

### Fuel, Gold Prices up in Kabul

KABUL - Due to decline in value of Afghani against foreign currencies, the prices of fuel and Arabic gold witnessed slight increase in the outgoing week, retailers said on Thursday. Money-changer Haji Rahimullah said the buying rate of one US dollar was 58.80afs, while 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 571 afs. Last week's exchange value of one dollar stood at 58 afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 565afs. Referring to decline in Afghani currency, he said the Central bank reduced injecting dollars in the market, while growing insecurity has also played a role. Mohammad Fawad, a jeweler



in the Layci Maryam area, said due to decline in the value of Afghani currency the price of one gram Arabic gold soared from 1,900 to 2000 afs. He recalled the price of one gram Russian gold is 1,600 afs—same as last week. Abdul Hadi, director of a petrol station in Wazirabad locality, told Pajhwok Afghan News the rate of one litre of petrol up from 40 to 42 afghanis and the same quantity of diesel increased from 41 to 43 afghanis. A gas seller in Taimani area, Mohammad Sharif, sold one kilogram of liquefied gas for 30 afghanis, compared to last week's price of 35afs. Among other commodities, the price 50-kilogram sack of Pakistani flour increased from 1,550 to 1,570 in the outgoing week said Fazal Rahman, Food Traders' Union head. He added the price of 24 kilograms of rice was 1,550afs, 16 litres of ghee for 1040 afs and a kilogram of African black tea for 250. (Pajhwok)

# 2 Killed, 30 Taken Hostage in Paktia Attack

GARDEZ - Taliban insurgents attacked a volleyball ground in southeastern Paktia province on Thursday, killing at least two persons, injuring six and taking away dozens others, officials said. Deputy governor Abdul Wali Sahi told Pajhwok Afghan News the attack took place in Shagi area of the Zazi Aryub district in the afternoon at around 4:30pm. He said the Taliban fighters opened fire the playground, killing two persons, including a policeman who was in civilian dress. Three children and as



many women were also injured when the insurgents resorted to firing in the air, the deputy governor said. He said police and local residents had launched joint search operation to arrest the attackers. Provincial council member Taj Mohammad Mangal said the attackers took away with them at least 30 persons from the volleyball ground. He said security forces and residents had climbed mountains and were engaged in a firefight with the attackers to rescue the hostages. The clash was ongoing as of 7:30pm, he said... (More on P4)...(17)

### Foreign Forces Shoot, Injure Driver in Parwan



CHARIKAR - Foreign forces shot and injured a man in a car in the Bagram district of central Parwan province, sparking a protest demonstration, a public representative said on Thursday. Haji Shamsul Haq Shekhani, the provincial council secretary, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place last night in Gajran area of the district at around 9pm. He said the foreign forces signaled the man driving a car to stop, but he did not stop, provoking the forces to open fire at him. The man was injured in the firing and the foreign troops took him to a health facility. Soon after the incident, residents staged a protest blocking the Bagram-Kapisa road. Naimatullah, a protester, said: "Last night when we came out of mosque, the driver, Zabihullah, was passing the area. Foreign forces signaled him to stop, but he did not understand and was fired at three bullets."

Parwan police chief Muhammad Zaman... (More on P4)...(21)

### Policemen among 9 Injured in Khost Blast

KHOST CITY - Six policemen and three civilians were injured in a blast in Khost City, the provincial capital of southeastern Khost province, on Thursday, police said. The blast took place when dozens of people gathered for a poetry session in the city centre, he added. The bomb exploded with a huge explosion near Ghazi Babrak Khan Park. The explosive materials went-off near Jirgo Talar locality, an eyewitness said, adding: "I saw several people were lying wounded in the park." Brig. Gen. Faizullah Chairat told Pajhwok Afghan News six policemen and three civilians wounded in the blast. The injured, he said were taken to hospital for treatment soon after the blast. Mubarez Mohammad Zadrans, the governor's spokesman, said it was a remote controlled bomb which went-off in an annual poetry gathering 'Chinar'. No group so far claimed responsibility for the blast. (Pajhwok)

## Iran's Interference in Afghanistan Affairs Denounced

KABUL - The Afghanistan Milli Ghorzang, a political party, on Thursday staged a huge rally in front of Iranian Embassy in the capital Kabul, denouncing Tehran's growing political and cultural influence in Afghanistan affairs and society. Over a hundred enraged protesters demanded strict

observation of Iranian diplomats and asked the government to disclose details of Afghan and Iranian officials meeting. Supporters of Milli Gorzang started the rally from Shahr-i-Naw Park and gathered in front of the Iranian Embassy. They chanted anti-Iranian slogans and denounced political and cultural influence of Tehran. The protesters demanded ban on pro-Iranian media outlets and organizations getting funds from the country that was under sanctions by the world community. The protesters were of the opinion that Iranian cultural... (More on P4)...(18)

