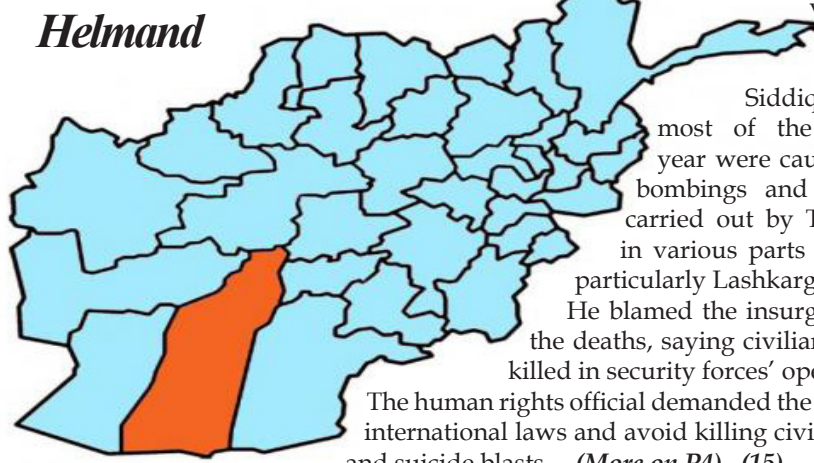


2014 Deadliest Ever for Helmand Civilians

ASHKARGAH - Civilian casualties in bomb blasts, suicide attacks, clashes and other violent incidents rose by 65 percent in southern Helmand province in 2014, a senior human rights official said on Wednesday. Mohammad Bilal Siddiqui, Afghanistan Human Rights Commission head for Helmand, told Pajhwok in Lashkargah, the provincial capital, that a total of 1,055 civilians suffered casualties last year -- 296 killed and 759 maimed. He said 2014 was more deadly year for civilians in Helmand

than 2013 when 177 civilians were killed and 218 others injured. Siddiqui explained most of the casualties last year were caused by roadside bombings and suicide attacks carried out by Taliban militants in various parts of the province, particularly Lashkargah. He blamed the insurgents for most of the deaths, saying civilians had also been killed in security forces' operations. The human rights official demanded the Taliban abide by international laws and avoid killing civilians in roadside and suicide blasts. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*



Insurgent Commander Killed by Jawzjan Residents

SHIBERGHAN - Two Taliban militants, including a commander, have been killed and six others wounded during a clash with members of an uprising in northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Wednesday. Commander Mullah Tajuddin was killed along with an associate when they stormed security posts in Faizabad district last night, the district chief told Pajhwok Afghan



News. Saira Shakib Sadat said the rebels were killed in a clash with armed members of the uprising. However, she gave no further details. Resident Faiz Mohammad heard gunfire for three hours in the area. But civilians suffered no casualties during the firefight, he added. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed killing three members of the uprising and wounding a fourth. However, provincial police chief Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani denied Taliban's claim and said the volunteers suffered no casualties. (Pajhwok)

Man Beheaded in Helmand, Daughters Injured

LASHKARGAH - Unknown gunmen have decapitated a man and sliced his two daughters' necks that were seriously injured in southern Helmand. The incident took place late Tuesday night in provincial capital of Lashkargah when armed men cut off the head of Mohammad Ibrahim who was a shopkeeper, his son Arif said. "It was midnight when three unknown men broke into our house and beheaded my father with knife," Arif said. "After killing my father, they entered my sisters' room and attacked their necks with knives." The provincial security authorities confirmed the incident, saying the police had started search operation to arrest the suspects. (Tolonews)

7 Million Saplings to be Planted this Year



BAMYAN CITY - Afghan News 50,000 of the saplings would be provided by his department. He urged residents to help in nourishing the saplings since it was necessity both for environment and people's lives. Mohammad Aslam, a farmer from Yakawlang district, complained fewer fruit-bearing trees had been distributed by the Agriculture Department. Eng. Mohammad Tahir Atayee told Pajhwok ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Nangarhar to Have More Greenhouses, Cold Storages



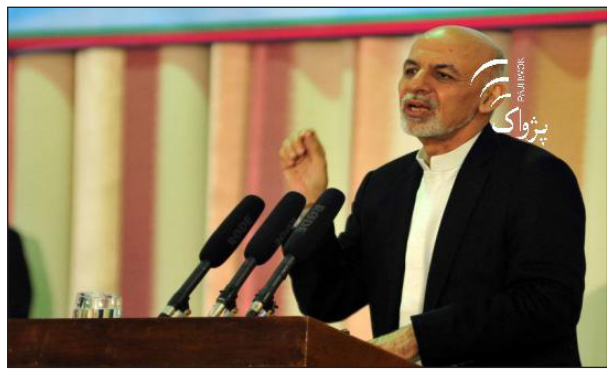
JALALABAD - More greenhouses and cold storages for agricultural produce are being built to improve the sector in eastern Nangarhar province, a senior official said on Tuesday. Deputy Governor Mohammad Hanif Gardiwal told a gathering marking Farmers' Day in Jalalabad, the provincial capital. "We import vegetables from Pakistan but we have kept available our own vegetables in every season because of the cold ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

