

Unidentified Gunmen Kidnap 14 Civilians in Zabul

QALAT - Unidentified gunmen have kidnapped 14 members of a single family from southern Zabul province on Tuesday, officials said. Haji Ata Jan Haqbayan, head of the provincial council of Zabul said that armed people went to a house in Khak-i-Afghan District around 11:00 PM on Sunday night and kidnapped 14 people to Jaghri District of Ghazni province after killing one. According to Haqbayan, the hostages include women and children. Haqbayan called on government to immediately take measures for releasing the hostages and punish those behind it. He said that foreign intelligence is trying to put ethnic and tribal tensions among Afghans.



A number of community elders from Khak-i-Afghan District said that terrorists are planning to implement new conspiracies and that the National Unity ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

World Leaders Offer Relief Aid to Quake-Hit Afghanistan, Pakistan

KABUL - The Russian president expressed his condolences to the President Ashraf Ghani, Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussein, and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over the deadly earthquake that occurred on Monday. On Monday, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan's north-eastern Hindu Kush region, causing severe damage to infrastructure both within the country and in neighboring states, including Pakistan. The Russian Emergency Ministry offered assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan following the earthquake, the ministry's press service said on Monday. Chinese government offered disaster relief to quake-hit Afghanistan and Pakistan based on their needs and China's Red Cross will provide emergency assistance in cash to the two countries, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said. Adding that "The Chinese government will provide disaster relief to Afghanistan and Pakistan according to the conditions and their needs. Speaker of Iranian Parliament Ali Larijani in separate messages expressed his sympathy with quake-stricken people of Pakistan and Afghanistan and expressed Iran's readiness to dispatch humanitarian aid. By expressing sympathy on behalf of Majlis deputies to families of victims in Pakistan and Afghanistan, Larijani underlined Iran's readiness for dispatch of humanitarian aid. President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev has expressed condolences to ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

NSC to Convene Meeting for Delivering Aid to Those Affected by Earthquake

KABUL - The National Security Council (NSC) is convening a meeting today for discussing the aid delivery to those affected by the earthquake in the country. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said in a video message that the on-hand information would be shared in the meeting and based on that the council will make decisions about the delivery of aid. President Ghani instructs the natural disaster departments and committees in the province to



hold immediate meetings over the earthquake under the sight of the provincial governors and collect information about its harms in their respective areas. Ministry of Public Health is advised to take immediate measures for treating those wounded by the earthquake, President Ghani says in a message published by the Presidential Palace. 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck the ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Afghan Ladies Discover New Method of Growing Mushrooms

KABUL - Two young Afghan women have invented a new method of cultivating mushrooms which they hope will not only bring down the price on the open market but will also encourage other women to use their new growing method. Sahar Hamdard and Mehria Karim, from Kabul, told TOLNews that their initiative will also produce mushrooms in a clean and hygienic environment. "Our purpose of cultivat-



ing mushrooms with this new method is to create job opportunities for women and also provide mushrooms for the Af ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Taliban Vows to Help Afghans after Deadly Quake

KABUL - The Taliban Tuesday urged charity organizations not to hold back in delivering aid to Afghan victims of a devastating earthquake, saying militants in the affected areas were ordered to provide "complete help." At least 76 people were killed in Afghanistan after the powerful quake struck Monday in the Hindu Kush region, officials said, raising fears that the toll could rise as the full extent of the devastation emerges. Rescuers are battling to access some of the worst affected areas across multiple provinces that are effectively under militant control, a huge challenge to any official aid efforts. But the Taliban on Tuesday promised to pave access for aid organizations. "The Islamic Emirate (Taliban) calls on... charitable organizations to not hold back in providing shelter, food and medical supplies to the victims of this earthquake," the group said on its website. "It similarly orders its Mujahideen in the affected areas to lend their complete help to the victims and facilitate those giving charity to the needy." Afghan disaster management officials say areas around the quake's epicenter in the remote province of Badakhshan as well as neighboring provinces such as Takhar ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Seven Pakistani Soldiers Killed Near Afghan Border

