

Iran, Afghanistan Universities Sign MoU

TEHRAN - Iran's Islamic Madhahib University and Afghanistan University of Saadat signed a memorandum of understanding on scientific and cultural cooperation. Iran, Afghanistan universities sign MoU. The deal was signed in a ceremony in Tehran by chancellor of Islamic Religions University, Ahmad Moballegi, and founder of Saadat University, Gholam Sarwar. Under the agreement, cooperation between the two universities will take place in the form of joint scientific, cultural and research activities, exchanging of students, researchers and instructors and holding seminars and sharing publications and scientific materials.



The two sides also agreed to invite their researchers and students to take part in academic events such as exhibitions, conferences, symposiums, and educational workshops. (IRNA)

ANSF Fight to Keep IS From Expanding Safe Haven

NANGARHAR -The front lines against the so-called Islamic State in Afghanistan are constantly under threat. Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are fighting to keep the militant group at bay. The militant group managed to create a safe haven for itself in the eastern province of Nangarhar and is trying to expand its presence. Signs of intense fighting can still be seen on the wall of a checkpoint in Achin district that is almost an unofficial boundary between the Afghan government and IS territory. Last month, IS fighters attacked this post and overran it for a couple of days before the government took it back. The valleys beyond have become a safe haven for hundreds of IS fighters. They have brutally killed those who did not join them, and thousands of people fled the area. Local officials say IS is trying to move beyond this district. "They wanted to take over not just Achin but all of Nangarhar," said Haji Ghalib Mujahid, the Achin district chief governor. "Their plan was to attack first Achin, then Ghani Khel, and then Jalalabad. And they were well-equipped." Afghan National Army Col. Mohammad Jan Daryab commands troops in the eastern province of Nangarhar. Afghan National Army Col. Mohammad Jan Daryab commands troops in the eastern province of Nangarhar. Security forces stopped that attack and insist they have things under control. "Now the situation is better," said Afghan National Army Col. Mohammad Jan Daryab. "The Achin district... (More on P4)...(11)

Afghan Forces Kill 44 Militants within Day : Officials

KABUL - Afghan conflicts have claimed 44 lives of Taliban fighters in the southern Helmand and northern Kunduz provinces on Sunday, officials said. In the latest conflict which happened in Taliban former stronghold the southern Helmand province, 30 insurgents have been killed, provincial police chief Nabi Jan Mullahkhil said. "Scores of Taliban militants stormed highway police checkpoints on Helmand-Kandahar highway in Nahr-e-Saraj district at 10:00 a.m. local time today which triggered heavy gun



battle and lasted till 03:00 p.m. local time leaving 30 insurgents dead, forcing others to flee," Mullahkhil told Xinhua. Only one police constable sustained injuries in the firefight, which lasted for five hours, said the official. Crackdown against militants would continue until peace and security return to the area, the police chief said. The militants, according to the official, were attempting to block the road linking Helmand provincial capital Lashkar Gah to Kandahar but po... (More on P4)...(10)

Afghanistan Condoles With Russia over the Tragic Plane Accident

KABUL - The National Unity Government and former President of Afghanistan on Sunday have expressed condolences to the government and people of Russia over the tragic plane accident in which more than 200 people lost their lives. "As I said news of Russian passenger plane crash is confirmed, our thoughts & prayers in AFG are w/d families of those lost their lives," states post on the official



twitter account of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah. "We also extend our condolences to the people and government of the Russian Federation." Post on the official 'facebook' page of Hamid Karzai reads as: "With great regret, I received the tragic news about the crash of a Russian pas... (More on P4)...(12)

Taliban Kidnap four Civilians in Jawzjan



SHEBERGHAN - Taliban militants kidnapped four civilians from Qush Tepa District of northern Jawzjan province last night after accusing them of helping government. Deputy Police Chief of Jawzjan said on Sunday that Taliban have taken the abducted villagers of Jarqaduq village to an unknown location. Colonel Abdul Hafiz Khashi added that there is no information about the where about of the hostages but community elders are trying to secure their release. Reports suggest that the kidnapped civilians are not government employees but their sons were once soldiers of the Afghan National Army. Taliban had not commented on the report by the time it was filed. This comes as the leadership of Taliban always stress to fighters in messages to refrain from bothering or harming civilians. (KP)

