See Inside

2-3. Community
4-5. News
6. Star Related
7. Literary
8. Interview

Interstellar (adjective): situated or occurring between the stars; conducted, or existing between two or more stars

Saturday, May 14, 2016 Vol. 1, No. 37

Can Your Credit Score Predict Your Romantic Future?
New research suggests that your credit score could influence a whole lot more than whether you qualify for a loan. It could even influence how successful you are in forming and staying in a long-term relationship. It turns out that your credit score has a strong... Page 2

An advice to the president
These days that everyone is just talking and writing voraciously, the advices will not be heard or considered but last following the tradition... Page 4

TUTAP Energy Project Sparks Political Infighting in Afghanistan
Central Asia has no shortage of critical, politically fraught, logistically challenging... Page 5

Uncle Vanya
We must live one lives. Yes, we shall live, Uncle Vanya. We shall live through the long procession of days before us, and through the long evenings; we shall patiently bear the trials that fate imposes on us; we shall work for others without rest, both now and when we are old; and when we are old; and when our last hour comes we shall meet it humbly, and there... Page 7

Interstellar Bulletin

Star Educational Society Weekly

Your Academic Global Passport!

A message from Jawad Muhannadi, the TOEFL/IELTS Program Director

Twenty million people have, so far, taken the TOEFL test and have found their ways to thousands of colleges, agencies, and universities. Offered in more than 165 countries, the TOEFL test has helped English as a Second Language students and individuals measure their progress in learning English. Universities and colleges make admission decisions from undergraduate to graduate and post-graduate degrees; immigration departments issue residential and work visas; and many medical and licensing agencies provide professional certifications. As reported, colleges and universities (including the World’s 100 Top Universities) which require standardized English language skills scores from their applicants, are more comfortable using the TOEFL test scores to enhance their understandings of science subjects and learn multiple computer and networking programs.

Star Educational Society has brought together elite groups of participants from across Afghanistan. The society’s everlasting intent and commitment to help these elite groups of students achieve their academic and educational goals, are solid since 1998. Its significant seventeen consecutive years of experience has provided 38,000 students with English language learning skills and educational services. Moreover, Star’s TOEFL department advisory team and successful preparatory courses have helped hundreds of individuals succeed in the test and win scholarships from high schools, colleges and universities across the world among which are numerous scholarships offered by United States educational programs such as the Fulbright.

Star’s TOEFL/IELTS Preparation Courses and Programs are designed for individuals who are pursuing educational and career goals to hone their abilities. This two-month program provides an intensive introduction to the TOEFL iBT, unfolds the mysteries of test taking strategies, helps students learn the cutting edges and practical skills...

Star’s TOEFL iBT Preparation Courses and Programs help applicants applying for scholarships and educational programs in 2016. The intensive TOEFL iBT Preparation Courses and Programs will help to boost your scores on the test and to pursue your educational goals. Take the first step toward the long journey of academic success by registering to take the TOEFL iBT, your Academic Passport, and reach the goals you have established.

Global Passport!

The first step toward a long journey of success had been taken. “Join Us For a Difference” held as its motto, Star has endeavored to help thousands of individuals acquire English language skills, students using the TOEFL test scores to enhance their understandings of science subjects and learn multiple computer and networking programs.

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New research suggests that your credit score could influence a whole lot more than whether you qualify for a loan. It could even influence how successful you are in forming and staying in a long-term relationship.

It turns out that your credit score has a strong correlation with how trustworthy you are. As the study shows, those who are irresponsible with their money may not be the best romantic partners.

Credit scores have long been used for many purposes, including rental and employment as an indicator of dependability and tendency to follow through on a variety of commitments, not limited to those involving credit.

Birds of a (credit score) feather flock together

The researchers found that people tended to enter into relationships with those who had similar credit scores.

The average credit score of the sample at the beginning of the study was 660. Generally speaking, the couples had credit scores within about 69 points of one another, while randomly matched strangers had credit scores with around 150-point difference. Those couples that had credit scores more than 66 points apart were more likely to split up about 2 to 5 years into the relationship.

