Star Educational Society started serving Afghan society, which was suffering from the swelling flames of segregation, mental darkness and social unawareness, with the motto “Join us for a difference.” So far, Star, as a language institution, is executing its portion effectively, boldly and decisively to rescue our society, promote our social awareness and connect us to the universe. The main goal of Star Educational Society is to literally develop our culture and civilization. Star with its unique motto has remained an efficient institution since its establishment.

Teaching English in a different and effective method is not the only fact that makes Star a different and better place where people can hone their linguistic and communicative skills. Star as a small cultural community creates a fruitful environment which can enhance inner talents, social skills and cultural potentials. Since Star’s efforts caused social, economic and educational changes in Afghanistan, it is known as one of the top institutions in the country.

Star’s Interstellar Bulletin is an obvious example of Star’s cultural work. The Interstellar Bulletin gives the opportunity to those with great willingness and demand to put their ideas into writing. Many interesting and brilliant stories, personal essays, interviews and translations are being published on Interstellar Bulletin’s fascinating pages. I am glad to say that after facing many challenges and achievements, with the contributions of Interstellar Bulletin devoted writers and readers and the back-breaking efforts of Ali Reza Yasa, Kara Lozier and Jonathan Greenburg, we are celebrating the first anniversary of Star’s Interstellar Bulletin. May God help us all to do better and make the Interstellar Bulletin the best.

Shahrzad Monthly, published in Dari language, is another legacy of Star. It mainly focuses on English to Dari literary translations and Dari literature. Therefore, Shahrzad Monthly is a unique opportunity for Dari poets and Dari story writers. The culture of a society is the identity of that society, this means that a society with no culture has no identity. So, Star is doing its best to enhance and enrich our culture. Star opens golden gates for those with great enthusiasm for higher and better education. It paves the way for the young generation of Afghans to be in touch with the universe. In addition, it maximizes their access to reliable educational and scientific sources. Many of Star’s talented students can find their way to achieve their dreams and pursue their higher education. Qamar Nisa, who lives in the slums of Kabul and was able to make her way to study in the US, is a great example of how Star can change the young generation’s life in Afghanistan. Star can also be explained as a successful channel through which our young generation can meet the advanced civilizations and quench their thirst for education. If we need to expose our culture and have cultural exchanges, we need to know the language of the subject culture. Therefore, English, as an international language, can integrate traditional societies into the civilized societies in the world. Similarly, it can help Afghan society become more civilized and modernized. To be a member of the universal community, we need to know the language spoken in the international community. A society will be radical and limited in the traditional boundaries if it can’t communicate with the world. So, Star helps our generation to cross the traditional boundaries and take a position in what we call the global community through which we make a brighter and more peaceful future.

What makes our life easier and more interesting and causes us to decrease time consuming tasks is technology. Star promotes accessibility and use of new technology among young generations through teaching them the language of technology. The less access we have to technology, the less modernized and developed we are. On the other hand, getting modernized and globalized seems difficult without having access to technology. Thus, I can dare to say that Star plays a vital role in acquainting our generation with technology and the use of technology.

Overall, Star as its motto says, “Join us for a difference,” is a community that has changed the life of our young generation and will continue to do so. No one can ignore the efficiency of Star as a cultural and linguistic institution. Star has always been a sample of persuasion, motivation and assiduousness and will remain so.

Star Educational Society Weekly

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I awaken at dawn to the sound of the call to prayer as if the loud-speaker from the nearby mosque is mounted to my... Page 2

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The inauguration of the first journal of literary translation in Afghanistan
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I awaken at dawn to the sound of the call to prayer as if the loudspeaker from the nearby mosque is mounted to my bedroom window. At first I am foggy-headed and then gradually increasing clarity of mind. The morning sun slowly brightens my room penetrating the sheer white curtains with black embellishments. I lie in bed cherishing those last moments under the warm covers and listen to the community waking up outside my third floor room.

Roosters crow. Birds begin to sing softly. Steigh bells chime to the beat of the clapping hooves of the horse who wears them—first softly in the distance, then louder, and then softly again as they fade into the alleys and pathways leading toward the rising sun. Laborers also begin to venture toward the main road in search of a day's work.