Drone Strike Kills TTP Commander in Kunar



KABUL - A U.S. drone strike has killed a commander of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Shigal District of eastern Kunar province, the province's police chief said on Sunday. Brigadier General Abdul Habib Sayedkhalil said the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) targeted TTP militants in Choni Sar area of the Shultan area late yesterday. He said a TTP commander and along with one of his fighters was killed in the attack. This comes a day after a drone strike killed top al-Qaeda commander Bilal al-Taib in Ghazi Abad District of this province. Kunar on the border with Pakistan's restive tribal areas is a mountainous region with jungles where terrorists can easily hide, make nests and organize attacks against government and its international allies. (KP)

Unknown Gunmen Injured Four Engineers in Herat



KABUL - Four engineers of a construction company were injured in western Herat province after unknown gunmen attacked them, provincial police spokesman Abdul Rauf Ahmadi said on Sunday. "The incident has occurred on Saturday evening when four members of a road construction company were returning to the city from Pashtun Zarghon district of the province," Ahmadi said. According to the reports the engineers were attacked by gunmen who were riding motorcycles in Kort-e Neshin area of Guzara district. Police says three of these engineers are from Herat city and one is from Logar province of Afghanistan, and all of them were working for a private company. Mohammad Rafiq Shirzai, Herat regional hospital spokesman told to Ariana News that we have received three injuries as a result of this incident, one of the patients was discharged from the hospital while two others are under treatment. Herat is among the volatile provinces in Afghanistan where irresponsible and illegal armed groups are actively operating in a number of its districts. (ATN)

A 63-Year-Old Afghan Woman Died in a Refugee Camp in Croatia



KABUL - Domagoj Dzigulovic, a spokesman for the Croatian interior ministry said on Saturday that a 63-year-old woman from Afghanistan has died at Opatovac refugee camp in Croatia. The woman died as she arrived at the camp, before she had been registered. Domagoj Dzigulovic said it was the first case of a migrant or refugee dying at the Opatovac camp. The woman felt sick and was treated by medical staff, but died after attempts to revive her were unsuccessful, Dzigulovic added. Zobaid Fagiri, woman's 18-year-old grandson is sitting in the camp between the metal barriers. "I am from Afghanistan. I am coming here. My grandmother has died right now, here, because the way is not good. Because it is too, you know, cool (cold). I wait for my family. After that they are coming here. I go to (inaudible) after that we go to another state," he said. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Unresolved partnership issues make you more impatient as the days go by, and you might not know which way to turn now. You don't enjoy being caught in the middle of an emotional drama; in fact, you prefer to skip some of the required responsibilities that come along with a relationship. Nevertheless, you're still aware of the potential for growth.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Your desire to establish solid connections with others could conflict with your growing need for solitude today. This emotional dichotomy may be frustrating, provoking you to strike out at someone who is supportive of your goals. Luckily, your unexpressed feelings don't have to be the primary focus of the day if you take the time to reexamine your goals.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Thankfully, you could receive a much-needed reprieve from the recent hectic pace of your life. You may as well settle into the silence because you won't likely make much progress now even if you try. However, an unexpected emotional outburst on your part today might trigger someone else to overreact in turn. Honestly stating your needs as they arise allows you to avoid being sideswiped by your own unconscious feelings.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

The Moon's current amble through your nurturing sign may be the start of something new, even if you're not yet eager to forge ahead. Thankfully, you will have a good shot at reaching your goals as long as you take the extra time you need to explore all of your options. Pushing too hard could inadvertently stir up a hornet's nest of resistance today.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your friends may tempt you to play a round of Truth or Dare today, even if you know better than to engage in games when you have more important concerns on your mind. Their eloquent words inspire you to act more spontaneously, but the power of the present moment isn't all that matters when you have your hopes pinned on the future.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Take a few steps backward to reevaluate your long-term goals, especially if you feel pressured to initiate action today. Instead of being coerced into a bad decision, retreat to maintain your current position. You recently learned a valuable lesson and now you want to teach others how to achieve success. Integrate your feelings into your social interactions by sharing what's in your heart. Your wisdom can act as an emotional catalyst to inspire someone else's journey.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may face a stressful emotional dilemma while the moody Cancer Moon creates anxious aspects with several planets today. Your unexpressed negativity intensifies if you make light of what you are enduring. Although your defenses are likely strong enough to keep others at bay now, you'll feel better if you include your friends in your process instead of just trying to pretend you are okay on your own.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

