



### President Hopeful of Lasting Peace in New Year

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Thursday termed the new solar year as year of peace and said the government wanted a durable peace not the one which is vulnerable to further bloodshed.

Referring to the development in Afghanistan he said: "We want a durable peace in Afghanistan not the one which may threaten instability in the future."

The president showed respect to the decision of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) regarding delay in the presidential election but at the same time stressed on no further delay in polls.

"Poverty in Afghanistan is not acceptable for me. I don't want to be the president in Afghanistan where few are milliner while most are living under the poverty line." (Pajhwok)

### IEC to Use Same Biometric Devices in Presidential Elections

KABUL - The biometric devices which were used in the parliamentary elections last October will be used for the upcoming presidential elections, an official of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) said on Friday.

The election commission will update the software of the devices for the upcoming elections, said Mohammad Abdullah, an election commissioner.

"The biometric devices which are at the Central Statistics Organization are enough for the process and there is no need for purchasing of new devices," said Abdullah. "The software of the devices will..."(More on P4)...(13)

## Farmer's Day; Minister Vows to Develop Agriculture



KABUL - A large number of farmers, producers, investors and government officials attended the Farmer's Day ceremony in Kabul on Friday where the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Nasir Ahmad Durrani, vowed to build infrastructures for the sector and move it towards mechanization.

storages will kick off in the near future. He promised that required support will be provided to those investors who are interested to invest in processing and packaging of fruits and vegetables as well as in establishing poultry and fishing farms. "In addition to technical assistance, we will provide financial support to those who will invest in different areas of agriculture sector," said Dur-

rani. Mohammad Yaqub, the governor of Kabul, stressed the need for use of domestic products and said there is a need for more support to the country's farmers. "Government should implement more plans for promoting standard cultivation and marketing for domestic products," said Haidari. Farmers and owners of associations who attended ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

### UAE's Crown Prince 'Proposed Killing Taliban Leaders': Report

ABU DHABI - Mohammed bin Zayed, the UAE's crown prince, proposed to set up an assassination program targeting top Taliban leaders during a meeting with the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo earlier this year, the Middle East Eye (MEE) news website has reported.

The crown prince made the offer during Pompeo's visit to the UAE on January 12 amid disagreements over the progress of peace talks between US and Taliban negotiators, MEE reported on Thursday, citing to a source with detailed knowledge of the meeting.

According to the report, bin Zayed told Pompeo that Washington risked allowing Afghanistan to fall back into the hands of the "backward, bearded bad guys" and proposed hiring mercenaries to kill Taliban leaders to weaken the group's negotiating position.

Pompeo was visibly taken aback by the offer, but said nothing, the report said.

The UAE has supported US efforts to broker a peace deal with the Taliban and hosted the first round of negotiations between the two sides late last year in Abu Dhabi.

But according to Al Jazeera news agency, bin Zayed is believed to have been frustrated that subsequent rounds of negotiations were moved to Qatar's capital, Doha, at the insistence of the Taliban, which has maintained a political office there since 2013.

In January, US and Taliban negotiators held a six-day meeting - which was described by Pompeo on Twitter as "encouraging" - in Doha, which also hosted marathon talks over 16 days in February and March.

According to MEE's source, bin Zayed warned Pompeo that withdrawing US forces from Afghanistan risked a regression back to 2001, prior to the US-led invasion that overthrew the Taliban government in Kabul. ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

### Iran Slams ISIS Terrorist Attack in Kabul



TEHRAN - Qasemi sympathized with Afghan government, people and the bereaved families of the victims of the inhuman act which resulted in killing and injuring defenseless and innocent people. He said Nowruz and its culture is a unifying factor among different groups and ethnicities in the region, adding that Daesh

has targeted this unifying factor in the region. Certainly, they will not reach their aims to create division among regional countries, Qasemi reiterated. Three consecutive explosions shook Karte Sakh, Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, on Thursday morning. ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### Explosions in Kabul Leave Six Dead



KABUL - The Ministry of Interior said on Thursday that six people were killed and 23 others were wounded in three explosions near a Nawroz celebration ceremony in Kabul.

According to the ministry, the explosions happened in Kabul's PD3 near Kart-e-Sakhi, where people had gathered to celebrate the first day of

the new solar year. Interior Ministry spokesman Nusrat Rahimi said the explosives were placed at the area ahead of Nawroz. "As a result of explosion of three mines that were placed in the area, six people including a woman were killed and 23 others who all are civilians have been wounded," said Rahimi. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Outlook Horoscope

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



- If you aren't traveling today, Aries, you will likely take a big trip soon. It seems that you will be sharing a room with someone special. A close friend or significant other may accompany you. You can look forward to all the romantic possibilities that come with exploring new lands together. It's bound to be a wonderful trip.

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



You're gifted in ways you don't even know about, Taurus. Today you may uncover that gift unexpectedly. Perhaps you doodle a silly drawing in the margin of a note to a friend. Studying it reveals an idea that would be good for a children's book illustration. Perhaps there are other things you could do with your life.