ALP Needed to Boost Security in Border Districts: Gardiwal

JALALABAD - The Afghan Local Police (ALP) force be deployed to border districts of eastern Nangarhar province to improve the security situation there, an official said on Wednesday. Some 1,640 ALP men have been serving in 14 dis-

President Condemns Wardak, Ghazni Attacks

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has expressed his profound shock over the killing of 19 civilians, including six children, were in central Maidan Wardak and southern Ghazni provinces. A day earlier, at least six children playing cricket were killed and 10 others wounded in a bomb explosion in the capital of Ghazni. The blast triggered an angry protest in Ghazni City. Thirteen people, including a woman, were killed and two others wounded when masked gunmen opened fire on passenger cars in the Sayedabad dis-



trict of Wardak province. In a statement from the Presidential Palace, that president Ghani has expressed his deep sympathy with victims' families and condemned the incidents as un- While condoling with the bereaved families, the president

7 Killed, 36 Injured in Kabul Suicide Bombing

KABUL - At least seven people were killed and 36 others injured including women, children and police as a result of a suicide bombing in capital Kabul, security sources said. The incident took place Wednesday afternoon when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden car near Morad-Khani area in PD 2, close to the presidential palace and the ministry of finance. Sediq Sediqqi, the spokesman for interior ministry, has said that three children, four women and three policemen were among injured. However, the target of the suicide bomber is unclear so far. No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. (Tolonews)

29 Insurgents Killed in Military Operations

KABUL - At least 29 insurgents were killed and 21 others injured during a series of coordinated operations over the past 24 hours by the Afghan National Army (ANA), said the Ministry of Defense (MoD) in a statement on Wednesday. The operations were conducted in Daikundi, Ghazni and Parwan provinces, it said, adding one insurgent was detained during the operations. "During the same 24 hour period, the Afghan National Army discovered and defused mines and also seized a quantity of arms and ammunitions." (Tolonews)

Afghan Traders' Growing Presence in Southeast Tajikistan

KABUL - Residents of Khorog in southeastern Tajikistan are complaining about enterprising Afghans who come across the border to trade. Khorog is the centre of Badakhshan, a vast highland region so remote from the rest of the country that it is easier to trade across the border with Afghanistan. Jobs are scarce, though,

and some local shopkeepers and market traders are resentful of the Afghan incomers, saying they sell shoddy goods and are rude to their customers. Police recently arrested two Afghan nationals latter for entering Tajikistan illegally. Afghan trader Muhammad Ayub says there are all sorts of people at the mar-

ket, good and bad, and his compatriots are no worse than anyone else. Nasima Muborakqadamova is an IWPR contributor in Tajikistan. This audio programme went out in Russian and Tajik on national radio stations in Tajikistan. It was produced under two IWPR projects: Empowering Media and Civil Society...*(More on P4)...(16)*

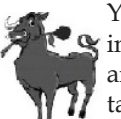
Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You're more likely to be spellbound by the vision of an ideal romance today than tumble head-over-heels for any individual. Because this kind of conceptual love is hard to manifest, you may have a real problem on your hands, especially if you are dealing with someone else's jealousy. Striving to be honest is admirable, but this doesn't mean you should reveal all your fantasies.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You are less interested in getting dragged into an emotional discussion now than you are in losing yourself in a most sublime fantasy. Although beautiful Venus hooks up with illusory Neptune to fascinate you with dreams of perfect love, your joy could be founded on ideas of escape.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Your charm can work wonders but cautionary alarms need to remind you that you are so convincing today that you could actually con yourself, too. Thankfully, you may be able to avoid self-deception by considering what others need from you instead of only looking out for your best interests. Your perspective widens when you engage in honest dialogue.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Shift your thinking into the higher realms of spirituality, rather than only focusing on your quest for romantic love. Find something that touches your soul and connects you to the beauty of the cosmos. Organized ritual works for some, yet reflective meditation may be better for others. Even a few minutes of solitude can provide a chance for you to hear your own inner voice that guides you on your magical journey.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