Why do people tend to connect to others with similar scores? The researchers aren’t sure, but they speculate that people either ask prospective partners directly about their scores, or they observe (consciously or unconsciously) the characteristics that tend to correlate with credit scores.

The researchers also found similarities between partners in such information as bankruptcies, total debt, credit utilization, derogatory marks, credit inquiries, and length of credit history.

Good credit = good relationships

If you’re looking for love, your chances are best if you have a credit score between 750 and 800. People with low credit scores are up to 30% less likely to find that special someone.

Higher credit scores also predict more stable and longer lasting relationships. Couples who started out with higher-than-average credit scores and were together for at least two years were 37% less likely to separate.

Mismatched credit scores is a bad sign for the relationship

Those with significant differences in their credit scores tended to have difficulty accomplishing certain financial tasks, including finding a place to live, furnishing a home, and establishing savings. These issues could lead to financial problems that could end up straining the relationship.

Large discrepancies between credit scores tended to predict a likelihood of financial issues. Couples with very different credit scores were 19% more likely to file bankruptcy, 10% more likely to have their home foreclosed, and 15% more likely to have derogatory marks on their credit reports.

These financial woes proved to be a bad omen for relationships. After a bankruptcy, couples were approximately 50% more likely to split up.

Financial and family commitments

The moral of the story in this study is that financial and family commitments are not always as different as they may seem. A person’s financial dependability can be a good indicator of their general dependability.

“If you are in the mindset of looking for a long-term relationship, looking for someone to spend your life with, you want to talk about finances,” says Niem Green, founder and CEO of the dating site CreditScoreDating.com.

You need to make sure you and your partner are on the same page. You need to discuss your habits, goals, and what you want in a relationship. It doesn’t sound romantic, but it’s important that you know how you want to spend your life, and that you find someone who feels the same.

Can Your Credit Score Predict Your Romantic Future?
A woman, a leader and a hope

About the Author:
Kazim Ehsan graduated from Kurukshetra University in India with a bachelor’s degree in Commerce. He recently completed Star’s Teacher Training Course and works as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Toran Afghanistan Developmental and Educational Organization (TADEO).


“To be a leader, you ought to have courage and audacity to bring to action your potentials and fight with barriers and difficulties step by step in your life. This is the way to bring hope to the people,” said Zainab Atae.

Zainab Atae is an educational and women activist working for women economic empowerment in the province of Badakhshan. She is working as a teacher in Saif Shaheed High School and established her ‘Afghan Women Service Vocational Organization’ through which she wants to help women to learn vocational skills so that they can participate in economic activities of the society. This also will help them to contribute to earning the living for the families, and as such consequently supporting women positions in society. Around 100 women are attending her vocational center.

The path to reach to this point has never been easy to her. In a very conservative and traditional society, girls almost have no access to education. Years ago when Zainab Atae started her school, education for women was a strange phenomenon in Badakhshan, that is why she consistently struggled with her family and relatives resistance against her education and also fought against social prejudice and for girls’ education by inspiring and encouraging other girls to join the school.

“When I started school, education for girls was almost a taboo, only several families agreed to send their girls to school including my parents. Every day, on our way to school, we experienced harassment, misbehavior and insults; even people came to my family, asking my parents to take me out of school, however my parents never agreed with them. The problems and barriers that I faced neither sat me back, nor changed my decision, instead I stepped forward and encouraged more girls.”

Along with working for women’s education and women’s economic empowerment, Mrs. Atae is also a civil society activist, advocating for human rights, raising awareness and encouraging education amongst people in Badakhshan.

According to her, spreading knowledge, supporting women in economics, and raising awareness are the fundamentals for convincing the society to treat women as equal human beings.

“Now I am really happy that I am here, because I can work for my family, my children, and my society. No one from outside can change our destiny except we by ourselves can change our lives, our family and our society. I think we are solely responsible for our future, we cannot blame others for what happened or may happen to our lives. Today I feel stronger because I can teach more children to learn and gain knowledge and because I can help more women to learn new skills which will help them in building their lives. I hope, in the future, I can train women in more provinces in vocational skills. My dream is too see all Afghan women being free to go to schools and universities to study their favorite fields and to see women play crucial roles in the economic development of my country,” said Zainab Atae.

