

Clashes Ongoing in Parts of Baghlan: Officials

PUL-E-KHUMRI - Clashes are ongoing between Afghan security forces and Taliban militants in parts of Baghlan province in past two days, local officials said Wednesday.

Baghlan provincial council said Taliban attacked Tala Wa Barfak district from different sides on Tuesday night.

Tala Wa Barfak district governor Faiz Mohammad Amiri said Taliban sieged the district early at around 3am on Tuesday. Amiri said the Taliban attacked the district from many



directions and cut all the roads to the district. There is no report on casualties but initial reports indicate that so far three policemen were wounded in the conflict.

Meanwhile, a source told TOLOnews that the Taliban attacked Baghlan-e-Markazi district on Tuesday night. The source added that at the moment clashes are ongoing in Khase Mangal, Joi Khana, Naw Abad and Mangalha villages in the district.

Security ...*(More on P4)...*(17)

Engineers Kidnapped in Mohammad Agha District Freed

PUL-I-ALAM - Five road engineers, who were recently kidnapped by Taliban militants in central Logar province, have been freed, an official said on Wednesday.

Mohammad Nasir Amin, Mohammad Agha district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban had taken the engineers with the Global Road Construction Company in Dawlatabad area on February 24.

He said the engineers were responsible for the the construction of the Pul Kandahar-Surkhab road. The engineers were released as a result of efforts by tribal elders. Amin advised the engineers to contact security organs before traveling to any area. Following their release, the men were reunited with their families, the district chief added.

A tribal elder from Surkhab area, Gulab Din, said: "We tried a lot for the release of these engineers; we handed them over to their families on Tuesday." Meanwhile, the Taliban also confirmed the incident. The group's spokesman, ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

Uprising Leader Kills Two Wives in Jawzjan

SHIBREGHAN - An uprising commander killed his two wives in Khanaqah district of northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Wednesday.

Jawzjan governor's spokesman, Mohammad Reza Ghafari, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Mohammad Hasham, anti-Taliban militia leader in Yangi Qala village, killed both his wives in their beds using a Kalashnikov on Tuesday night.

"The killer managed to escape before police arrive in the area, the women were between 30 and 35 years old and were housewives," he said, adding the motive behind the incident was unclear but investigations were underway. Provincial human rights commission head, Magfirat Samimi, said the killing resulted from domestic violence and the slain women had two children.

"Our initial information shows besides domestic violence, economic problem has also been a cause leading to the incident," she said. Samimi expressed concern over the incident and said ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

Airstrike Target Taliban Training Camp in Helmand Leaving 20 Dead

KABUL - A training camp of the Taliban insurgents was targeted in an airstrike in the restive Helmand province in south of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the airstrike was carried out in Khan-shin district, leaving at least 20 insurgents dead. MoD further added that a cache of drugs of the group was also destroyed in the airstrike.

No further details were given regarding the air-



strike and it is yet not clear if it was carried out by the Afghan Air Force or the US forces based in Afghanistan.

Helmand is among the volatile provinces in southern Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in its vari-

ous districts and frequently carry out insurgency activities.

This comes as the militant groups carried out at least deadly attacks against the security forces in the province in the past 24 hours. At least eleven policemen lost their lives after one of their comrades apparently having links with the Taliban opened fire on them in Lashkargah city.

Another explosion took place in the main highway ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

8 Dead in Car-Trailer Collision in Kandahar

KANDAHAR CITY - At least eight passengers were killed, including women and children, on Wednesday when a passenger car crashed into a trailer in southern Kandahar province.

A ninth person was injured in the collision that occurred in Malang Kariz area of Maiwand district on the Kandahar-Herat highway at about 2:30pm, the Kandahar governor's spokesman, Samim Khalwak, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said the car carrying passengers from Kandahar to Herat crashed into the trailer loaded with flour en route to Helmand province.

The car caught fire, leaving four men, two women and two children dead and one wounded, he said, adding the injured had been evacuated to Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar city, the provincial capital.

On the other hand, Kandahar police spokesman, Zia Durrani said a team from traffic department ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

Forced Marriage: A Cultural Dimension of Human Trafficking

LASHKARGAH - In Helmand an underage girl who was forced into marriage and now divorced from her husband is living in abject poverty along with five children.

Forced child marriage, where a minor has not genuinely given his/her free and informed consent to enter the marriage and has been coerced into accepting the union, is a prevalent phenomena in Afghanistan. In most cases, young Afghan girls are married off to much older men, "in exchange" for money to the girls' family.

