

# Iran Voices Readiness to Assist Quake-Hit Areas in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham on Monday voiced Tehran's readiness to provide humanitarian supplies to quake-stricken people in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Iran voices readiness to assist quake-hit areas in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India

Afkham regretted a deadly earthquake which killed hundreds of people in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India on Monday, sympathizing with the people and governments of these countries.

Afkham prayed for the patience of the families of the victims, wishing immediate recovery for those injured in the disaster.

An earthquake measuring 7.5 on the



Richter scale shook Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Tajikistan. It was also felt in China, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. (IRNA)

## Afghan Women Launch Public Policy Journal

KABUL - A group of Afghan women have launched the "Women and Public Policy Journal" which aims to put forward the views of women and help strengthen their role in research and analysis.

Written by 10 female authors, the journal was launched on Thursday at a ceremony attended by the Afghan Ambassador to Spain Masood Khalili, a number of government officials and women's rights activists among others.

According to the authors, this journal will help strengthen the role of women in the areas of research and analysis and put across their views regarding different sectors.

"We want to gather women's views in different sectors and deliver them to planners in government, parliament and civil society," said Mariam Safi, the founder of Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies and editor of the journal.

Guests at the launch applauded the initiative and announced their support for Afghan women who fight for their rights. "You are not the girls that only hold ... (More on P4)... (15)

## More Than 500 Kg Explosives Seized in Logar



ASADABAD - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency has seized more than 500 kilograms of explosive materials in Kabul's neighboring Logar province.

A statement issued by NDS on Monday states that the 550 kilograms of explosive materials were seized during a raid from Pashtoon Abad village of Baraki District.

Two Kalashnikovs, military equipment and other terrorist materials were at the raided depot besides the explosive materials.

Terrorists had planned to use the seized materials for making bombs and other destructive activities.

Statements issued by NDs usually do not contain the exact date of the achievements but they come after recent activities. (KP)

## More Than 100 Afghans Arrested in Pakistan's Balochistan



KABUL - Security agencies have detained more than 100 Afghans in a raid in Balochistan province of Pakistan. Officials say the group of 108 Afghan nationals had illegally entered Pakistan in Nokkudin area of Chaghi District.

Pakistan toughened its crackdown on Afghan refugees after a deadly attack on an air force base in Badher area of Peshawar in September.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)-claimed at-

tack left 29 people killed, most of them military and air force personnel, and as many wounded. There are roughly 1,000,000 Afghan refugees who are residing illegally in Pakistan but they might be given legal status in near future.

The country is also housing around 1,600,000 registered Afghan refugees who are issued proper documentation to legalize their stay until the end of this year after which their refugee cards might be renewed. (KP)

## Security Forces Rebuff Taliban Attack on Chak District

KABUL - Security forces have suppressed a Taliban attack on Chak District of Maidan Wardak province.

A statement released by the media office of Maidan Wardak on Sunday states that security forces had pre-information about the attack and coordinated a response to it.

When Taliban launched their attack on Saturday night it was rebuffed, the statement adds.

A Taliban commander by the name of Zabihullah alias Abbas was killed and

two others wounded in the clashes. Security forces and civilians have not suffered harm during the clashes, the statement states.

Taliban have ramped up their attacks on security posts and other government installations following the announcement of their so-called 'Spring Offensive' in April.

They have been able to capture districts and large areas from government but lost them back to security forces after suffering heavy casualties. (KP)

## RCS Ready to Dispatch Rescue Teams to Pakistan, Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Head of Red Crescent Society (RCS) Seyed Amir Mohsen Ziaei in a message to his counterparts in Pakistan and Afghanistan declared Iran's readiness to dispatch rescue teams there.

RCS ready to dispatch rescue teams to Pakistan, Afghanistan He

condoled the deaths of scores of people in earthquake-stricken areas to his counterparts. Ziaei expressed sorrow over the sad event in the two countries.

He also expressed sympathy with families of victims and quake-stricken people.

... (More on P4)... (16)

## UN Human Rights Chief Condemns Attack on Afghanistan's Relief Staff

GENEVA - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Monday condemned a deadly attack on a bus carrying staff of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), saying that that attack is "disgraceful."