Outside the beautiful walled garden filled with fruit trees and foliage, dogs sniff and paw in the field of ditches, deep puddles, pedestrians and stray dogs who don't get out of the way. Fruit and vegetable sellers meticulously arrange their colorful products—polishing them with a cloth, dusting them with a gently swinging rag all while talking to their neighbors and greeting familiar passers-by. Old men sit in doorsteps and on sidewalks drinking tea and quietly watching the activity outside those doors and windows. The familiar burqa-shrouded woman parks herself on an empty patch of pavement like bookends on the north and south ends of the Pol-e-Sukhteh bridge. The shoeshine man sits near his shop on the corner. Traditionally-dressed and western-dressed men and women jockey through traffic, along the crowded sidewalks and across the busy intersections. The city is awake, alive and teeming with activity. Somehow, the mood seems tranquil as it does at all times of the day. In spite of the overpopulation, pollution and constant disorder, I never saw people in the streets get angry or aggressive or foul-tempered.

After the bridge, we take an immediate turn to the east and follow a back road along the polluted Paghman River to avoid the intermittant traffic jam on the main road. As we approach the campus of Star Educational Society, more and more young people are walking along the street carrying bookbags and notebooks and talking cheerfully. They follow us into the courtyard where throngs of fresh-faced, stylishly-dressed high achievers await their morning English classes and dream of changing the future for their families and their country.

[1] A sufra, also known as a dasterkhan, is a plastic cloth that is laid on the floor like a tablecloth.
Social media is becoming an intrinsic part of urban life in Afghanistan and Afghan youth are increasingly using social websites and weblogs on the internet for wider communications and debates on all kinds of social and political issues. The idea in general is to support social media use in Afghanistan, while also to empower increasingly connected Afghans to speak up and have their voices heard. According to the Ministry of Communications and Technology, 8.6 percent of Afghans population uses internet. Of those, about 63 percent are estimated to use social media on a regular basis. Internet access is also expensive in Afghanistan, although prices have recently decreased thanks to the expansion of a fiber optic network, supported by the World Bank and other international donors, that has a 65 percent complete. However, plans to connect all 34 provincial capitals with fiber optics have been stymied by insurgent activities in the restive south and east of the country. Though internet use remains low, there has been a significant advancement in access since 2002, when most Afghans had to rely to neighboring countries just to make a phone call. However, the battle to increase usage is unlikely to be won quickly, especially due to its economic and social challenges. According to Rogeya Ahmadi, research based in the north western city of Herat, about 75 percent of Afghans live in rural areas with little or no access to reliable electricity supply, let alone computers or the internet. Only 41 percent of the country has reliable electricity. Therefore, claims made by the government that more than half of the population has a mobile phone and four companies offer 3G services be tempered by an observation that not all users can keep their phones charged at all times. Literacy rates are also a concern and one of the factors of internet in Afghanistan although media strides have been made with more girls attending school. Official statistics released by the government shows that only 43 per cent of women can read and write.

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Developing media city by city: The first media centers were established in Kabul and in Herat. These media centers provide tools and training in everything from basic computer use to advanced multimedia editing. They are open to the public, small business owners and civil society organizations. People have started visiting the centers for training in digital photography and videography. Multimedia is the cornerstone of many educational initiatives was very important for a country like Afghanistan, especially after three decades of war. It has proven to be an effective way to increase people’s knowledge and to expand their vision of what they can do with their new knowledge in community centers are an excellent idea, and would greatly increase exposure of local citizens to the tools and training needed to make high quality, high impact media sources. The current plan is to open at least three more centers in other provinces like Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad, and Kandahar, with the long-term goal of creating a nationwide network of community media centers.

New media in Afghanistan

Afghanistan held its first social media summit in 2013 in Kabul. Although there may be few Facebook users in war-torn country at the moment, proliferation of social media has provided its youth with fertile ground for self-expression. With 65 percent of the population under 25, and on-going crucial political transformation following the 2014 presidential election, it was a timely moment for young people to find their voices.

The impact of new media and social media in Afghanistan has been proven more than once. For instance, a documentary film that portrayed the poor treatment of Afghan women had recently ignited heated online debate, and had been posted and reposted on Facebook and other social platforms. Meanwhile, a national talk show host caught wind of the storm brewing around the film and held a debate on the issues depicted in the documentary, under the theme: “change is not easy in Afghani- stan. But it’s not impossible.” Despite these obstacles, Afghan youths, civic activists and politicians see the potential for social media to become a major forum for public engagement. It is also a good opportunity to strengthen the fledgling democracy and achieve long-lasting peace – something the people of Afghanistan deserve after pro-longed years of war and destruction.
News

Damn, Can We Let Malia Obama Live?

