

(1) Ghani Launches ...

clean of dirt, Ghani said, adding all residents should work for cleaning the city like their own house. "I call on Kabul residents to discuss available problems of the city with their local representatives and city leaders and major problems would be resolved in phases this year. I promise Kabul residents and people of neighbouring provinces would see positive changes in their cities during the ongoing year," he said. Ghani asked media and people to assess the programme and report him negligence and other problems. (Pajhwok)

(2) Pakistan Trying...

the lower house of parliament. "Peace is the desire of all Afghans and it is NDS personnel's duty to disclose strategic and tactical information on a timely manner and the department did so," he said. He accused the Pakistani intelligence of supporting terrorists in Afghanistan to continue and expand the war. He named the three Pakistani militant groups operating in Afghanistan as Al-Badar Mujahiddin Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-i-Taiba, saying the groups would continue their disruptive activities in Afghanistan in coordination with the Afghan Taliban this solar year. "It has become clear on the people of Afghanistan that the Taliban are misusing Islamic instructions and using the name of Islam for their personal interest," he said, adding that NDS personnel had prevented nearly 4,200 terrorist attacks in the country during the past one year. "We are defending the country with all of our force and will do so in future as well," Shaheen told lawmakers, adding no areas had been vacated as a result of any compromise and the Afghan security and defence forces were ready to defend the honor and independence of Afghanistan. He said some districts fell to militants due to some weak points of security forces, but the districts would be retaken soon.

Jahid said first of all they would control the current situation and would then try to expand security in all parts of the country. The acting interior minister said if granted the confidence vote, he would try his best for security and stability in the country. (Pajhwok)

(3) Govt. to Consult ...

met by the Afghan government. The U.S and China, as Pakistan's strategic allies, joined the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) comprising senior diplomats from Afghanistan, Pakistan, U.S and China, in an effort to step up international efforts aimed at clinching ground-

breaking talks between the Afghan Taliban and the government. There is a perception in Afghanistan however that the U.S and China, which wield strong influence over Pakistan, can persuade Islamabad to endorse a peaceful Afghanistan by bringing the Taliban to the peace talks tables.

Afghanistan's fledgling peace process has been under constant pressure in the past few months after the Afghan government, under President Ashraf Ghani, took fresh diplomatic steps to convince Pakistan to bring the Taliban to the negotiating tables. On Monday, Afghan deputy minister of foreign affairs Hekmat Khalil Karzai said that the Afghan government will consult Beijing and Washington on the issue of peace talks with the Taliban as Islamabad has failed to deliver on its pledges - key being to bring the Taliban to the talks tables. Speaking at a regional conference on peace strategies, Karzai reiterated government's commitment for peace, but said that despite working towards peace, the campaign against insurgency will continue. "A face-to-face negotiation was scheduled to be convened between representatives of the Taliban and Afghan government with Pakistan hosting the meeting. But it did not happen. We will raise the issue with China and the U.S," said Karzai, a deputy minister of foreign affairs. "It was Pakistan who initially decided to bring the Taliban for direct talks in March, not our decision. Sartaj Aziz (Pakistan's national security advisor) had taken the decision during the fourth meeting," Karzai added, referring to the fourth Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) conference, comprising senior diplomats from Pakistan, Afghanistan, US and China. Karzai reiterated that the Afghan government's last option will be war against the militants if the peace process fails to end the ongoing crisis. (Tolonews)

(4) Parliament ... investigation into the incident was underway and detailed information would be shared later with the media later on. Interior Ministry spokesman Seddiq Seddiqi confirmed the rocket strike, saying there were casualties. He added police were investigating the incident. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack, saying several security personnel were killed or wounded on a military base close to Darul Aman. (Pajhwok)

(5) At Least 73.... area administrator, said the suicide

bomber's head had been found at the site, littered with blood and body parts. More than 20 ambulances rushed to the scene to evacuate casualties.

Soon after the bombing, an emergency was declared at all government hospitals in the city, according to the state-run TV. The Punjab government announced three days of mourning. Dr. Ashraf, a medical superintendent at Jinnah Hospital, said more than 40 dead bodies had been brought to hospital. Another medic put the number of the injured people at 300. Most of them are said to be in critical condition.

