

Education, Municipality Poor-Performing: Baghlan PC

PUL-I-KHUMRI - The provincial council head in northern Baghlan province on Sunday said they have evaluated the performance of 20 local departments in the province and found the municipality, education and disaster preparedness departments' work not satisfactory and amid no transparency. After swearing-in, Baghlan provincial council was mired in internal problems of not being able to elect administrative board and later went on



strike for 40 days in order to regain oversight right over local departments. Mohammad Safdar Mohsini, provincial council head, told Pajhwok Afghan News since they embarked upon their work they have evaluated the performance of 20 departments. The work of Pul-i-Khumri's municipality, he said, was the most unsatisfactory. There were more challenges in municipality, including lack of...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Italy Coast Guard Rescues 70 Afghan, Iraqi Migrants from Crowded Boat

ROME - Seventy Afghan and Iraqi migrants were rescued from a packed boat off the southeastern coast of Italy and brought to shore Sunday, Italy's coast guard said. Italy closed down a specialized naval mission to rescue migrants in the Mediterranean last year, but continues to bear the brunt of the rescues as the European Union and member states conduct talks on how to deal with the influx. Two Italian coast guard cutters brought the group to the port of Santa Maria di Leuca in Puglia. There were two women and four minors on board, the coast



guard said in a statement. Refugees escaping war and persecution and economic migrants from Africa and the Middle East have poured into Italy this year. Lawlessness...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Uruzgan PC Finally Elects Admin Board

TARINKOT - The provincial council (PC) of central Uruzgan province on Sunday finally voted to elect its administrative board about seven months after the elected body was inaugurated. However, six members of the nine-member council attended the ballot that took place at the governor's house. Acting provincial governor Amanullah Taimuri thanked the provincial council members for holding the election and meeting the required threshold.



He said the protracted delay in election of the provincial council administrative board had created numerous problems for local residents. He hoped people would be able...*(More on P4)...(13)*

17 Militants Killed in Kandahar, Laghman Clashes

KANDAHAR CITY - Security forces have launched an operation against militants in the Mianshin district of southern Kandahar province after coming under attacks for several consecutive days, an official said on Thursday. Samim Khalwak, the provincial government spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents had been attacking security posts for the last several days, but all the attacks had been repulsed.

Most of the attacks took place in Sedosan and Ghalang areas and security forces killed eight insurgents and injured four others during 48 hours of their operation, he said, adding an Afghan Local Police personnel was injured in the operation. The attacks in Mianshin north of Kandahar City follow clashes between security forces and insurgents in a nearby Khas Uruzgan district of neighbouring central Uruzgan province. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Civilians Among 14 Dead in Security Incidents

KABUL - At least seven civilians, nine policemen and six insurgents have been killed and nine others wounded during separate security incidents in different parts of the country, officials said Sunday. Shafiq Nang, the governor's spokesman for southern Ghazni province, told Pajhwok Afghan News a man, his wife and their two sons were killed in a roadside bomb explosion in Abu Jan village of Gilan district on Saturday evening. He alleged the bomb was planted by militants. Elsewhere, two civilians were killed and six others wounded in a similar...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Baghlan-I-Markazi District Cleared of Rebels

PUL-I-KHUMRI - The Baghlan-I-Markazi district in northern Baghlan province has been cleared of insurgents after massive clearing operations that lasted weeks, an official said on Sunday. Maj. Gen. Assadullah Sherzad who had visited the district along with a special unit from the Ministry of Interior told Pajhwok Afghan News the last hideouts of insurgents in Larkhabi and Mugholha localities had been purged of insurgents. He said more than 72 villages had been cleared with killing more than 75 militants and injuring of 55 more in the operations. ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Voter Awareness Drive Must Begin Right Away: EWA

JALALABAD - The Election Watch Organisation of Afghanistan (EWA) on Sunday launched its voter awareness campaign in eastern Afghanistan, stressing the need for starting the drive nationwide right away ahead of the parliamentary elections. EWA officials, who addressed

a gathering in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, announced their presence in the east and started a two-day workshop for the youth. EWA head for eastern provinces, Ejaz Malakzai, told Pajhwok Afghan News on the sidelines of the gathering that the workshop was aimed at

creating awareness about the rights of voters, procedures, transparency in elections, the importance of elections and people's participation. The youth after attending the workshop would transfer their knowledge to people of their respective areas, he said...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Unemployment Pushes Khost Youth into Drug Use