Due to the use of deception and exploitation of the vulnerability and desperate situations of such families, these forced marriages constitute cases of Trafficking in Persons, more so if it involves in underage individual.

Basira (name changed), 32, currently lives with her five children in the slums of Greshk district in Helmand Province.

Holding the tip of her veil with her teeth, Basira told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I was 15 when my father forced me to marry a 40 years old man without my

consent against 500,000 afghanis." Frustration writ large on her face, she said her husband was also engaged to another minor girl, and as she was too young, her husband decided to consummate the marriage in future and instead married me first.

"He married me and then waited for the other girl to grow up and marry her too," Basira recalled, lamenting that she had not seen a single day of happiness in her life after marriage. Basira recounted the tale ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

Former Addicts Try to Help Drug Users in Afghanistan

KABUL - Raheem Rejaey was a drug addict for 17 years. He lived under bridges in Kabul or in the ruins of buildings. His clothes reeked. In his misery, he tried suicide several times, he said, once intentionally overdosing and lying unconscious in a street for two days, undiscovered.

So he can feel the pain of other addicts as he searches for them in the streets of the Afghan capital. Clean for six years, the 54-year-old Rejaey volunteers for the Bridge Hope Health Organization, a group made of up of former ad-

dicts like himself who help get care and counseling to drug users.

It is an overwhelming challenge: Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of drug use in the world, with an estimated 3 million addicts, around 10 percent of its population of 30 million. The government struggles to provide services, but can't keep up as the numbers of addicts grow in the country, which is the world's main source of opium and heroin.

Authorities have established treatment centers, and police with health officials ...*(More on P4)...*(23)



Afghan security force members stand guard near the site of an attack in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, March 1, 2017. Two suicide bombings struck the fortified Afghan capital Kabul. (Xinhua/Rahmat Alizadah)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Although you might long for peace and quiet, you probably can't relax with so much going on in your life. The Taurus Full Moon shines in your 2nd House of Personal Resources, offering a stabilizing antidote for the complexities that arise now. However, if the tension of your daily routine becomes overwhelming, take some time to remember the higher truths.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You can be so single-minded that others can't get past your bullheadedness. Nevertheless, the Taurus Full Moon lands in your 1st House of Personality, reminding you to remain practical in a world that seems to have lost touch with reality. Unfortunately, expecting too much from others can lead to grave disappointment. Words are meaningless without intent and follow-through.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Commitments recently made at work may be challenging to fulfill unless you carefully reassess your resources and allocate the time required to finish the job. Unfortunately, your heart may be somewhere else as the pastoral Taurus Full Moon lights up your 12th House of Spirituality. Your current metaphysical orientation leaves you more interested in otherworldly pursuits than meeting your mundane obligations.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Relationships may be so complicated now that you long to get back to your roots. Fortunately, the Taurus Full Moon brightens your 11th House of Networking, reminding you to reestablish your priorities and reconnect with your friends, instead of concentrating on only one person or project. You may even feel like a social butterfly as you explore your need for connections within your community.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your current determination reflects your unwavering desire to bring recent changes at home to fruition. But the Taurus Full Moon illuminates your 10th House of Public Life, shifting your focus back to your career. Your mind is brimming with practical solutions to meet your obligations at work so you can return to your personal life.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You desperately need a break from the pressures of your regular routine now. The practical Taurus Full Moon spotlights your 9th House of Higher Education, suggesting you could improve your work prospects by taking a class or attending a job-related seminar. No matter how you choose to widen your horizons, expanding the scope of your activities can be constructive, as long as you're realistic about your schedule. Visualizing your future exactly as you desire is a great start.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Moderating your enthusiasm is part of an overall strategy to keep things simple now. The pragmatic Taurus Full Moon highlights your 8th House of Shared Resources, inspiring you to team up with responsible people who can help you achieve your vision of success. Relying on someone you can trust provides a reassuring sense of solidarity, but if your companion doesn't deliver on his promises.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might be required to work extra hard to meet the expectations of others now. The dependable Taurus Full Moon energizes your 7th House of Partnerships, leaving very little room for ambiguity in personal and professional relationships. Nevertheless, don't be fooled by a manipulative person.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Maintaining your satisfaction on the job can be more work than it seems at first glance. Although the Taurus Full Moon accentuates your 6th House of Employment, its opposition to the Sun in your 12th House of Fantasy is quite confusing. In fact, there may be a great chasm between your dreams and the tasks at hand. Consider all your options before making a final decision about your new direction.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

