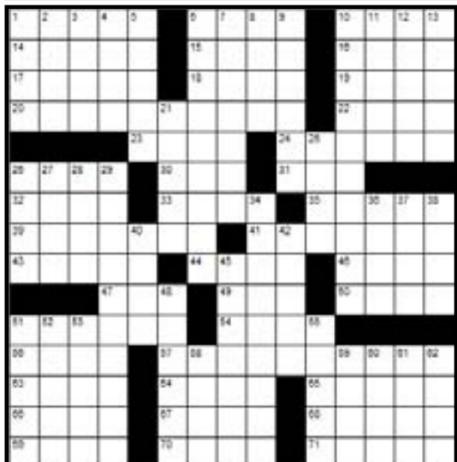
Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You're extremely intuitive when it comes to what your close friends want today, enabling you to initiate helpful tasks before anyone even asks you for assistance. Unfortunately, you may also harbor resentment toward those who aren't willing to give you straightforward direction. You probably don't mind the extra work, but might feel frustrated about the lack of acknowledgement and appreciation.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You may feel more alive today, revitalized by the tidal Cancer Moon as she refreshes your pools of emotions. If you're attempting to recover from a recent schedule overload, set new boundaries while you still can.

Thankfully, you won't have to relinquish any power, nor must you defend your personal right for taking a solitary path.



Across

1. SSSS, 6. Sense, 10. All excited, 14. Swindle, 15. Within, 16. Baseball great, Ruth, 17. Washing machine cycle, 18. Talon, 19. Portent, 20. Downplay, 22. Ascend, 23. French for "Black", 24. Small piano 26. Pitcher, 30. Holiday drink, 31. Children's game, 32. Assistant, 33. Again, 35. Light wispy precipitation, 39. Anagram of "Carpets", 41. Introductory, 43. Adult male singing voice, 44. Wisdom, 46. Wings, 47. Russian fighter, 49. Website address, 50. Bawdy, 51. Influenza (archaic), 54. Chickadees, 56. Boorish, 57. Widely circulated, 63. Weightlifters pump this, 64. Well-behaved, 65. Type of drill, 66. Friends, 67. Absent Without Leave, 68. Crown, 69. If not, 70. Cautious, 71. Provide with a permanent fund

Down

1. Beige, 2. Tibia, 3. Transmit, 4. Leisure, 5. Strict, 6. Conceived by the imagination, 7. Make larger, 8. French for "State", 9. Not highest, 10. Native, 11. Street urchin, 12. Overweight 13. Agile Old World viverrine, 21. Submarine detector, 25. Cover with asphalt, 26. Where the sun rises, 27. Sponge, 28. Biblical garden, 29. Remunerate, 34. In a troubled manner, 36. Anger, 37. Chew, 38. Matured, 40. Journey, 42. Animal hides, 45. Outside, 48. Trinket, 51. Complain, 52. Not urban, 53. Graven images, 55. Sudden burst, 58. Hawkeye State, 59. Wreckage, 60. Quaint outburst, 61. Relating to aircraft, 62. Sketch

Yesterday's Solution

affix, attune, chief, collar, confusion, conifer, dais, fight, fins, gratuity, habit, hags, hasty, heft, heroics, lapse, lead, lens, liquor, nerves, pantry, raisin, rope, rouse, sauce, scrap, sharp, shrewd, sore, spree, stain, stamp, store, temporary, theft, totals, uplift, water

