

Four Killed, 73 Injured in Zabul Suicide Bombing

QALAT - At least four civilians were killed and 73 people - including children and women - were injured in a powerful suicide truck bomb in southern Zabul province on Monday, local officials said. The attack took place in Qalat the capital of the province after a suicide truck bomber detonated his explosives near the provincial council building, deputy police chief, Ghulam Jelani Farahi said. "Most of the victims are civilians. Women and children



were among the injured people," he said. The explosion caused extensive damage to the provincial council building as well as to other buildings in the area including a hospital and the provincial education department. Farahi said that the police have launched an investigation into the attack. Officials said that no member of the provincial council has hurt in the attack. The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. (Tolonews)

52 Insurgents Killed in Countrywide Operations

KABUL - At least 52 Taliban insurgents were killed and 27 others injured in Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) operations in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement on Monday. One other insurgent was arrested during the operations. The operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Laghman, Baghlan, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul, Logar, Paktika, Farah, Nimroz and Helmand provinces, the statement said. "During the same 24 hour period, Afghan National Police



discovered and defused six different types of IEDs placed by enemies of Afghanistan for destructive activities in Balkh, Logar, Paktika and Farah provinces," the statement added. (Tolonews)

Kidnapped District Hajj Affairs Director Found Dead

SAR-I-PUL CITY - The body of an abducted district director of Hajj and Religious Affairs was recovered in northern Sar-i-Pul province on Monday, an official said. Police Chief Maj. Gen. Noor Habib Gulbahari told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban kidnapped Maulvi Abdul Wadood two weeks ago from Sar-i-Pul- Suzma road. There was no claim of responsibility for the abduction of Suzma district director. Earlier, three employees of the



National Solidarity Program (NSP) were also kidnapped from the same road but they were set free after mediation by local elders. (Pajhwok)

Herat Silk Production Exceeds 1 Tonne

HERAT CITY - The ancient silk-weaving industry has revived in western Herat province, with the silk production exceeding one tonne this year, officials said on Monday. Ghulam Sediq Tabibzada, an official at the provincial Agriculture Department, told Pajhwok Afghan News the silk production had increased in Herat with a rise in rearing of silkworms. This solar year, he said more than 6,000 families in Zandajan and 2,000 families in Guzara and Anjeel districts had been tasked with rearing silkworms, harvesting cocoons and producing silk. "This year 3,000 boxes of silkworms were distributed to people. Of the boxes, 2,210 were donated by Rada organisation and 790 by the agriculture department," he added. "Last year, 3,000 boxes produced 1,050 kilograms of silk and the production increased to 1,140 kg this year," he continued, linking the increase to better climate condition and market for silk products in Herat. He said the price of one kilogram of silk rose to 1,000 afghanis this year against last year's 400 af.



Tabibzada said silkworms imported from neighboring Iran were of poor quality as compared to those from China. Shah Gul Ahmad, a resident of Anjeel district, said she worked raising silkworms and silk production with six other members of her family. "In the last two years, Rada organization has been assisting us and we are happy with our work." Abdul Wahid, 59, said he spent most of his life farming silkworms and collecting their cocoons for silk production. "For the last ten years this industry was nose-diving, but the situation of our work improved considerably during the past two years." Ghulam Rabbani, a local elder, said if the government provided them with quality silkworms, more than 500 families were prepared to work in the field. Silkworms normally hatch in spring and their only food is mulberry leaf. During the first 50 days of their life cycle, the worms are kept in a clean environment at a temperature more or less between 70° - 75° F with similar percentage of humidity. (Pajhwok)

Afghans Form Militias and Call on Warlords to Battle Taliban

KABUL - Facing a fierce Taliban offensive across a corridor of northern Afghanistan, the government in Kabul is turning to a strategy fraught with risk: forming local militias and beseeching old warlords for military assistance, according to Afghan and Western officials.