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



A trip to a museum or gallery could bring you some interesting insights, Gemini. Maybe you will ignore the realistic paintings and photographs that used to interest you and admire the abstract works instead. They definitely capture your interest, and by the end of the day you may consider taking an art class to learn more about them.

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



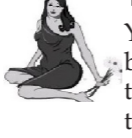
- Home and technology figure prominently today, Cancer. Perhaps you've just bought the latest gadget and want to spend the day figuring out how it works. You're in your element! A phone call from a distant friend could interrupt your project. You may speak for a long time, but you won't mind the delay at all. It's wonderful to talk to old friends.

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



If you've wanted to get involved in some type of volunteer organization, today may be when you sign up to support a worthy cause. Whether it's an environmental charity or a volunteer opportunity, you realize that working to better the planet is an important element that has been missing in your life. Life glows all that much brighter with your new altruistic outlook, Leo.

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



Your career is about to take a turn for the better, Virgo. New professional possibilities may come your way today. Be receptive to any invitations or offers. Your advancement may not come in the most traditional way, so you need to pay close attention. Don't overlook something that seems beyond your capabilities. Your reach should always exceed your grasp. Stretch!

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



Your career is about to take a turn for the better, Virgo. New professional possibilities may come your way today. Be receptive to any invitations or offers. Your advancement may not come in the most traditional way, so you need to pay close attention. Don't overlook something that seems beyond your capabilities.

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



Past issues may rear their ugly heads today, Scorpio. No, it isn't pretty. In fact, it's frustrating to have to deal with this problem again. You will be well served to spend time meditating. You need to address these issues once and for all or they will continue to haunt you. You're fortunate to have such close friends who will support you through this difficult process.

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



Romance is in the air, Sagittarius, filtering your vision with a rosy light. You're in love with the world today, and you're most especially in love with your partner. If you don't already have a partner, you may meet him or her today. Since you never know when or where, make sure to look your best throughout the day.

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



All sorts of wonderful changes are in the air at home and at work, Capricorn. On the personal front, someone new is likely to enter your life and change it for the better. At work, perhaps a proposal you submitted has been accepted or you landed a deal you've been working on for some time. Enjoy this auspicious celestial energy!

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



There's a big world out there beckoning to you, Aquarius. Why not plan an adventure to a faraway land? You've been working hard and deserve a reward. If you can't take time off right now, at least contact a travel agent or do some research online. Surround yourself with pamphlets and images of foreign cities. Even though you know you can't travel to them now.

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



Today, Pisces, you're likely to undertake some seemingly urgent decorating projects in order to get your home in tip-top shape. It could be that a few minor purchases are all that's needed. But you may decide you can't live with the color of the bedroom one moment longer and take matters into your own hands and do the job yourself. You will be exhausted but pleased by the end of the day.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-64.

#### Across

- 1. Savory jelly, 6. Remote, 10. Snip, 14. Blackbeetle, 15. Marcel Marceau was one, 16. Ascend, 17. 3-wheeled vehicle, 18. 1 1 1 1, 19. Small island, 20. An alkaloid plant toxin, 22. Glance, 23. Beer barrel, 24. Approaches, 26. Alternative, 30. Fruity-smelling compound 32. Open, as a jacket, 33. Sweetheart, 37. Give temporarily, 38. Located, 39. Bright thought 40. Dickered, 42. Infections of the eye, 43. Type of mattress, 44. Easy to handle, 45. Japanese verse, 47. Petrol, 48. Sodas, 49. A delayed flavor sensation, 56. Salt Lake state 57. Small slender gull, 58. Electronic letters, 59. No more than, 60. French for "State" 61. Angers, 62. Winglike, 63. Not nights, 64. Beach,

#### Down

- 1. The products of human creativity, 2. Classify, 3. Twosome, 4. Yucky, 5. Medical examination 6. Betwixt, 7. French for Finished or Done, 8. So be it, 9. Felt bitter, 10. Three-party, 11. Part of a stair, 12. Small islands, 13. Docile 21. Cool, once, 25. Poetic dusk 26. Electric light, 27. Dwarf buffalo, 28. Mogul, 29. Kookaburra, 30. Consumed, 31. Toboggan, 33. Italian for "Wine", 34. Bucolic, 35. Require, 36. Not difficult, 38. Located, 41. Arctic bird, 42. Female siblings, 44. Armed conflict, 45. Inn, 46. 3-banded armadillo, 47. Fellows, 48. Mountain lion, 50. Greek cheese, 51. Found in a cafeteria, 52. Nursemaid, 53. Palm starch 54. Layer, 55. If not,

#### Yesterday's Solution

Grid for yesterday's crossword solution with words like WILKINER, FISCAL, etc.

Word search grid with letters Y, N, H, N, E, E, S, N, U, Y, I, E, F, etc.