

Policeman Dead, 2 Injured in Helmand Firefight

LASHKARGAH - 2 children killed in Kapisa landmine blast One policeman was killed and two other security personnel were wounded during overnight clash in the Nad Ali district of southern Helmand province, an official said. Governor Spokesman Umar Zwak told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash erupted when the Taliban stormed police check-posts in Loe Bagh area on Tuesday night. Taliban confirmed the clash. Separately Special Forces destroyed four training centres of the Taliban in the Garamser district during overnight raid. Zwak acknowledged the overnight raid but there was no information about the Taliban casualties. (Pajhwok)

2 Would-be Bombers Held, 1 Killed in Kabul Raid

KABUL - Two alleged would-be suicide bombers were detained and a third killed by intelligence forces during a raid south of Kabul on Wednesday, the spy service said. A statement from the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said the operation was conducted in Chahar Sawq village of Mussahi district and resulted in the killing of a Taliban insurgent and detention of two others. The statement didn't specify the time of the offensive, but claimed the detainees had confessed to their crimes including planting landmines. It quoted the duo as saying that they had received orders from their masters to carry out suicide attacks in crowded areas of Kabul city. Three IEDs filled tins, ammunition and Taliban's propaganda papers encouraging terrorist and suicide attacks were also seized from the detainees' hideout. There has been so far no word from insurgents in this regard. (Pajhwok)

Weapons Seized in School 'Belong to Relative of Hanged Gangster'

KABUL - Kabul police headquarters on Wednesday said weapons recovered from a private school in Kabul belong to one of the close relatives of Rais Khudaidad, a former gang leader hanged in Kabul three years ago. "This person is known as Nawab Khan Tanai son of Zaman Khan who is the son of Rais Khudaidad who was previously punished according to the law for several crimes he committed, he is (Nawab Khan Tanai)," said Kabul police chief Hassan Shah Forogh. According to Kabul Police Chief Hassan Shah Forogh, Tanai was the owner of the school and had been exploiting the establishment's name for criminal purposes. He said he had been hiding behind the name of Jabir Bin Hayan school to cover up his illegal activities. "The weapons discovered belonged to the person who established this school, the school has been used as a cover. They have gathered illegal weapons here under the pretext of a school, schooling and service, there is the possibility that in the past these weapons were used illegally. This military equipment shows that they used it for some purposes," added Forogh. (More on P4)...(20)

Police Chief Bans Pillion Bike Riding in Ghazni

GHAZNI CITY - Authorities have banned pillion bike riding in southern Ghazni province in the wake of increasing insecurity. Police chief Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel told Pajhwok Afghan News the ban was aimed at reducing security incidents in the province. "Taliban militants use bikes in their attacks. It is good for the security of people as well to ban more than one person a bike," he said, adding he had ordered police to prevent pillion riding in the province. He said gamble and hookah centers had been closed in Ghazni City, the provincial capital. However, a resident of Ghazni city, Seddiqullah, said the police chief was enforcing the law only on civilians. He said Taliban militants also used police uniform in staging attacks even inside the city. "So this ban should also apply on police," he said. A tribal ... (More on P4)...(18)



2 Children Killed in Kapisa Landmine Blast

MAHMUD RAQI - Two children have been killed and two other people wounded as a result of landmine explosion in the Nejrab district of central Kapisa province, an official said on Wednesday. Police Chief Mohammad Razaq Yaqobi told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion took place in Ahmad Bek hill of Nejrab district late on Monday evening. He said two children were killed and two other people wounded ... (More on P4)...(19)



4 ISIS Militants Killed in Nangarhar Airstrike

KABUL - At least four militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group's offshoot in Afghanistan, ISIS Khurasan, were killed in an airstrike conducted in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the airstrike was carried out in the vicinity Bati Kot district. MoD further added that a vehicle used by ISIS loyalists was also destroyed in the airstrike. The anti-government armed militant groups including the ISIS loyalists have not commented regarding the report so far. Nangarhar is among the relatively calm provinces in eastern Afghanistan but the anti-government armed militant groups have recently increased their insurgency activities in some parts of the province during the recent years. (Pajhwok)