Written by: Evelyn Atieno
Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/evelyn-atieno/damn-can-we-let-malia-obama-live-_b_11286818.html

Over the weekend, the Internet was outraged that Malia Obama decided to go to the annual music festival Lollapalooza instead of the Democratic National Convention. Let’s be honest here, Malia is an 18-year-old teenager. As a teenager myself, I would have preferred a music festival over the DNC. The problem is people hold Malia to such high standards, because of course she is the daughter of the president of the United States and also because she is black. Mainly the people outraged about her having fun are Republicans. Many conservatives find any reason to criticize the Obama family — whether it’s Obama’s failure to fulfill many of the promises the Obama family — whether it’s Obama’s failure to fulfill many of the promises he announced during his presidency. She has lived up to the standard of a good presidential daughter. She decides to have fun one time, and people are up in arms about it. She has always worked hard to have an admirable reputation. It shouldn’t be overshadowed by her enjoying herself at a music festival.

Dear Sasha and Malia, I get you’re both in those awful teen years, but you’re a part of the First Family, try showing a little class. Rise to the occasion. Act like being in the White House matters to you. Dress like you deserve respect, not a spot at a bar.

This isn’t the first time people have been outraged by the Obama daughters. In November 2014, GOP staffer Elizabeth Lauten wrote on her Facebook: “This statement was met with criticism, and she resigned. People hold Obama’s daughters to a standards that not even the past children of the prior presidents could achieve.

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During George Bush’s presidency, his daughters Jenna and Barbara Bush had a reputation for being unruly party animals. Photos of Jenna drunk and on the floor would circulate on the Internet. In 2001, Jenna Bush was charged with an underage drinking charge at 19 years old. Many regarded them as Secret Service nightmares. Yet the Republicans weren’t outraged about this. The media now is too busy trying to vilify Malia Obama, who has always been a classy young lady. Malia is at the same age as the Bush girls were, and she has not done any of the things that they have done.

Malia never asked to be in the spotlight. At a young age she was thrust into the spotlight when her father announced he was running for presidency. Since then she hasn’t been able to get much privacy. During her college visits last year, a photo circulated of her playing beer pong. As a teenager that’s a time-honored tradition. The outrage was unwarranted. It seems that anytime Malia is actually enjoying herself, people are outraged. There’s no reason why Malia should be viewed as a puppet. She is her own person; she isn’t Barack and she isn’t the White House. She shouldn’t be viewed in such a way. She is on her way to Harvard next fall — an accomplishment many wish they could achieve. She has a good head on her shoulders and parents who have taught her so much class.

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Yes, Malia is the daughter of the president of the United States, but before that she is a teenager. She shouldn’t be hindered from enjoying herself because of who her father is. She shouldn’t be confined to a cage just to appease others. Malia is an adult now, at 18 years old, she is able to make her own decisions and we should respect that. Damn, can we let Malia Obama live?

Black people have to work 10 times harder to get the same things white people have — one of them being respect. Malia has always been meek and now the behavior of their children alongside her dad during his entire presidency. She has lived up to the standard of a good presidential daughter. She decides to have fun one time, and people are up in arms about it. She has always worked hard to have an admirable reputation. It shouldn’t be overshadowed by her enjoying herself at a music festival.

These complaints are always unwaranted and laced with racist undertones. Never before have they put so much pressure on such a president over things so unrelated to what’s important... like politics. Black people have to work 10 times harder to get the same things white people have — one of them being respect. Malia has always been meek and now the behavior of their children alongside her dad during his entire presidency. She has lived up to the standard of a good presidential daughter. She decides to have fun one time, and people are up in arms about it. She has always worked hard to have an admirable reputation. It shouldn’t be overshadowed by her enjoying herself at a music festival.

