

Afghanistan's Domestic 'Shpageeza' Cricket League Kicks off in Kabul

KABUL - The Shpageeza cricket league, the domestic cricket league of Afghanistan, kicked off in Kabul today after the league was inaugurated during a ceremony in the capital on Sunday night.

The ceremony was attended by some high level government officials besides several fans of cricket were present along with the players of different teams, the Afghan cricket board chairman, and the cricket board chief executive.

The Afghanistan cricket board chairman Shokrullah Atif Mashal called the inauguration of the cricket league a major achievement and said the achievements by the Afghan cricket during the recent years have been historic.

The Afghanistan cricket board chief executive Shafiqullah Stanikzai thanked the administrative team of the cricket ...*(More on P4)...(16)*



Afghan Migrant Admits Rape, Killing in Germany

BRUSSELS - An Afghan migrant has admitted raping and killing a 19-year-old medical student and apologized to the victim's family.

The dpa news agency reported that Hussein K., whose last name was withheld in line with privacy laws, told the Freiburg state court Monday he'd been drinking and smoking drugs last October when the young woman cycled past.

K. testified he pulled the student from the bicycle, raped her and then put her, unconscious, into a river where she drowned.

Pleas aren't entered in Germany and confessions, which can mitigate sentences, are common.

K., who entered Germany in 2015, maintains he was 18 at the time of the crime but prosecutors say he was 22, which could mean the difference between a 15-year youth sentence or an adult life sentence. *(AP)*



Suicide Bomber Attacks NATO Convoy in Bagram



KABUL - A suicide bomber in an explosives-packed vehicle attacked a NATO convoy in Afghanistan on Monday, wounding "a small number" of foreign troops and at least three civilians, officials said.

The soldiers were taken to the nearby Bagram Air Field and none of their injuries appeared life-threatening, NATO's

headquarters in Kabul said.

At least three civilians were hurt, District Governor Abdul Shukur Qodossi said, without giving details on the extent of their injuries.

A statement from the Taliban militants said 13 Americans had been killed and 11 wounded and three armoured vehicles destroyed. ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Iranian Police under Fire by Deported Refugees

KABUL - A number of Afghan refugees who were recently deported from Iran said Monday that Iranian police treated them badly and did not even allow them to see their families before they were sent back to Afghanistan.

According to the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) 200,000 refugees have been deported from Iran since January and at least 140,000 of them do not have official documents.

In the past two years, Afghanistan has witnessed an unprecedented increase in the number of return refugees - from both Iran and Pakistan.

The ministry also confirmed the refugees' claims of ill-treatment by Iranian police.

Abdul Qadir, a recently deported refugee from Iran, said Iranian police did not let him see his wife and four children before deporting him. Neither would they allow them to travel with him to Afghanistan.

"There were 100 of us that police arrested then transferred us to Zahedan city. All the refugees were ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Mastermind of VIP Protection Unit Attack Killed in Logar

KABUL - The MoI said in a statement on Monday that the attack had been planned by Haqqani and that at least three other key figures were killed in the operation.

One of the organizers of the attack on the VIP protection unit in Kabul was killed in a special forces operation in central Logar province on Sunday night,

Ministry of Interior (MoI) confirmed in a statement on Monday.

However, a special forces member was wounded during the operation.

The operation was launched in Enam area of Logar city on Sunday night in which Darya Khan, one of the organizers of the attack on the VIP protection unit in Kabul, was ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

5 Militants Killed, 7 Wounded in Farah Clash

FARAH CITY - Five Taliban insurgent have been killed and seven others wounded as a result of a clash in western Farah province, an official said on Monday.

Police spokesman Iqbal Bahir told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants attacked security checkpoints on the Farah-Farahrod highway in Bala Balook district on Sunday afternoon.

He said five militants were killed and seven others wounded, with the bodies of two fighters still lying at the site. Security forces suffered no casualties in the clash, he added.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied the casualties. Instead he claimed three policemen were killed and four vehicles belonging to security forces destroyed in the attack.

An eyewitness and resident of the area, who declined to be named, said five policemen were injured in the Shar-i-Kohna area of Pushrod district when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb.

Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast, saying three security personnel were killed and three others wounded.

