



Afghanistan-Ireland Only Test Trophy Unveiled in Dehradun

KABUL - Modelled on 800-year-old Minerat of Jam, the trophy for the one-off Islamic Bank of Afghanistan Test match was unveiled at Dehradun on Wednesday.

Both skippers Asghar Afghan and William Porterfield were present at the trophy unveiling ceremony ahead of the Test match scheduled to get under way in India on March 15.

Located in western Ghor province, the Minerat of Jam has been built of bricks by the king of the time, Sultan Ghiyasuddin Ghor, 800 years back.

Asghar Afghan on the occasion said: "It is a moment of pride that Afghanistan hosts its first Test match and it carries a lot of meaning for us. Although, we lost our inaugural Test match to India last year but we will aim to play in the upcoming Test match with full strength."

Ireland captain William Porterfield said: "First and foremost, it will be completely different conditions [in the Test match] - our first Test match against Pakistan was a home game in Malahide in May whereas we are in Dehradun here in India in March. We will see how the pitch is in the next couple of days and expect it not to be very different."

Earlier, Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced the Test squad, calling up left-arm wrist-spinner Zahir Khan and seam bowler Syed Shirzad. The squad is: Asghar Afghan (capt), Mohammad Shahzad (wk), IhsanullahJanat, JavedAhmadi, Rahmat Shah, Nasir Jamal, HashmatullahShahidi, IkrAmAlikhail, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, WafadarMomand, YaminAhmadzai, Sharafudin Ashraf, WaqarSalamkhail, Zahir Khan, Sayed-Shirzad. (Pajhwok)

Kandahar Border Police Without Pay for 3 Months



KANDAHAR CITY - Border police personnel in southern Kandahar province have not received salary for the last three months or so, negatively impacting their economic situation. The border police forces say they are deeply concerned about the delay in salary payment and complain they already lack al-

lowances, equipment and supplies. Most of the affected border policemen are performing duty in Mar-roof, Arghistan, Shorabak, Registan and Spin Boldak districts. A few months back, President Ashraf Ghani ordered the Ministry of Interior to hand over the border police command to the Ministry of Defense, leading to the delay in sal-

ary payment to the border police forces. Border police third unit commander Col. Aminullah based in Marroof district told Pajhwok Afghan News that last time their salaries were delayed for six months and this time they were without salary for the last three months. He said the issue had increased...*(More on P4)...(13)*

5 Afghan Soldiers Killed, 10 Injured in US Airstrike



KABUL - At least five security personnel have been killed and 10 others wounded as a result of a US strike in central Uruzgan province, an official said on Wednesday.

A security source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News the American forces struck a security base in the Karez area of Tirinkot, the provincial capital, on Tuesday night.

He said a number of Afghan security forces suffered casualties in the raid. However, he did not offer exact casualty figures.

Abdul Karim Karimi, deputy chairman of the provincial council, said policemen and Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were stationed at the base. He informed five ANA personnel were killed and 10 others wounded in the overnight strike. A source in Tirinkot Civil Hospital confirmed receiving three injured soldiers -- one of them in critical condition.

Qais Mangal, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense (MoD), confirmed the incident but said policemen, not ANA soldiers, had suffered casualties.

However, the US military media office in Kabul rejected the claim as baseless, saying they would investigate the allegation. (Pajhwok)

Protestors Block Kabul-North Highway in Baghlan



PUL-I-KHUMRI - Residents blocked the Kabul-North highway in Khanjan district of northern Baghlan province on Wednesday in protest against the district police chief.

The protestors accused the Khanjan district police chief, Lt. Abdul Ghani Andrabi, of misusing his authority and government

resources in favor of his tribesmen. Abdul Ali, a resident of the district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they staged the rally against the district police chief because he was misusing his authority. He said: "Two families had a conflict a few days back and men belonging to the district police chief came...*(More on P4)...(14)*

2 Suspects Held in Mahasa Murder Case in Kabul



KABUL - The Attorney General Office (AGO) on Wednesday asked security and intelligence organs to share their reports with the office regarding the kidnap-murder case of a minor girl in Kabul. Mahasa, a six-year-old girl, was kid-

napped from the limits of 11th police district of Kabul city three days back and was killed by her kidnappers after her family failed to provide the ransom money. Ministry of Interior (MoA) deputy...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Today you might gather with some very smart friends at a coffee house for an intellectual conversation, Aries. Some fascinating ideas and useful information could be exchanged. Much of what is said could inspire new creative projects. If it isn't too late, walk home and clear your head or sleep may be a bit elusive tonight!

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

A fabulous career break could come your way today, Taurus. It could be a raise, promotion, or even a new job in a new field. It could also involve a completely different location. The work you will be doing may be unlike anything you've ever done before, and that's a challenge. Don't worry! Change is necessary.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

An unexpected release of tension could come today, Gemini. Something that has been restricting you and limiting your growth is going to disappear, and you will want to run through the streets shouting. From here on out, certain desires that have eluded you could start to manifest in your life. One of them could be a new romance. What else need be said?

