



### Two Radio Station Employees Gunned Down in Takhar

TALIQAN - Two Radio Hamsada employees were gunned down in Taliqan city in Takhar province on Tuesday night.

Abdul Khalil Asir, a spokesman for the Takhar police, said unknown gunmen entered the radio station's offices in Taliqan on Tuesday night and opened fire on staff.

Officials from Radio Hamsada said the victims were a journalist and a presenter.

Shafiqullah Arya, 28, was a journalist and he had worked for the radio station for six years.

The other victim, Rahimullah Rahmani, 26, was a presenter and had worked for Radio Hamsada for two years.

Radio Hamsada officials said both victims were unmarried.

Asir said immediately after the shooting, the gunmen fled the area. He said the reason for the attack was not yet clear but that police have started an investigation.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses said the incident took place just meters away from the governor's office.

Speaking to Reuters, Radio Hamsad director, Semin Hussaini said both victims had been males in their 20s.

This was the second killing of journalists in Afghanistan this year.

Last month, Taliban kidnapped and then killed a part-time journalist, Javid Noori, whom they claimed was a government employee.

Afghan journalists are repeatedly targeted by insurgents. Last year 15 were killed.

According to Reporters Without Borders, Afghanistan is among the top three most dangerous countries in the world for journalists - along with Syria and Mexico. (Tolo news)

# Afghanistan Now World's 3rd Largest Saffron Producer



KABUL - Afghanistan produced saffron weighing 16 tonnes this solar year and exported 13 tonnes, becoming the world's third largest saffron exporting and producing country.

Talking about the National Saffron Export Strategy, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Naseer

Ahmad Durrani said saffron was cultivated in 28 provinces of the country. He said the Afghan saffron was of high quality and after Spain and Iran, Afghanistan was the third country known for its quality saffron product in the world.

He said around 13 tonnes of saffron was exported to India during the

outgoing solar year and its export to Saudi Arabia was being facilitated. The National Saffron Export Strategy was approved this solar year by the National High Economic Council.

Acting Commerce and Industry Minister Kamela Sediqui said the strategy evolved around seven sectors including the ...*(More on P4)...*(9)



### Atmar Upbeat About Moscow Talks Progress

KABUL - Presidential hopeful Mohammad Haneef Atmar, who is attending the Moscow talks, gave journalists a brief update about the session on Wednesday and said "we are extremely optimistic about the results".

On Tuesday afternoon he said a press release would be issued within a few hours "which will reflect the key agreements achieved at the meeting. It's very positive, good news."

This comes after a senior Taliban member and deputy head of their Qatar office said on Monday, after the first day's session, that the group would talk to the Afghan government once a timeline was set for the complete withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan.

Abdul Salam Hanafi said the Taliban would talk, on camera, to the Afghan government about disputed issues, including a ceasefire, once a timeframe was announced about the withdrawal of foreign troops.

"The Americans told us that they will withdraw half of their forces from Afghanistan from first of February until end of April," said Hanafi.

"Today a lot of Afghans sit together, we believe InshaAllah (God willing) after the withdrawal of foreign forces, after the withdrawal of occupation forces, we can sit together and we can resolve all issues together. ...*(More on P4)...*(10)

### Bridge benefiting 85 Kunar villages inaugurated



ASADABAD - A bridge connecting 85 villages was inaugurated in Asmar district of eastern Kunar province on Wednesday after its completion.

Sifatullah Sharafmal, Kunar Rural Rehabilitation and Development director, told the bridge's inaugural ceremony that the 60-meter long and seven-meter wide structure cost 106.6 million afghanis.

"We also built embankment walls on both sides of the bridge to protect it from being

damaged by floodwater," he said.

Kunar governor Abdul Sattar Mirzakwal said the project would benefit 85 villages in the area.

He said that 3,000 families would directly and 20,000 families indirectly get advantage of the bridge.

Mirzakwal promised people of the district that he would also asphalt the road that connected Asmar and Marawara districts.

Samiullah, ...*(More on P4)...*(11)

### Ajmal Ahmady Appointed as Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has appointed his economic adviser Ajmal Ahmady as the acting minister of industry and commerce.

The Office of the President in a statement confirmed that President Ghani has issued a decree to appoint Ajmal Ahmady as the acting minister of industry and commerce.

The presidential decree states that the appointment of Ajmal Ahmady as the acting minister of industry and commerce has been approved as per the Article#13 and Item#34 of the constitution of Afghanistan.

Mr. Ahmady was previously serving as senior presidential adviser for economic and banking affairs.

According to the Office of High Economic Council, Mr. Ahmady

has obtained two Masters degrees from Harvard University in the field of business administration as well as economy and public administration. He has also obtained a Bachelors degree in the field of mathematics and economy from UCLA University. ...*(More on P4)...*(12)

## Outlook Horoscope

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



This is a good day to spend some time alone, Aries. You may have projects you want to finish, and you have the energy to get a lot done. You could feel restless, but socializing might not be a good idea. Tempers may be short and frustrations high among those in your social circle. Quarrels might break out.

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



- Today you could put a lot of energy into mundane chores and tasks, as you won't want them hanging over your head and interfering with your evening plans. As a result, Gemini, you might feel very stressed and your temper could be a bit short. Try to control it and avoid taking your frustrations out on others.

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



Today you could put a lot of energy into mundane chores and tasks, as you won't want them hanging over your head and interfering with your evening plans. As a result, Gemini, you might feel very stressed and your temper could be a bit short. Try to control it and avoid taking your frustrations out on others. Remember, you will have to face these people again.