But the deputy police chief, Lt. Col. Gulbahar Mujahid, denied the roadside bomb explosion in Pushrod district. *(Pajhwok)*

Three Taliban Commanders Killed in Own Explosion

KABUL - At least three Taliban commanders were killed in a blast while trying to attach explosives to a motorcycle in Kapisa province, local officials confirmed on Monday.

In addition, four other insurgents were wounded. The incident took place on Sunday in Badrab valley of Tagab district of the province while insurgents were busy attaching the explosive device onto a motorbike, provincial police chief Abdul Razaq Yaquobi said.

"Ajmal, Daoud and Belal are the three Taliban local commanders who were killed in the explosion," Yaquobi said.

"The insurgents wanted to detonate the explosives in a crowded area in Kapisa," he said.

However, he did not provide further details. The Taliban has not yet commented on the incident. *(Tolonews)*

Influential Figure Gunned Down in Faryab Capital

MAIMANA - Unidentified gunmen shot dead an influential figure in northwestern Faryab province on Monday morning, an official said.

A security source said Eng. Mohammad Sidiq Emaq was gunned down 20 metres from a border police base in the Tarbat Street of Maimana.

Police confirmed the incident, saying the assailants in a car with tinted glasses shot dead Eng Emaq in front of his shop.

No one has so far been arrested in connection with the murder, but police have launched a search for the killers.

A local source said the victim was a brother of Dr. Mohammad Hassan Emaq, a vocal critic of Dr. Najibullah.

Hassan Emaq was assassinated by Gen. Rasoul Pahlawan, deputy head of the Junbish-i-Mallie, in 1996. *(Pajhwok)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You aren't thrilled if your current responsibilities prevent you from taking the course of least resistance. Nevertheless, you begrudgingly accept the limitations on your life today. You don't like to admit it, but you're not as free and easy as you appear from a distance. Nevertheless, you still have much to be thankful for now.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You revel in the certainty that today's good intentions will reap tomorrow's just rewards. Although your practicality may be tested now, your consistent actions add up in your favor. Stay strong and keep the faith, even if the attainment of your goals seems closer to a distant horizon than to your doorstep.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Difficulty in sitting still and focusing on any one thing for more than a few minutes can bring a familiar kind of trouble today. You may remember similar problems from your childhood when you were punished for not finishing what you started. However, nothing will be gained now by slipping back into old behaviors if the current circumstances are encouraging you to work through these lingering issues once.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer You don't need recognition for your hard work now; you know exactly what you bring to the party and aren't worried about being acknowledged. However, those who have first-hand knowledge of your tenacity are pleased to shine the spotlight on you for a while. Nevertheless, receiving sweet rewards could also bring its own odd discomfort, but that's no excuse to close down your heart.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You possess a certain kind of good fortune today that's worth more than winning the lottery. You have the gift of karma on your side while loving Venus in your sign receives the blessings of authoritative Saturn. If you put in the extra effort now, you might just go home with the jackpot.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept 22)



Virgo Your keen ability to eliminate extraneous activities is a definite plus, but letting your concentration lag is an invitation for distraction to creep back into your life. Nevertheless, you can't afford to mess up because the consequences of your inattention could be quite chaotic today. Fortunately, your current task doesn't require rocket science, just a simple understanding of the basic laws of cause and effect. Karma is your friend.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Your friends and colleagues are supporting you now in ways that aren't obvious. But you must still act in a manner that is worthy of their continued blessings. Taking anyone's approval for granted is a grave mistake that creates negative consequences. You are being called to stand on the side of justice. Choosing the road less traveled won't guarantee your success.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio Receiving accolades at work for all that you bring to the game feeds your ego. However, you want practical results rather than words of appreciation and a pat on the back. If your recent contributions have been exemplary, you might be happily surprised when you are offered a raise or a promotion.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius You're not interested in superficial praise or adoring platitudes thrown your way today. You want the honest truth. You expect someone to step up and stand next to you as he or she speaks from the heart, especially if they are heaping praise on your long-term efforts. You want to be the one who can slip into a leadership role knowing that you have the support of your closest allies.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn What you get is what you deserve now, but you believe you have earned the right to come out on top. You quickly grow irritated with people who have been given a place at the head of the line without earning the privilege the good old-fashioned way. Nevertheless, you are the first to pay respects to anyone who shows up and contributes to the greater good without asking.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