KHOST CITY - The counternarcotics director on Sunday claimed progress in preventing drug trade in southeastern Khost province, but some public representatives said drug use and smuggling had increased. Counternarcotics chief in Khost Mir Nagal Thanival told a press conference here that considerable progress had been achieved in preventing drug smuggling, use and production in the province

over the past eight years. During the period, he said, more than 7000 out of nearly 37000 drug addicts were treated and presently two rehabilitation hospitals were operational in the province. He said drug smuggling and use still persisted but poppy cultivation had dropped to zero level in the province, where drugs production and processing had been prevented to a great extent...*(More on P4)...(17)*

25 Afghans Refugees Detained in Peshawar

KABUL - At least hundred suspects, including 25 Afghans, were arrested on Sunday during search operations carried out by the police in various areas of Peshawar, the capital city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said. Quoting police officials, the Pakistan's Express Tribune reports that "around 25 Afghans, who were illegally residing in the city, were among the 100 arrested." It said that acting on a tip-off, security forces raided Gulberg, Northela, Bara Road, Saddar Bazaar and Pashktakhra areas. *(Pajhwok)*

Taliban Attack Security Check Posts in Sangin

LASHKARGAH - Taliban have attacked several security check posts in Sangin District of restive Helmand province. Mohammad Ismail Hotaki, director of Helmand's Joint Coordination Office has confirmed the attack to AP news agency. At least 10 soldiers have been reportedly martyred in the attack. Taliban have not immediately commented on the report. *(KP)*

Strong Political Opposition Direly Needed: Analysts

KABUL - Experts say the existence of a political opposition is essential for political development and a political system without opposition is incomplete. In politics, the opposition is a party or a group of parties opposed to the government. They put pressure on the government to put things right and prevent the regime from doing something against the



national interest besides offering proposals and criticising the government's poor performance. The unity government deal that followed last year's disputed presidential election mentions Chief Executive Officer Abdullah camp as opposition in strengthening and promoting democracy. The Abdullah camp has two ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You may easily upset others if you are completely honest with them about what you want. You might justify your position with the facts, but speaking with authority doesn't make your words true, especially while aggressive Mars squares deceptive Neptune. Insisting that you are right isn't a viable strategy because you sound foolish if you pretend that you are an expert on something you're not.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You could talk up a storm today, acting as if your fantasies are actually based in reality. However, you're not as pragmatic as you seem while your key planet Venus squares wild Uranus, making unusual experiences more enticing than familiar ones. Even if your goals are attainable now, you still might misjudge the resources needed to reach your destination.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



People wonder how you can get away with expressing yourself as boldly as you do today. Meanwhile, you're thrilled because it seems like your most colorful dreams are ripe for harvest. However, you might mistakenly believe that your radical tastes are simply too weird to share with those around you. You may suddenly realize how much you aren't saying for fear of being judged because of your eclectic desires.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You might not receive the clear answers you seek today no matter how hard you try to find them. You can't help but think what it would be like if everything was new and different now, but it's not. Even if you desire more excitement in your routine, you're not ready to sacrifice your long-term security to live on the edge.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



The bottom line is you want more adventure in your life and you're willing to say yes if the right invitation comes along. Even if you have a viable plan to realize your dreams now, you might be tempted to discard it suddenly for a new pursuit. Happily, people seem to support your current decisions but, unfortunately, they miss the mark when trying to understand what you really want.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Hiding your emotions isn't a sensible alternative today, making it impossible to go along with the group consensus. You may resist the flow because you're uncertain of what will happen next, especially if you feel others are conspiring to prevent you from reaching your dreams. Your best move is to avoid being overly attached to your desires now because your fears are strengthened when you worry about things you can't control.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You're stuck in the middle of conflicting strategies now, and you cannot possibly take both paths. Even if you feel like time has run out, you're not ready to close the door to one opportunity in favor of another one. Normally, exercising flexibility brings you strength, but your current inability to make a decision can be unsettling. Just choose a path wisely and move forward without looking back.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Although you are known for sticking to your principles, you still might be tempted to take the easy way out today. Your desires are swinging back and forth now, making them more difficult to defend. Additionally, words don't necessarily come easily if you try to explain your position to those who may not support your dreams.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You are forever the optimist and usually don't see anything wrong with asking for what you want. However, life is complicated these days because your desires are drawing you far outside the social norm and you're afraid people won't understand your unorthodox needs. Your imagination is running wild today, challenging you to combine your fantasies with reality.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Your current situation at work may present you with a fascinating conundrum; however, you don't like riddles that are unsolvable. Your problem is that you may be attracted to the very same kind of uncertainty that you normally avoid. Rather than being drawn to someone because of their apparent stability, you're enchanted by the person with the most eccentric ideas now, even if they have no practical value.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

