

300 Afghan Women Graduate from USAID's Promote

KABUL - First Lady Rula Ghani gave the keynote graduation address to more than 300 USAID Promote Women's Leadership Development students at Amani High School. Mrs. Ghani delivered the commencement address to the first graduating class of USAID Promote Women's Leadership Development Program (WLD). The occasion marks a milestone in the implementation of Promote, USAID's largest women's empowerment program in the agency's 53-year history. A total of 689 women around the country



have completed the program. "If you want the change you champion to be efficient and long term, you need to work from within your society," said Mrs. Ghani. "You need to build on those aspects that are positive, on the existing support networks such as the extended family, the culture of mediation, and the tradition of helping each other." The Promote Jawana curriculum is a 12-week program designed to provide 18,000 young Afghan women ... (More on P4)...(12)

Three Afghan Women, Child Drown off Turkey

ANKARA - Three Afghan women and a child have drowned off the Turkish coast after their migrant boat sank in the Aegean sea, according to Turkey's state-run news agency. Anadolu Agency said the Turkish coast guards rescued eight other migrants on Monday, including a baby, while five others were able to swim to shore. The boat sank some 200 meters from the coast of Ayvacik, a resort town used by thousands of migrants to make their way to the Greek island of Lesbos. News of the deaths came as EU Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans met with Turkish officials on the implementation of a deal between Turkey and the EU. At the meeting in the Turkish capital, Ankara, both parties will discuss how to work together to curb the numbers of migrants making the dangerous crossing to Greece. Meanwhile, Germany has tightened control over migrants at its border with Austria as it is turning back up to 200 ... (More on P4)...(13)

Germany Turning Back More Afghan Migrants at Border

BERLIN - Germany is turning back more migrants at its border with Austria, particularly those from Afghanistan who Germany insists do not qualify for asylum, Austrian authorities said January 11. Attacks on German women, allegedly by migrants, during the New Year's holiday have put pressure on German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her open-door migrant policy. The number of migrants turned back has risen from about 60 per day in December to 200 since



the start of the year, authorities said, adding that Germany's tighter border control could be a knock-on effect from Sweden and Denmark tightening their

borders. Most of the rejected migrants have been Afghans who did not want to apply for asylum in Germany but in Scandinavia, they ... (More on P4)...(14)

Senior Taliban Leader Killed with His 10 Fighters

KABUL - A senior Taliban leader has been killed along with his ten fighters in western Farah province, local officials said Tuesday. The Taliban insurgents along with their leader were killed after ambushing a convoy of the Afghan national security forces in Andar Dara district. Provincial police chief Toryalai Abadyani confirmed the death of the senior Taliban leader along with his ten fighters. According to Abadyani, the Taliban leader killed during the gun battle has been identified as Mullah Bismillah who was appointed as shadow district governor of Posht Koh district. He also added that ten Taliban militants were also injured during the gun battle which lasted for almost one hour. A member of the Afghan police was also injured during the gun battle, Abadyani said, adding that four vehicles of the Taliban militants were damaged. The Taliban group has not commented regarding the report so far. Farah is among the relatively volatile provinces in western Afghanistan where anti-government armed militants are actively operating in a number of its districts and often carry out insurgency activities. (KP)

Close to 19,000 Refugee, Migrant Maritime Arrivals in Europe in First Days of New Year

GENEVA - Some 18,882 refugees and migrants have reached Europe by sea in the first 11 days of this year, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said on Tuesday. According to figures, 18,615 individuals arrived in Greece between January 1 and January 10, while 257 migrants and refugees reached Italian soil in the same period. This period also saw the first loss of life occur in the sea



stretch separating Libya and Italy. Known as the Central Mediterranean route, this passage was the deadliest for refugees and migrants in 2015, claiming ... (More on P4)...(16)

