



Students Win 14 Medals in UCMAS Competition, Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR - Afghan students, including five girls, participated in UCMAS international mathematics competition in Malaysia and won 14 awards. Students from Afghanistan managed to secure at least 14 medals from the 22nd UCMAS Abacus & Mental Arithmetic International Competition, which was held on December 9 and 10 in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. Fourteen students from Afghanistan took part in the event, one student came first, four gained second position and nine others in third. Five of the 14-member Afghan team are girls. "We represented Afghanistan in these competitions in the city of Kuala Lumpur. I gained first position and hoisted the flag of Afghanistan in Malaysia," said one participant, Erfan Farman. "All questions were related to mathematics," said Seyayesh Obaidi, also a participant. "We call on government institutions, particularly the ministry of education to pave the way for the expansion of these activities in all regions of the country. UCMAS center in Herat is fully prepared to expand UCMAS activities all over Afghanistan," said Mahmoud Rezayee, head of UCMAS center in Herat. "I wish in the coming years, we can get students, not only from Herat, but from other provinces of the country including Farah, Kabul, Kandahar and all others in Afghanistan, to participate in these events. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Taliban to Kabul: Scrap Security Pact with Washington

KABUL - The Taliban say the Afghan government if it is really interested in peace parleys with the insurgent movement, should immediately scrap a security pact with the United States. President Ashraf Ghani's administration had signed the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the US in 2014 -- three days after the national unity government came into being. For months, the international community has been stressing the need for face-to-face talks between Kabul and Taliban representatives on a negotiated end to the 17-year-old conflict. But the Taliban have refused meeting Afghan leaders, saying the government in Kabul does not have the power to take important decisions. Therefore, the rebel group argues, it wants to negotiate ...*(More on P4)...(10)*



Riyadh Vows Continued Effort for Peace in Afghanistan

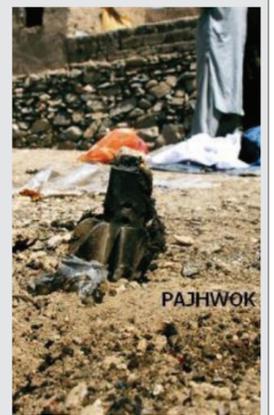
KABUL - A top Saudi diplomat says the oil-rich kingdom and the United Arab Emirates have worked hard to achieve success at the just-concluded Afghan reconciliation talks. Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, claimed Riyadh and Abu Dhabi had been able to bring together the warring Afghan parties for dialogue on ending the conflict and bringing peace to Afghanistan. The Saudi Press Agency quoted him as calling Afghanistan an important Islamic country. The kingdom would continue to make every effort to restore security and stability to Afghanistan.



He also promised continued efforts to achieve lasting peace that would help the country move away from war to development and reconstruction. The talks held in the United Arab Emirates would produce "very positive results by the beginning of next year", ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

4 Killed in Herat Mortar Shell Explosion

HERAT CITY - At least four people were killed and three others wounded as a result of a mortar shell explosion in Chesht Sharif district of western Herat province on Thursday, an official said. Jilani Farhad, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the explosion took place in a farm at 10:30am. He said the unexploded shell went off after a farmer took it to another place. Four people were killed and three others wounded. *(Pajhwok)*



ALP Commander Killed by Taliban in Baghlan Attack

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander for Dahna Ghor district has been killed along with a bodyguard in a Taliban attack in northern Baghlan province, an official said on Thursday. Deputy Chairman of Provincial Council Shams-ul-Haq Barakzai told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in the Zaman-khel area of Pul-i-Kumri, the provincial capital, on Wednesday night. He said ALP Commander Salim

Kochi came under Taliban attack on his way home from a guesthouse. The commander and his bodyguard were killed, a second guard was wounded. Police spokesman Samim Joya confirmed the attack and the killings. However, he gave no further details. The Taliban have not yet commented in this regard. Salim Kochi had earlier served as police chief for 2nd district of Pul-i-Khumri. He took charge as ALP commander for Dahna Ghor district two weeks ago. *(Pajhwok)*



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Be careful about the way your words come across to others, Aries. You might not realize how much other people's feelings are affected until it's too late. Consider backing off for a while and taking a break from your normal performance. Practice your lines at home. You may be in a bit of a funk, but the good news is that you will snap out of it very soon.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Today could be the day you've been waiting for, Taurus. Realize that you have the gentle, sincere nature necessary to sweet-talk your way through any situation. Indeed, if there is something that needs resolution, now would be a good time to smooth things over. People will be more receptive to your good nature and nurturing qualities.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



- Something is urging you to take action, Gemini. You may feel a restlessness in the air that makes you want to get up and go. The problem is the place you need to go may not be obvious at first. Tender emotions may get in the way of decisive action. Realize that your destination is inside your heart. We all go through moody periods. This could be one for you.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You will find that your emotions are much more under control today, Cancer. You're able to strike a happy balance and avoid extraordinary extremes that scare others away. In fact, quite the opposite is true. People will be attracted to you as you provide a life raft on turbulent waters. Your sensitivity is strong and you're able to immediately fix on the status of any situation.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Things may seem a little cloudy today, Leo, but this is no reason to be blue. It could be that you need to make adjustments before you can smoothly relate to others. Take this opportunity to attend to things that you normally wouldn't think of. See things from the perspective of someone in another walk of life. Realize the fun of just staying home and falling asleep on the couch.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