KABUL - Seven members of Pakistan's Frontier Corps have been killed in an armed attack near Afghan border in South Waziristan. Pakistani military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) claims a statement that the heavy fire came from across the Pak-Afghan border. "The terrorists opened heavy fire from across the Pak-Afghan border early on Tuesday," states a statement released by ISPR. "Heavy fire from across Pak Afghan border early morning today on FC check post Northeast of Angooradda in South waziristan. Resultantly 7 FC soldiers embraced Shahadat," ISPR stated in a post on its facebook page. Afghan government has not yet commented on Pakistan's claim. North and South Waziristan are reportedly home for local and foreign terrorist organizations that not only carry out attacks in Pakistan but also involved in instability in Afghanistan. Pakistan launched a military operation against these groups in June last year and claim to have destroyed their backbones and killed more than 2,000 militants so far. (KP)

School Girls Who Died in Quake Laid to Rest

KABUL - The funeral ceremony of 12 school girls who died while trying to run from their school building on Monday during the 7.5 magnitude earth quake was held in northern Takhar province early Tuesday. The school girls died in a stampede caused when a roof collapsed at the Bibi-Hajera School in Taluqan city. At least 38 others were wounded in the incident. Families of the school girls said classes were held in a rented house which was not built to standard. They said it was for this reason that there was such a high death toll among the girls. "No one takes care of the poor people. The governor and the lawmak-

ers have made buildings for themselves, but they have not made a place for schools," said Jamil Frotan, a resident of Takhar. The families criticized the Education Ministry for not paying attention to the quality of buildings used as schools. "I was at home when the quake happened. Then I went to school and saw that everyone was shocked and were running," another resident said. "I was at school when the earthquake occurred. Then I started to run but I fell and there were people running over me," said Nadia, a school girl who has sustained injuries. Monday's deadly 7.5 magnitude earthquake ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Daesh Designated District Governor Surrenders to NDS in Nangarhar



KABUL - A district governor designated by the Islamic State (IS), also known by its Arabic name Daesh, has surrendered to the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in eastern Nangarhar province. A statement released by the national intelligence agency on Tuesday states that Daesh had appointed QariRafiq alias QariYasir as the governor of Kot District who laid down his weapon along with the district's so-called security chief and municipal. Mihrab-ud-in alias Khalid Waskati was the designated security chief and Noorul-haq alias Mullah Wrak the municipal. The statement further states that Qarilsrar who was leading a group of 20 militants also laid down his arms. By the surrender of these people, the security situation of Kot District has gotten better, the statement adds. This is first time a Daesh designated district governor and security chief joins government. QariRafiq says in the footage released by NDS that they met Hafiz Sayed Khan and pledged allegiance to him in Tora Bora, an area in Nangarhar province where Osama Bin Laden was also hiding. "When we saw the barbarity, we figured out that this is not Khilafat," he said. (KP)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You are acutely aware of what is missing from a significant relationship today. Nevertheless, you may still feel pretty calm and confident as the steadfast Taurus Full Moon sheds her light in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem. However, you could also feel the thrilling spark of inspiration by discovering a simple solution to a complex problem.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

It's healthy to ask difficult questions as you search for the hidden meaning of life. Nevertheless, the Taurus Full Moon brightens your 1st House of Personality, revealing more about your emotional uncertainty than you prefer. Responding to people's assumptions about your inner process is a challenging task today, Thankfully.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your self-protective mechanism swings into operation today, camouflaging your true feelings and keeping your heart safe. The Taurus Full Moon lands in your 12th House of Secrets, reminding you of how much your fantasies impact your daily life. Luckily, you won't have to work so hard to suppress your dreams once you acknowledge the difference between illusion and reality.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You are typically comfortable with your changing moods but you might go out of your way to avoid them today. The fixed Taurus Full Moon illuminates your 11th House of Social Networking, encouraging you to seek stability in the midst of a crowd. Happily, your friends and associates provide you with a reliable emotional anchor that can moderate the vagaries of your passions.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You're riding waves of irrepressible feelings that could test the mettle of your professional relationships now. You may be questioning how much of your emotional life to bring into the workplace while the Taurus Full Moon highlights your 10th House of Career. You would like others to know more about you, but you don't want to overwhelm them.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