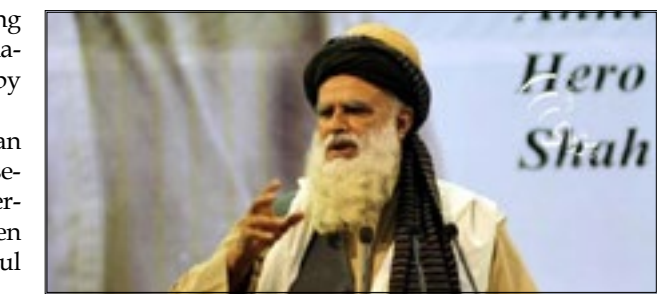
## Insecurity Grips Some Remote Paktia Towns



GARDEZ - Provincial council members and civil society activists say insecurity has increased in some districts of southeastern Paktia province owing to lack of coordination among security departments. They say Afghan National Army (ANA) troops have no coordination with tribal elders, provincial departments and other entities in remote parts, where, as a result, the security situation is worsening with each passing day. These views were expressed by provincial council members and civil society activists at a joint press conference in Gardez, the provincial capital, on Thursday. The council's secretary, Mohammad Rahman Qaderi, said they recently toured some border districts and held talks with local officials and tribal elders. He said people in the remote districts were not happy with the ANA 203 Thunder Military Corps leadership, who they accused of biased treatment. He said the area people had urged President Ashraf Ghani to transfer Maj. Gen. Mohammad Sharif Yaftali from... (More on P4)...(20)

## Gang Plotting to Kill Sayyaf Busted

KABUL - A terrorist gang, plotting to assassinate a veteran former jihadi leader, has been busted, the spy service claimed on Thursday. Hasibullah Sedeqi, the spokesman for the National Directorate of security (NDS), told a press conference here that the gang had been planning to kill Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayyaf. He said the gang was linked to the Haqqani Network and the mastermind behind the plot was Qari Hamidullah, but stopped short of going into details. The NDS official said an arms depot had been seized



during a raid on a home in Arghandi area of Paghman district of Kabul and a man arrested in connection with the seizure. The depot contained three explosives-filled jackets, one magnetic bomb, six hand-grenades, two BMI shells, three military uniform, three... (More on P4)...(19)

## 2 Women Dead, 8 Wounded in Road Crash

HERAT CITY - Two women were killed and eight others wounded in a traffic accident in western Herat province on Thursday morning, a health official said. Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, health department's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the accident took place on main Herat-Islam Kala Highway



in a head-on collision between two vehicles. The women died on the spot while the injured, including five children, were shifted to hospital for treatment. (Pajhwok)

## Logar Blast Leaves 2 ANA Soldiers Dead, 2 Hurt

PUL-I-ALAM - 2 Afghan National Army soldiers were killed and as many wounded in a roadside blast in Pul-i-Alam, the capital city of central Logar province, an official said on Thursday. Mohammad Darwaish, the spokesman for acting governor, told



Pajhwok Afghan news that ANA soldiers were on their way to a security check post when a planted bomb went-off. Hasibullah, an eye witness, said the incident took place three kilometres away from the police station in Baraki Barak district. (Pajhwok)

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You are a quick learner and thinking on your feet enables you to be quite comfortable in situations that would make anyone else uneasy. However, you may get your signals crossed today and make a rash decision based on a misunderstanding. Reality isn't as black and white as you expect; it's possible to see a lot of shades of gray. Acknowledging your lack of certainty lessens the pressure you might feel.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You might not be able to make too much sense of recent events and have trouble shaking off a belief that you should know more than you do. You may have suffered during an emotional encounter, yet it's crucial now to concentrate on the present moment instead of the past. Don't look back; channel your energy into communicating your current perspective instead.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You feel like a pendulum swinging one way and then the other. If you have been too serious these last few months, you might be tempted to overcompensate today and show a more happy-go-lucky side. However, ignoring reality is not a smart strategy, even if you deserve to escape into your imagination. Indulging in a bit of fantasy can be emotionally healing now as long as you also acknowledge the importance of current events.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Someone might be all over your case about your work or a relationship. But you don't really want reminders from people who don't know all the facts. You know exactly what you must do; your problem is that you currently lack the concentration you need to finish the job. If your willpower is flagging now, rest assured that you will have more energy in the days to follow.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

People seem to have a lot to say today, but you may be so enchanted with your own world that you don't have the energy to connect with everyone else. However, in the spirit of friendship, you might take time to listen to someone's story, but it only serves to distract you from your inner work. Fortunately, you don't have to close yourself off completely from those you love in order to be true to yourself.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your thorough analysis usually enables you to make the best-informed decisions, but your thinking might be a bit too convoluted today for your own good. Rational Mercury flourishes when it has good data as its disposal, but your logic is somewhat confused by dreamy Neptune. You can swiftly turn even the most basic facts into subjective stories and the most accurate perceptions into impressionistic paintings.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Unfinished projects at work or home weigh heavily on your mind, especially if you have more obligations than you can meet today. There's no reason to waste your precious energy fretting about things you can't change if the demands being made on your time are unrealistic. Your fantasies may send you into a tailspin of doubt, but don't let them drive you to distraction.