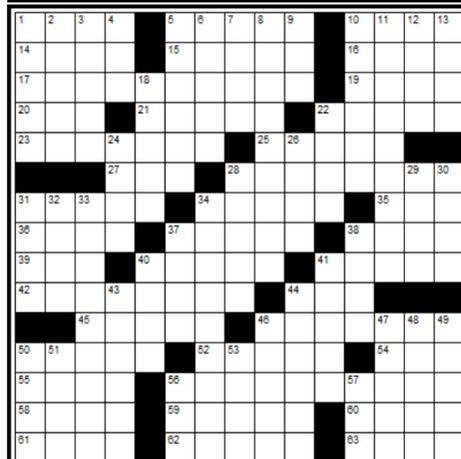
Your desires are straightforward now, prompting you to ask for exactly what you want. Nevertheless, the Taurus Full Moon activates your 5th House of Romance, triggering powerful feelings and foolish actions. Although your emotions aren't necessarily convenient, try not to suppress them or pressure may build until it suddenly erupts.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You are being buffeted around by complex cosmic currents now, so your best course of action is to simplify your life as much as possible. In fact, the earthy Taurus Full Moon emphasizes your 4th House of Domestic Conditions, encouraging you to seek comfort in sweet pleasures. Your tendency to lean on your friends and family now may be effective in the short-term.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Oddly enough, you find great satisfaction now in creating your schedule and adhering to it as closely as possible. The sensible Taurus Full Moon settles in your 3rd House of Immediate Environment, requiring you to establish a healthy balance between pursuing your dreams and managing the logistics of everyday life. Although you might feel torn by these contrasting paths, the Moon's opposition to the enigmatic Scorpio Sun helps you realize that taking care.



Across

- Barbershop emblem, 5. Leg bone, 10. Gangly, 14. Cards with 1 symbol, 15. Sarcasm, 16. Chocolate cookie, 17. Sensible, 19. Rapsallions, 20. Petrol, 21. Antiquated, 22. Apartments (British), 23. Empower, 25. Suffered, 27. Spelling contest, 28. Boulders, 31. Clocked, 34. Building addition, 35. A parcel of land, 36. Chalcedony, 37. Anagram of "Sneer", 38. Forearm bone, 39. Frequently, in poetry, 40. Hoax, 41. Hoar, 42. Turnip cabbage, 44. A tree fruit, 45. Antlered animal, 46. Asserted, 50. Jargon, 52. A sloping mass of loose rocks, 54. 61 in Roman numerals, 55. Awakened, 56. Horseman, 58. Cain's brother, 59. Stagger, 60. Doing nothing, 61. Bloody, 62. Wait, 63. Wagers.

Down

- Plaster, 7. Gangs, 8. Uneducated, 9. Type of whiskey, 10. Commode, 11. Aparar, 12. Past tense of Leap, 13. Not a win, 18. Chose, 22. Plant fiber, 24. Wild goat, 26. Angers, 28. Boredom, 29. Defrauds, 30. Immediately, 31. Swiped, 32. Data, 33. A teller of fancy tales, 34. A ballet position, 37. Historical periods, 38. Desire, 40. Tailless amphibian, 41. A boneless steak, 43. Lacking companions, 44. Sarcous, 46. Betel palm, 47. Coast, 48. Glorify, 49. Eats, 50. Booty, 51. Gray wolf, 53. Ringle, 56. A late time of life, 57. Thorax protector.

Yesterday's Solution

CRUST SHIP JIGS
LANA TOR OLEO
GOING BOOE HEST
WATERFRONT NUTS
ERE TENSE
CHOOSY BRINY
HERB PRTEDCAKE
TRES WEALEDAMIA
NOSEWHEEL SKINS
ROLLS FLEDOE
GRAVEN ETE
GAGA NEWSLETTER
ODIR TRITIS PAIRIE
DISC ERNE EROSE
SOME DOES ROWED

allure, antacid, baron, blemish, cabal, charm, crank, deer, fabri, cate, false, glory, grandeur, hammer, horse, intrigue, invent, larva, lean, mania, masters, mechanic, mogul, nymph, party, prophet, reap, riot, rotor, saga, sane, seas, shrub, splash, superb

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