

Violence Decline Against Women

MAIDAN SHAHAR - The director women's affairs for central Maidan Wardak province on Sunday claimed a decline in cases of violence against women.

Wahida Khkwale told Pajhwok Afghan News at least 13 incidents of violence had been recorded this year, showing a decrease from 16 cases in 2013.

She said most of women-related issues had been settled through mediation while some of them

had been referred to judicial organs for settlement.

According to the director, rising awareness among people has led to respect for human rights and that has been the main factor behind the decline.

She said a woman's husband had gone missing for 19 years just one year after their marriage and she had been waiting for him at her father's home.

"I have been in contact with ... (More on P4)... (14)



Residents Rally Against Highway Insecurity

BAMYAN CITY - Civil society activists and residents of central Bamyan province on Sunday rallied against the killing innocent people in violent incidents and demanded strict security on highways.

The protestors, condemning last week's killing of eight people, including four women, in the Gilan district of south-ern Ghazni province, warned the government of civil disobedience if it failed

to ensure security.

Jawad Sadiq, a civil society activist, said militants had killed several passengers on the roads to Bamyan province in Ghorband valley and Jalrez district.

He asked the government to set up new check-posts in dangerous areas.

Hussain Dad Ahmadi, the Bamyan civil society head, said: "The purpose of our rally was to denounce the activity of rebels, who have been

killing innocent civilians on roads, on bazaars and markets."

Abdul Khaliq, another civil society activist, said it was the government's duty to ensure the safety of its citizens. The national unity government has pledged to security of highways.

Earlier, the UN had blamed Taliban, Haqqani Network and other insurgent groups for 75% of civilian casualties in the ... (More on P4)... (17)

Over 2.5 Tonnes of Drugs Torched

FAIZABAD - Authorities in northeastern Badakhshan province set over 2.5 tonnes of drugs on fire and separately seized 76 kilograms of narcotics and arrested two alleged smugglers in connection of the contraband, officials said Sunday.

Officials said that the drugs had been seized from different parts of Badakhshan during the ongoing year.

Spokesman counter-narcotics Imama Ali Haseeb said the drugs included over one ton of opium, 119 kilograms of heroin, 150 kilograms of hashish and other chemical.

He said over 30 people had been arrested along with two cars in connection of drug trafficking and eight narcotics producing laboratories had been destroyed.

Acting Governor Shah Wali Adib said seizing of narcotics was a big achievement but stressed that strict measures should be explored to counter production and trafficking of drugs.

Badakhshan borders Tajikistan, China and Pakistan, with most of the drugs were trafficked to Tajikistan.

Elsewhere, 76 kilograms of narcotics have been seized and two people detained in connection of the drug smuggling in Baghlan province.

Police spokesman Javed Basharat said 36 kilograms of opium was recovered from a car and the driver was also been detained.

In a statement, the National Directorate of Security (NDS), said 40 kilogrammes of hashish was ... (More on P4)... (15)

Military Honours for Afghanistan Service

KABUL - An army major who planned an "unprecedented operation" targeting a rogue Afghan soldier who shot dead three Australian diggers in an insider attack has been honoured.

The Australian soldier, known as Major G, was awarded the bar to the distinguished service medal for his "superior planning and outstanding tactical acumen" during the operation to capture Afghan National Army soldier Sergeant Hekmatullah.

Hekmatullah killed Lance Corporal Stjepan Milosevic, Sapper James Martin and Private Robert Poate when he turned on his allies while they were playing cards and opened fire with a machine gun.

Two other men were injured in the insider attack.

Following intelligence from Australian officials, Hekmatullah was caught in Pakistan in 2013 and deported to Afghanistan to face trial.

Major G is one of 19 defence personnel who served on Operation Slipper in Afghanistan to be honoured with military awards this Australia Day.

Among them are men who saved fellow sol-

diers by engaging the enemy under fire, mentored Afghan army partners, provided medical aid to soldiers in battle and helped intercept narcotics in the Persian Gulf.

More than 30,000 defence members were deployed to Operation Slipper - Australia's involvement in Afghanistan war - from 2001 until last year.

A commemorative day for the 40 soldiers killed and 260 wounded on Operation Slipper will be held in March.

