

Accused Afghan Officials Reject HRW Report

KABUL - Afghan officials accused of human rights violations in a recent report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Thursday rejected the report as baseless and a plot to defame Afghan leaders. The HRW report released Tuesday (March 3) calls on new President Ashraf Ghani and his government to prosecute officials and commanders "whose serious human rights abuses have long gone unpunished." The report titled Today We Shall All Die: Af-

ghanistan's Strongmen and the Legacy of Impunity, said the "previous Afghan government and the United States enabled powerful and abusive individuals and their forces to commit atrocities for too long without being held to account." The report based on 125 interviews HRW has carried out since August 2012 profiles eight "strongmen" linked to police, intelligence, and militia forces responsible for serious abuses in recent...*(More on P4)...(20)*



Many Rebels to Reconcile in East Soon: Official

JALALABAD - A border police commander on Thursday claimed "a large number of Taliban militants" would soon renounce violence and reconcile with the government in eastern provinces. Col. Mohammad Ayub Hussainkhel, the 201st zone border police commander in the east, was talking to Pajhwok Afghan News in their headquarters in the capital of Nangarhar province about seven surrendering militants in eastern Nuristan province. Hussainkhel said the seven-member group, led by commander Abdul...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Unknown Gun Men Kill District Executive Director

KABUL - Sayedabad District Executive Director Azatullah, was killed by unknown gunmen early Friday in Wardak province. Azatullah, 26, was kidnapped two days ago when he was on his way home from the office, local officials said. According to officials, the unknown gun men killed Azatullah in Khowaja Omari area of Chak district of Wardak province. The young director served Sayedabad for three years. Police have started investigations to bring the perpetrators to justice. No insurgent group has yet claimed responsibility for the murder. *(Tolonews)*

Burqa-Clad Men March Draws Criticism

KABUL - A group of men, mostly young, on Thursday donned burqas -- an Afghan traditional female code dress -- marching through the capital Kabul to draw attention to women's rights, but some residents criticized the demonstration that came on the eve of International Women's Rights Day. The 20 men, members of Afghanistan Volunteers Foundation, started their march...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Afghan Military to Receive its First A-29s in December

KABUL - the Afghan military will be without its own fixed-wing close air support for another fighting season this summer against the Taliban, with the first of 20 A-29 Super Tucano turboprops expected to begin arriving in December. "This is a huge asset they're looking forward to getting inside Afghanistan," Army Gen. John Campbell told the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday, but "they won't have much for the next fighting season." The U.S. Air Force's \$427 million program to provide A-29s to the Afghan



military has been caught up in long-running contract disputes and delays in the training of Afghan Air Force air and ground crews, leaving the Afghan military overly reliant on the U.S. for close air support in combat. The aircraft is made by the Brazilian aerospace company Embraer S.A. Campbell, who took over the U.S. command in Afghanistan last summer, said that the first of the 20 A-29s should begin arriving in December. A few more will arrive next year but the majority of the order won't be fielded...*(More on P4)...(23)*

29 Insurgents Killed in Military Operations

KABUL - At least 29 insurgents were killed and 18 others were wounded during an Afghan security forces clearing operation in past 24 hours around the country, according to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) statement. The Afghan security operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Takhar, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Kandahar, Zabul, Urozgan, Maidan Wardak...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Policewoman Dares to Keep Taliban at Bay

LASHKARGAH - An Afghan local policewoman in the Marja district of southern Helmand province said she was better protecting the Sistani locality from militants after the Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers withdrew from the area. Ferozi, the policewoman, popularly known as Hajjani, is the commander Afghan local police in Sistani locality of Marja...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Pul-i-Alam Green Belt Grabbed by Influential