The Premier of ”From I through We to Community”

The premier of the documentary “From I through We to Community” which is produced by Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization took place on Thursday, 28 April 2016. The documentary is planned to be screened in four different places in Kabul as well as in Herat, Bamiyan, Balkh and Kandahar provinces.

From I through We to Community documents the journey of 24 young Afghan women and men in order to address ethnic conflict in Afghanistan at the grassroots level. More than 450 people watched the documentary inside the Argawan Hall of the historical Babur’s Garden in Kabul.

“From I through We to Community” aims to address the missing social trust and capital link- the social liquids and bonds that tie individual, groups and communities together, and that constitute the fundamental assets for peace, unity, ethnic integration and ultimately nation-building in Afghanistan. It shows how selected young Afghan women and men from four ethno-cultural communities come together to focus on building ties, trust and social capital at the inter-community levels. Through mutual visits consisting of a variety of complementary activities, they address the most salient misconceptions, misperceptions, and misinformation and stereotyping currently leading to the dehumanization of the ethnic “other”. It finally exposes how they overcome their own misconceptions and stereotyping in order to become the messengers of peaceful co-existence, ethnic and cultural tolerance in Afghani-
Advice to the president

These days that everyone is just talking and writing vacuously, the advices will not be heard or considered. But I, following the tradition of "Advice" which roots back to our ancient culture, want to address some points to the leadership of the National Unity Government, especially President Ghani.

1. The government should stop absolutism and should not rule on people despotically. They should share the logic of their decision with the people, civil society, experts, and convince the representatives of the people by logical reasons; and defend their decisions rationally and wisely. Like this, first the stability of the government will get increased, and also there will be noting in hands of opponents to criticize the government.

2. The logics of the government about transferring the TUTAP line from Salang are: first, the government reasons that transmission of electricity line from Salang Pass has greater economic benefits for the country. Second, it helps to balance the development of the country. Third, it is safe and secure. Fourth, it has the maximum satisfaction of the public with. Fifth, it is according to the logic of development and approved by experts and technicians. Sixth, transiting the power line from Salang will result to a maximum rate of brotherhood among the people of the country. So, if the government cannot prove these five reasons for its decision, the decision is irrational.

3. Until now, as it is clear, the decision of the government has none of the above mentioned features. Contrarily, these are the protestors who are consisting that the decision of the government is against findings of the technical survey, the root is; and finally the decision is unfair, discriminatory and inconsistent to balanced development. Today, the minister of energy and power of the government spoke with the utmost irrationality and frivolity; no reasons and justification, but the decision of the Cabinet. Such talk is good for the kings and despots, not a professional minister a democratically elected government. Ruling on ignorant people is the decision logically, the worst message to people is: a message of betrayal. In that case, even if they implement their decision, they are failed. We had many rulers who failed. Doctor Ashraf Ghani has the chance to be a victor ruler of this land. Therefore, if he thinks the decision is right, must invite all the protestors to a debate in Media, and after convincing the protestors implement the decision with no worries, and full support of the people.

4. If the Cabinet fails to defend its decision technically and logically, then, in the eyes of the public, the Cabinet’s decision will be counted discriminatory and remove policy. And this is not a stain easily be erased. This means that even the president yet, take a lesson from the bitter experiences of the past. And one who does not learn from the past, will be a lesson for the future generations. Taking a wrong decision is from the absence of reason, but to reconsider a wrong decision is the sign of consciousness of reason. Mr. President should not be afraid to change his mind, but to be afraid of wrong decision.

5. But if the government fails to defend its decision technically and logically, then, in the eyes of the public, the Cabinet’s decision will be counted discriminatory and remove policy. And this is not a stain easily be erased. This means that even the president yet, take a lesson from the bitter experiences of the past. And one who does not learn from the past, will be a lesson for the future generations. Taking a wrong decision is from the absence of reason, but to reconsider a wrong decision is the sign of consciousness of reason. Mr. President should not be afraid to change his mind, but to be afraid of wrong decision.