22 Militants Killed in Afghan Army Airstrikes

KABUL - Some 22 militants have been killed after Afghan army's helicopters pounded their positions in two of the country's 34 provinces, the Defense Ministry said on Tuesday. "The army gunship helicopters struck positions of Islamic State (IS) affiliated militants in surrounding areas of Achin district on Monday, killing 18 IS fighters and destroying one heavy machinegun," the ministry said in a statement. The mountainous district, which is also a known IS



stronghold, has been the scene of heavy clashes between IS militants and security forces since early last year. In addition, four

Taliban militants were killed and their vehicle was destroyed in a similar raid in Yakchal locality of ... (More on P4)...(15)

Woman, Son Detained on Charges of Killing Husband in Parwan

KABUL - Police have arrested a woman who allegedly killed her husband with the assistance of her son in central Parwan province. The 60-year-old man was reportedly killed with a shotgun. Abdul Shakoor Qadusi, governor of Bagram District said the incident took place in his Area of Operation (AO) on Monday night. He added that soon after receiving the information police reached to the house where the murder took place and arrested the man's wife and son. The suspects are behind the bars and would be dealt with according to the law, Qadusi said. Motive behind the murder is said to be some family disputes. (KP)

Afghan Refugee's Book Details Harrowing Journey Across Mediterranean Sea

KABUL - Gulwali Passarlay was 12 years old when his mother paid a human smuggler to transport him out of Afghanistan and take him to the safety of Europe. Ten years later, as thousands of migrants continue to make the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean, Passarlay is hoping a new book about his experiences will inspire "compassion and love" towards those fleeing violence. Passarlay, a student at the University of Manchester and the author of "The Lightless Sky," says his story begins like many other refugees' with deadly conflict. "My family was directly in war in the conflict in Afghanistan," he told CTV's Canada AM on Monday. "And it was becoming unbearable for me and my brother to attend school or live a normal life." Passarlay says his uncle was a Taliban commander, and his father and grandfather were suspected of hiding weapons for the group, and were killed in a shootout with U.S. troops. As the violence ... (More on P4)...(17)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You are driven by a powerful desire to experience the thrill of sensual enjoyment today and are drawn toward anything that stimulates an emotional buzz. Your nerves are on edge and you don't want to wait for satisfaction. Thankfully, your irrepresible spontaneity can be expressed creatively. Take a chance and cross to the wild side of the street while sexy Venus aligns with rebellious Uranus in your sign.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

People might believe that you're doing everything by the book but your current desires seem off the wall to you. Although you're not feeling restrained by rules of social etiquette, it appears as if you are more cautious than you actually are now. Fortunately, you have enough freedom of movement today to make it up as you go along.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your schedule won't likely unfold according to your plan, since you are riding high frequency waves of erratic emotional currents today. Ironically, you won't be destabilized by the unexpected curves and detours in your path if you hang onto your core values. Your behavior may appear shocking to others now, but it's just good clean fun to you so you might as well enjoy yourself.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You are thankful for the emotional security you can create when you retreat into your protective shell. However, unstable circumstances at work won't leave you alone today, disrupting your inner sanctuary. It's tempting to avoid the action now, but it's not wise to hide behind a rock or crawl deep into a cave in order to escape.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Relationship dynamics can be pretty intense now, even if no one realizes how much you're going through at the moment. Thankfully, an uncomfortable situation improves quickly if you don't burn your bridges today in the throes of the emotional volatility. Somehow, you intuitively know that something wonderful is about to happen, but it's not smart to get too cocky about it.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your physical energy is a mixed bag today, especially once the Moon begins to hang out in your 7th House of Partners. Although your desires may seem almost palatable now, you are wary of letting your imagination dictate current events. You might be itching to shift direction and break free from a boring routine, regardless of what anyone thinks about your unorthodox vision.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

A magical day is within your grasp while your key planet Venus dances in lockstep with out-of-the-box Uranus. Oddly enough, even the wildest fantasies don't seem so crazy to you. This is your chance to step past your fears and grant yourself permission to seek sensations that are different from anything in your past. Luckily, you can excel at whatever game is necessary to obtain your object of desire.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You may find yourself dreaming about doing things that are typically outside of your comfort zone. Oddly enough, even with the highest of spiritual intentions, you might not be able to keep your more primal instincts from stealing the show after the Moon slips into fantasy-prone Pisces to activate your 5th House of Love and Romance.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Your thoughts are free to soar high above the clouds of illusion today while you sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labor. However, you must keep your exorbitant desires in check to ensure the greatest benefits. People may share crazy ideas with you that aren't as outrageous as they first seem. Even if an inventive plan sounds unrealistic, it still could be viable with the right team in place, making it a fun endeavor to pursue.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