It feels as if relief is on the way now, but there aren't any angels magically winging their way to your rescue just yet. Therefore, take precious care of your own heart as best as you can. Luckily, following your instincts won't likely steer you wrong today if you don't waste energy worrying about something you can't control.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You might experience a big disappointment today if you are seeking a logical reason for everything that happens to you. Unfortunately, quick explanations are not forthcoming now, turning up the volume on your frustrations. Thankfully, you can consciously shift your attention from your current discontent toward exciting possibilities in the future with a simple attitude adjustment.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

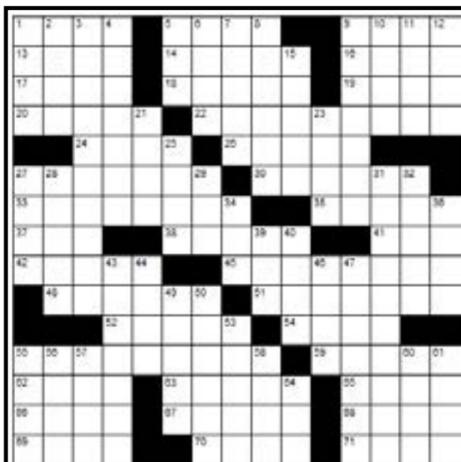
It seems as if the rug is pulled out from beneath your feet today if your partner withdraws just as you're ready to engage in a romantic dance. The emotional Moon's current visit to your 7th House of Relationships kindles the flames of passion, especially if you already have your eye on someone special. But your sense of urgency bends your energy out of shape.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

The odds are against you making it through the entire day without encountering a relationship drama. Spontaneously jumping in to help a friend handle an emotional crisis might be unavoidable since you can't ignore someone else's cry for help. Although it's admirable to support those you love, just be careful that your own agenda is not completely lost in the process.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

You wake up anticipating a day of fun, but you can't just run off and amuse yourself now until you have met your obligations. Family members may even apply peer pressure to keep you on the straight and narrow path. Don't give up on the idea of partaking in pleasurable activities today because you might be able to sneak out for a well-deserved break -- as long as you return to finish your responsibilities with replenished vitality.



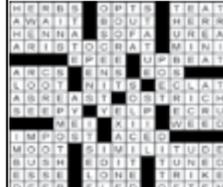
Across

1. Light bulb unit, 5. Possesses, 9. Powdery dirt, 13. River of Spain, 14. Trounce, 16. Goddess of discord, 17. Winglike, 18. Female demon, 19. A lustrous fabric, 20. A bodily fluid, 22. Abuses, 24. Legumes, 26. Style of interior furnishings, 27. Goon, 30. Spade, 33. Grant freedom to, 35. Donnybrook, 37. 52 in Roman numerals, 38. Blockade, 41. Legislation, 42. Hermit, 45. Turtle, 48. Interstellar cloud, 51. Coureur de bois, 52. Death notices, 54. Cooking fat, 55. Minor planet, 59. Balderdash, 62. Cartoon bear, 63. Boredom, 65. Corrosive, 66. Defeat decisively, 67. Kingly, 68. A tart spicy quality, 69. Type of sword, 70. Peddle, 71. If not.

Down

1. Welt, 2. With competence, 3. You jump up and down on this, 4. Underwater missile, 5. A wise bird, 6. "Pow!", 7. Bedouin, 8. Grins, 9. Merit, 10. Murres, 11. Sediment, 12. Sounds of disapproval, 15. Quilt part, 21. Angel's headwear, 23. Space, 25. Figure (out), 27. Body of a ship, 28. Scallion, 29. Japanese apricot, 31. Oval, 32. Rental agreement, 34. Mesh, 36. Pitcher, 39. Snagged, 40. Makes a mistake, 43. Hard rubber, 44. Country bumpkin, 46. Tight, 47. Perform surgery on, 49. About a US quart, 50. Makes amends, 53. Burn slightly, 55. Combustible pile, 56. Coil, 57. Chills and fever, 58. Twofold, 60. Skittles, 61. Border, 64. Sick.

Yesterday's Solution



absorbant, across, amazement, blood, boast, cant, cart, continue, control, crust, emerge, enough, hatch, hurry, juice, kernel, lean, leather, levers, lower, motel, ninth, reporter, rough, scorn, site, stall, steal, stork, theme, tryst, vapid, wafer, white, worst.