- Try not to see the negative in everything today, Virgo. Concentrate on the positive. You will pick up subtle signals from others that can be very helpful as you gather data throughout the day. As you proceed through it, keep in mind that everything need not be a race to the finish line. Enjoy where you are now. There's no reason to rush to the next activity if you're having fun.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Try not to see the negative in everything today, Virgo. Concentrate on the positive. You will pick up subtle signals from others that can be very helpful as you gather data throughout the day. As you proceed through it, keep in mind that everything need not be a race to the finish line. Enjoy where you are now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



- Your thinking is clear today, Scorpio, and you will find that generally things are running smoothly. Your perspective on everything is very much in line with where you need to be at this time. In other words, you're doing everything exactly right. Be yourself and let other people adapt to your way of thinking. There's no need to keep hiding the truth of who you really are.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Today's planetary positions urge you to assert yourself, Sagittarius, but take care not to take this encouragement too far. You have a tendency to go a bit overboard when making a point. There are times (and this is one) when subtlety is more powerful. Try being low key and open rather than uptight and defensive. You have a warm personality, so why not let others experience it?

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Listen to what other people say to you today, Sagittarius. There are valuable experiences waiting around the corner. The important thing to do now is recognize opportunities when they arise. The road to success isn't always well marked. Take a chance on the road with no signs at all. You have the courage and pioneering spirit to pursue the adventurous route, so go for it.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

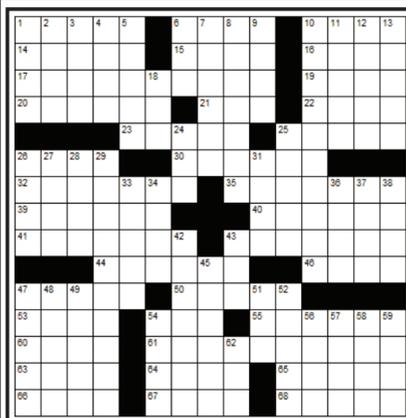


You might second-guess yourself today, Aquarius. Voices in your head are louder than usual, and you could be the one putting the brakes on your own train. Your intuition is trying to break through. See what you can do to slow down the chatter that continues to dictate the narrative throughout the day. Do more feeling instead of thinking. Give your mind a rest.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Today is excellent for you, Pisces. You will find that things flow naturally in the very way you've visualized. You might even find that things actually go much better than you had envisioned! Go about your endeavors confidently. The whole world isn't out to get you. In fact, people are probably too concerned with themselves to even bother with what you're doing.



Across

- 1. Vomits, 6. Copied, 10. Drift, 14. Eskimo, 15. Malleable, 16. Small island, 17. Self-assurance, 19. Blacken, 20. Diner, 21. Pelt, 22. Lock openers, 23. Clairvoyants, 25. Feel, 26. Backside, 30. Palpebra, 32. Plunder, 35. Packing material, 39. "Stick" of frozen water, 40. An unnaturally frenzied woman, 41. Particulars, 43. Letter, 44. Rapids, 46. Observed, 47. Boxes lightly, 50. ___ alia, 53. Wise men, 54. And so forth, 55. Small chin beard, 60. Iridescent gem, 61. Exhaustively, 63. A dog wags one, 64. Relating to aircraft, 65. Alcoholic, 66. Feudal worker, 67. Tall woody plant, 68. Incited, ,

Down

- 1. A pale blue pigment, 2. Dwarf buffalo, 3. Litter's littlest, 4. A small high-pitched flute, 5. Mixes, 6. Reverence, 7. Fry in a pan, 8. Exempted, 9. One who colors cloth, 10. Evil, 11. Pale with fright, 12. Pares, 13. Brusque, 18. Coloring agent, 24. Startled cry, 25. Egyptian peninsula, 26. Dry, 27. Dash, 28. Hissy fit, 29. Squadron, 31. Chunk, 33. Assumed name, 34. Mobile phone, 36. Initial wager, 37. Storm, 38. Biblical garden, 42. Slide, 43. Eastern Standard Time, 45. French for "Again", 47. Clobbered, 48. Daddies, 49. Encore, 51. Conceit, 52. Awaken, 54. French for "State", 56. Aquiver, 57. Goon, 58. If not, 59. Gave the once-over, 62. Caviar, ,

Yesterday's Solution

JOSH PIAPER BLOO UREA ASTIDE RIDE LINGUISTIC EIGN EEN TRUST OVERT PLAITIER OTTER RIGID TRITITATE SNEER ILLIAC TRY WAXY CREAM LEER ADE CHOU VODKA WARTIANS EMIN TILTS LARGEST ERICA TRATE GUR LLOO DOONTOLOGY SANE DEUCE ALAS ERST ESTER PERT series, sharp, shift spill, spread target texts, throw, timely virus, voice, , worry, feel, financial, gifts, goad, gram,grasp great guilt, home, kitchen, lower, manage, nature, , playoff, route,