OTHER OPERATION SLIPPER AWARD RECIPIENTS* Lance Corporal M to receive the medal for gallantry for

repeatedly manoeuvring to engage the enemy while under heavy fire with "disregard for his own safety".

* Colonel Wade Bradley Stohart AM to receive the Distinguished Service Cross for leadership in a complex and hostile environment to achieve "extraordinary results" against the insurgency.

* Commodore Daryl Wayne Bates AMRAN to receive the Distinguished Service Medal for regional leadership and capacity building efforts in counter terrorism and narcotics operations.

Lieutenant Commander ... (More on P4)... (16)

Spy Agency Claims Foiling Terror Bid



KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Sunday claimed arresting two terrorists who planned to carry out a big sabotage act in the capital Kabul.

A statement from the NDS said the terrorists -- Ehsanullah and Latifullah -- were detained in separate operations in the 12th police district of Kabul. During initial interrogation, the pair had confessing to having links with Taliban commander Mullah Umar in Kunar and were tasked with conducting a terror attack

in Kabul.

A pistol and a Corolla car were recovered from their hideouts, the NDS statement added.

Separately, the intelligence agency said, insurgents planned to use a 10-year-old girl to stage a bomb attack on

security forces, but she surrendered to police.

Gulsoma was kidnapped by Jabbar, a Taliban commander, from Lashkargah. The commander planned to place explosives in her school bag to attack security forces. (Pajhwok)

Two Civilians Injured in Blast



KABUL - At least two civilians were injured in a blast in Qasaba area of Kabul City early Sunday, local officials said.

The blast took place after improvised an explosive device which was placed inside a car exploded in which injuring

two civilians, the Acting Interior Minister, Gen. Ayub Salangi said on his twitter. The police have started investigation about the blast. However, no group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the blast so far. (Tolonews)

2 Women Gunned Down; Killers Escape



KUNDUZ CITY - Two women have been shot dead in separate incidents of violence in northern Kunduz province, an official said on Sunday.

Nahid Saifi, the women affairs director, told Pajhwok Afghan News Farah Naz, 25, a resident of the third municipality district, was shot dead by her husband Saturday night.

The incident happened due to a family dispute, she said, adding that Naz left behind four

kids and her husband had been able to run away.

Separately, another 40 years old woman was killed by her step-son in Khanabad district. The governor's spokesman, Abdul Wasi Basil, said the killer had escaped

from the scene, but police had launched a search for him.

So far this year, seven women have been killed in separate incidents of violence in Kunduz, indicating a surge in violence against females. (Pajhwok)

ALP Commander Among 3 Injured in Panjwai Blast

KANDAHAR CITY - Three people, including a commander of the Afghan Local Police (ALP), were wounded in a bomb attack in southern Kandahar province on Sunday. Samim Khatiwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the bomb

exploded near the Aslam Jan shrine in Panjwai district at about 1pm.