Mullah Mohammad Karim, sixty year old man who married a six year old girl was arrested by security force in the center of Ghor province. Mohammad Karim claims that he received the girl as a religious gift from her parents. However, police say that the girl’s parent who live in Heart province strongly deny the claims made to the police in Ghor, and they say that the girl was kidnapped. They were shocked when they have been informed about their daughter. As Deutsche Welle reported, Masuma Answare, the dean of Women’s Provincial Affairs in Ghor said that the girl was afraid of Mullah and she even couldn’t talk. She has got trauma. According to local authorities, the girl is safe in a shelter in Ghor province now.

Before, a pregnant Afghan girl was burned to death in Ghor. The family of 14-year-old Zabra claimed she was tortured and set on fire by her husband’s family. But criminals rejected the claim and said that Zabra burned herself. These shocking pieces of news raised public rage in Afghanistan.

Afghan Mullah kidnapped girl, 6
Translated by: Shaista Langari
Source: 8 Sobh

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People waiting for fair trial
Translated by: Mohammad Asif
Source: 8 Sobh

Yesterday, the attorney general of Afghanistan announced that the case of convoy attack on university students of Maidan Wardak has been finalized and this case will be sent to the justice. They have announced that Khalil Andarabi’s and Sarjang Khan’s cases have as well been finalized and will be sent to the justice too. Until now, none of the cases where there has been involvement of government authorities has been sent to the justice but this time these cases will be sent so that the promises government make should be brought into action.

Attack on the student’s convoy has raised many questions as why there had not been serious attention to the security of these students. Who had commanded this convoy to move? Why was there not any serious reaction to the reports given to the MOI? And the people are waiting for the answers of all these questions. Authorities have been irresponsible, reckless and negligent towards their duties and people are waiting for a fair trial.

Forum of two police officers who are having strong relation with Taliban and Wardak police commander are guilty of transferring a Taliban commander in one of the police vehicles. The police commander who is involved in such cases should be tried soon. If the government didn’t pay attention to this case seriously, its legitimacy would be affected seriously. The police officers who are serving honestly to protect their country will lose their motivation providing that government should not consider the infiltrator factors seriously.

People want that report on Maidan Wardak student’s convoy attack should be revealed and should be clarified why the government failed to provide them security. Moreover, people want that government authorities should be honest with what they say. As the result, people will have more trust on Afghan government. Trial of the infiltrator factors among Taliban should be public and should be corresponding to the reports of the research team about Maidan Wardak student’s convoy attack.
Corruption is Crime in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is known several issues in the international arena for the years. During these years Afghanistan became famous in different activities in the world. Firstly, war and desolation endangered Afghans lives. Secondly, overall 90% of narcotic is produced in Afghanistan. Thirdly, Afghanistan has been holding the second and third place for several years in the world. Governments after September 11th tried a lot to stop the negative reputation or to show that they try to do so. But still by having this three major pillars Afghanistan is well-known for drugs and crimes in the world.

After establishing democratic governments, the international community financially helped Afghanistan to reconstruct. The money was given to develop their lives, but because of corruption in Afghanistan, only few people benefited, the rest are like the past. Fighting against the corruption in Afghanistan faced different approaches. Many independent organizations and commissions have formed to fight against corruption. Some experts believe that they have not had any good results. In the year 2010, after London’s conference, according to the commitments that Afghan government had with international community to fight against corruption and has formed an independent committee to control and evaluate fighting against corruption. This committee has organized six Afghan and foreigner, commissioners. The committee has responsibility to evaluate the situation and find the corruption channel in government offices.

Mark Paiman one of the commissioners said to the Hashet-e-Sobih that that committee had been formed by the order of president of Afghanistan but it had independent international and internal activities and to evaluate and control the government’s output and efforts of international community fighting against corruption. According to Mark, monitoring committee’s activity had no executive positions and aspect required, rather, this committee had evaluated twenty researches in different organizations some of which had important profiles like corruption in Kabul Bank and some of which were not famous. Mark said that they would evaluate and control four categories of people. First the public opinion which experiences the corruption daily. Second category is international community that starts discussing about corruption, though, they did not find any acceptable way to fight against corruption. Third category is government’s positions that caused a lot of corruption because of lack of skills. We would visit president and ministers and governmental positions to find good solution for corruption. The fourth category is minister and its’ teammates to apply our suggestion. Mark said that committee has some teams to evaluate the effects of our suggestions. As Mark believed in three to four in the past years, people knew about the result of corruption and he was optimistic about the situation.