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Although your perceptions are instinctively on point, you're likely to take them to a deeper and darker place than needed. Your imagination may run wild now and you could spend too much time lost in fantasies without conscious limits. No matter what, don't let your nagging worries turn into all-encompassing compulsions.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You may continue to experience pressure to take care of lingering financial matters today. Or, perhaps, you might derive benefit from reevaluating what you have to give to others. Either way, be realistic about what you value and what you are worth. You are being offered a very small margin of error now; there's no room to fool yourself. A mistake in judgment will likely cycle back to haunt you pretty quickly, so take your time and get it right.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

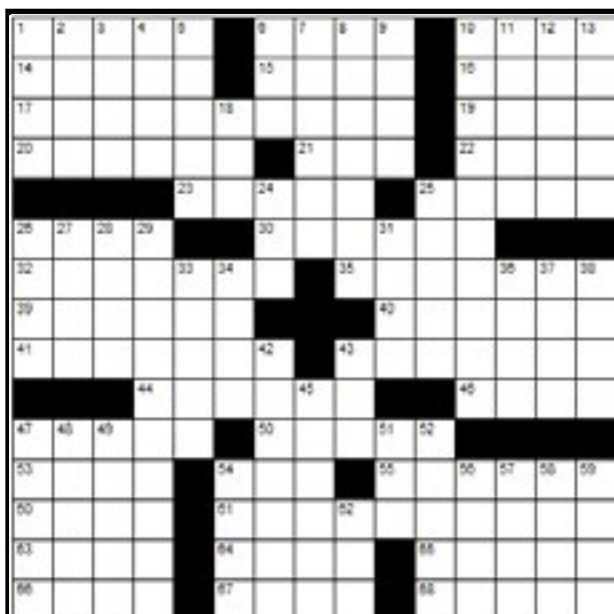
There's no reason to set your sights so high today that you set yourself up for failure. Even if you have time to focus on your goals, you still can't accomplish everything you want. Part of your current dilemma stems from the wide gap between reality and fantasy, with little ability to distinguish between the two. The fact is you are a human being, possessing irrational emotions that can't help but affect your thinking.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Although you might be unable to keep your mind from wandering today, your unexpressed thoughts can teach you exactly what you need to know. However, you must be totally honest with others and tell them you are not in the mood for socializing now. Sharing your truth prevents anyone from expecting more from you than you can give. There's no need to fear the dark corners of your brain.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You wish you didn't have so many commitments today because you're not interested in engaging in lighthearted conversations upon command. Nevertheless, it's not wise to postpone an event because you'll probably feel more inclined to participate once you get there. You don't have to fake a pleasant attitude; if you are in a serious frame of mind now, just be exactly who you are.



### Across

- 1. Distend, 6. An enclosure, 10. Biblical kingdom, 14. Stage between egg and pupa, 15. Participate in games, 16. 13 in Roman numerals, 17. Capable of being reached, 19. Grasp, 20. Fireplace, 21. A late time of life, 22. Notion, 23. Lofty terms, 25. Sleights, 26. Spouse, 30. Paradise, 32. Windflower, 35. Provide commentary, 39. Layers, 40. A small mug, 41. Affinity, 43. Spartan, 44. Basement, 46. Feudal worker, 47. Leg bone, 50. Requested, 53. Angle of a leafstalk, 54. Cashew or almond, 55. Cavort, 60. Bluefin, 61. Mix with impurities, 63. Modify, 64. Falafel bread, 65. Contests, 66. A Greek territorial unit, 67. Stair, 68. Closes violently

### Down

- 1. Ho-hum, 2. Shoestring, 3. Killer whale, 4. Affirm, 5. Flavor, 6. Consumer Price Index, 7. Even though, 8. Sailing ship, 9. Gave the once-over, 10. Thrill, 11. Thermionic tube, 12. Lubricated, 13. King with a golden touch, 18. Timid, 24. Regret, 25. Fathers, 26. Disguise, 27. Against, 28. Small slender gull, 29. Castrate, 31. A Maori club, 33. Different, 34. Found on a finger, 36. Air force heroes, 37. Change direction, 38. Type of sword, 42. Acclaim, 43. Biblical boat, 45. Keen, 47. Destined, 48. Give off, 49. Half note, 51. Eastern newt, 52. Sediments, 54. Short sleeps, 56. By mouth, 57. Tibetan monk, 58. Bit of gossip, 59. To tax or access, 62. One time around.

### Yesterday's Solution



another, attachment, block, bone, broke, butter, center, children, clown, color, conclusion, curd, dime, flecks, grime, grog, hale, harm, heave, holes, lonely, magnet, option, phonetic, phrase, pill, plates, prove, push, queen, reveal, scheme, shade, take, tart, traces, warning, weave, weight, width, world.