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Some strange but wonderful things could be happening to you now, Cancer. Sheer luck could well be in the picture. Have you wanted to move to a nicer place? If so, now you probably can. Have you been expecting a bonus or settlement? Today it could be yours! Even your dreams are apt to be vivid, powerful, and very beautiful.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

A rather black mood that's been plaguing you since early morning could suddenly disappear when a business or romantic partner brings wonderful news your way, Leo. It could involve a goal that finally manifests that you may have given up long ago. If so, you could feel a little overwhelmed.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

If you've been concerned about your health for any reason, Virgo, today your medical professional could give you a clean bill of health. You will believe it, because you're likely to feel wonderful. Stress has vanished, at least for now, and your energy and enthusiasm are higher than they've been for a long time. Enjoy yourself. Go out with some friends. You've earned it!

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Creative energies are flowing like a river today, Libra. Ideas for projects should come thick and fast. You can't wait to get started. You may even formulate plans to market them once they're done. Love and romance should also be going well for you, as intellectual discussions could bring you and a current or potential love partner closer.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Dreams should shed light on some difficult issues you've been trying to resolve, Scorpio. You can finally make the problems disappear. This should be more than a relief to you - it's a blessing! Your friends might want to take you out to celebrate, but you will probably want to sit home and enjoy your newfound contentment.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You take great pleasure in a neat, organized house, Sagittarius. In your mind, cleanliness really is next to godliness. Today you may be dismayed by how run-down your home has become. It's time for some clearing out, dusting, and scrubbing. Do this yourself rather than hiring help. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much it helps you clear your head.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)

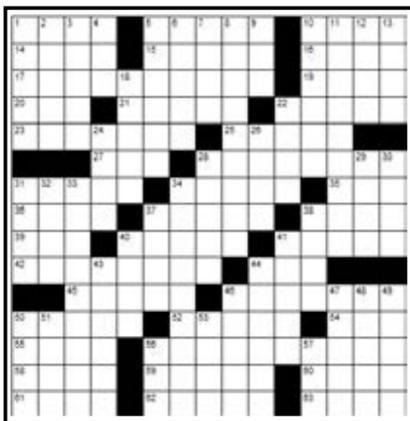
More than one call could come today with absolutely wonderful news! Exciting and wonderful changes are in the wind, Sagittarius, but you need to bear in mind that with the good news comes the unknown. Your life may be turned upside down. Consider if you really want to stay in the same rut for the rest of your life. Gird your loins and look forward to an adventure!

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Today you may wake up feeling energetic, enthusiastic, optimistic, and very happy, Aquarius. You may not be able to trace this to anything logical, so don't even try. Make the most of what's happening and use that energy to create the life you want. You might feel like you can move mountains, but for now you'd better concentrate on molehills.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Have you been feeling psychic lately, Pisces? Has a recent dream or premonition come true? Any insights that you receive today aren't likely to be clothed in complex symbolism - they should be easily understood. Write them down! You will want to check them later. Some of what you sense might be a little disturbing, perhaps involving a public figure you admire. Be prepared!



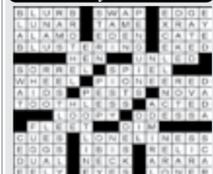
Across

1. Shoestring, 5. Plaster, 10. Printer's unit, 14. Distant, 15. Not together, 16. Nameless
17. Preachy, 19. Not this, 20. Mire, 21. Bay window, 22. Mountain crest, 23. Fables
25. Work hard, 27. Terminate, 28. Puffiness, 31. Tribes, 34. Future fungus, 35. Foot digit
36. Awestruck, 37. Donkey, 38. Horn sound, 39. "___ Maria", 40. 1/100th of a ruble, 41.
Mountain lakes, 42. Theater area, 44. An unskilled actor, 45. Half of six, 46. Tried out
50. Butter maker, 52. Not glossy, 54. Lyric poem, 55. Unusual, 56. A tornado over water
58. Beers, 59. French school, 60. A single time, 61. Nonsense, 62. Typewrote, 63. One who
colors cloth, , ,

Down

1. Young sheep, 2. Underway, 3. Freight, 4. Historic period, 5. Coupled, 6. Orbital point
7. Be worthy of, 8. A framework of metal bars, 9. And so forth, 10. Guard, 11. Heir
12. Jacket, 13. Blind (poker) 18. Groin, 22. Adept, 24. Lease, 26. Relating to aircraft,
28. Binge, 29. Midday, 30. Obtains, 31. Poop, 32. Magma, 33. Openings, 34. Domination
37. Drill, 38. Pack down 40. Composer Jerome ____, 41. Domesticates, 43. Flail
44. Intense dislike, 46. Inscribed pillar, 47. Bonkers, 48. Draw forth, 49. Discourage,
50. Fourth sign of the zodiac, 51. Angel's headwear, 53. At the peak of, 56. Damp
57. Detachable container, , ,

Yesterday's Solution



apron, battle, bonnet
braid, cedar, churl
clash depth, education
elope, encircle, finch
former gripe, hamper
hens, inside, mane
manipulation, mentor
perpendicular, pinch
plush, pound, prose