Meanwhile, the United States and India denounced the attack as a cowardly act. National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said in a statement the US would work with Pakistan to eradicate terrorism. Indian's Prime Minister Narendra Modi also voiced his grief over the bomb blast. In a telephone call to Nawaz Sharif, he said: "The coward terrorists attacked children and women ... We are with Pakistani nation at the time of this grief." "We claim responsibility for the attack on Christians as they were celebrating Easter," Jamaatul Ahrar spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan told media outlets over the telephone. (Pajhwok)

(6) Balkh Girls ... preparing and cooking Samanak, which is then distributed to those present. The sweet paste is made for Nawroz - the new solar year. Speaking to TOLONews, the girls said the event was a good opportunity for them to meet up with friends and to make their wishes for their future. Hamida, one Balkh schoolgirl attending the gathering, said the Samanak Festival has a long history and that they gathered to celebrate it in a proper way. While cooking the Samanak, the girls sat in a circle beating drums and singing the festival's anthem. Samanak festival is celebrated in the first week of the new solar year. (Tolonews)

(7) Dostum, Sheikh... high-level delegation, Dostum met Sheikh Mansour at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi on Sunday, WAM news agency reported. The two sides discussed avenues of cooperation between the UAE and Afghanistan in various fields. They conferred on ways of boosting bilateral cooperation in the best interest of the two countries. Minister of State for Defence Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi and Deputy Minister for Presidential Affairs Ahmed Juma Al Za'abi were

also present at the meeting. (Pajhwok)

(8) Municipal Campaign...

earmarked for demolition was being constructed illegally and without planning permission, said municipal officials.

A builder involved in the project said the building, in Badam Bagh, has since been demolished as the municipality claimed it was being illegally erected on municipal land. The builder said however that Abdul Saboor Salangi, the brother of Abdul Basir Salangi, former Parwan governor, had leased the land from Kabul municipality for the past 10 years. The builder said the municipality's move was against the law as they have rented the land for the past 10 years. "A part of this area, which is related to a green area, has been rented by government to Abdul Saboor Salangi, the brother of Abdul Basir Salangi [former Parwan governor]. We have all the bills and the documents on hand," said Qand Agha, head of construction on the building. But Kabul municipality claim the building is illegal. "As per the direction of the municipality and the construction control directorate we came here and destroyed the under-construction building," said Wali, head of Engineering Department of Kabul Municipality. (Tolonews)

(9) Afghans ... government had decided to reach an agreement with European Union before the Brussels conference in October. He said Afghanistan would participate in the conference with full preparation. The stay of 1.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and nearly 1.4 million in Iran has been extended, Balkhi said, adding migration was a national and regional phenomenon caused by recent insecurity and joblessness in Afghanistan. According to Balkhi, nearly six million Afghan refugees have returned to the country since 2001 and more than 7.2 million Afghans are still living in some of regional, European countries and the US. Nearly three million Afghan refugees live in Pakistan, over 2.4 in Iran and 658,000 others in the rest of the world. Deputy foreign minister Hikmat Khalil Karzai asked for the remaining Senate session to be continued behind closed doors and his request was accepted by the Meshrano Jirga. (Pajhwok)

(10) Chief Justice's ... in Kabul and Jalalabad. Syed Inayat Pason, said Hassan was kidnapped in front of his house in the Fruit Market. But the Chief Justice family and

police have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

(11) Clashes....

leaving 13 armed militants dead," provincial police spokesman Hajarullah told Xinhua.

The air raids took place amid ongoing cleanup operations in Dasht-e-Archi district and adjoining areas. In a related development, eight Taliban militants have been killed and seven others injured as a clash erupted in Andar district of the eastern Ghazni province Sunday night, an army spokesman in the province, Hanif Rezae said Monday. The clash, according to the official, flared up when the security forces launched operations in parts of Andar district to wipe out insurgents. Two more armed insurgents have been captured, the official said. (Xinhua)

(12) Creation of ... commuters, including patients from the neighbouring country. Tribal elders Farzand Shinwari and Rahim Gul Shinwari led the rally, which was attended by a large number of drivers, union leaders and owners of bus, coach and car stops. The speakers accused the security personnel, including paramilitary soldiers, of unnecessarily stopping commuters at Shaheed Morin the name of checking travel documents. In many instances, Farzand Shinwari alleged, the Afghans - including patients - were forcibly sent back to their country. Women were also asked to show identity cards and other travel documents, he said. (Pajhwok)

(13) Two-Day ... various voices from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, festival director Dr Francesca Recchia, said: "We had thought of starting in Kabul, however, because of the multiple challenges, we decided to take a detour and start instead from Karachi."