1 Killed, 12 Injured in Kandahar Twin Blasts

KANDAHAR - At least one civilian was killed and a dozen more people, including three police, were wounded in two back to back explosions in the capital of southern Kandahar province on Tuesday night. The first blast took place about 9pm at the Sardar Madad Khan square in Kandahar City and the second explosion occurred as police and residents rushed to the site of the first blast, the provincial governor's spokesman told Pajhwok Afghan News. Samim Khpalwak said the first blast was caused by a magnetic bomb affixed to a car and the second by a bomb planted on a rickshaw. He said one civilian was killed and seven others and three policemen were wounded in the explosions. The injured and their condition was stated as stable. Kandahar police spokesman Zia Durrani confirmed the blasts and the casualties, saying the target was police. The civil hospital director confirmed receiving one dead body and 12 wounded people at the facility, saying the injured were in stable condition. An eyewitness, Asadullah, said ... (More on P4)...(21)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You can turn on the charm so adeptly today that people don't see what you're actually doing. It appears that you're coloring inside the lines and behaving within social norms, but the truth becomes obvious upon closer examination. Your conservative style is a clever tactic that puts others at ease while you're setting the stage for more revolutionary behavior.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Working as part of a team enables you to be very productive today, but your agenda might be slightly different from the group consensus. Nevertheless, you can blend so seamlessly into the crowd that no one will even notice you're really on your own path. Fortunately, everyone benefits from your ability to play on both sides of the fence now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although a close friend or partner might try to talk you out of your ambitious plans, you're ready to launch into your future by trying something new. You look toward the horizon and see a world full of positive potential while others see detours, walls and abysses. Thankfully, your current ability to balance the pros and cons will play out to your advantage, so don't let anyone turn your confidence into fear.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Someone's reactions to you may be confusing, and you want to get to the bottom of the puzzle today. Thankfully, the emotionally detached Aquarius Moon allows you to dig beneath the surface while maintaining an objective approach. Luna's visit to your 8th House of Deep Sharing motivates you to talk about the secrets you uncover.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Nearly everyone seems to be acting weird today, as if they're not interested in what anyone thinks of their efforts. Actually, a rise in the Eccentricity Factor can be traced to the rebellious Aquarius Moon's visit to your 7th House of Relationships. Luckily, you are quite capable of minimizing your dependence on others now.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You don't want to do everything the same old way today, but you still have a great deal of respect for the tried and true. Asking others for advice could be a mistake if you're looking for reasons to maintain the status quo, since people are more likely to push you outside of your comfort zone now. Nevertheless, your most successful strategy is based on breaking free from a previous limitation without dismantling the entire

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your uncharacteristically dispassionate approach to handling an awkward situation today allows you to get away with holding a radical position. You can fly under the radar, even if you're being a contrarian or a revolutionary. It's not what you say that makes your message more palatable, it's how you say it. Anything you offer to soften the blow of your words helps your cause now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Guardian angels are watching your back now, even if you're not convinced of their existence. You can call it luck if that fits in better with your beliefs -- but however you label the divine intervention, it's only the first step. Transforming an obstacle into a blessing requires your passionate involvement today, because it's not something that will just automatically happen.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. You're at a turning point where your actions have particularly profound impact. But your winning strategy must incorporate a wilder and crazier approach to life now that radical Uranus is creating chaos in your 5th House of Self-Expression. Don't let others dictate your strategy. If they do, it's up to you to take it back.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

