

Kabul to Host Iran's Specialized Trade Exhibition

TEHRAN - Iran's specialized trade exhibition will be held in Kabul from March 1-4, 2016, officials said Sunday. "The second specialized Trade Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be held in Afghanistan in cooperation with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) from March 1-4, 2016," said the event's executive director who expected commercial contracts worth \$100 million to be signed on the sidelines of the exhibition, Mehr News Agency reported. SaeidSadrazadeh further



noted that the exhibition will serve as a venue for discussions as well as presentation of Iran's capabilities. He recalled that trade agreements worth \$50 million were inked at the exhibition last year. "Afghanistan's import from Iran stands at \$3 billion which is 40 percent of the neighbor country's total imports," added Sadrazadeh stating, "In other words, Iran has a large share of Afghanistan's imported goods market." The official further pointed out that the composition of Afghanistan's imports from Iran is changing given that in the past ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Afghan Militia Beheads Four IS Fighters

KABUL - Local village militia members loyal to a powerful Afghan lawmaker beheaded four Islamic State fighters and placed their severed heads on the side of a main road in eastern Afghanistan, local officials said on Sunday. The killings in Achin district of the eastern province of Nangarhar highlighted the ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Afghanistan Cricket secures Place Among Top 10 in ICC ODI rankings

KABUL - The Afghanistan national cricket team managed to secure place among the top ten teams in the latest ranking for One Day International (ODI) of the International Cricket Council (ICC). Afghanistan rose two places and jumped to 10 after beating Zimbabwe on Saturday in the first match of One Day International ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Kunduz Still Insecure Despite Ongoing Operations

KABUL - Kunduz residents have appealed to government to launch a large-scale operation to clear insurgents from their battle-weary province once-and-for-all. This comes two months after security forces recaptured the city from the Taliban but have been unable to eliminate the insurgents entirely. Afghan security forces have however been able to limit insurgent activity to the Dasht-e-Archi district - which is believed to be a key area for the Taliban. However, officials



are concerned over the amount of equipment that the Taliban seized from troops during their siege of Kunduz city in October. Officials said the insurgent group is now using this equipment against them. Hamid Saifi, a commander for 209 Shaheen Military Corps said however that "we are launching an operation and the ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Gunmen Kill Six Members of One Family in Kunar

ASADABAD - Local officials said Sunday that six members of one family have been killed by unknown gunmen in Nari district in eastern Kunar province. A spokesman for the provincial governor Abdul GhaniMusamim said the incident took place on Saturday night after a group of gunmen entered a house in Nari district and started shooting at members of the family. All residents were killed, including two children, two women and two men. He said the attackers fled the area and police have started investigations into the incident. Local officials said the motive for the attack is not known. This comes after a number of unknown gunmen killed eight members of one family in eastern Nangarhar province two weeks ago. *(Tolonews)*

40 Development Projects Completed in Bamyan Province

KABUL - National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Sunday said that 40 development project worth Afs 59,594,000 funded 10% by community contribution completed in Bamyan province. According to NSP Provincial Manager in Bamyan province, these projects include the construction of four community centers, a water reservoir at a capacity of 1,855 square meters, a protective wall



7,862 meters in length, a 365-meter irrigation canal, culverts and graveling 610 meters of rural roads. Approximately, 2,697 families in different communities had an opportunity to gain access to basic human needs upon completion of these projects. Since its inception in Bamyan province, the NSP has been able to execute 1,393 infrastructure projects in different ...*(More on P4)...(14)*



Members of the Afghan security forces frisk people on a roadside as security has been intensified following an operation in Helmand province on Sunday December 27, 2015. According to reports airstrikes have been carried out in support of Government forces battling a Taliban offensive in Sangin district. The Taliban claimed to have gained control of large parts of the area, however, this has been denied by the Afghan Government who responded by sending two battalions of Afghan army commandos that in an operation late 23 December claim to have killed fighters and a senior Taliban commander. *(EFE/EPA/WATAN YAR)*

Security Incidents Claim 19 Lives in 2 Days

KABUL - Fighting in Afghanistan has claimed 19 lives including seven civilians over the past two days, officials said Sunday. In the latest violent incident, three people including two police constables and a civilian lost their lives as a bomb went off in the former Taliban stronghold of Helmand province on Sunday, a police spokesman said. "A bomb planted by militants went off in Bolan area in the outskirts of provincial capital Lashkar-gah at around 01:00 p.m. local time Sunday, killing two police and a civilian," spokesman Shah Mahmoud Ashna told Xinhua. The blast occurred when a police team was in routine patrol, he added. Ashna blamed Taliban militants for organizing the blast. In another violent incident, unknown armed militants attacked a house in Nari district of eastern Kunar province late Saturday night, killing six civilians and injuring another, all members of same family. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry reported ...*(More on P4)...(15)*



Afghan security officials inspect the site of a bomb blast that targeted a police vehicle in Kolpak area of Lashkar Gah city of Helmand province, on Sunday December 27, 2015. At least three people were killed including two policemen in a bomb blast in Helmand province on 27 December. *(EFE/EPA/WATAN YAR)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You are raring to go now and you're eager to tell everyone about your upcoming creative projects while the Moon is kicking up her heels in your 5th House of Self-Expression. However, instead of receiving the applause you expect today, your plans may fall on deaf ears. An unappreciative audience could send you back to the drawing board, requiring you to rethink your big ideas.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Taking care of the chores you should have done yesterday will be less burdensome once you actually shift into gear. However, you may feel as if cosmic forces are working against you now, preventing you from initiating action. Unfortunately, finding the source of these elusive pockets of resistance is challenging. It's tough to change your attitude once you realize.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

