

# Afghanistan Launches Probe into Alleged US Airstrike on Policemen

KABUL - Afghanistan has launched an investigation into the alleged airstrike by the US forces on Afghan policemen that left at least 8 policemen dead. The Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan (MoI) said an investigation is underway regarding the alleged airstrike that took place in southern Uruzgan province. The Ministry further added that the circumstances surrounding the alleged airstrike will be ascertained once the investigation concludes. MoI also added that the findings of the Ministry will be shared with the people once it is completed. The investigation has been launched a



day after the commander of the highway forces on Kandahar-Uruzgan highway said the airstrike by US forces left at least 8 policemen dead. The airstrike was launched amid deteriorating security situation in Uruzgan province. The Taliban militants earlier launched a coordinated attack on the provincial capital Tarinkot and put the strategic city on the verge of collapse. In the meantime the US forces in Afghanistan have resumed airstrikes against the Taliban insurgents under the new broader role granted by the Obama administration earlier this year. (KP)

## Suicide Bomber, Planner Detained in Khost: NDS



KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Wednesday claimed arresting a suspected suicide bomber in southeastern Khost province. A statement from the spy service identified the would-be bomber as Ijazul Haq and the planner as Nasratullah. They wanted to attack high-ranking officials on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha in Khost City. The individuals were detained the intelligence personnel before they could reach their target, the statement said. Separately, the NDS caught three thieves in military uniforms, planning robberies on the outskirts of Gorbuz district. The detainees alleged had fake cards of former lawmakers. (Pajhwok)

## Most Schools in Darqad District Sans Buildings

TALUQAN - Most schools in Darqad district of northern Takhar province are without buildings and approximately 8,000 children in these schools attend classes under the open skies. Darqad is Afghanistan's only district surrounded by water from four sides and its residents travel to Taluqan, the provincial capital, and other parts using boats to cross the water swath. Sher Dil Pason, a civil society activist, told Pajhwok Afghan News no building for a school could be constructed in Darqad over the past 14 years. He said there was no compari-



son between Darqad and other districts because there was no building or any other facilities for schools in the district. He lamented thousands of students carried on their study in the open, asking government officials... (More on P4)... (16)

## Paktia Explosion Claims Lives of 3 Civilians

GARDEZ - Three civilians were killed and four other people were wounded in a roadside explosion in the Merzaki district of southeastern Paktika province on Wednesday, an official said. District Police Chief Ibrahim Mangal told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion took place in the afternoon near police check-point. But Syed Wali, the resident of locality, said two mines exploded one on police vehicle and the second ripped through civilians' vehicle. He said the explosions resulted into casualties, but there were no exact figures available. There was no claim of responsibility for the explosions so far. (Pajhwok)

## Jawzjan's Melon Harvest Increases this Year

SHIBERGHAN - Melon harvest increased by 500 tonnes this year compared to last year's yield in northern Jawzjan province, the agriculture department head said on Monday. Eng. Abdul Rasheed linked the increased melon production to efforts at preventing pests and diseases and said this year the melon production stood at 57,122 tonnes grown over 3,380 hectares of land. He said the yield surpassed last year's harvest by more than 500 tonnes. Last year, 3,361 hectares of land was



brought under melon cultivation, producing 56,594 tonnes of the fruit. "Farmers and growers have been attending proper programmes over the past two years, which resulted in increased melon harvest." He said farmers were provided with needed medicine and useful instructions to... (More on P4)... (17)

## ANP Stresses End to Harassment of Afghan Refugees

PESHAWAR - The Awami National Party (ANP), a leading Pakhtun nationalist political entity, has called for an immediate end to the harassment of Afghan refugees in different parts of Pakistan. At a meeting of its Central General Council, chaired by Asfandyar Wali Khan, the party on Tuesday stressed the need for sorting out dispute with neighbours, particularly Afghanistan, on a priority basis. "Confrontation and disputes with neighbouring countries have damaged the international image and internal situation of the country. The gov-



ernment's claims of regional economic cooperation have become a mere dream," the participants said. Forced repatriation of Afghan refugees was a flagrant violation of international laws, the meeting said, recommending the issue should be resolved through talks... (More on P4)... (18)