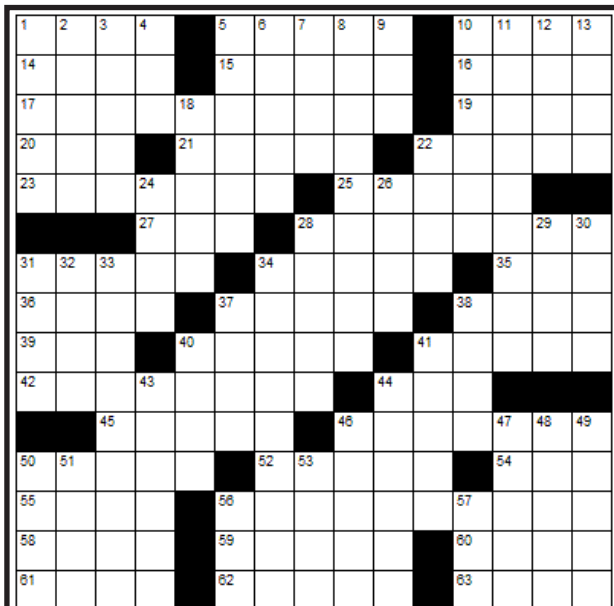
You tend to be notoriously methodical, especially when things get a little crazy. In fact, you might compensate by setting goals, making plans and progressing one step at a time. Nevertheless, a magical confluence of energies offers you an opportunity to make a great leap forward today. However, you must be willing to take a chance proportional to the size of the jump ahead.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your ability to play both ends of the spectrum today helps you find stability in the midst of chaos. Paradoxically, the changeable Moon's visit to your sign presents its own set of challenges, including how to stay in touch with your feelings without letting them overwhelm your day. Thankfully, a harmonizing Saturn-Uranus trine ensures you have a stable place to stand even in the middle of an emotional earthquake.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You often daydream about sudden windfalls or mysterious inheritances that dramatically improve your finances. Unfortunately, these scenarios are not likely to manifest anytime soon; the most reliable changes will unfold in small increments. Nevertheless, it may be time to advance in your profession and increase your income.



Across

- 1. Baseball great, ____ Ruth, 5. Slopped, 10. Chooses, 14. L L L L, 15. Small drum, 16. Invigoration, 17. Stretchability, 19. Lawn mower brand, 20. Confederate soldier, 21. Excrete, 22. Consumed, 23. Schemes, 25. Creepy, 27. Ribonucleic acid, 28. Organizer, 31. Stars on stage, 34. Mixes, 35. Estimated time of arrival, 36. Anagram of "Dome", 37. Fence "doors", 38. Rip, 39. Grippe, 40. Anagram of "Smite", 41. Hindu social division, 42. Pertaining to the Earth's crust, 44. Website address, 45. Overactive, 46. Futile, 50. Pants, 52. Put out, 54. Japanese apricot, 55. Nanny, 56. Embankment, 58. Curdled soybean milk, 59. Platform, 60. Constellation bear, 61. Anagram of "Seek", 62. Fruity-smelling compound, 63. One who colors cloth

Down

- 1. Ales, 2. Laneway, 3. Tattles, 4. S, 5. A symbol of disgrace, 6. Strides, 7. Nile bird, 8. Prize drawings, 9. Attempt, 10. Get, 11. People with mentors, 12. Rubber wheel, 13. Any day now, 18. Adolescents, 22. Historical periods, 24. Streetcar, 26. Makes a mistake, 28. Loft, 29. French for "State", 30. Unusual, 31. Adroit, 32. Doing nothing, 33. Grant or allow, 34. Humorists, 37. Heredity unit, 38. Gangly, 40. Swabs, 41. Someone unpleasantly strange, 43. Rickettsial disease, 44. Loan shark, 46. Habitual practice, 47. Manicurist's board, 48. Feel, 49. Indian instrument, 50. Way in, 51. Out of control, 53. Leave in a hurry, 56. East southeast, 57. Muck,

Yesterday's Solution

Grid for yesterday's crossword solution with words filled in.

antenna, arrogance, banal, beans, cause, coach, demand, drive, endear, fever, field, foist, foment, gasket, hedgehog, hypocritical, impudence, jiffy, player, points, press, river, ruling, stale, stands, still, sudden, tails, taste, teach, throw, vapid

Word search grid with letters W, O, R, Y, S, T, A, N, D, S, V, K, P, R, E, S, T, F, A, V, A, P, I, D, Q, D, H, N, U, A, P, O, I, N, T, S, C, R, E, Q, E, D, L, S, T, I, L, L, I, O, I, M, P, U, D, E, N, C, E, S, S, T, A, T, A, S, T, E, G, A, S, K, E, T, N, C, F, N, Y, A, N, Y, E, R, T, E, A, C, H, E, D, Z, I, F, S, B, H, B, A, N, A, L, V, R, L, F, U, T, H, R, O, W, T, D, F, E, U, I, A, D, R, I, V, E, G, E, J, I, R, J, C, V, A, R, R, O, G, A, N, C, E, P, L, A, Y, E, R, F, O, M, E, N, T, L, H, Y, P, O, C, R, I, T, I, C, A, L, D