## In a First, 40 Women Issued Driving Licenses in Helmand

LASHKARGAH - For the first time, 40 women in southern Helmand province on Thursday received their car driving licenses after undergoing a practical training.

The 15-day car driving training for the women was launched on the occasion of Women's International Day and was completed today.

Fatima, a participant of the training during her graduation today, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they received lessons about traffic rules during the 15-day program and she received her driving license yesterday.

"It is important that women also learn car driving and traffic rules and have driving license because when there is an emergency patient at home and men are not present, women can help transfer the patient to hospital," she said.

Gulalai, another woman who received her license, said her family allowed her to learn car driving and now she could drive car in the city.

Wajiha Rasouli, Helmand Women Affairs director, said, "Despite the fact that security situation in Lashkargah (the provincial capital) is not good for women to drive, it is their right which should be given to them."

She said the Women Affairs Department had other similar programs for women, which would be launched in near future.

Mirza Khan Rohani, Helmand traffic director, said they launched the program as per suggestion of the Women Affairs Department and it was completed today.

He said they were ready to launch similar programs for other women who wanted to learn car driving. Rohani said they had previously issued licenses to 23 women individually. (Pajhwok)

# Ghani Inaugurates 'Biggest' Smelting Plant in Kabul

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday inaugurated Afghanistan's biggest smelting plant as well as the first-ever pine nut processing factory in Kabul, where he said the economic independence of the country is interconnected with its political sovereignty.

Referring to the complaints lodged by industrialists about dumping policies of the neighboring countries, Ghani pledged to raise the issue with these countries and said that Afghanistan will implement similar tariff policies in its commercial ties with neighboring nations.

"I am grateful to the investors that they trust at a time that others think that the situation is complex. Investment attracts the trust of the world and brings employment," said Ghani.

He vowed to transform Afghanistan from a consumer market to an industrialist exporter nation.

"Our desire is to transform Afghanistan from an importer of industrial materials to an exporter. Industrialization of Afghanistan is a desire as well as action," said Ghani.

At least $50 million was invested in Maihan Steel and the pine nut processing factory.

Ghani said that Afghanistan has the capacity of exporting over $4 billion agricultural products.

Last year, Afghanistan exported over 1,350 tons of pine nuts to China, according to government figures.

"Bamiyan's ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Fire in Turkish Capital Kills Five Afghan Workers

ANKARA - Five Afghan workers were killed and eleven others were injured as a result of a fire in an abandoned three-story building in the Turkish capital Ankara early on Friday morning.

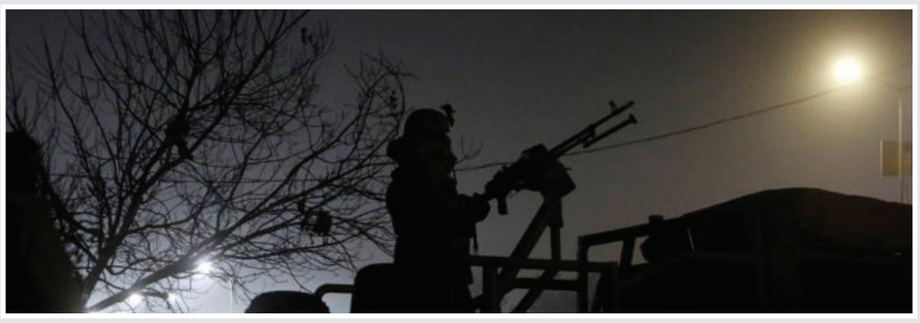
President Tayyip Erdogan said later on Friday the building in which the fire broke out was abandoned and uninhabitable, and Ankara Governor Vasip Sahin told state media that the cause of the fire had not been determined yet.

Footage from the site of the fire showed the front of the building had been burnt black, while the windows of the already damaged building had been broken. Firefighters, police officers and emergency teams were at the site to examine the damage, the footage showed.

Burak Burhan Biyikli, a local resident who knew the victims, said the building was used by refugees in Ankara as shelter and as a storage unit for scrap paper that they collected and later sold. He said he believed the cause of the fire was due to an electric fuse.

"They are refugees, poor people sheltering in our country becuase of the war in Afghanistan. These people have to support their lives somehow, so they sought shelter ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## Ongoing Badakhshan Firefight Causes Casualties



FAIZABAD - Both Taliban and security personnel have suffered casualties in a clash in the Arghanjkhwa district of Badakhshan province. Nek Mohammad Nazari, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants attacked the district late on Thursday night.

A fierce firefight was still ongoing, he said, adding that three security personnel had been killed so far. The rebels also suffered casualties, he said. However, the spokesman had no exact casualty figures. He said reinforcements were on their way from Baharak district to the scene of fighting. On the other hand, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted the fighters had seized six police posts in the district. He claimed the attackers had killed five policemen, including Commander Zabit Zabeeh, and wounded four others. (Pajhwok)

## Kabul, Colombo Mull Signing Prisoner-Swap Agreement

KABUL - Kabul and Colombo are mulling over entering a prisoner-exchange agreement benefitting both countries, a media report says.

Afghan Ambassador Ashraf Haidari and Sri Lankan Minister of Justice Thalatha Athukorale discussed the idea at a meeting on Thursday

The ambassador lauded Sri Lanka's treatment of Afghan prisoners, according to a Colombo-based news website.

The officials held preliminary discussions on signing an agreement on a prisoner exchange between the two countries. (Pajhwok)

## Outlook Horoscope

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

Take action that will help you find greater freedom in your life, Aries. In an attempt to please the people around you, you may be giving up too much of yourself. Before you know it, you may be in shackles connected to people, situations, and commitments that you can't seem to extricate yourself from. Use today to free yourself from these chains.