In a phase of great geopolitical instability, cross-border dialogues and people-to-people encounters can help bridge a gap that governments and diplomacy are struggling with, she said. Recchia said that such cultural events are significant occasions to promote the exchange of ideas as well as facilitate the process of discovering other people's habits, values, rituals and social norms. "International cultural festivals have become an important feature of the cultural landscape of South Asia and our ambition is to add a new and different voice that, over the course of the next few years, will become a prominent feature in this geography, along with Jaipur

(India), Karachi and Lahore (Pakistan)," she said. According to her, Caravanserai stands out as it is the first of its kind - it has a clear regional perspective as it focuses on artistic and intellectual expressions from Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. (Tolonews)

(14) Herat ...

body of a 20 years old woman was also transferred to hospital from Pashun Pul area, Sherzai said, adding the victim's identity was yet to be established. Serious injuries to the neck of the woman showed she had been strangled, the spokesman said. An investigation into the incident is underway. Experts link violence against women to poverty, unwholesome traditions, forced marriage and enmities between families. (Pajhwok)

(15) 2 Girls'... the new buildings would enable 100,000 students to study in a proper environment. Yashin said currently 404 schools and religious seminaries were functional in the province, but half of them were without buildings. He, however, said no school was closed in Jawzjan even in remote areas. A total 200,000 students, 40 percent of them girls, are taught at these and madaris. Abdul Bashir, a youth union head, said their village was not a secure area, but residents braving all challenges were committed to sending their children to school. (Pajhwok)

(16) Poor Drainage ... Kabul Municipality official Wali Zamiacknowledged the problem. However, he said the municipality planned to resolve the issue by digging up drains in Karta-i-Aryana locality this year. A canal would be constructed in Wazirabad area to address the drainage issue, he said, adding bids would be invited for the project soon. (Pajhwok)

(17) Abdullah, Karzai ... attack in Lahore: "No place is safe from the danger of terrorism, so there is the need for a joint fight against the threat." Abdullah condemned the attack and offered his condolences to the people of Pakistan, saying not only Afghanistan, but all parts of the globe were not safe from being attacked by terrorists. "There is need for a joint struggle and honest cooperation with the people of Afghanistan." Abdullah said terrorism was not loyal to any country and had no mercy for anyone because the only aim of terrorism was to create fear among the people. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Although no one seems to fully understand what you need now, others will ultimately support you on your current journey rather than throwing up roadblocks. Don't assume that people are resisting your unorthodox ideas because they aren't enthusiastic about your plans; they just might not want to be actively involved. If you believe you're on the right track.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Knowing what others are thinking is less important to you today. In fact, the best answers might arrive out of the blue when you are alone. Electric sparks of awareness are shooting through the dark as Venus and the Moon activate brilliant Uranus in your 12th House of Solitude. But don't rely on your memory to recall a sudden breakthrough.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are feeling an intellectual buzz today, but you still may face a few challenges as you try to keep up with others. Although you are usually curious about someone else's ideas, you could be hopelessly stuck on an ingenious one of your own now. Nevertheless, it's not time to put up unnecessary resistance; if a coworker reveals a plan with potential, quickly jump on board and make the most of the moment.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

The emotional safety net that offered you reassurance in the past seems to be missing in action today, leaving you no choice but to take control of your destiny. Circumstances are up in the air and you don't want to miss the chance to soar on the strong thermal currents. Although you might get off to a slow start, you can't help but enjoy your newfound freedom.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You're interested in deepening an existing relationship today or you might choose to throw in the towel and head off into the unknown. Instead of interacting with your friends and coworkers as you have in the past, explore unconventional ways to add more excitement to your life. Although personal obligations continue to demand your attention.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You take your goals quite seriously today as you begin to detach your desires from anything or anyone that ties you down. However, the freedom to express yourself on your own terms is a privilege that might take a while to earn. Don't be discouraged if your progress is uneven; it's better to build momentum gradually when trying to create radical change. Your quest for independence is a personal journey only you can take.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your relationship world might be confusing today because you are longing to play in the realm of romance but have trouble reading the signs. The conflicting signals may be enough to prevent you from following through with your original intentions. Initiating action too soon can sour a situation that has great potential, tangling the feelings of those involved into a complex web.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