If you already have a plan in motion for reaching the stars, then it's crucial to stick to it as closely as possible now. However, if you're flying by the seat of your pants, the earthy Taurus Full Moon offers you a chance to create a sensible strategy as it reinforces your 9th House of Big Ideas. You can achieve your dreams, but don't get carried away with your enthusiasm. Focusing on the simplest tasks enables you to end up at the most distant destination.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Your life may be so loud now that you are tempted to escape into your dreams to ponder the mysteries of the cosmos. Although the steady Taurus Full Moon offers you a solid place to stand while exploring your 8th House of Metamorphosis, the shifting sands of reality are not as stable as they seem. It's impossible to see around the corner today because a major transformation is in process.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You might believe that your interpersonal communication skills aren't as effective as you wish. However, your prime directive is changing as your thoughts turn inward to reconnect you with your spiritual core. Today's Taurus Full Moon shines in your 7th House of Partners, reflecting your feelings back to you through another person's perspective.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You are reconsidering the promises you made at work and are willing to renegotiate your commitments, if necessary. The down-to-earth Taurus Full Moon grounds your 6th House of Daily Routine, advising you that a pragmatic approach to your job is wiser now than harboring unrealistic ambitions. Be satisfied with your current position today, instead of plotting and scheming to get further ahead.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You're eager to indulge in pleasure today, but you're still not willing to slack off and let your commitments fall to the wayside. Luckily, you're the happy recipient of positive cosmic vibes while the sensual Taurus Full Moon dances in your 5th House of Play. Put your artistic talents to work. Focus on your dreams, even if they momentarily seem unattainable.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You may be trying so hard to inspire others at work that it creates static at home. Family issues must be addressed while the Taurus Full Moon settles into your 4th House of Domestic Conditions. Luckily, your current dilemma won't be dramatic enough to throw you off track, since you have your priorities in order and can manage the temporary stress.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Share your current plans with your closest friends as soon as you can, for it will only become more complicated the longer you wait. Oddly enough, people may seem overly irritated today if you aren't willing to express your point of view. However, the Taurus Full Moon activates your 3rd House of Communication, reminding you that honesty is the best policy.



Across

- 1. First Greek letter, 6. Cooking fat, 10. Tall woody plant, 14. Reef material, 15. A pouch in some birds, 16. Warmth, 17. New Zealand native, 18. Being19. Beige, 20. Unmanly, 22. Hindu princess, 23. Lyric poem, 24. Presses down, 26. Fine wheat meal, 30. Doctrine, 32. Pain, 33. Baronesses, 37. Young cow, 38. Soft drinks, 39. Container weight, 40. Financial officer, 42. Moses' brother, 43. Check marks, 44. A creative person, 45. Luxurious, 47. Best seller, 48. District, 49. Income, 56. Decree, 57. False god, 58. French for "Room", 59. Unit of land, 60. Large brown seaweed, 61. Attempts, 62. Cleave, 63. Dines, 64. Secret agent (slang).

Down

- 1. Cap, 2. Unit of bread, 3. Academician, 4. Rabbit, 5. Ex-spousal support, 6. Display, 7. Constellation bear, 8. Where the sun rises, 9. Users of Twitter, 10. Thermoregulator, 11. Summary, 12. Deservedly receives, 13. Decorative case, 21. Actress Lupino, 25. Citrus drink, 26. Proven information, 27. Food thickener, 28. Part in a play, 29. Enamored, 30. Yields, 31. Back, 33. Pig meat, 34. Indian dress, 35. God of love, 36. Dispatched, 38. Similar, 41. Female sib, 42. Creative persons, 44. Be unwell, 45. Cost, 46. Gain knowledge, 47. Assists, 48. At a distance, 50. Bright thought, 51. Electrical unit, 52. Stringed instrument, 53. Hodgepodge, 54. Margarine, 55. Writing table.

Yesterday's Solution



announce, avoid, bacon, bride, bright, care, class, closet, completion, convince, cookies, craft, custom, dimple, enclose, entice, fees, focus, gaol, glory, great, liar, lumber, mere, plank, quest, really, reason, reeds, refuge, review, rubber, saving, scour, sharp, speculate.