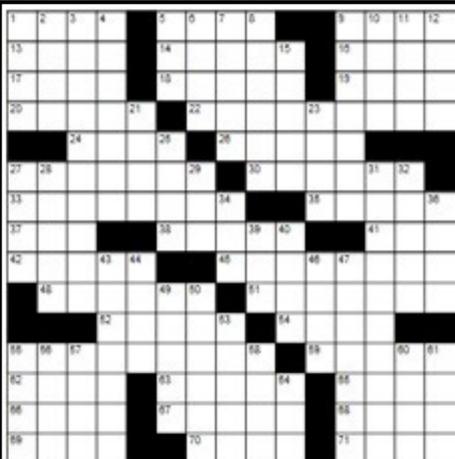


It's tricky to turn an innovative idea into something tangible, even if you receive a blast of creative energy. Unfortunately, you may think you're wasting time trying to accomplish the impossible. However, your emotions are on edge and you're eager to push past any resistance. A sudden fascination stirs feelings that conflict with your logic but don't try to rationalize what's in your heart.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You reserve the right to march to your own drummer now as you practice a non-conformist strategy. You're not interested in fitting into complex family dynamics at home while you're driven to distinguish yourself from the crowd. Your courage is inspirational, but people must be free to choose to break the rules in their own ways. Don't miss your chance to wildly abandon restraint and dance to the music you hear within.



Across

1. Disparage, 5. Squad, 9. Snip, 13. A coniferous tree, 14. Courtyards, 16. Type of cereal grass, 17. Umpires, 18. Estimate, 19. Beers, 20. Mongolian dwellings, 22. Clumsiness, 24. Greek letter, 26. Operatic solos, 27. Median, 30. A written version of a play, 33. Reverse, 35. Water vapor, 37. A late time of life, 38. Face with masonry, 41. Calypso offshoot, 42. Governs, 45. Evoked, 48. An evergreen shrub, 51. Strong and proud, 52. Wreckage, 54. Agitate, 55. Flat grasslands, 59. Place, 62. Send forth, 63. Overact, 65. Ancient Peruvian, 66. 53 in Roman numerals, 67. Satan, 68. Sore, 69. Nonclerical, 70. Scallion, 71. Dregs.

Down

1. Agile, 2. Place, 3. Inimical, 4. Repair, 5. Children's game, 6. Decorative case, 7. Sporting venue, 8. Penny pinchers, 9. A surveying instrument, 10. Anger, 11. Frosts, 12. Untidiness, 15. Savory jelly, 21. Sun, 23. Sailors, 25. Food thickener, 27. Affirm, 28. Partial veil, 29. French for "Summer", 31. Plague, 32. Captured, 34. Night before, 36. Fabricated, 39. L, 40. Layer, 43. Fickle, 44. Render unconscious, 46. Murmurs, 47. First, 49. Delineated, 50. Hard glossy coating, 53. Push, 55. Peddle, 56. Dogfish, 57. 8 in Roman numerals, 58. Anagram of "Ties", 60. Dull pain, 61. Not nights, 64. Antlered animal.

Yesterday's Solution

admits, alone, angel, chapter, charge, chaste, church, closet, confession, context, creed, danger, desire, discord, dream, fresh, glee, handsome, home, initial, inside, miser, murder, nature, nets, officer, peace, represent, script, student, taste, tend, thee, thing, tires, tryst, yearn.