6. Summary of all these points is considering the interests and rationality to put and to the current crisis. In the current crisis, if the interests and rationality is considered, we all will lose; the country, the regime and more than any other, President Ghani.

Translation by: Jumakhan Rahyab
Source: Open Society

Seema Samar: Women’s Capacity Building Project

Ms. Seema Samar, the head of Human Rights Independent Commission appreciated execution of the project and stated that she hoped that the project shouldn’t be changed to a fake program. On Sawr Tuesday 21th, Ms. Samar stated in Developing Women Participation National Assembly in Kabul that the promote project should be continued in a serious political commitment. According to Bukhdi News Agency, The program was held by USA Development Office Kabul and active women from 34 provinces participated in. Ms. Samar further added that in this project, they will focus on quality not quantity and he program would be very beneficial for women. She added that it would be better than many women who can’t cat actively if they could train an active women. In the main time, Abdullah Abdullah the Chief Executive Officer, said that participation of women was very useful to increase unity and promote social revelation. Mr. Abdullah said that the attempts of US Development Office and women social activists are vital developing women social participation. Promote project which is for women empowerment in educational, anti-violence movement and economical self-supporting program is a shared project between America and Afghanistan. Mr. Abdullah, supporting the program said that it was a practical project to promote capacity of women but it shouldn’t be centered in central parts of provinces. He emphasized that the project should be applied accordingly in all parts of Afghanistan.

Translation by: Nadia Qasemi
Source: Halki-e- Sabah

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TUTAP Energy Project Sparks Political Infighting in Afghanistan

To go through Bamyan or Salang? That is the question

Central Asia has no shortage of critical, politically fraught, logistically challenging, and financially important energy projects. There’s the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline (TAPI) and the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), both of which have been discussed in depth here at Crossroads Asia and feature in an excellent recent podcast from RFE/RL. But there’s another project in the work that’s run into trouble.

A change in the route for the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUTAP) electricity project has sparked protests in central Afghanistan which moved to Kabul on Monday. Khaama Press reported Friday that thousands had gathered in Bamyan to protest the decision to route the project through Salang, rather than Bamyan. The project—financed by the Asian Development Bank under a less acronym friendly title—seeks to boost Afghan access to electricity. A major feature of the project is linking together the ten separate grids that currently provide electricity in Afghanistan.

In November 2015 energy sector assessment, the ADB writes that “Afghanistan needs a unified national electricity grid.” The document further comments that “different parts of Afghanistan’s networks are supplied as passive islands by power fed from Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.” The problem is that “because of asynchronous grid operations in these countries, the current network configuration is highly inflexible.” In order to connect power from one network to a neighboring one—allowing flexibility in supply and more efficient load dispatch—converter systems need to be installed. These “back-to-back” converter systems are part of the TUTAP project, as are energy transmission stations to link the grids together.

Earlier this year, Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish spoke out against routing the TUTAP projects through Salang rather than Bamyan. He pointed to a 2013 assessment prepared by Fichtner, a German engineering consultancy, for the ADB that recommended Bamyan for the project’s second line crossing the Hindu Kush—a 500 kV transmission line. “The Bamyan route will avoid the narrow space and difficulties along the Salang Pass, will allow connecting further generation by coal fired power plants along the route and will secure power supply of Kabul and south Afghanistan by using a separate route.”

It’s not clear precisely when the decision was made to switch from Bamyan to Salang. Khaama suggests it was made in a recent cabinet meeting, though Danish’s January comments indicate that the Salang route had been chosen previously. In addition, Khaama cites an unnamed source as saying that an additional transmission line—220 kV—is planned for Bamyan.

Nonetheless, the issue has dovetailed with wider tensions in Afghanistan and within the government. Mohammad Mohaqiq, CEO Abdullah Abdullah’s deputy, said the government rejecting public demands to use the Bamyan route “is a clear discrimination and bullying against the people of central provinces.”

Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), as TOLOnews reports, blames the previous government for the confusion about routes. DABS says it inherited the decision to go through Salang, meanwhile former Second Vice President Karim Khalili rejected the charge.

The 2013 assessment considers the constraints of the Salang route but nonetheless refers to the Bamyan route as an “alternative”—this seems to indicate that while the assessment recommended the Bamyan route, the plans were in place for Salang.