According to the UN human rights agency, earlier Monday morning the bus was struck by an explosive device in the eastern city of Jalalabad in Afghanistan, killing two AIHRC members and injuring six others.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. "I strongly condemn this disgraceful attack," Zeid said, adding that Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission is one of the country's most important institutions. Since it was founded in 2002, which has made valiant efforts to monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country.

"With the aim of improving the everyday life of all Afghans after decades of conflict and violations, AIHRC has done its best to resist pressures from Government and opposition alike as it goes about its difficult and dangerous daily work," Zeid noted.

Zeid described the attack as "cowardly and reprehensible," saying that this attack was first and foremost an attack on the Afghan people.

"I hope, despite the tragic loss of their staff, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission will simply come back stronger and more effective than ever, and the United Nations will do its utmost to help it do so," the UN human rights chief said. (Xinhua)

## Two AIHRC Staff Members Killed in Jalalabad Blast

KABUL - At least two Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) employees were killed in Jalalabad in eastern Nangarhar province on Monday when their vehicle hit a roadside mine, local officials said.

In addition, two other employees have been confirmed injured by police officials.

The incident took place at 8:30 am local time after the vehicle they were traveling in struck the IED, a spokesman for the provincial police chief, Hazrat Omar Mashriqiwal said.

"The blast happened while



the employees of AIHRC were on their way to their office," he said.

However conflicting reports have emerged that the injured toll was in fact four. Eyewitnesses said two people were killed and four were injured.

Officials at the Nangarhar

hospital said four injured people had been admitted to hospital.

They did not however provide further details.

Police have started investigations into the incident but no group including the Taliban has yet claimed responsibility. (Tolonews)

## 23 Taliban Insurgents Killed in Kunduz Clearing Operation

KUNDUZ CITY - At least 23 Taliban insurgents were killed in an operation in northern Kunduz province, local officials said on Monday. In addition, 11 other insurgents were injured. The operation was launched in Khan Abad district of Kunduz under name of "Tofan-e-Daham" (Tenth Storm). Five other insurgents were also arrested during the operation, a spokesman for the military forces in Kunduz, Ghulaam Hazrat Karimi



said. "The operation still continues in Aqtash area of Khan Abad to clear all insurgents," he said.

"Sixteen vehicles belonging to insurgents including two police vehicles which were stolen by them were

also destroyed in an air operation by military forces," said Karimi. However, he did not provide details about security force casualties. The Taliban have not yet commented on the operation. (Tolonews)

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)

You may be accustomed to the repetitive waves of energy that periodically surge through your life these days. But the Moon's current visit to your sign is another reminder of the big changes looming everywhere you turn. You are experiencing a bit of a cosmic roller-coaster ride today and could be easily overwhelmed by your emotions.

### Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

Social commitments are stacking up on your calendar, making you realize that you don't have much time to spare. You may need to clarify your boundaries by saying no if you've managed to spread yourself too thin. But it's not that you're choosing to be antisocial; it's simply that you have too much on your plate. Avoid unproductive distractions now.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You want people to believe that you're eagerly embracing the future. You might even pretend that all is perfect in your world today, but you're afraid of being harshly judged if you admit to holding onto the past. Although you're usually adept at steering clear of unnecessary emotional drama, your impulsive actions could inadvertently stir up an uncomfortable level of intensity now.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your urge to be spontaneous could be constrained by memories of a past rejection that arise when you swing into motion. Luckily, reviewing your personal history enables you to learn from previous mistakes and push through the current resistance. No matter what happens, taking the initiative boosts your self-esteem and gives you the courage to ask for what you want.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

A powerful surge of confidence inspires you to put an untried idea into definitive motion. You can do nearly anything you set your mind to while the Moon lights up your adventurous 9th House of Big Ideas. You have sufficient momentum to strategize for the future, even if you haven't yet processed the unfolding dynamics of the present moment.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You're craving new experiences today, but reality is telling you to hold your horses. You may be bound to promises you made in a relationship, but something happens that reawakens your desires and re-energizes your passion for living. However, you cannot just forget about your commitments and sail off into the sunset without letting others in on your plans. It's best to make drastic changes on another day rather than turning your life upside down.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Defining the line between love and codependency is particularly tricky now, especially because making other people happy comes so naturally to you. The Moon's emphasis on your 7th House of Relationships highlights how difficult it is to be completely yourself today when someone else's needs conflict with yours. Although honoring your heart might create a ripple of stress at first.

### Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

You're walking close to an emotional edge today, but it's wise to keep your feelings to yourself. Your patience has run out and you're on the threshold of doing something that you might later regret. There may be too much at stake to take an unnecessary risk now, so try working off your anxiety through physical exercise or hard work.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

You are sorely tempted to gamble with your heart because you're feeling lucky in love today. Maintaining a positive attitude is almost always a good rule to follow, but your sunny optimism might be too much of a good thing now. Putting your feelings out there won't necessarily lead to failure, but choosing a proven path improves your chances for success even more.

### Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)

Although you possess an ambitious plan to reach your goals, your foundation may be weak if you don't trust your perceptions. You might be so self-critical now that you assume you can't sustain your productivity as you move into unfamiliar territory. You could exhaust yourself before you reach your destination if you are pushing too hard.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

You may be spinning your wheels today, distracted by one little thing after another. However, karma gets you every time you wander away from your work and immediately sets you back on track. You don't have a lot of time to waste if you want to complete the tasks in front of you. Maintain clear intentions and stay singularly focused on your goals if you hope to accomplish everything on your list.

### Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You recently embarked on an exciting new path, but you could encounter complications today as someone blocks your way. In fact, the resistance you receive might make you wonder if you're headed in the right direction. However, there's no reason to get discouraged; the current obstacles are meant to help you get serious about your work rather than preventing any further progress.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-55.

Across: 1. Killer whale, 5. Performed, 10. Cogs, 14. Thug, 15. Sword, 16. Curved molding, 17. Reclined, 18. Car, 20. Implement, 22. Griever, 23. Letter after sigma, 24. Mentors, 25. Take apart, 32. Young people, 33. Not urban, 34. Bro or sis, 37. Leg joint, 38. Radiant, 39. Extinct flightless bird, 40. Eastern Standard Time, 41. A loose coverall, 42. Church council, 43. In an annihilative manner, 45. Marble, 49. Estimated time of arrival, 50. Convictions, 53. Double-reed instrument, 57. Jobless, 59. It ebbs and flows, 60. Rubber wheel, 61. Mountain crest, 62. Holly, 63. Collections, 64. More recent, 65. Vesicle.

Down: 1. Leer at, 2. A soft sheepskin leather, 3. Hairdo, 4. Footnote, 5. Calculator, 6. Hint, 7. Make lace, 8. Anagram of "Dome", 9. Audition tape, 10. Deadly snake, 11. Growing old, 12. Donnybrook, 13. Clairvoyants, 19. European blackbird, 21. Impetuous, 25. Dam, 26. Charged particles, 27. Cooking fat, 28. Grain disease, 29. A protective covering (Gardening), 30. Penniless, 31. Legislation, 34. A short musical composition, 35. False god, 36. Corpse, 38. French for "Friend", 39. Pertaining to a dynasty, 41. Broom, 42. Seats oneself, 44. A literate person, 45. Borders on, 46. Wish granter, 47. Siren, 48. Occasions, 51. Custard dessert, 52. Achy, 53. Mend (archaic), 54. Greasy, 55. Poems, 56. Following, 58. A type of evergreen tree.

Yesterday's Solution: armor, bane, belong, boon, brae, comfortable, controls, dies, domination, enjoyment, find, flush, force, front, hoard, hone, limitation, month, noon, oath, ocean, poise, prince, problem, retort, return, riot, sight, slash, slumber, steam, stork, tense, thud.

Word search grid with words: LGPOISETRAILY, TICKETANFNETS, ARMORERTOLIEL, PWSIRUBIBHUNA, ROETTETANOPSS, OCIEOATHZAREH, BERZNRTOURISM, LAYIOJKIRDNIF, ENMFORCEOTCGR, MOMONTHBTNEHO, DOJENJOYMENTN, CONTROLSTEAMT, BELONGSLUMBER.