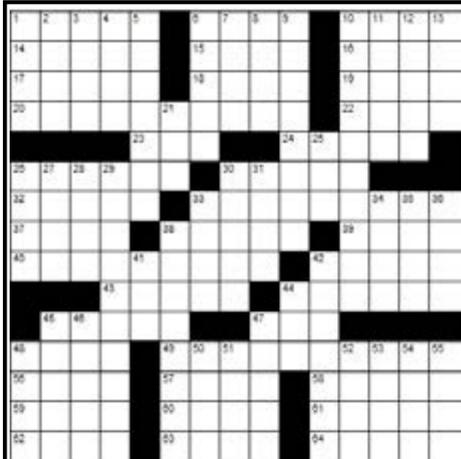
Be gentle with those close to you because your loving acceptance of others can catalyze an unexpected reward. You may experience an emotional earthquake today, if someone rattles your heart. But don't lash out in return, even if a surprise is shocking to your ears. Keep in mind the messenger only delivers the news and is not responsible for its content.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You don't have much time to attend to your agenda today because people keep showing up unexpectedly. Thankfully, your friends and associates recognize your brilliance and seem to be supportive of your plans, even if they require your immediate attention. Take advantage of their interest and involve them in your activities.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Toss the nets of your dreams as far as you can reach, and be ready to pull in the big fish. You're receiving an electrical buzz from magnetic Venus' presence in your 10th House of Career as she trines brilliant Uranus today. Luckily, the Moon's shift into your compassionate sign enables you to imagine an amazing scenario starring you as the conquering superhero. Your creative efforts will not go to waste.



Across

1. Nosed (out), 6. Acquire, 10. Not this, 14. Plaster, 15. Beige, 16. Cravings, 17. Manner of speaking, 18. Store, 19. Indian music, 20. Coherent, 22. Affirm 23. G, 24. Not outer, 26. Stumblebum, 30. Unadorned, 32. Not silently, 33. Car exhausts, 37. A noble gas, 38. Feudal workers, 39. Grotto, 40. Exterminate, 42. Consumer of food, 43. Foolishness, 44. Attraction, 45. Coast, 47. Beer, 48. Relating to urine, 49. Paltry, 56. Rescue, 57. Broad valley, 58. Something to shoot for, 59. Biblical garden, 60. Not under, 61. Exclamation expressive of regret, 62. Fender blemish, 63. Lease, 64. Yields.

Down

1. Sweeping story, 2. Carpenter's groove, 3. Smile, 4. Prima donna problems, 5. Part mortal and part deity, 6. "Beau", 7. Throb, 8. Press, 9. Wedding ceremony, 10. Despotic, 11. Throw with effort, 12. Rile, 13. Russian emperor, 21. Gender, 25. Bite, 26. Alley, 27. Gorse, 28. Debatable, 29. Lavish, 30. Celebration, 31. Vitality, 33. Blue-green, 34. A Maori club, 35. Always, 36. Arid, 38. Magnificence, 41. 16 1/2 feet, 42. Melancholy, 44. Anagram of "Ail", 45. Rank, 46. Energize, 47. Watchful, 48. Utilized, 50. Overhang, 51. Secluded valley, 52. Doing nothing, 53. Tiny sphere, 54. Shoestring, 55. Large North American deer (plural).

Yesterday's Solution



bathe, case, comprehend, deal, diverse, drain, dream, drift, easily, edema, elate, elude, enough, expand, flare, fleet, fonts, gloat, goiter, goon, groom, groove, heaven, ledge, leer, lonely, money, never, perspiration, pillow, real, riddle.