The most skillful sailors are the masters of their ships, and can set a course against the challenging winds. This is your chance to demonstrate your knowledge of navigational techniques. But don't waste your energy doing combat with the emotional tides for no reason. Instead, plan a route that enables you to avoid the tumultuous currents now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Applying what you have already learned this year can seem like an uphill battle, but, luckily, if your first idea doesn't work, you have plenty more up your sleeve. Unfortunately, your mind is moving much faster than reality, and you could become frustrated as you wait for events to catch up to your thoughts. Nevertheless, your patience is about to be rewarded while the Moon visits your uplifting sign.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your frustration rises to the surface today as the pace of change increases. You don't mind having a lot to do, but readjusting to new circumstances can quickly tire you out. You're not happy if each and every activity opens yet another can of worms. You may reach a point when you realize there is too much happening all at once. But don't crawl under a rock and hide.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

A host of exciting activities leaves you little downtime today, and you love the current variety of distractions. However, everything can get a bit crazy as wild Uranus agitates sweet Venus in your 2nd House of Values. Although you're happy to be in your element, you can't keep up the hectic pace forever. Take time to smell the flowers and reconsider your priorities.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Waiting for the most propitious moment to take action can be irritating because you're ready to execute your plan right away. You really don't see how you gain any sort of tactical advantage by delaying until the Moon connects with impulsive Mars in your 10th House of Career. Fortunately, there is no harm in starting immediately; it's just that your current efforts will have more enduring consequences.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-63.

Across: 1. Terminates, 5. Diaphanous, 10. Break in friendly relations, 14. Verruca, 15. French farewell, 16. Beige, 17. Always, 18. Insight, 20. Fine or decorative clothing, 22. Terrestrial, 23. Charged particle, 24. Classifies, 25. Empty boasting, 32. Promises, 33. Fruit of the oak tree, 34. Henpeck, 37. Violent disturbance, 38. Cubic meter, 39. Spanish lady, 40. Shade tree, 41. Moon of Saturn, 42. Anagram of "Paste", 43. Financial support, 45. 3-banded armadillo, 49. Dandy, 50. Photo devices, 53. Cordial, 57. Feelings of anxiety, 59. Colored part of an eye, 60. Care for, 61. Film, 62. Shower, 63. Countercurrent, 64. Perspiration, 65. Anagram of "Ties".

Down: 1. Pitcher, 2. Central area of a church, 3. Remnant, 4. Not curved, 5. Fine wheat meal, 6. Bright thought, 7. 54 in Roman numerals, 8. Encounter, 9. Christmas season, 10. Backward-looking, 11. Less friendly, 12. Not back, 13. Melodies, 19. Malicious burning, 21. Records, 25. Drill, 26. Train track, 27. "Smallest" particle, 28. Philippine tribal chief, 29. Large body of water, 30. Sores on toes, 31. Fury, 34. Ark builder, 35. Against, 36. Shocked reaction, 38. Take in slowly, 39. Loses heart, 41. Russian emperors, 42. Academician, 44. Compensate for, 45. Sharp, 46. Like windows, 47. Alter, 48. Prepared, 51. Goals, 52. Winter precipitation, 53. Largest continent, 54. Rascal, 55. 53 in Roman numerals, 56. Feudal worker, 58. Night before.

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid with words: abuse, attack, bale, blare, blast, blatant, bleat, bored, bums, cherry, coarse, comet, convert, endow, evade, extort, fault, favor, flashy, flavors, forge, here, impious, impoverish, lair, leech, lofts, mantle, mingle, mists, money, pore, purify, reel, revile, rule.

BLATANT MANTLE
PURIFY HWBLAST
COMET COSUXFAL
ORRSEL RAWHITE
NBIELOFTSGATX
VMLAVEHIBLEAT
EUHALIRAEOSCO
RSLGRELTUNKR
TFNGVEZEVADET
MIAOABUSEPGOD
MNPVFRCOARSEW
IMPIOUSMONEYR
ICHERRYFLASHY