He said the explosives placed in a rickshaw went off at a time when ALP Commander Agha Jan was passing by. Two civilians were also injured in the bombing. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)
You're highly motivated to inform everyone of your feelings today, but your radical honesty could backfire unless you're gentle in your delivery. Nothing will be gained if you scare people off before they hear what you have to say. Luckily, your day improves dramatically if you soften your rhetoric just a notch.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)
You might feel quite hopeful about getting some much-needed rest and relaxation, but this weekend may bring more action than you prefer. You could be pulled into someone's emotional drama today, but you don't have to get fully involved unless you want to participate. At first, it's challenging to resist taking the bait, but it's smarter to keep quiet before you find yourself in over your head.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
Ironically, you will discover a new direction to take once you make a real commitment to finish whatever is already on your plate. Unfortunately, it may not be all that easy to concentrate now because you long to jump into the next distraction as soon as it comes your way. Leave plenty of time to fulfill your responsibilities today, even if your friends tempt you with intriguing alternatives.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)
There's no reason to conform to people's narrow expectations today just because they assume you want to stay home, comfortable in your shell. Your current adventurous streak may surprise everyone when you spontaneously head out to do something exciting on your own now without even discussing your plans with anyone else.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)
Although you may not be completely free to do anything you want today, it's still healthy to make some special plans for the immediate future. You can derive much enjoyment from simply dreaming up something wonderful, even if the opportunity to escape hasn't arrived yet. In the meantime, think on a large scale.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)
There's a lot of commotion around you today, making you feel nervous if you think that you might become uprooted from your secure place in the world. Alternatively, relinquishing control might prove to be exhilarating now, assuming you can find the courage to go on an emotional joyride. Thankfully, you will probably end up in better shape than you started in, so say yes to an invitation for fun before the opportunity passes.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)
Defending your position might be necessary this weekend, especially if you feel your emotional security is tied up with the need to protect yourself. You don't have to go too far out of your way and waste energy trying to be nice if anyone acts disrespectfully toward you. Although you may startle others if you push back to make your point, no one has the right to be overly bossy or take advantage of your good nature.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)
Losing your temper over something that may ultimately be unimportant can add a simple twist of fate to your day. Your perspective is slightly warped now by your heightened sense of urgency, but acknowledging you are more impatient than usual helps you manage your feelings more effectively.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)
Keeping the lid on your feelings is not a good idea today. It's wiser to let them out gradually, rather than waiting until they explode at the wrong time. You aren't doing anyone any favors by bottling up your emotions because they will just continue to intensify out of your control. Act consciously by discussing your concerns objectively, instead of throwing a tantrum later on.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)
You won't have to go too far to discover something new and different now. The excitable Aries Moon's presence in your 4th House of Home and Family indicates that adventure could find you wherever you are. Even if you don't think you need an extra adrenaline rush, you probably won't be able to resist the inevitable.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)
You might be looking for a quick getaway and this weekend could be perfect for escaping to a special place. Don't let previous plans stress you out because you should be able to put your obligations on temporary hold. Naturally, you'll need to return to unfinished chores, but in the interim, relax and enjoy your mini-retreat.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)
Your current confidence makes all the difference between a quiet day that comes and goes without much notice and a memorable one that is made for the record books. The self-directed Aries Moon emboldens your 2nd House of Self-Worth, empowering you to take responsibility for whatever you do now.

Across

1. Rise, 6. Soft drink, 10. Immediately, 14. Hue, 15. Affirm, 16. Unadulterated, 17. Bicker, 18. Provide nourishment, 19. Arab chieftain, 20. In a crosswise direction 22. Untruths, 23. Collections, 24. Sewing tool, 26. Air force heroes, 30. Born as, 31. Pair, 32. Flutter, 33. Region, 35. African antelope, 39. A pasta dish 41. A 17th century style of music, 43. A drama set to music, 44. A long way off, 46. White aquatic bird, 47. Bother, 49. French for "Summer", 50. Harvard rival, 51. Sleeping sickness carrier, 54. Distribute, 56. Nobleman, 57. Graniteware, 63. Swing around, 64. Whimper, 65. Districts, 66. Cuts off, 67. Biblical garden, 68. Mountain lakes, 69. Picnic insects

Down

1. Leave in a hurry, 2. Unit of pressure, 3. Aquatic plant, 4. Person, place or thing, 5. Put on clothes, 6. Self-serve restaurant, 7. Supervise, 8. Dregs, 9. Fervent, 10. Scientific study of caves, 11. Abnormally distended, 12. Disney mermaid, 13. Brusque, 21. Corrupt, 25. Pitcher, 26. Hairdo, 27. Applaud, 28. Overhang, 29. Apathetic, 34. Respite, 36. Shade of blue, 37. Nonexistent, 38. Expunge, 40. Paddles, 42. Mountain crest, 45. Women, 48. Custodian, 51. Electrical pioneer, 52. Beauty parlor, 53. Blow up, 55. Gladden, 58. Naked, 59. Envelop, 60. Relating to aircraft, 61. South African monetary unit, 62. Being

Yesterday's Solution

after, babe, baker, believe, beside, broke, brownies, chair, compliment, cost, dinner, disney, eager, early, expect, front, greet, halter, hint, lair, loss, nice, pause, place, quick, reach, rots, school, second, sent, short, slight, smile t a b l e, tale, teenage, there, tonight

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

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