The benefits of the Salang route are financial, but the costs seem to be political. Protests occurred Monday in Kabul over the issue. Mohaqiq said “The people will not accept the recent decision made by the cabinet. They [people] will not remain silent until their demands are met.” President Ashraf Ghani has promised a review of the project plans, a guarantee of further stalemate.

One additional detail from the ADB energy sector assessment underscores why TUTAP is important. The project is fundamental to seeing the promise of CASA-1000 fulfilled. According to the assessment, “bulk export of energy is not possible and [Afghanistan] cannot serve as a transit system for transmitting electricity from Central Asian countries to South Asia.”

Determinations of New Supervisors of Ministry of Defense and National Security

Masoom Stanikzai was determined as supervisor of National Security and Abdullah Habibi was determined as supervisor of Ministry of Defense on Tuesday in a ceremony at Ministry of Defense by Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive Officer.

After the sharing their plans, Stanikzai and Habibi with the employees of the Ministry of Defense and National Security started their duties.

The Chief Executive Officer said that the enemies of Afghanistan should fear National Security and also public and politicians of Afghanistan should feel comfortable having National Security.

Mr. Abdullah also wanted people to help the National Security of Afghanistan and said that every citizen must help each other and live together in peace.

According to him, the Military and Security Administrations of the country especially the National Security must always be unbiased and must consider only the National benefits of the country.

“The door of peace is always open for those who want to join the peace process, otherwise they will be defeated”, said The Chief Executive Officer in accordance to peace plan.

In this case, Masoom Stanikzai, the supervisor of National Security, said that yet Afghan Forces face intensive terrorist attacks.

“The battle is not with a specific group in Afghanistan, it is with a network of terrorists that are supported by many intelligence agencies of many countries especially Pakistan”, he said.

Prior to this, Mr. Stanikzai was the supervisor of the Ministry of Defense for more than one year though he could not get the vote of Parliament for this position, he had been the supervisor of Ministry of Defense.
They believed that public school is not a right. Among the people, there was a wrong thought about public education because there was a big problem. Girls were prevented from going to school. This problem was founded in my village by the name of Aburayhan Albiruni. But still there was a resistance that they were against girls going to school. The problem of uneducated and somewhat traditional villagers who had lived there made me decide to send me to public school. That seemed an unusual act for other villagers. My uncle resisted the protests of my other relatives and negative public perspectives. He always tried to motivate the villagers and change their minds about girls' education. He always told people that they have the right to be educated and to have creative futures, too. Girls also have the right to learn education. The teacher was surprised and said happily, “It is great, dear Zahra. Welcome to our class.” Then, he showed me my place that was near the window.

Our class was a small class made of stones and the ceiling was made by wood. There were no chairs. I sat on the carpet like others. As the time passed, I made myself ready to deal with new challenges because I was the only and lonely girl in school and it was very hard. I faced many different problems during school. Even some of my maternal relatives were against me. They always said, “You are a girl. Remember, you should work and stay at home and do house chores... like doing the dishes and washing the clothes.” But I never gave up!

I thought no matter how people thought about me, no matter how bad the situation might become, I am still an amazing, beautiful human being! I convinced myself to be brave and positive. I told myself to be confident. I believed that one day this situation would change and one day I would see many girls in my school.

As the only girl in the school, day and night I worked hard in order to become the best student. My only wish was to become a successful person. I tried to encourage my family and the people in my village by working hard and having a great personality. After some time, my relatives who were against girls going to school realized that education can make people more aware of their surroundings. They began to support me in my learning. They tried to encourage other villagers to send their girls to school by commending the values of education. I always dreamed of the day I would see the other girls in my school.

Finally, the day arrived and everything changed. It was a sunny day. I left the house happily as usual. When I arrived at school, I saw many girls holding books and notebooks in their hands in front of the school. It was so unexpected! For several minutes, I thought that it was a dream. But it was real!