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



You might be planning or leaving on a much-needed vacation now, and feeling very excited about it. Plans should go smoothly, Cancer, so you're apt to get everything together with few glitches. Friends in distant places might ask you to visit or be planning visits of their own. The focus today is on expansion of your physical and mental horizons.

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



Ambitious plans for your future could necessitate your giving a lot of attention to practical matters, such as finances. This could be a drag, Leo, but if you're serious about your ideas, it needs to be done. A friend, probably a man, could pitch in and help you make sense of everything. Don't try to get it all done today. Your mind could get overloaded, which might discourage you.

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



The coming days promise a busy social time, Virgo. You might host a party at your home. You may feel terribly rushed and wonder if you will be able to get everything done. Don't worry. It will all come out all right. Friends or family members could prove invaluable in lending assistance. At some point, you might attend or take part in a sports event.

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



Your energy level should be high today, Libra, so you're going to feel restless and spend most of your time out and about. There might be some chores you need to get done at home, but family members should help and you're apt to finish them all quickly. Paperwork might need to be completed, which could be the slowest of all your tasks.

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



You may be looking forward to an evening with close friends, Scorpio, probably including a romantic partner. Occasions such as sporting events, movies, or concerts could be on your agenda. Activities involving children are also possible. Don't be surprised if you're inclined to sit quietly and let others do the talking. You might have a lot on your mind and need to let it stew for a while.

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



Members of your household may feel a bit restless today, and therefore might spend most of their time out and about. You might take advantage of everyone's absence to catch up on work you need to do alone, Sagittarius. This is going to be a busy day with lots of outside contact. Visitors might drop by and the phone could ring constantly. Don't be surprised if you don't get much done.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



Your neighborhood is likely buzzing with activity today, Capricorn. New neighbors could move in, improvements could be made, and new businesses could open their doors. Expect a lot of visitors and calls. A man with a child could play a big role in these events. At some point you might decide to walk down the street and check out what's happening.

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

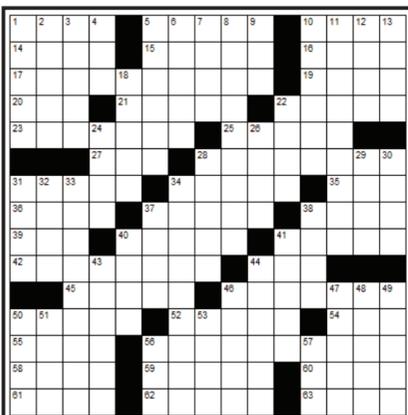


The promise of possible financial advancement could cause you to plunge into a lot of paperwork today. This could be related to a job, Aquarius, or it might involve a personal project that you've been working on. You might get so caught up in what you're doing that you lose your ability to focus and get too frazzled to finish. Remember to pace yourself and take breaks when you feel the need.

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



Your physical energy is likely to be very high today, and you might want to spend most of your time out and about, probably in the company of others. You may attend a concert this evening or some other kind of entertainment that you really enjoy. There might be a slight delay in getting there, Pisces, but don't panic. You should arrive eventually.



#### Across

- It forms on a wound, 5. Not true, 10. Small brook, 14. Piece of glass, 15. Blow up 16. Dwarf buffalo, 17. Mathematics, 19. Wildebeests, 20. Aye, 21. Cowboy movie 22. Ceases, 23. Spire, 25. Of a pelvic bone, 27. C, 28. Angry bees, 31. Suspires, 34. Prevaricating, 35. Born as, 36. Hodgepodge, 37. Anxious, 38. Skin disease, 39. Regulation (abbrev.) 40. Turning point, 41. Sharpens, 42. Analyzed, 44. Female deer, 45. Fertilizer ingredient 46. Search haphazardly, 50. Bonkers, 52. A kind of macaw, 54. Shade tree, 55. Goddess of discord, 56. Self-centered, 58. Anagram of "Sees", 59. Dishes out, 60. 1 less than 10 61. Dikes, 62. Utilizers, 63. French for "Head",

#### Down

- Neuters, 2. A proofreader's symbol, 3. Licorice-like flavor, 4. Wager, 5. Pertaining to women 6. Mountain crest, 7. Pear-shaped instrument, 8. A spiritualist, 9. And so forth, 10. Shabby 11. Sinlessness, 12. French for "Wolf", 13. Young girl 18. Aspirations, 22. Make melodious sounds, 24. Reflected sound, 26. Connects two points, 28. Church council, 29. Lease, 30. Views, 31. Achy, 32. Holly, 33. Excessive largeness of stature, 34. Invests with borrowed money, 37. Prong, 38. Throat-clearing sound 40. Compassion, 41. Adult female, 43. Overlooks, 44. Coercion, 46. Formula 1 driver, 47. Eagle's nest, 48. Gleam, 49. Master of ceremonies, 50. Re-quire, 51. Celestial bear, 53. Learning method, 56. Australian flightless bird, 57. Explosive,

#### Yesterday's Solution

BRASH, BOLD, ACHE, OUTDO, GLOTT, DHOW, STEEL, VEEP, VIBE, COMMUNDIOUS, ELLS, GAD, AERIE, DEBUNK, FLINT, OVINE, BUTLINGS, TEND, PARKS, SOLO, ENOURABLE, CEDED, LADES, HORSES, BRAWL, VIM, FRAT, OPTIM, STIIC, LITIL, CARE, CIRCA, ALSO, KNEW, ALIEN, GLEN, SEES, LOOSE

alternate, aware, cello corporation, cough court deadline, democracy, dinner, direct economy, foreign formidable, group, hand horse, intimate, issue legal music, order, peanut, people, pledge