People seem to enter your life today for the express purpose of encouraging you to take the next step on your journey. But this support may come with a mixed message because following someone else's advice isn't very straightforward now. You're tempted to impetuously rush ahead, but complicated logistics and unwieldy red tape are likely to hinder your progress. Slow down and tend to details that need handling one more time.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

It's nearly impossible to stick to your plans today, even if you believe that your abundant physical energy and unwavering willpower are enough to power you through any unexpected obstacles. Unfortunately, brute strength won't be sufficient; you must work smarter, not harder. Start by recognizing the limits of your knowledge.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Be wary if anyone attempts to convince you that he or she is right and you are wrong. Other people's arguments may be so persuasive now that you might be tempted to drop your agenda for theirs. Unfortunately, your disdain for details can have you moving so fast that you overlook an important fact or two. Give yourself time to think through any change in plans before you find yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You are leaning towards jumping into a project or organizing a social event, but you might be afraid of someone's negative judgment today. You prefer to do things your way but may not have as much say in the matter as you wish. Your decision doesn't allow for any ambiguity now, requiring a yes-or-no answer. Think very carefully about your desired outcome before choosing whether or not you're willing to sacrifice your freedom.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You might not get as much time to yourself today as you were hoping while the Moon shines in your 11th House of Social Networking. Everything and everyone that passes your way is just another bundle of possibilities, making it challenging to turn down any invitations for business or pleasure. Instead of attempting to limit your options now, follow the course of least resistance.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You are super-jazzed about turning a corner and starting a new chapter with your work and family, yet you could end up spending too much time trying to keep everyone happy now. You might not be able to work on the larger shift until you open up more free time, especially if you're juggling a number of mundane issues and projects today.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You act as if you have all the answers today as you supply family and friends with a constant stream of political and philosophical repartee. But in spite of all your bravado, you just want to emotionally connect with those closest to you. Unfortunately, you could get carried away in an argument about a topic that's not even important to you. You aren't fooling anyone; admit what you don't know and engage others on the basis of honest.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

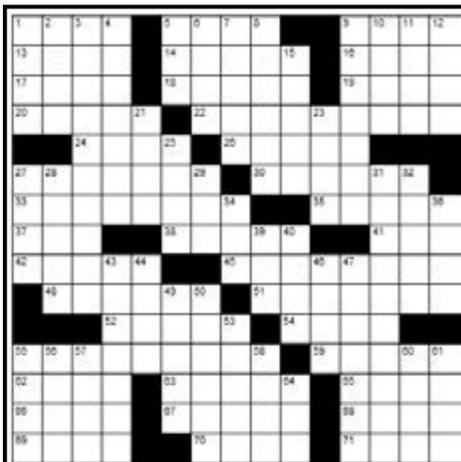
You may discover a few new interesting things to do with your time at home today, enabling you to retreat behind your castle walls without growing bored. It's fun when there are so many possibilities available, but it can be tricky to narrow your choices and just pick one to pursue now. Don't blame your indecisiveness on anyone else. You will feel more like yourself again once you choose a path and begin following.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You're feeling quite positive about your current opportunities now, but your friends might not see things in the same light. Although everyone seems to have a different idea of how your life should unfold, it's pointless arguing with anyone else about subjects that are your own personal business. Instead of escalating a war of words, politely excuse yourself from the conversation.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

If you recently started to put a big idea into motion, today's bold Leo Moon gives your momentum another boost. Although you possess plenty of energy now, it still could be challenging to sustain it over an extended period of time. Even if you're ready to take on the world in a moment, don't burn up your resources all at once. Operate in a methodical manner so you can finish what you start with a smile on your face.



Across
1. Not amateurs, 5. Therefore, 9. Back of the neck, 13. Magma, 14. Clairvoyants, 16. Blown away, 17. Matured, 18. A pinnacle of ice, 19. Tailless amphibian, 20. Mountain lakes, 22. Prophetically, 24. Cry, 26. Show respect towards, 27. Musical master, 30. Summon to return, 33. Envoy, 35. Of a pelvic bone, 37. Children's game, 38. Coarse-grained, 41. Consumer Price Index, 42. Pale with fright, 45. Least old, 48. Steps, 51. Flattery, 52. Dash, 54. Send forth, 55. Assortments, 59. Decree, 62. Double-reed woodwind, 63. German iris, 65. A swinging barrier, 66. Ailments, 67. Leases, 68. Attraction, 69. Fur, 70. Being, 71. Feudal worker.

Down
1. du jour = Meal of the day, 2. Indian music, 3. Obese, 4. Unhappiness, 5. S, 6. Coral barrier, 7. Hebrew unit of weight, 8. Public speaker, 9. Instinctive, 10. Absent Without Leave, 11. Resound, 12. Countercurrent, 15. Display, 21. Collections, 23. Central points, 25. Baby buggy, 27. Anagram of "Meat", 28. Accumulate, 29. Mineral rock, 31. Lacking moral discipline, 32. Expire, 34. Cheer, 36. Large town, 39. Toss, 40. Christmas season, 43. Least difficult, 44. Agreeable, 46. What a person is called, 47. Pan for pancakes, 49. Turbine part, 50. Evening event, 53. Small slender gulls, 55. Voice Over Internet Protocol, 56. Competent, 57. Somersault, 58. Seats oneself, 60. Maize, 61. Tall woody plant, 64. South southeast.

Yesterday's Solution
PROBABLEABORT
TDMGNAWASHARE
ETOPDTRORBERP
NEVERTHELESSR
SBIAOLSOGLJLSO
EPECIEXTRUDET
MXREDDBLANDFR
VUPATDLKCCDAU
SIGRILSEESKCD
TNGGENEWGITE
UIIOYSILENTOX
FRJURISTOAPRR
FORMALITYJTYE

