

Ghani Gives Cash Prize to Medal Winners of South Asian Games

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has praised the female athletes for their achievements in the 12th South Asian Games and raising the flag of Afghanistan.

During a ceremony organized at the Presidential Palace 'ARG' on Tuesday, President Ghani welcomed the female award winners and awarded them a cash prize of AFG300,000 from his personal account.

He also presented certificates of appreciation to gold medal winner SumayaGhulami and three others.

President Ghani said related agencies would take necessary actions to assist female athletes after RobinaJalali, Deputy of the Afghanistan National Olympic Committee, who attended the ceremony shared with him the issues female athletes face and suggestions for resolving them. (KP)



Ex-Rebels in Takhar Complain Govt. Left them in the Lurch

TALOQAN - Reconciled Taliban militants in northern Takhar province on Wednesday claimed they faced threats to their lives from former comrades and the government was also not committed to its promises.

About three months back, Taliban militants captured Darqad district from Afghan forces who recaptured the district from militants a month later.

A number of militants joined the peace process after Afghan forces took control of the district. The reconciling Taliban complained they faced several problems after leaving insurgency.

Fida Mohammad, a resident of Darqad district who shunned insurgency, told Pajhwok Afghan News they joined the government-initiated peace process a month back, but now they faced with several problems. "I was not an insurgent, but Taliban forced to take gun after they captured Darqad district. then I joined the peace process after Afghan ... (More on P4)...(19)

Japan Contributes US\$16 Million to Benefit FATA Returnees, Afghan Refugees

ISLAMABAD - The Japanese government on Wednesday announced a contribution of US\$ 16 million in total to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN World Food Programme (WFP) to support Returnees in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Afghan refugees in Pakistan.



The Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Japanese Embassy in Pakistan, ... (More on P4)...(17)

Afghan Migrants Die in Crash in Iran

KABUL - Eleven Afghan migrants died recently in a traffic accident in Karman province of Iran and three others were wounded - but one victim's brother told of how they had been on their way to Europe in search of a better life.

Aimal, whose brother Romal died in the accident said all his brother wanted was a better life for his family.

Aimal said: "Romal wanted to make a better life with his family because in our country there is no security but he failed to reach to his dreams."

The victims families blame government for not providing a better life for the people but urged the youth to not to travel to Europe illegally. "Romal many times applied to join the police ... (More on P4)...(18)

Security Forces Release 10 Civilians from Taliban Custody in Herat

KABUL - Security forces have released 10 civilians from the custody of Taliban militants in Adraskan district of western Herat province.

A spokesperson for the Governor House said the civilians were released on Tuesday during military offensive 'Operation Azm'.

JailaniFarhad added that Operation Azam was launched against militants a few days before and concluded on Tuesday.

17 villages of Adraskan district have been cleared of



militants, Farhad said. According to him, a shootout occurred between security forces and Taliban which left one militant killed and two others wounded. Taliban have not yet commented on the report. Herat was among the comparatively secured provinces of Afghanistan but now it is going through some of its worst security. (KP)

21 Killed During Military Operations in Afghanistan: MoD

KABUL - Some 19 militants and two Afghan army soldiers had been killed during military operations in countryside within the past 24 hours, the Defense Ministry said on Wednesday.

The Afghan army, police and intelligence agency personnel carried out several joint raids in five of the country's 34 provinces against militants' positions, the ministry said in a statement.

"Some five militants were wounded and seven others detained. The joint forces also seized weapons, a car and a motorcycle, besides defusing several rounds of roadside



The Taliban militant group has yet to make comments. ... (More on P4)...(20)

5 Police Among 10 Killed as Taliban Seize Check-Post, Pick-Ups

TIRINKOT - Five policemen and as many militants have been killed during a clash in the DehRaud district of central Uruzgan province, an official said ON Wednesday.

The clash took place on Tuesday nightwhen a large number of militants stormed police posts in Agah Sahib Hill, the district police chief, Haji Niaz, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said five policemen were killed and sixth wounded in the attack.



Five militants were also killed and several others injured in retaliatory fire, he added. The bodies of the slain fighters are still lying at the scene. Police forces have left their security post and the militants seized two Ranger pick-ups and some ammunition, Niaz said. Provincial acting police chief, Col. Mo ... (More on P4)...(21)

Security Forces Pullout from a Bazaar in Faryab Province

KABUL - Afghan Security Forces evacuated the bazaar of Khawja Musa district in the northern Faryab province, local media reported on Wednesday.

"The security forces evacuated the bazaar of Khawja Musa district yesterday (Tuesday) and the armed oppositions returned to the bazaar," Tolo television reported in its news bulletin.