When they saw me, they came and thanked me. They told me that they were thankful to me, my respectable uncle and my family. They said that it was because of me and my admirable and brave resistance that they were now at school. Their parents encouraged them and let them come to school. I didn’t say a word. I just smiled with satisfaction and pride! I was very happy and felt really wonderful! Now, every year, many girls graduate from my school. And I am proud of myself that I went to school as the first girl for the first time from my village.
About the author: Hadi Zaher was the first graduate of Quetta's branch of Star Educational Society in the year 1999. He has an MA from the University of Wollongong in Australia and is currently a post-graduate student at the University of New South Wales.

The foothills. A villager named Sayed Ismail once set out to walk to the Paato mountains. He ran into a pack of bears. The bears chased him, mauled him, and squeezed his head up. The nearby villagers heard his screams and came to his rescue. He had been beaten so bad, he was unrecognizable for weeks. The villagers wrapped him in sheepskin to save his life. He survived.

Wolves and hyenas were the most feared of all the animals in the mountains. The hunted in packs, attacked cattle, and when they could, killed and ate villagers. One afternoon, as I and my mother sat in the cattle barn, I sensed that there was something running round and around the barn. I alerted my mother, she looked out and said that it was a wolf. We reinforced the barn door and windows to keep the wolf out that night. But wolves are persistent, and that night, that wolf or that pack tried to dig under the barn wall to get inside and eat. We saw a dig area and scratch marks on the wall the next morning.

On another night, I almost lost my daughter Habbiba to a hyena. She was probably 4 or 5 years old at the time. It was winter, the earth was covered in snow, and the men were busy sipping tea, smoking hookah, and reading the Shahnama. She had to go to the toilet, so I took her outside to the bushes behind the house. I was standing by and waiting for her to finish when I heard a growling sound. I looked up and saw this massive hyena running at us through the snow. It had its eyes locked upon us. I screamed as loud as I could. I grabbed Habbiba and rushed for the house door. I had barely made five steps before the creature outmaneuvered me. It stood right at the door, staring at me, growling. I was paralyzed with fear, my arms became numb, I couldn't scream. Habbiba fell out of my arms, and I fell on my knees. Your grandfather and my brothers ran out of the house with shovels and sticks in their hands. The hyena ran away and disappeared into the darkness.

Many years later, one day as I sat home in the Sun and sipped tea, I heard Sakina scream. I ran towards the barn to see what was wrong.

Look Aabay, the chicken is eating a snake!

I went closer and saw that a large snake and the chicken were facing off. I gave Sakina a stick and told her to stand at the door. I picked a stick and attacked the snake. It slithered into a heap of alfalfa. I kept striking the heap with the stick, and hit anything that moved. I kept going. I killed the snake. It was big. I could not even lift it with a shovel. I measured its length, and it was ten hand-spans long. Snakes make home where they find food, and because of that, if you find a snake, you kill it.

Aabay Malik from the village did voodoo healing to treat people out of illnesses, bee stings and snake bites. She and her son could catch snakes. She treated and helped many to recovery, but she couldn't save her own son. He had chased after a snake, and jumped into a pit full of snakes. The snakes bit him and wrapped around his legs. He had had to take off his Pyjamas to get the snake off. By the time he reached the village, his appearance had change. He had been bitten many times. His father and mother did these voodoo rituals and prayers for him for 4 days, but the venom had destroyed his organs. He kept spitting blood, and 4 days after the bites, he died. I was twice stung by hornets. Both times I had to have injections to save me. The first time I got a sting, I was sleeping in front of the old house on a warm afternoon. I felt a sting on my left side. I quickly got up, took off my shirt, and threw it away. There was a yellow hornet there. I put some medicine on it, and thinking not much of it, tried to get back to sleep. In the space of an hour and perhaps less, I felt sick, I began stuttering, and then vomiting. I felt nauseous. Your grandfather gave me an injection, and only then I felt better. Another time, I was cutting up firewood when I was stung on my hand. The same thing happened again. I became drowsy, nauseous and very sick. Your late grandfather gave me the injection, and it made me better. To this day, I am scared of hornets buzzing around.

