

Woman Among 6 Killed in Faryab, Jawzjan Clashes

KABUL - Gunmen loyal to Ghulam Nabi, a local commander, hurled a hand grenade into the house of Mullah Faizullah, killing two people and injuring six others, including two women, in the Garziwan district of Faryab. A member of the provincial council from the district, Sibghatullah Selab, told Pajhwok Afghan News two of the injured were in critical condition. District chief Abdul Razzaq Kakar linked the clash to an old enmity and political rivalry between Faizullah, a commander of Junbish-i-Mili Party, and Ghulam Nabi Shuja of the Jamiat-i-Islami in Zang valley. The incident claimed three lives and resulted in injuries to five others. A woman died of hearing an explosion during the clash, a resident of the area said on condition of anonymity....(More on P4)...(16)

KABUL - Residents of southern Zabul province have demanded government to built university for them. They argue that government is not paying attention to the education system in this province. Some elders who had gathered in Zabul's capital Qalat said that they want their kids to study to become doctors, engineers and acquire other degrees but they cannot proceed with their education because there is no university in this province. Haji Atta Jan Haqbayan, head of the provincial council and a community elder said that due to security concerns,

Zabul Residents Demand University



high-school graduates especially girls are unable to go to other provinces to acquire degrees. Some schoolgirls from Bibi Khala High school said that there is no aim in their life. Bibi Aisha, a student from this school said: "We are not allowed to go to Jalalabad, Kabul and other province to continue our education," she said, adding that "Government need to build university for us." Khadija, a student of grade 12th said: "Others study to become something in the future, they have an aim, but we spend 12 years and at...(More on P4)...(15)

Poverty Prompts Zabul Man to Commit Suicide



QALAT - A 65-year-old man committed suicide over poverty in the Shinkai district of southern Zabul province, officials and neighbours said on Wednesday. The grey-bearded farmer namely Raz Mohammad claimed his life in Shero village of Sewri area because he was unable to economically support his family, the district police chief said. Humayun Gulzar told Pajhwok Afghan News that police had started their investigation into the incident but no one had been arrested. A resident of Shero village, Ibrahim Jan, told Pajhwok Afghan News Raz Mohammad was a farmer and the only bread-winner for his family. Mohammad committed suicide after drought and natural disasters severely hit crops this season in the area and he found himself unable to pay 20,000 Pakistani rupees he had borrowed in the village, the resident said. Ibrahim Jan said Raz Mohammad twice attempted to kill himself on Monday night but his attempts were thwarted by his children and wife. However, on Tuesday Raz Mohammad hanged himself from a tree and when people reached the scene he was dead. Another resident, Abdul Hadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News area residents were struggling with economic and other problems due to insecurity, drought and joblessness. The government should resolve problems the people faced, he said. He said Raz Mohammad left his family devastated and the government and aid agencies should support them. (Pajhwok)

Clashes Between Taliban Fighters Leave 18 Dead

HERAT - At least 18 Taliban insurgents have been killed so far in the ongoing clashes between the Taliban militants in western Herat province, the local official said on Wednesday. In addition, 10 other insurgents sustained injuries, said Ehsanullah Hayat, provincial governor's spokesman. The clashes started Wednesday in Shindand district when the fighting broke out between the supporters of late Taliban leader Mullah Omar and the followers of Mullah Mansour, who



succeeded the group's ex-supreme leader, he added. "The clashes started early morning in Okal area in Shindand," Hayat said, stating that "The clashes are still going on." The odds between the Taliban leaders emerged following...(More on P4)...(17)

Hundreds Rally in Paktia over E-ID Cards Issue

GARDEZ - Hundreds of residents on Wednesday rallied in southeastern Paktia province demanding the word "Afghan" to be mentioned in the biometric national identity cards. A test distribution drive of the electronic ID cards was expected on August 19, but it was postponed indefinitely by the Presidential Palace amid political wrangling. Hundreds of residents, including provincial council members, tribal elders, and civil society activists held a rally in Gardez, the capital of Paktia, and asked the government to write word "Afghan" in the ID cards. Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, a civil society activist, said: "Our demand should be met. It is not too late now to mention the word "Afghan" in electronic identity cards." He warned if their demands went unheard, Paktia residents would create trouble during the ID cards' distribution process.