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

You may have to consciously let go of some of your plans, Taurus, and simply leave things up to chance. The element of the unexpected can help you out quite a bit, so work with it instead of trying to keep it at bay. The natural flow of events should lead you toward a place of greater freedom. Use your imagination instead of

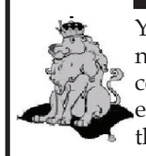
### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Don't let the positive energy of the day pass you by, Gemini. You're able to grab hold and make greater use of it than most, so don't hesitate to get going early and keep on going until late. Stop contemplating the issues and take action. Take the best aspects of each side of the issue instead of feeling like you're restricted to one side or the other.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

- Increased communication with a close friend or lover, more on a subtle than verbal level, could bring you closer and enrich your relationship. Quiet time spend together today could generate a new sense of closeness. Images and ideas that come from deep within you can contribute to your creative self-expression. Write down any insights so

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



Your actions may be erratic and spontaneous today, Leo, but they will also most certainly be powerful. You may be driven by a sharp intellectual mind. Perhaps there's someone near you who has great cunning. You may be feeling brainier than usual. Genius ideas are apt to surround you and your actions as long as you keep an open mind about how

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

Take some time to break out of your normal routine and see what's going on in the world around you, Virgo. You could be so focused and so driven toward a specific goal that you fail to take into account the rest of the world. You may not even be aware that these outside energies have a huge effect on what you're doing in your own little compartment.

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

Don't feel like you're obligated to jump through other people's hoops, Libra. Just because someone wants you to do something doesn't mean you have to oblige. Bend over backward for yourself and not for the entertainment of others. Freedom is an operative word for you, so make sure you exercise this right in every aspect of your life.

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

You may be acting unconsciously, Scorpio. Suddenly you're halfway through a task and wondering what you really hoped to accomplish by starting it in the first place. Be more conscious of your energy and how you use it. Make sure you don't shoot yourself in the foot by wasting your precious resources on things that don't really matter in the long run.

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

You can rely on your good luck to pull you out of difficult situations today, Sagittarius. This is one day when you can launch yourself headfirst without worrying too much about the outcome. There's a great deal of positive energy on your side that you may not even be able to see right now. Trust that whatever you undertake will work out fortuitously for you in the long run.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

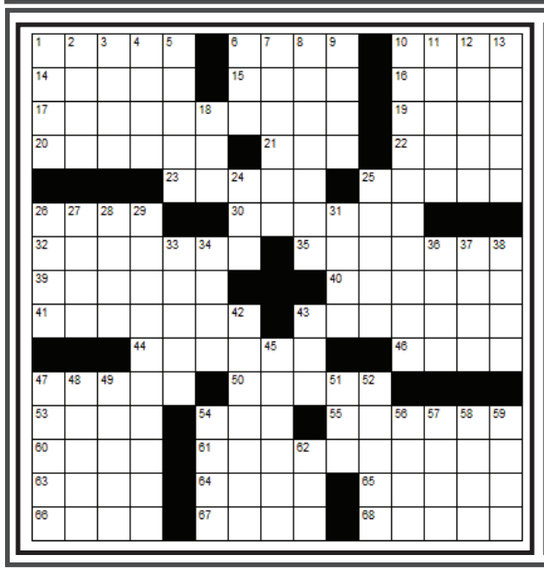
You may have your guard up as you fend off people and situations that have caught you unprepared, Capricorn. Be careful about putting up such big walls that you can't see over them. The danger of building a fortress that doesn't allow others to come in is that it makes it more difficult for you to look out.

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

An element of the mystical and fanciful will play a significant part in your world today, Aquarius. This energy is likely to come to you unexpectedly, and your first reaction might be to shy away from it. Believe in the power of thought and intention. Pursue whatever you wish to achieve in your world.

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

You may sense that the actions around you are fueled by selfish motives. You may be the only one who really sees what's going on, Pisces. You feel like an observer on a mountain looking down with disdain on the people below. You understand the politics of the situation, yet from your high vista you feel powerless to implement effective change. Collect data now and act later.



***Across***

1. European currency (plural), 6. Parts of aprons, 10. Plate, 14. Flora, 15. Dwarf buffalo 16. Moving within, 17. From the inside, 19. Fraud, 20. Chinese cinnamon, 21. Donkey 22. Certain, 23. Middleman, 25. Drills, 26. Mongolian desert, 30. Bloated, 32. Designate 35. Emit, 39. Treeless plain, 40. Adjusted, 41. Thought, 43. Appropriate, 44. Entice away 46. Not difficult, 47. Astray, 50. Small, medium and large, 53. Hindu princess, 54. Smidgen 55. Suppository, 60. Association, 61. Tumbling, 63. Nobleman, 64. Praise, 65. Loses color 66. To endure (archaic), 67. If not, 68. Tint, ,

***Down***

1. Sweeping story, 2. Forearm bone, , 3. Rodents, 4. 1 1 1 1, 5. Stripes, 6. Bleat, 7. Away from the sea, 8. Support, 9. Articulates, 10. Separate, 11. Bring upon oneself, 12. Look at with fixed eyes, 13. Houses, 18. Henpeck 24. Startled cry, 25. Anagram of "Debit", 26. A feat, 27. Pledge 28. Broth (Scottish), 29. Something that cannot be done, 31. Wise men, 33. French for "After", 34. Marsh plant, 36. Diva's solo, 37. 10 10 10 10, 38. Jittery, , 42. Melodious 43. Tasseled cap, 45. Anagram of "Rustic", 47. Cambered, 48. Of the cheekbone, 49. Accustom 51. Diminish, 52. Cleansing agents, 54. Cotton bundle, 56. A D-Day beach, 57. Arizona river, 58. Frozen, 59. To be, in old Rome, 62. Lyric poem, ,

***Yesterday's Solution***

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