The effort is expected to eventually mobilize several thousand Afghans from the north to fight against the Taliban in areas where the Afghan military and police forces are losing ground or have had little presence. The action is being seen as directly undermining assurances by officials that the

security forces were holding their own against the Taliban. Further, the plan to turn to irregular forces is stoking anxieties of factional rivalries and civil strife in a nation still haunted by a civil war in the 1990s in which feuding militia commanders tore the country apart....(More on P4)...(16)

Loud Noise, Frequent Honking Irritate Kabul Residents



KABUL - As capital Kabul is turning into a congested city, loud traffic noise and frequent vehicles' honking have created nervous and heart diseases among dwellers particularly children. Approximately five million people live in Kabul with half a million vehicles plying in the city. Kabul residents complain that car horns not only harass people during the day, but also during nights. They demand traf-

fic department to ensure implementation of traffic rules in the capital city. Mehrabuddin, a shopkeeper in Taimani area of Kabul city, said that the car honking by his neighbors has created heart disease for him. He said the noise during nights has also caused disturbance for his entire family. He said drivers should think about other people and obey traffic rules. Some other people in other... (More on P4)...(18)

5 Policemen Dead in Kandahar Internal Fight

KANDAHAR CITY - At least five policemen have been killed as a result of internal fights in southern Kandahar province, an official said Monday. A security official wishing anonymity told Pajhwok Afghan News three policemen were killed by their colleagues who had links with Taliban in a security post in Maiwand district today morning. The four attackers managed to escape along with all weapons and ammunition and joined the Taliban, the source said. Kandahar police spokesman Zia Durrani confirmed the death of three Afghan Local Police (ALP) members. He said Taliban were not involved in the incident but it was an internal fight. However, militants claimed responsibility for the incident with the group's spokesman Qari Yousof... (More on P4)...(19)

One Policeman Killed, Five Injured in Taliban Ambush



FARAH CITY - A policeman was killed and five others injured in a Taliban ambush in western Farah province on Sunday night, local offices said. The incident took place in Farah city after a number of Taliban insurgents attacked local policemen, provincial police chief, Fazel Mohammad Samadyar said. "The injured policemen were taken to a nearby hospital in the city and they were in stable condition," Samadyar said. He said that the Taliban insurgents also suffered casualties in the clash but no details were available. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Tolonews)

Some Ghazni Newspapers Resume Publications

GHAZNI CITY - Some newspapers have resumed publishing after a hiatus lasting two years mainly due to economic constraints in southern Ghazni province. About two years ago, newspapers in Ghazni were shut down one after another due to economic crisis and only a state-run weekly continued its publication, but the newspapers have resumed their

publications once again. Barya magazine official Naqibullah Khaksar told Pajhwok Afghan News that a number of newspapers had stopped publishing over the past few years due to souring economy. "But we publish the Barya Magazine with our own money and all members of the Barya Society pay the expenses incurred," he said.... (More on P4)...(17)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Rushing around just doesn't work today because you may have to go back and do things over again. If you have specific tasks that must be completed, you're probably overeager to finish them as quickly as possible. However, you could get mired down in red tape unless you take each step in the proper order.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Finding your creative groove comes naturally today if you limit your activities from the start. Obviously, you want to have something tangible to show for your efforts, but you might sabotage your good intentions by jumping from one idea to another. The more definitive you can be when describing your goal, the less trouble you will have when executing your plan.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may resist the restrictions being placed on you now, but they are for your own good. Three planets traveling through rambling Gemini encourage you to spread your energy between family and professional matters. However, you can't do an acceptable job if you need to be two places at once. Thankfully, the laser-like Virgo Moon forces you to tighten your focus.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

People might commend your high level of efficiency today, but you don't necessarily believe you deserve the compliment. Whether you're holding on to residual emotions from yesterday's craziness or playing out noisy scenarios in your mind, you feel more scattered now than anyone realizes. It helps to acknowledge the gulf between your subjective and objective worlds.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You bring a whole new level of awareness to your work today and it can inspire you to perform your job more effectively. Instead of just going through the motions while doing a task, you're considering more economical ways to be productive. It doesn't matter whether or not your analysis pays off with a new method of doing your job.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Maintaining high standards at work is what you do best, but sometimes your drive for perfection gets in the way of your production. However, your conscientious outlook is apparent in everything you undertake now, enabling you to accomplish more than anyone expects. Fortunately, you can draw energy from a deep well of reserve today as long as you don't wander from your task.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may not appear any different from the outside today, but something significant has changed and you know it. Although you might feel weary from being bounced around by strong emotional currents, you aren't willing to just drift along with the flow. Go inward and find your center of gravity because you have the power of perseverance on your side now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your dreams are so pragmatic today that it's hard to distinguish them from a business plan. Fortunately, you are so perceptive now that your logical analysis won't lead you astray. But it's smarter to rework a previous idea than come up with new ones while retrograde Mercury is revisiting old territory. Thankfully, you won't reach a wrong conclusion if you start out with solid facts.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