Government forces captured the bazaar of Khawja Musa district over weekend. Officials have yet to make comment on the report. Meantime, Taliban outfit in an online statement claimed the Taliban fighters after heavy fighting evicting the government forces from Khawja Musa district on Tuesday and hoisted the flag of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (name of ousted Taliban regime) atop the district headquarters and adjoining areas. (Xinhua)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You're so eager to get what you want today that you might make your move too soon. You may be totally perplexed if your enthusiasm is dampened by insignificant events. But it's challenging to know exactly how much self-restraint to apply since you don't want to overwhelm anyone with your irrepressible intensity. On the other hand, neither do you want to miss your chance.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You may be uncharacteristically impatient today, latching onto any ideas that help to justify your cause. Although sensual Venus hints at the potential of exciting pleasures as she continues to offer you an effective solution to your dilemma, it's tricky putting your knowledge to work. Containing the current energy takes more effort than you initially realize.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're longing for a transition now because the lack of structure could grant you additional freedoms. But you still might struggle to try to find your rhythm today because the speed of change keeps shifting between too slow and too fast. Unfortunately, the more you believe you can control the direction of the day, the greater your level of frustration. Let go of your preconceived agenda and enjoy the ride. Spontaneity is your friend.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your adaptability to sudden change may pay off today, but your current victory is only a short-lived solution to a complicated problem. You might be able to prevent yourself from blindly speeding ahead because you realize that it's smarter to take your time. However, you can't prevent the wheels of progress from grinding on.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You are committed to breaking out of a rut today, but something unexpected might happen at the last minute to thwart your best efforts. Thankfully, your discouragement won't last long, since it's nearly impossible to feel disappointed when there are so many positive signposts that keep leading into the mainstream. Satisfaction seems to be right around the next corner.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Emotional shocks add to the recent buildup of intensity, issuing a wake-up call to anyone not paying attention. You can feel the cosmic surge of energy now as electric Uranus zaps sweet Venus. Nevertheless, you still must be careful to take care of your needs or you could end up depleting your reserves. Don't waste your physical and mental resources by chasing every single enticing idea that crosses your radar screen today.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You could be swept up by someone's enthusiasm today, but don't relinquish your own dreams in the process. It requires a high level of expertise to establish a healthy balance between the boundless adventure awaiting you in a relationship and your personal drive toward success. Whatever you decide to do now, it's not wise to just agree with your friends so you can take the easiest way out.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You can clearly see the end destination to your professional trajectory, which encourages you to work diligently on a project today so you will achieve success down the line. Unfortunately, there are always circumstances beyond your control, so avoid additional stress now by concentrating on your goals without worrying about all the logistics.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

An all-too-familiar dilemma may resurface now that the Moon is back in far-seeing Sagittarius. You are ready to choose between boldly charging ahead without a plan and waiting until you're fully prepared for the next step. You truly understand the wisdom of patience, but you still prefer to move quickly today. Your current drive for self-expression is powerful.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Your friends and coworkers seem to have lost touch with reality today as they get swept up in a flurry of impatience. You might feel as if you're the only person left with any common sense because you're willing to stop and actually consider the consequences of your actions. Nevertheless, being cautious without sounding negative involves some gentle diplomacy.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You can't settle into a consistent rhythm at work today, which could make you feel socially awkward. One moment you are bombarding everyone with your crazy ideas, but then suddenly your embarrassment prompts you to overcompensate by keeping your mouth zipped. Don't put too much effort into following the middle path between these two extremes or you might end up being disheartened.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Embracing criticism is your wisest strategy today, especially if your erratic energy is flying all over the map. Thankfully, an acquaintance's accurate perceptions and clear feedback might offer just the right advice you need to turn your scattered initiatives into a highly effective action plan. Nevertheless, don't take anything you are told too personally; just listen carefully and be patient while deliberating your next move.



Across
1. Not short, 5. Untidy people, 10. Barely, 14. Hodgepodge, 15. Forbidden, 16. Within, 17. Triumphant, 19. Acquire, 20. Avenue (abbrev.), 21. Elector, 22. S S S S, 23. In a concise manner, 25. Hebrew unit of weight, 27. Website address, 28. Toward the back, 31. Open grassland, 34. Thresholds, 35. Japanese apricot, 36. Creative work, 37. A seal, 38. Beloved, 39. 59 in Roman numerals, 40. Roof overhangs, 41. Close-knit group, 42. Brawler, 44. Not brilliant, 45. Fissures, 46. Brown coal, 50. Goes through the air, 52. Subarctic coniferous forests, 54. Russian fighter, 55. Egg-shaped, 56. Tableware, 58. Peel, 59. Leg joints, 60. Prima donna problems, 61. Chickadees, 62. Spy, 63. Exam.

Down
1. A green fabric mixture, 2. Drink garnish, 3. More pleasant, 4. Snagged, 5. A leisurely walk, 6. Not clergy, 7. Double-reed woodwind, 8. Belonging to the middle class, 9. Mayday, 10. Scroll saw, 11. Brazen, 12. Anagram of "Ties", 13. A large amount, 18. Blatant, 22. Makes a mistake, 24. Lather, 26. Nobleman, 28. "Message received and understood", 29. Back, 30. Calamitous, 31. Volumes (abbrev.), 32. Sweeping story, 33. Sybaritic, 34. Disinvesting, 37. Sodium chloride, 38. "Darn!", 40. F F F F, 41. Stogie, 43. Meadows, 44. Compilation, 46. Energize, 47. Picture, 48. Novices, 49. Excrete, 50. Garrison, 51. 57 in Roman numerals, 53. Away from the wind, 56. Calypso offshoot, 57. Damp.

Yesterday's Solution
black, bridge, cancel, capture, confusion, digital, evasion, fees, fell, fetch, forecast, found, humid, joint, jugular, left, lion, music, offend, palpitate, plunge, porch, pressure, punish, reign, shore, shuttle, sniffle, squeal, suet, thing, thunder, tool.