*Shahnama - The Shahnama is a long epic poem written by the Persian poet Ferdowsi between c. 977 and 1010 CE and is the national epic of Greater Iran
degoh - farmer
watan - homeland
Aabay - mother
Disabled teenage painter hopes to become famous

An Interview with Robaba Mohammadi, an ambitious disabled painter in Kabul

Please introduce yourself and please explain how you learned to read and write without going to school? I am Robaba Mohammadi, a sixteen years old girl with disability. I did not attend school but I learned how to read and write. I did not have a regular teacher. No one was really seriously teaching me, while my brothers and sisters were doing their home assignments, I was very curious and kind of had the chance to read together with them. So I know it was my self-motivated passion for learning that enabled me to learn to read and write.

What motivated you to start drawing? Drawing is an art and everyone has special talent in doing something. Well, when my siblings were going out to different parties I was alone at home and I was unable to do anything to keep myself busy and entertained, so I would always feel lonely and depressed. It was around this time when I decided to do something, something of interest more than writing the drab and tiring alphabets. Lines of the crosses, down and then cross, down and then cross were boring me, I wanted to draw the lines the way I wanted. This is how painting opened new window for me. I could make me happy and hopeful. I want to draw beauty, happiness, joy and positive emotions. This is what I need and what everyone in poor society like Afghan need.

How long have you been busy with drawing? I started long time ago but it is a year that I am continually drawing. At the beginning I didn’t realize the value of drawing. I used to draw something and then eventually through it to trash or discard it in different ways, but now I keep all of my drawings, I feel they are parts of me. I can say my drawings are like my soul in my body.

How did you realize that you had a special talent in drawing? Well, it was hard at the beginning and my mother didn’t let me draw anything, especially human beings, because she thought it was religiously bad, my mother often said, “You will be responsible for giving soul to your pictures in the dooms day!” Or she was telling me why I was bothering myself and my dreams are with me. Nobody can stop me to draw. This art is more than just an art for me; it is a way to survive and be hopeful.

What is your biggest goal? Knowledge is being aware of what you can do. My biggest goal is to learn how to read and write better and I want the “Ministry of Disabled” and the “Human Right Commission” can help me and other disabled people in that regard. And my second goal is to exhibit my drawing in Aga Khan Museum in London, I want to become a professional and famous painter one day.

What is the greatest source of motivation for you? I am disabled teenager and my hands and feet don’t work but I feel I can do something when I see the addicts I feel I can do something better than them like drawing something. I often compare myself with those and say those addicts despite having hands and legs give away with their life and end up like a parasite, I don’t want to be a parasite. So I continue my drawing to be able to support myself financially and spiritually in the future.

What is your purpose in drawing? Drawing makes me happy and I am going to continue different steps of drawing. Drawing makes me express my happiness. When I am alone at home it keeps me busy. Now I feel I am not a girl who is disabled any more. Now I am not alone any more – my drawings and my dreams are with me. Nobody can stop me to draw. This art is more than just an art for me; it is a way to survive and be hopeful.

Are you happy with this art? Of course I am happy and I am going to continue different steps of drawing. Drawing makes me express my happiness. When I am alone at home it keeps me busy. Now I feel I am not a girl who is disabled any more. Now I am not alone any more – my drawings and my dreams are with me. Nobody can stop me to draw. This art is more than just an art for me; it is a way to survive and be hopeful.

About the interviewer: Ferehsta Hayati has been an English teacher at Star Educational Society since 2009. She graduated from Ibn-e Sina University in Kabul with her Bachelor’s degree in law.

What is your message for young people especially for Interstellar Bulletin readers? I want all of them to spend their time, talent and body strength in creating, drawing and building the country. I am thankful to God for his blessings and try my level best to use them in a way that pleases him. I want you never to give up, life goes on and it does not stop. Raise your head and believe in your abilities. And finally as my final words I would like to extend my gratitude and convey my heart-felt thanks to Mr. Aziz Royesh who took me Marefat High School and gave me the greatest memory of life, it was the first time that I had ever entered a school in my life. In addition, I thank Mr. Ali Reza Yasa who plans to arrange English classes for me. These two leaders have done great works for our people and it pleases me to find out that they keep helping our people. I want everyone to continue their education and spend their time in the best way possible.

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Saturday, May 14, 2016
Vol. 1, No. 37