

Woman Survives Beheading in Ghazni

GHAZNI CITY - Woman in Andar district of Ghazni province has been hospitalized after reportedly surviving an attempted beheading by her husband's family. In connection to the crime, local police have apprehended the woman's husband and launched a full investigation. The victim, Gul Sima, who could not speak clearly when she spoke with TOLONews in result of her wounds, had been married just five months. Over those months, however, she said her husband's family tortured her several times, including forcing her to swallow nails. "It was nighttime when my father-in-law came in and tried to behead me, I shouted and escaped," Gul Sima said on Friday. Her brother, Bahadur, corroborated her story and demanded justice. "Her father-in-law attacked her with a knife, her husband has been arrested and we want a divorce," Bahadur said. According to doctors at Kabul's Ibn-e-Sina Hospital, Gul Sima arrived in critical condition and almost didn't make it. "She has been beheaded because of family violence and brought here in a very critical condition," Dr. Abdul Ghafar Sakha said. Doctors noted that Gul Sima's X-rays confirmed that she had swallowed nails. In a similar - yet separate - case this week, a man who survived an attempted beheading by his father-in-law is now recovering from his wounds with treatment in the Wazir Akbar Khan Mosque. (Tolonews)

13 Militants Lay Down Arms in Kunar: Jalala

ASADABAD - A 13-member militant group has joined the peace process in eastern Kunar province, the acting governor said on Thursday. Shujaul Mulk Jalala told Pajhwok Afghan News the group, led by Arab Khan, had been active against the government in the Chapa Dara district. They reconciled and turned in their weapons as a result of efforts by the High Peace Council, intelligence and police officials, he said, adding that the government would provide the reconciling individuals vocational training in different skills. ... (More on P4)... (18)



Blaze Destroys Dried Fruit Shops in Kabul

KABUL - More than a dozen shops of dried fruits were gutted after a huge fire broke out in a crowded market of Mandawi in capital Kabul on Friday. Traders in the old Kabul market claimed to have suffered losses in millions as a result of fire to 14 shops. However, the cause of fire is still unclear. ... (More on P4)... (20)



25 Rebels Killed, 21 Injured in Khost Firefight

KABUL - Twenty-five Taliban insurgents were killed and another 21 injured during clashes with Afghan border police in southeastern Khost province, an official said on Friday. The pre-dawn clashes that broke out in Alisher and Terazai districts also left two border policemen dead and five others injured, the government's spokesman, Abdul Wahid Pathan, told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said a group of Taliban insurgents attacked border police posts at 2am last night, but faced stiff resistance from police, who were later joined by Afghan National Army troops, inflicting heavy casualties on the attackers. The Khost ... (More on P4)... (21)

Group of Azerbaijani Peacekeepers Return Home from Afghanistan

BAKU - A group of 31 Azerbaijani soldiers serving within the NATO-led "Resolute Support" mission launched in Afghanistan in January 2015 returned Baku on a rotating basis, the defense ministry said on May 1. Currently, 94 servicemen, 2 medical officers and 2 sappers of Azerbaijani armed forces are involved in a peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan. Azerbaijani armed forces started their peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan on November 20, 2002. (APA)

Internet Outage Put Kabul Residents to Trouble

KABUL - Kabul residents have voiced growing complaint over lacking Internet access and related inconveniences since a fiber optic cable was cut in eastern Nangarhar province three days ago. The government office of technicians used to fix downed lines such as the one in Bati Kot district of Nangarhar has cited security concerns as the reason for the delay in repair. Kabul resident Shafiq told TOLONews that decreased connectivity in the capital has impacted important parts of life. "Students mostly rely on seeking information from the internet, but now the situation is quite difficult since the fiber optic cable failure, which terminated Internet service for us," he said on Friday. ... (More on P4)... (22)