Afghanistan: In the top of human trafficking list

According to the reports of a research organization, Afghanistan is the second country in the world after Syria in human trafficking. This research organization claims that Afghan Government promised to avoid human trafficking but they didn’t consider it as a priority.

Ahmad Basher Safi an official at Assistance and Fast Development Organization says that Afghanistan had the second position among countries where human trafficking still continues in 2004 through 2009 again in 2016. Mr. Safi added in a program to celebrate World Day against human trafficking which was held by IIS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that Afghanistan was the second country in the list of human trafficking in 2004 through 2009. Subsequently, Afghanistan was put in the Watch List from 2010 to 2013. Although we were optimistic about Afghanistan’s development in 2014 and 2015, no change was brought and Afghanistan became the second country in the list in 2016 once again.

During 2015, many Afghans endangered their lives and immigrated illegally to European countries either individually or in large groups. According to the statistics of Ministry of Refugees in Afghanistan 250 thousand Afghan citizens left this country for European countries in 2015. Since the beginning of 2016 around 40 thousand emigrant left Afghanistan for European countries.

The officials in Assistance and Fast Development Organization say that International Community didn’t assist Afghanistan seriously in human trafficking. Ahmad Shahir Safi says that International Community should cooperate Afghan to avoid human trafficking.

Afghanistan Forces to defeat Taliban

Local officials in Helmand province have announced that Afghan Forces are ready to defeat Taliban in Nad Ali district of Helmand Province. Nad Ali district has been under control of Taliban Forces since Tuesday 2nd of August.

Hayatullah Hayat, Governor of Helmand said in a meeting with local security officials of Helmand province that they had enough ability and force to free Nad Ali district and they would start withdrawal operations as soon as over the years. Hayat added that some commando forces had arrived Helmand province.

Governor of Helmand also asked local officials to pay close attention to civilians while withdrawing Taliban out of Nad Ali district. He literally added that Taliban would be removed from all parts of Nad Ali district in the near future.

Meanwhile, Mohyaddin Salim Ehsas, Senior security deputy manager at Ministry of Interior Affairs, leading a group has gone to Helmand to check the security situation.

Helmand province, located in the south of the country, has witnessed insecurity in the recent days and even some districts like Nad Ali had fallen into Taliban’s control.
On Thursday, May 12th, on the verge of the release of the second issue of Shahrzad magazine, the inauguration program of this publication was held at Star Educational Society in Kabul.

Dawood Naji, the head of Afghan Research and Social Studies Institute, said, “Every individual in each country has a different experience of living, both in individual and collective aspects, and translation helps us in connecting to diverse resources in different languages. Even many conflicts and wars are rooted in the differences in lived experiences. Translation erases those differences and helps us to better understand each other.”

He continued, “Translation makes it possible for us to use the experiences of the world and move together with the knowledge progress, not to experience again what the world once did before us.”

Translation expands our world and views. Qasim Wafayeezada, a researcher, says of the importance of translation that the more languages you learn, the more your world will expand and as more language you learn you expand your world and understanding. The story of the human society and sub-cultures today are the same as the story of Rumi. Every owner of a different language says the grape in his/her own language while all meant the same thing. The spirit of humanity and human values are more similar than different, but the lack of translation has caused many cultures to remain secluded.

According to Wafayezada, the language of modern science is neither Arabic nor Persian, but there are other languages that must be learnt. Because if you cannot produce knowledge in language that is commonly understood in the world, this means that you have written for your family. So if you want to have a part in the cycle of science, you must translate.

In addition, Mr. Wafayezada pointed out that translation helps in the evolution of a language, and preserves literature in dying languages. “Sanskrit is a forgotten language, and no one speaks Sanskrit anymore, but the book of Kalila and Damna became a lasting work being translated from Sanskrit to Persian. Today if an Indian wishes to read this book, he should find the Persian version and translate it to his own language. Translation preserves the literature of a language, even if one day the language is forgotten,” he said.

Noting that Shahrzad is the first publication works on translation, Mr. Wafayezada added, “The publication of Shahrzad monthly is a positive step toward developing professional translation. As Westerners enjoy the translations of poems by Khayyam and we enjoy Shakespeare and Voltaire, translation can lead to the evolution of Persian language and make it more dynamic.”