Taj Mohammad Mangal, a member of the provincial council, told Pajhwok Afghan News it was in line with the Constitution to write the word "Afghan" in the cards, citing Article four of the Constitution that states: "The word Afghan shall apply to every citizen of Afghanistan." Ahmadzai said if the word "Afghan" was omitted, it would have bad consequences and would put the country on the path to disintegration. "This is not going to be our last rally. After this, we will extend the campaign to villages." Mohammad Yousuf, another protester, said: "We don't want an identity-less Tazkira. If the word "Afghan" is not in it, we don't need it." (Pajhwok)

Young Girl, Boy Commit Suicide in Balkh, Samangan



KABUL - Two teenagers have committed suicide in northern Balkh and Samangan provinces, local officials said on Wednesday. The first incident happened in Shulgara district of Balkh after a 16-year-old girl hanged herself for as yet unknown reasons, District Governor Sarajudin Abid said. "It not yet clear why she committed suicide and investigations are underway," he said. The local officials believe that she did this due to families issues. In a separate incident, an 18-year-old boy committed suicide due to financial problems...(More on P4)...(19)

12 Rebels, Civilian Killed in Kunduz Clashes

KUNDUZ CITY - At least a dozen militants and one civilian have been killed in a fresh wave of violence in troubled northern Kunduz province, an official said on Wednesday. Kunduz police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh told Pajhwok Afghan News the 12 militants were killed during separate clashes with security forces in Shura Khak and Aqtash areas of Khanabad district on Tuesday night. The dead rebels included two commanders Mullah Abdur Rahim and



Mullah Ahmad Shah and their eight fighters. They were killed in Shura Khak area, he said. He said police confiscated two dead bodies of the militants and captured one rebel in wounded condition. However, the Taliban on their website claimed the fighters putting up resistance...(More on P4)...(18)

Afghan Villagers Skeptical as U.S. Reopens Probe into 2013 Killings

MAIDAN SHAHR - The decision by the U.S. military, first reported last week, to reopen a criminal investigation into the deaths of at least 18 Afghan civilians who were allegedly slain by an Army special Forces A-team. Too late: The killings unfolded between 2012 and 2013. With so much time having passed, few expect that justice will be served. "I have not the slightest belief in this inquiry," said Esmatullah, a student who, like many Afghans, uses only one name. "It's like throwing dust into the eyes of the people." The unsolved killings remain among the most sensitive contro-

versies of the American military presence in Afghanistan. At the time, they deepened the animosity between Washington and then-President Hamid Karzai, threatening to derail U.S. efforts to fight the Taliban less than an hour's drive from the capital, Kabul. Allegations of the slayings first surfaced in November 2012, when villagers in Nerkh accused the U.S. Special Forces A-team unit of arresting and abusing family members in the Taliban-infested area. The disappearances of villagers continued until early 2013, triggering protests in Wardak province, where Nerkh is located. That prompted Karzai to order an investigation. He also ordered the A-team to leave the province, which it did in April 2013. Shortly thereafter, human remains were found buried near the A-team's...(More on P4)...(20)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Never has crossing things off your to-do list felt so satisfying as it does today while the Moon is generously supporting Jupiter in your 6th House of Logistics. However, your mind is on the future and the anticipation is driving you crazy. There's no question about your intentions; you are on a mission. Although your work ethic is admirable now, leave some room in your busy schedule.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You're happy to be in your element now that the evocative Moon is back home in your earthy sign. Nevertheless, you may be tempted to slow down and indulge your senses instead of trying to make the most of the current cosmic energy. Planning your day before jumping in and getting started improves your chances of finding happiness today.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



It's a surprising relief when you realize you don't have to be the life of the party today, and the notion of a little peace and quiet is just what the doctor ordered. Use your time wisely by integrating recent experiences through practicing meditation, putting your thoughts down in a journal or just taking a much-needed nap. Don't rush the process; you will instinctively know when you're ready to jump back into the fray.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You might feel like a baby bird that's being poked and prodded in order to push you out of the nest. You begrudgingly go to the edge of your comfort zone but hesitate to take flight. It seems as if there's no safe middle ground today and you're not sure which direction to head. You may want to run and hide now if others try to coerce you with emotional triggers.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Demonstrating your leadership skills comes naturally but your irrepresible confidence can stir up the pot if you're not careful today. The best leaders run alongside the pack rather than barking commands from behind. But racing too far out in front of others inhibits your ability to be in charge while also robbing you of the camaraderie generated in the collaborative process.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You can see the positive results of your recent kindness to others today as your life slowly starts to return to normal. But a return to simpler times is not in the picture while expansive Jupiter is busy planting seeds in your sign. A renewed sense of clarity instills your soul with a feeling of purpose and amplifies your self-esteem. Opportunities for growth are already floating around in the atmosphere, encouraging you to explore unconventional ideas.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You may feel like hiding your head under the covers, but that's not the best use of today's introspective cosmic energy. Allow plenty of time for contemplation in your busy schedule, but don't let things get out of your control. However, productivity is less important now than your spiritual growth. Keep in mind that your philosophical frame of mind has more value in the long run than you realize.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