3 Wounded as Twin Blasts Rock Khost City

KHOST CITY - Three people were injured on Friday afternoon when two back-to-back bomb blasts rocked the provincial capital of southeastern Khost province, police said. The injured included a traffic official, a policeman and a civilian, said Brig Gen Faizullah Ghiarat, the provincial police chief. He told Pajhwok Afghan News one of the blasts took place in front of the municipality department after 3pm and the second occurred when security forces rushed to the scene. The first blast targeted a passing traffic police vehicle. The explosives had been planted in a flowerpot, Ghiarat said, adding that the injured persons were in stable condition. Abdul Samad, an eyewitness, said the first blast targeted a traffic police vehicle and the second ... (More on P4)... (19)

Two Policemen Dead in Uruzgan Clashes

TRINKOT - At least two policemen were killed on Friday morning in insurgents' ambush in the Deh Rawud district of central Uruzgan province, a security official said. 1st Lieutenant Noorzai, district police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News police initiated search operation against the militants in the Deh Rawud district. Two policemen were killed in an ambush, he added. Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson, confirmed the on-going battle, saying two policemen were killed and as many were wounded. (Pajhwok)

Pillion Riding, Tinted Car Glasses Banned in Kandahar

KANDAHAR CITY - Police on Thursday announced banning pillion riding and tinted car glasses in southern Kandahar province. Deputy provincial police chief Maj. Gen Rahmatullah Atrafi told in a press conference in Kandahar City that terrorists targeted government officials and other target using motorbikes. That was why police banned pillion riding in the city, he said, hoping the ban would help to avoid such accidents. Atrafi also briefed journalists on progress police had achieved against militants and casualties suffered by insurgents during the outgoing week. (Pajhwok)

New Orchards Help Ghor Families Eke out Living

FEROZKOH - Enabling 520 women to earn a living, 920 small fruit and vegetable gardens and orchards have been established in western Ghor province, an official said on Thursday. Juma Khan, the acting Agriculture and Livestock Department head, told Pajhwok Afghan News 400 gardens for men and 520 gardens for women had been set up in Dawlatyar district and Ferozkoh, the provincial capital, with financial support from the World Bank. Each grower received 66 apple saplings, 20 kg of fertilizer and seeds weighing three kilograms, he said, adding the beneficiaries would be assisted for the next five years. He said the program would be ... (More on P4)... (23)

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Bodies from Badakhshan Landslide Not Retrieved after a Week

KABUL - Families of Badakhshan landslide victims strongly criticize the government for what they call inaction to retrieve bodies of 52 people still remained under debris. Based on initial reports, 55 people were killed last week as a result of a landslide. ... (More on P4)... (24)



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)

Although you Rams are sometimes criticized for behaving selfishly, the emphasis is on everyone else today. You might even feel a sense of relief now that you can take a break from focusing on your own personal agenda. Instead of trying to get your way, concentrate on what you could do for others to make them feel at ease.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

Serving others now can take you down a very sweet path to happiness today as the lovely Libra Moon brings you an abundance of pleasurable experiences. However, you might not feel so great if you choose to only satisfy your own needs. It's not worth the effort to try changing external circumstances to match up with your personal preferences.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although complications that are outside the sphere of your control loom close, friends and family are especially supportive now, bringing you joy in the moment. You deserve the respite you may be offered from a rather tumultuous few weeks and the heavier issues clouding the horizon won't get in your way if you let them slide for a while.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You might not be able to spend the entire day hanging out with your family and friends, but being around those you love revitalizes your spirit while the Moon is camping out in your 4th House of Domestic Conditions. You are eager to show everyone that you have what it takes to be a consummate host now, so round up a few friends and fire up the barbecue.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You don't have to say yes to every single invitation with your name on it, because you could end up so scattered that your current spark of excitement is extinguished. You may have many tasks to complete, especially if you are in charge of a family or group activity. Rather than running in circles attempting to take care of every little detail, try delegating some of the chores to others so you can catch your breath.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're able to keep your feet on the ground today while also flitting around like a social butterfly. You have a particular point of view, but don't want to waste energy defending it. Even if you successfully hide your current beliefs from public scrutiny, you still can't escape from the pressing concerns that are weighing on you. Spending a little time on more serious matters may be prudent, but even you conscientious Virgos need to get away from your regular responsibilities.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Maintaining an objective approach to life isn't straightforward today as the emotional Moon in your sign activates susceptible Venus. Your insecurities, opinions and biases may leak out, even if you think you are cleverly keeping them out of sight. Don't fight to hide your natural likes and dislikes; if you bury your feelings, you could end up angry or resentful.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