## First Pistachio Farm in Kandahar Has Started Giving Yield

KANDAHAR - The first pistachio farm in southern Kandahar province produced 2,000 kilograms of pistachio last year, the orchard's owner says. The orchard is spread over 150 jirbs (75 acres) of land in Daman district and has 24,000 trees. The first organized pistachio orchard has been established by Hamid Helmandi, an agriculture expert, who has completed higher studies in agriculture sciences abroad. Helmandi is not only working to promote pis-

tachio and olive orchards in Kandahar but has been doing researches on various agriculture related subjects that could help Afghanistan become self-sufficient in the sector. Helmandi's some research works have been endorsed by the president as part of the national policy and readied for being implemented. Talking to Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview Hamid Helmandi said that keeping in view Afghanistan's climate, economic and political situations he carried out an experiment of establishing pistachio orchards nationwide and the result had been satisfactory. According to his study, Helmandi said landlocked countries like Afghanistan faced similar problems in their productions and exports. "There are four key factors that negatively impacted a landlocked country's exports, first factor is landlocked country's relations with its neighbours, second factor is the political and internal... (More on P4)... (19)

## 3 Border Guards Killed, 9 Injured in Spin Boldak Clashes

KANDAHAR CITY - Three border policemen have been killed and nine others wounded in a clash with militants near the Pakistan border in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Wednesday. The gunbattle erupted when a group of militants attacked security posts at the Zero Point of Durand Line in SraSahano area between Spin Boldak and Shorabak district. Samim Khpalwak, the governor's spokesman, confirmed three border policemen were killed and nine others wounded. Taliban insurgents also suffered casualties during the gunbattle, he added. Khpalwak alleged most of the militants came from the other side of Durand Line to launch attacks on security check-posts in Kandahar before returning to... (More on P4)... (20)

### Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Sometimes you leave too many things for the last minute yet there are only so many hours in the day to be productive. Nevertheless, you might actually believe you can breeze through your chores in the flash of a moment. Unfortunately, if you buy into this premise today, you will end up annoyed with your bad judgment call while others will be disappointed with your performance.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



The baton is being passed to you and you're eager to run your leg of the race. If you are involved in a group project at work, it might be your turn to step up and do your part. Thankfully, you could surprise everyone with your mental and physical agility today. But don't commit to any more than you can accomplish. In fact, it's healthier to underestimate your ability.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Your moods may swing one way and then the other while the dualistic Gemini Moon is bouncing around in your versatile sign. However, you can't shake the notion that nothing matters and any action you take today will be for naught. But nothing could be further from the truth as your key planet Mercury appears to stop his backtracking, readying to turn direct tomorrow.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You're happy to work quietly behind the scenes today, knowing that your efforts will have the intended impact. At times you need immediate acknowledgment from your peers or you grow insecure about your role. However, you're confident that others appreciate your contribution now, even if you aren't in the spotlight.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You might not be finished with a project, but that fact won't stop you from gazing far off into the future. All the signs today tell you to focus on the details so you can finally be done with your previous commitments. Nevertheless, the Moon's shift into your 11th House of Long-Term Goals keeps calling your imagination away from the present moment.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You are weary of running around in circles, wondering if you're making any progress at all. It's as if you are Ulysses, fighting the many-headed Hydra; each problem you solve is replaced by two more. Nevertheless, mischievous Mercury in your detail-oriented sign ends its retrograde dance tomorrow, freeing you from the endless red tape entangling your world. But celebrations will need to wait.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Others see you as a wide-open book, but you are probably harboring secret tales that cannot yet be shared. Although you're quite adept at being discreet when necessary, you're tired of monitoring every little word while the Sun and retrograde Mercury wreak havoc in your 12th House of Invisibility. Thankfully, the Sun struts into your sign tomorrow and Mercury turns direct, giving you clearance to share the untold story.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



One of your strengths is your ability to talk about issues that others avoid. The chatty Gemini Moon's current stay in your 8th House of Deep Sharing allows you to approach a sensitive topic in a light and easy manner so others are not frightened off.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Everyone seems to be acting unpredictably today and it's hard to tell if they are flakey or if it's you that is flakey. Nevertheless, the changeable Gemini Moon is floating through your 7th House of Others, creating the illusion that you can't rely on anyone. You don't know what to think if someone is overly serious one minute and then lost in a whimsical fantasy the next. In fact, the noise of the outer world complicates any decision you must make now.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You possess a surplus of secret weapons in your arsenal and you're willing to use them when needed. Although quick fixes might seem impossible, you can pull a rabbit out of a hat today. However, there's no magic involved - just your impressive ability to accomplish a job in a timely manner. But don't push your luck by setting unrealistic goals now; you can make miracles happen only if you focus on solutions and not the problems.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