There are many alternative paths in front of you, but one probably stands out as the most direct route for reaching your professional goals. However, it seems as if everyone has a different plan for your future, but listening to others is only helpful for a while. Knowing when to excuse yourself from the conversation is crucial, for your answer will come from within only after the external noise settles down.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

It's tempting to take on so many tasks today that you can't do a masterful job on any one of them. Several planets buzzing around in fragmented Gemini are activating your 6th House of Routine, thwarting your efforts to zero in on any single objective. Nevertheless, you must overcome your current inclination to scatter your energy willy-nilly.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Your intuition won't let you down, but you must listen to your inner voice for it to be of value. Unfortunately, setting aside the facts isn't your style, but a hunch that comes from out of the blue could defy common sense. Remember, the most ingenious thinking isn't necessarily linear, especially as the rational Virgo Moon connects with shadowy Pluto in your 12th House of Spiritual Mystery.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Although you might like to dream your way to success, the Virgo Moon keeps you on a straight and narrow path. Even if you want to escape, there's little opportunity to fade into the fuzziness of your imagination. Your coworkers want you to succeed because they also benefit from your accomplishments. Collaboration currently works in your favor; being part of the team is easier when you are interacting with people you trust.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues.

Across clues: 1. Skidded, 5. 3-banded armadillo, 10. Break in friendly relations, 14. Impoverished, 15. Mortise and _____ joint, 16. Unit of land, 17. Against, 18. Vacillation, 20. Wander aimlessly, 22. Not strict, 23. Family, 24. Wrongs, 25. Medicines, 32. Pee, 33. Emissary, 34. Make a copy of a recording, 37. Mob, 38. On the up and up, 39. Dad, 40. South southeast, 41. Religious law, 42. Eagerness, 43. Acts of refraining, 45. Hitches, 49. Dawn goddess, 50. Matrimonial, 53. Sediment, 57. Recognized, 59. Memo, 60. Outbuilding, 61. A male duck, 62. Biblical garden, 63. Boxes for bricks, 64. Filled to excess, 65. Adult male sheep.

Down clues: 1. Unwanted email, 2. Solitary, 3. Greek letter, 4. Imbibing, 5. Goddess of wisdom, 6. Equal, 7. Autonomic nervous system, 8. Agitate, 9. Initial wager, 10. Relative magnitudes, 11. Less friendly, 12. Not back, 13. Canvas shelters, 19. Jittery, 21. Cut into cubes, 25. Coffee cups, 26. Historical periods, 27. Eat, 28. Adolescents, 29. Metal bar, 30. Sheep-like, 31. Excluding, 34. Carpenter's groove, 35. Atop, 36. Taverns, 38. Chemist's workplace, 39. Inmate, 41. Hindu social division, 42. At the peak of, 44. Required, 45. Demolish, 46. Tortilla chip, 47. Cambered, 48. Fortifies, 51. Contributes, 52. Former Italian currency, 53. Apollo astronaut Slayton, 54. Fizzy drink, 55. Bit of gossip, 56. 10 10 10 10

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid with the solution words filled in.

Word search puzzle grid with the words QUAKE, HELITESK, UFRSAGAINNXTL, PLEECITWISEIA, RINVCICLKNRCT, OCAEMIDLISTKT, AKPRNAAPCLOSE, CSEEEESHORTSR, HHCDCPQVTEARS, USGZONOTICEIA, KTTURECHAIRSN, YEARNACCEPTSD, TUNNELHONEYUA, RUMORTIRADEEL.