You are in touch with emotional dynamics that are lurking in the shadows but you don't want to create additional stress in a relationship now, making it difficult to share your concerns. Nevertheless, you also have some significant information you need to express. Don't tie your disclosure to anyone else's actions; just put your feelings out on the table without any expectations attached.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

Kicking back with a few of your best friends might be just what you need today. In fact, the timing could be right for a celebration, since it's wise to surround yourself with positive-minded people while the Moon is busy in your 11th House of Networking. Let others know you are grateful that you are a part of a growing community. Your sense of belonging to something greater than yourself grounds you in ways that may not be apparent on the surface.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)

You demand respect from all those you encounter while the Moon is energizing your 10th House of Status. Fortunately, doing the right thing elevates your standing in your community. Although you enjoy the company of others, you may be too busy with your personal agenda to have much to do with anyone who isn't in your closest circle of friends.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

You may feel as if you're up for nearly anything that sounds like fun, especially if your friends are participating in the activity. In fact, what you do is currently less important now than who you do it with. Although following your heart sounds blissful, you still must honor your previous promises. Nevertheless, there's nothing wrong with trying to postpone a deadline until tomorrow.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You prefer to approach all your interactions in a rational manner today. Unfortunately, if a family member or romantic partner makes an unreasonable demand, you still might try to fulfill his or her wishes. Balancing your needs with those of everyone in your life can be challenging, but don't be afraid to establish healthy boundaries now or someone may push you too far.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-66 indicating starting positions for clues.

Across clues: 1. A proofreader's symbol, 6. Arab chieftain, 10. Gestures of assent, 14. Entertain, 15. Part in a play, 16. Wicked, 17. Noteworthy, 19. Marry, 20. Guarantee, 21. Writing liquid, 22. Break, 23. Nimble, 25. Highly favored, 26. Bristle, 30. Renter, 32. A male witch, 35. Food turner, 39. Personification, 40. Anagram of "Rental", 41. Goddess of retribution, 43. Insecticide, 44. Humorously vulgar, 46. Impetuous, 47. Religious fathers, 50. Loamy deposit, 53. Thin strip, 54. Band booking, 55. Benni, 60. Indian dress, 61. Delinquent, 63. Therefore, 64. Pearly-shelled mussel, 65. Nipples, 66. Observed, 67. Knife, 68. Binge. Down clues: 1. Concern, 2. Ends a prayer, 3. Certain card games or liquors, 4. Brother of Jacob, 5. Latin name for our planet, 6. Historic period, 7. Moving, 8. Sickness, 9. Stink, 10. An open letter, 11. Sheeplike, 12. Stars on stage, 13. Napped, 18. Beer barrel, 24. Type, 25. Legumes, 26. An aquatic bird, 27. Overhang, 28. Streetcar, 29. Change, 31. Box, 33. Fertile area, 34. Baby's bed, 36. Forearm bone, 37. Wreaths, 38. Eyebrow shape, 42. Prominent, 43. Citrus drink, 45. A roofed arcade, 47. Donkeys, 48. Cacophony, 49. Flatboat, 51. South southeast, 52. Religious splinter groups, 54. Wildebeests, 56. Stair, 57. A long way off, 58. Speechless, 59. If not, 62. Toss.

Yesterday's Solution: GAGE SCOPE PUSH OURS TITHE ANTE ADAPTATION REAR LITV ERECT DITTO STEWARD GBEAH TICV PISYCHICS WIDITH DATTY CUEN HIGES NOYAE OARIN ETE COMET VALET NARCOSIS GEM WOVEN TORNADO SIERE ERHOS GIN PREP AEROBATIC AIDS PROSE ALEE ROSE ESTER TEST

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