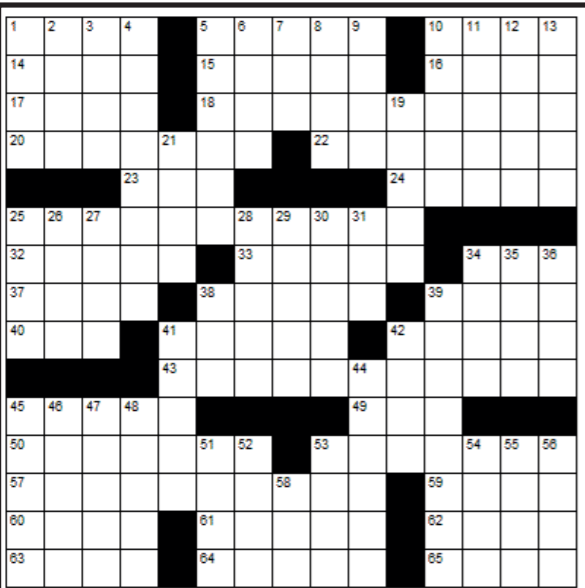


Aquarius You embody a strange mix of playfulness and seriousness today. Your sense of humor is working overtime, but it might seem out of place when everyone expects you to be the responsible one. However, you don't see the conflict; you are funny because you can poke fun at the darker side of life without using your wit to avoid the gravity of a situation.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You can sympathize with both sides of a family issue now, even if you're eager to express your opinion. You're still open to changing your mind, especially if someone presents solid facts that validate their perspective. Ultimately, your position isn't as critical as you might think. However, your willingness to continue the discussion sends the right message today.



Across

1. Academician, 5. Burn slightly, 10. Iron oxide, 14. Greek letter 15. Smells, 16. Ammunition, 17. Modify, 18. Designation, 20. Performance, 22. Having toothlike projections, 23. Gangster's gun, 24. Children, 25. Makes less religious, 32. Tally, 33. Sarcasm, 34. Water barrier, 37. Pigeon, 38. Advances (money), 39. Mongolian desert, 40. East southeast, 41. Not glossy, 42. Restaurant, 43. Compulsively, 45. Procrastinate, 49. Mineral rock, 50. Whorl of petals, 53. Economic independence, 57. Not arrogant, 59. Diminish, 60. Exposed, 61. A garden, 62. District, 63. "What a shame!" 64. Piece of paper, 65. Evergreens,

Down

1. Jetty, 2. Was a passenger, 3. Ear-related, 4. Exhausted, 5. A musical composition, 6. False god, 7. French for "Name", 8. Electrical or crossword, 9. Feudal worker, 10. Threadbare, 11. Inuit boat, 12. Clobbered, 13. Notes, 19. Jittery, 21. Story, 25. Satisfy, 26. Prima donna problems, 27. Algonquian Indian, 28. Violent disturbances, 29. Angry, 30. Districts, 31. N N N N, 34. Accomplished, 35. Cain's brother, 36. Like a bog, 38. Chemist's workplace, 39. An unintentional disclosure, 41. Girlfriends of gangsters, 42. Soil, 44. Searched, 45. Aqualung, 46. Relating to tone, 47. A kind of macaw, 48. Fails to win, 51. Totes, 52. Nanny, 53. Blind (poker), 54. Unusual, 55. Was cognizant, 56. Not nays, 58. Fury,

Yesterday's Solution

OREO AMAH TOLE
WASP SAVOR MEEK
LIGE PROBE PAINE
SLURP L INJIMENTS
TALL DONOR
FACTUAL BELLEF
ADMISSION ELFTIN
DOE DWARF FLU
EBONY PUREBRED
ENOUGH GARROTE
VALLES PATIN
FORENAMES SETUP
EVIL SMEAR FELL
TELL SEDGE ERNE
ARIEA DIVED DIVAD

astonish, barrier, benefactor, brawl, catch, company, contribute, cuts, death, double, entry, fiend, floss, focus, frame, grate, index, inlet, larva, latent learn, lest, utlet, panel portal, rare, reveal

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