PUL-I-ALAM - The agriculture and livestock department in central Logar province on Thursday alleged that some influential have grabbed huge tract of land allocated for green belt on the outskirts of Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital. Agriculture Director Humayun Umar told Pajhwok Afghan News the captured land was allocated for green belt in the city, but some influential people had claimed its ownership. Umar did not disclose the names of land grabbers, but said that individuals have built surrounding



walls and divided the land into plots. "I have informed the officials concerned at the governor house through an official letter to vacate the state land," he said, adding but any action yet to be taken. Ahmad Khan Ulfat, mayor of Pul-i-Alam, confirmed the land had been grabbed and that some people had started construction homes as well. Ulfat said any property that built against the master plan of the city was not acceptable to them. The residents of Pul-i...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Turkmen Afghans Threaten Hunger Strike over Is-land Incursion

KABUL - A group of ethnic Turkmen in Afghanistan have threatened to begin a hunger strike if armed forces from Turkmenistan continue to take land that the villagers claim as theirs. The Turkmen villagers in the northern Afghan district of Qarqeen say Turkmen forces are "grabbing their land on an island" that was formed several years ago

in the Amu River, which serves as part of the border between Afghanistan and southeastern Turkmenistan. The villagers say the river changed course and cut into Afghan territory that belongs to them. The ethnic Turkmen say Turkmenistan recently deployed military forces to the island and began putting up fences that prohibit the villagers from reaching the large island. Thousands of ethnic Turkmen Afghans living in the area held a protest on February 26 in front of the Qarqeen mayor's office demanding that Afghan officials take action against the Turkmen forces. Ethnic Turkmen make up about 3 percent of Afghanistan's population of 31 million. *(RFERL)*

7 Helmand Police Poisoned, Shot Dead

LASHKARGAH - Seven policemen were shot dead after being poisoned at their post in the Greshk district of south-ern Helmand province, officials said on Thursday. The incident took place last night in the Adam Khan village's Naqlin area, a security official told Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity. He said the seven policemen were given poisonous food before they were gunned down. An official at the district's administration said the policemen fell unconscious after drinking a savoury drink they had brought from nearby homes. They were later shot dead, he said, adding investigation was underway to determine whether it was an insider attack or insurgents were involved. The dead included the post commander. The Taliban...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Civilians among 5 Dead in Violence

KUNDUZ CITY - Three people were killed and two others wounded as result of a clash between local commanders in Khanabad district of northeastern Kunduz province, an official said Thursday. Police spokesman Col. Sayed Jahangir told Pajhwok Afghan News that the clash took place between illegal armed groups of commanders Hassan and Hakim. It could not be immediately confirmed what led them to armed clash but Khanabad police chief said the incident was being investigated. An official in the district wishing anonymity said the clash erupted as a result of personal feud on Wednesday evening. Two supporters of Hassan were killed and the commander was wounded, he said, adding that a supporter of Hakim was also killed and another...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your passions are aroused today and you are anxious to tell the world what you want. Expressing your feelings in an acceptable manner can lead to a memorable outcome as romantic Venus joins unpredictable Uranus in your spontaneous sign. Although your social life is on the upswing, you still might have to deal with an emotional undercurrent that won't magically disappear on its own.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

There is something about the experience of pleasure today that makes you purr with contentment, no matter what else is occurring in your life. You are attracted to trying nearly anything that's new and different while flirty Venus connects with unorthodox Uranus and buoyant Jupiter. Instead of remaining set in your ways, stay open to the extraordinary potential that exists in each moment.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

If you want to spice up your life now, make a few phone calls and schedule some fun on your calendar. Today is not a day to idly sit by and watch others enjoying themselves when you should just jump in and join the party. But don't be satisfied with superficial interactions when sincere conversations leave you with more enduring and honest connections.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Even if you continue to ride an emotional roller coaster today, it won't likely carry you away from a very sweet encounter that's already on your radar. Spending time with a loved one to share a favorite meal or an anticipated special event might ignite romantic sparks. However, your fear of intimacy could close the door to a magnificent experience before it even occurs.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Wonderful news could be a welcome surprise today, but you must be receptive to the message or it might pass you by unnoticed. The current reward or acknowledgment probably won't be what you expect now, which makes it even sweeter. You may even receive an unexpected cash windfall or meet a very special person.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