The practical support you receive today truly touches your heart. You breathe a welcome sigh of relief when you finally recognize you can tear down some of your protective walls because you're in the company of true friends. It's almost like slipping into a favorite pair of shoes as people provide for you in business or pleasure.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



It's all too easy to play the role of the Exagittarian today, but there's really no need to push anything over the edge. You know that everyone has perceptual differences but your moderation is someone else's extreme. Tone down your enthusiasm just a notch if you want your audience to be impressed with what you're bringing to the table. A little less rhetoric and a bit more sincerity is your ticket to success.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Just like King Midas everything you touch seems to turn to gold today. However, anything that's too good to be true probably has a catch hidden somewhere. The current planetary emphasis is in your 9th House of Big Ideas, encouraging you to live life large now. But don't think for a moment that you're idly lost in trivial daydreams. Your current reverie isn't just a creative lark.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



You feel a sense of duty to consider the perspectives of your coworkers and friends while envisioning all that you want to do now. You have an unquenchable desire for independence, but emotional attachments seem to crimp your style. It's almost like others are purposefully keeping you from your destiny. Nevertheless, you can't bypass the intensity of your feelings when dealing with people's agendas.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Relationship problems almost seem to solve themselves today as the easygoing Taurus Moon aligns with the Sun and Jupiter in your 7th House of Others. Although there's no need on your part to initiate action, you still must show up and stick around when the going gets real - even if you're tempted to bolt. Lucky for you, the Cosmic Accountant is keeping close track of your karmic credit.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-63.

Across: 1. Impetuous, 5. Iron, 10. With competence, 14. Murre, 15. Auspices, 16. Not false, 17. Annoying, 19. Ripped, 20. East southeast, 21. Light refractor, 22. Small freshwater fishes, 23. Conference, 25. Historical period, 27. Play a role, 28. Pamphlet, 31. Originates in, 34. Aches, 35. Record (abbrev.), 36. Sea eagle, 37. Not cloudy, 38. Netting, 39. What we breathe, 40. Cake frosting, 41. Zest, 42. A smart alec, 44. Drunkard, 45. Treaties, 46. Farther, 50. Bring in, 52. A kind of macaw, 54. Center of a storm, 55. Decorative case, 56. Graniteware, 58. Hearing organs, 59. Group of 8, 60. Wicked, 61. Flower stalk, 62. Poverty-stricken, 63. Colors.

Down: 1. Yokels, 2. Got up, 3. Locations, 4. Derisive laugh, 5. Mimic, 6. Varnish ingredient, 7. Prima donna problems, 8. Boiling, 9. South southeast, 10. Stick on, 11. Pamphlets, 12. Attraction, 13. Cravings, 18. Long stories, 22. Physicians, 24. Identical, 26. Small horse, 28. Marriage announcement, 29. A musical pause, 30. Reflected sound, 31. Oceans, 32. Snip, 33. Hold spellbound, 34. Power, 37. Leave in a hurry, 38. Mongrel, 40. Skin irritation, 41. Small goat antelope, 43. Bigotry, 44. Pledge, 46. Widely known, 47. Bearing great weight, 48. Lofty nest, 49. Bobbins, 50. Charges, 51. French for «State», 53. Be worthy of, 56. Many millennia, 57. Married.

Yesterday's Solution: alley, average, avoid, buxom, center, cone, dandelions, dense, destruction, doily, forge, freeze, generation, hatch, haze, holly, humid, itchy, lawn, light, listen, lots, meant, morose, mote, nine, often, patio, piece, rouge, segments, spires.

Video Highlight: F S T I J O D J E U R D V H O T C J L A W N M E E E M A R O H L N H E I N S R P O T G R Y D Q R D C T A A D R C E K E Z A H H R G V L E O H F L O T S J U E O D L N S R I F I P C C B I V J E S E O T O R E T U D O I L Y E N E N I N I X M E A N T Z S N P N T O O R O U G E E L I S T E N M S E G M E N T S P I R E S