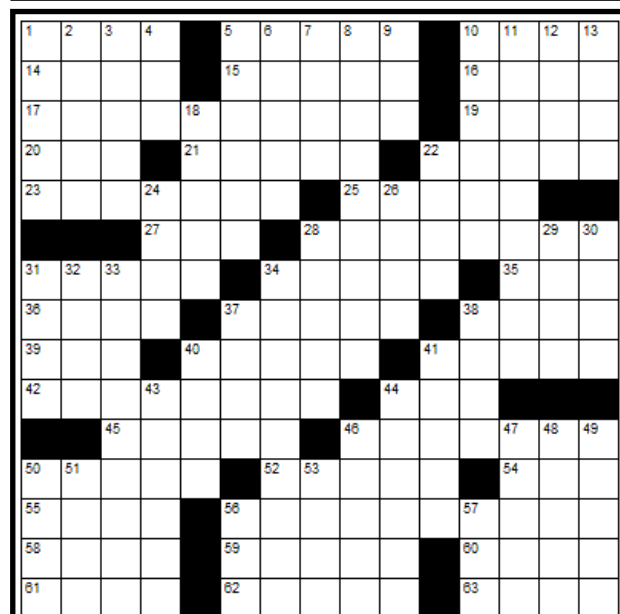


Trying to meet all your commitments is an uphill battle today, especially if you're captivated by one intriguing idea after another. Although your mind is in exploration mode, you're still expected to apply yourself to the tasks on your list. You can fulfill your obligations, but it will take an exerted effort to follow the path leading to completion.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Replaying precious moments from your past takes you on a sentimental journey today, but the urgency of unfinished business could be a rude awakening. The Moon's current visit to your 4th House of Roots brings solace from a trip down Memory Lane while distracting you from the inescapable pressures of your career. Balancing the inner and outer worlds is tricky, especially if you try to do it alone.



#### Across

1. Construct, 5. Stage, 10. Snake sound, 14. Comply with, 15. Ancient empire, 16. Forearm bone, 17. Solitariness, 19. On-line journal, 20. Not wet, 21. Portents, 22. Hush money, 23. Featured, 25. Golden, 27. Arrive (abbrev.), 28. Extravagantly demonstrative, 31. Rocky, 34. Fortuneteller's card, 35. "\_\_\_ the season to be jolly", 36. Mimics, 37. Stars on stage, 38. "What a shame!", 39. Type of snake, 40. Magicians, 41. Pizazz, 42. Lies, 44. Ghost's cry, 45. Sired, biblically, 46. Formed a pair or pairs, 50. Smacks, 52. Deservedly receives, 54. Euro forerunner, 55. A city in western Russia, 56. Burn, 58. Website addresses, 59. Compacted, 60. By mouth, 61. Finest, 62. Apt, 63. Terminates.

#### Down

1. Casts, 2. Cancel, 3. East African country, 4. Center of a storm, 5. An introductory textbook, 6. Sharpened, 7. So be it, 8. Laurel, 9. N N N N, 10. Arrogance, 11. Illegally, 12. Prig, 13. Wise one, 18. British for "Truck", 22. Very dry, as wine, 24. Whacks, 26. Flying saucers, 28. Roof overhangs, 29. Ampule, 30. Being, 31. Hindu Mr., 32. Atop, 33. Sometimes paired with spaghetti, 34. Restricted, 37. Information, 38. At the peak of, 40. Coffee cups, 41. Alcoholic, 43. Meal, 44. Hood, 46. Crunchy, 47. Gain knowledge, 48. Toward the outside, 49. Honor fights, 50. Counterfoil, 51. Attraction, 53. Skin disease, 56. Actress Lupino, 57. Caviar.

#### Yesterday's Solution

FARAD SPED CLEW  
ORIBL ROSE HYPE  
AMBER ALIAS ACHE  
MYSTERIOUS NEON  
FIN ENDED  
BEDBUG SPREE  
ORIELE AUTOTOLOGY  
NADAR HUMS TIDLE  
ESOTERICA BEDEW  
INANE HORSES  
NUTSUY EAR  
PAVIO FEATHERBEED  
AVIIO FITTGH OIARY  
PALE SUMO OPINE  
ALES NILES METES

above, action, acts, cafe, cheap, cheat, checks, cheer, choke, cliff, death, evident, extreme, fashion, final, first, funny, glib, little, lively, lofty, march, meander, merry, mire, mirth, noble, pierce, refined, rest, rote, seek, servant, stall, steep, tense, throw, tramp.

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