It's a lovely surprise when a significant other opens up to you, so listen carefully with your undivided attention to every word said. It isn't useful today to criticize or even disagree with anything in particular. Simply receive a heartfelt disclosure as the precious gift it is. The potential for intimacy is great when you are invited into someone else's imagination, so don't ruin it by trying to be practical.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You might attempt to cling to the irrefutable facts as if they are a lifeline today because fantasies can totally disrupt your efficiency, otherwise. The songs of the mythical sirens are luring you away from logic and the lush landscape of imagination can be very enticing. Don't fight the call just because you are afraid it's not real; let your guard down and allow the magical healing power of love fill your soul with joy.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Although you are naturally attuned to beauty, now your tastes are more refined and your opinions are more defined. Your key planet Venus conspires with fanciful Neptune to raise the bar of excellence when it comes to experiencing pleasure. You can visualize your ideal, yet you are also captivated by the intensity of the present moment.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



You may tumble down the rabbit hole today, a victim of sweet infatuation, but you might not tell anyone about it. Although you could be quite entranced with your magical journey, it feels safer to stay quiet about your emotions now, especially if you're not prepared to deal with the consequences.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



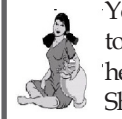
Your willingness to believe your own hype sets you up to promise more than you can deliver today. You might think others are expecting a superhuman performance from you, no matter how much you do to prove your competence. Instead of tiring yourself out trying to accomplish too much, pare back your activities before it's too late. Even if the variety of possible activities makes it difficult to prioritize them, choose anyhow and move on.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Trusting your senses is tricky business today, especially if you think you should be doing something else than what's on your calendar. It seems unfair that you can't just enjoy the beauty of the moment, but it may not feel right to abandon your chores. Working hard early in the day is one way to alleviate the stress and can help you to justify blocking off time to escape into a fantasy of

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Your charisma is more alluring than you realize today, as the magical Venus-Neptune alignment heaps an extra helping of radiance onto your plate. Sharing your dreams enables you to transmit vibes that capture others in your web of illusion. Your mind is powerful now and may even affect physical reality. Wizard-like, you can think yourself stronger, taller or prettier -- and magically, that is how you are perceived.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Some things are better left unsaid, so just soak in the pleasure of sweet stillness today and enjoy the unspoken stories of love. Your key planet Neptune sends you to the outer limits of your imagination as it receives a delicious kiss from enchanting Venus. Even if you try to explain what's happening, your words cannot adequately convey your magical flights of fancy.

Across

1. Pesky insects, 5. Supplications, 10. Competent, 14. Notion, 15. Oblivion, 16. Den
17. Gar, 19. Not legs, 20. Preserve of crushed fruit, 21. Foreword, 22. Grain disease,
23. Helps, 25. Andean animal, 27. Operative, 28. Tending to repel, 31. Cereal and
soup _____. 34. Gives forth, 35. Not used, 36. Monster, 37. Graphic symbols, 38.
Distribute, 39. Former boxing champ, 40. Tine, 41. Praise, 42. Freeing from harm, 44.
Obtain, 45. Body, 46. Breathing heavily, 50. A fencing sword, 52. Get hitched, 54. C
55. Half-moon tide, 56. Nonliteral, 58. Coffee dispensers, 59. A form of oxygen, 60.
Beers, 61. Portend, 62. Give birth to, 63. Calyx

Down

1. Martial arts expert, 2. Anagram of "Aside", 3. Abounds, 4. Unhappy, 5. A full supply, 6.
Elevators (British), 7. Arab chieftain, 8. Pardoning, 9. Comes after Mi and Fah, 10. Warning
devices, 11. Dickered, 12. Large luxurious car, 13. At one time (archaic) 18. Speech
defects, 22. Hearing organs, 24. Small island, 26. Permits, 28. Amidst, 29. Quash, 30. Female
sheep (plural), 31. Wild hog, 32. Leer at, 33. Watchstrap, 34. Spend sparingly, 37. Colored
part of an eye, 38. Mongrel, 40. Unadulterated, 41. East African country, 43. Body, 44. Loft,
46. Wrinkled fruit, 47. In a cold manner, 48. Not a single time, 49. Ganders, 50. Give the cold
shoulder, 51. Relating to aircraft, 53. All excited, 56. Watch chain, 57. Children's game

Yesterday's Solution

DUVET COTS SLAM
ELEMENT ALUM NADA
MERIT OTITA ONUS
FIXTRAIT EOUS WALK
NOT HABIT
TORPID SKILL
TILTAQ OPTINIONED
FIELD STING WIRE
FOLIATING PENNE
NIECE CAREER
ADDLE SPY
SLUR PAULTATIVE
EDDO LIEU BODES
TEEM EDEN LIENS
ARSE DESK ELATE

adore, angel, bloat, boast, cities, coats, curious, diner, does, doubt, drain, dream, films, fixate, good, guide, hangs, hero, import, leas, movies, original, person, pigeon, poet, policy, reach, reed, sorry, state, tease, temptation, tonight, viewpoint

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