It's much healthier to express your feelings than to keep them to yourself, especially now that the sensitive Moon is back in your sign. It's worth going out on a limb, even if you're nervous about the reaction you might receive. Although your assertive behavior is contrary to your natural tentative style, trying a totally new approach to life today gives you a fresh edge.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

It feels as if everything will turn out for the best now while your key planet Venus shines on center stage. In fact, a lovely experience could be yours for the asking while the love planet harmonizes with propitious Jupiter. On one hand, you want to take advantage of any opportunity to have fun. But, on the other hand, you may slip with respect to your duties and obligations. If you stay on track, you'll be able to do both -- work and play.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your confidence is the ultimate key to your happiness today, even in the most difficult situations. In fact, it's as if you don't even have to work that hard for recognition and money. Naturally, it helps if you love what you're doing, since your attachment to the routines over a long period of time is what really pays off now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You can feel the emotional buzz and you can't wait to see what's around the next corner. If this cosmic energy doesn't bring love or romance, find other ways to express your creativity as bountiful Jupiter receives a delicious kiss from beautiful Venus today. Even if you have struggled recently, your enthusiasm is contagious now.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

It's not about accomplishing more in the outer world now; it's simply about engaging your senses in new and different ways. You don't have to impress anyone with your success story. You only have to give yourself permission to relax and let down your guard. Entertain the notion of breaking the rules of your diet or skipping an exercise routine for once.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You might feel as if no one is watching you and you can get away with some harmless mischief today. However, don't push your luck too far or your day could implode when you least expect it. Thankfully, even if you go overboard, you should be able to put everything back on track quickly. Your charm works in your favor now, so joyfully accept the love that is all around you with a grateful heart.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Everything at work may be going so well now that you're secretly concerned about which good feelings you should really trust. You might want to hold something in reserve in case things don't turn out as you planned. Fortunately, your destiny is within your control if you decide to consciously wake up and take preemptive action.

Across

1. Cards with 1 symbol, 5. Stripes, 10. Beige, 14. Rant, 15. Genuinely, 16. Charges, 17. Unrelenting, 19. Run away, 20. A very long period, 21. Television, 22. Rinds, 23. An informal term for money, 25. Inflammations of the big toe, 27. Altitude (abbrev.), 28. The words of an opera, 31. Surplus, 34. Harness racer, 35. 3 in Roman numerals, 36. Lean, 37. Indemnify, 38. Formal dance, 39. Snake-like fish, 40. One who poses, 41. Water holes, 42. Marriage offer, 44. Hasten 45. Drying cloth, 46. Motion of hands, 50. Street urchin, 52. France's longest river, 54. Not bottom, 55. Ends a prayer, 56. Silver-grey wingless insect, 58. Hue, 59. Leg joints, 60. Hodgepodge, 61. Makes lace, 62. Severe pain, 63. Delay or postpone

Down

1. Disney mermaid, 2. Small boat, 3. What's happening, 4. Gender, 5. Unbending, 6. Exchange, 7. Country bumpkin, 8. Not rational, 9. Yes to a sailor, 10. Decadent, 11. Heavenly, 12. Bobbin, 13. Applications, 18. Small egg, 22. Happy cat sound, 24. Sourish, 26. Comply with, 28. Continuation of the coat collar, 29. Cultivate, 30. Anagram of "Silo", 31. Stair, 32. Jetty, 33. Portion, 34. Bicycling, 37. Thorny flower, 38. Red vegetable, 40. Cut, 41. More prudent, 43. Scoring units, 44. Unorthodox tenets, 46. Donated, 47. Practical, 48. Kino gum, 49. Ancient Hebrew vestment, 50. International trade agreement, 51. Dogfish, 53. Margarine, 56. Calypso offshoot, 57. Dandy

Yesterday's Solution

assist, bakery, barge, bike, brain, career, cheese, choice, cupboard, decent, decrease, dinosaur, elect, finest, found, government, intend, laws, lest, loess, liar, month, options, place, pledge, possible, recipe, regret, rest, roast, seas, seep, smile, style, theater, treasures

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