Qanbar Ali Tahish, a prominent poet, said, “By publishing Shahrzad, Star Educational Society has done a great job to fill the gap of translation in Afghanistan, which the government had to do so long ago.”

Maryam Shahi, the editor of the Shahrzad hoped that that Shahrzad would help to transform culture and lead to more capacity in the professional translation field. She said, “We have a variety of literary and cultural magazines in Kabul, but we do not have one to work on translation. Most translation work has been done by Iranian translators, and there is no work translated by Afghans. Because no one in Afghanistan has worked on translation professionally, we are still unfamiliar with the techniques of translation. This publication should help develop that capacity.”
The birth of son was cause for celebration; the whole family celebrated the birth of a male heir. Daughters were no heirs; at every opportunity the parents reminded the daughters that they were inherent outsiders, born to one family but belonging to another one, that of their husband’s.

The mother, herself a daughter once, was the happiest at the birth of a son. By giving birth to a son, she had met the expectations of her in-laws, and assured the succession of the family lineage. Women from the village gathered at her home for shawshini, to sit up all night, and dance and sing and celebrate. I could not go; I do not recall why. I could hear the noise and the clapping. The women sang, did akh and sang and celebrate. The women had shawshini, to sit up all night, and dance and sing and celebrate. The women had two nights of shawshini for the birth of a son. The men had the third night. There were no celebrations for the birth of a daughter, khassiger.

When I was young, I heard of the birth of Aabay Hanif. People gathered at their house and celebrated. I could not go; I do not recall why. I could hear the noise and the clapping. The women sang, did akh-khu-poofi, and stayed up all night. They served tea, sweets, bosragh, stories and jokes until dawn. At dawn, people ate, returned home and slept for the better part of the day. I joined them on the second night. Everyone had to sing. Aabay Qareedar, then the oldest person in the family, asked all women and girls to sit around her. They did, she sang, and got everyone else to sing. It is one of the rare happy memories from my childhood.

People lived off the land. They raised cattle. There was qadeed in the winter. It snowed more than the height of the average person and people remained cut off for months, the families shared whatever they had saved and stored. That way everyone made it through. People made chawkhal out of tree branches, tied it to the sole of their feet, and walked on the snow without sinking into it. They walked on the snow to get to their farms and scatter the ashes from the fireplace and the coals and the snow. Come spring, and the fields would be fertile and green, the cattle would be fat and able to give milk, and people would have the strength to make Qadeed in the winter.

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The mother, herself a daughter once, was the happiest at the birth of a son. By giving birth to a son, she had met the expectations of her in-laws, and assured the succession of the family lineage. Women from the village gathered at her home for shawshini, to sit up all night, and dance and sing and celebrate. I could not go; I do not recall why. I could hear the noise and the clapping. The women sang, did akh and sing and celebrate. The women had shawshini, to sit up all night, and dance and sing and celebrate. The women had two nights of shawshini for the birth of a son. The men had the third night. There were no celebrations for the birth of a daughter, khassiger.

When I was young, I heard of the birth of Aabay Hanif. People gathered at their house and celebrated. I could not go; I do not recall why. I could hear the noise and the clapping. The women sang, did akh-khu-poofi, and stayed up all night. They served tea, sweets, bosragh, stories and jokes until dawn. At dawn, people ate, returned home and slept for the better part of the day. I joined them on the second night. Everyone had to sing. Aabay Qareedar, then the oldest person in the family, asked all women and girls to sit around her. They did, she sang, and got everyone else to sing. It is one of the rare happy memories from my childhood.

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Please introduce yourself to our readers. I am Mohammad Hassan “Tabar”. My family name is Rahmani; therefore, most of my friends call me Rahmii. I completed my 12th grade in a very difficult situation. When I returned from Pakistan, through hardwork, I found the opportunity to join a management institute. After completing two years of studies at the management institute, I began to study political science in a private university.

When and how did you meet Mr. Yasa? Well, I have known him since I moved to Quetta, Pakistan in 1998 when he was busy teaching English at Star Educational Society where I also started studying English from preparatory class.

What caused you to start learning English? A good question. I had a friend by the name of Mir Hussain who we called Pirzada. We were playing football together in one team. One day he came to the football ground with one of his classmates and both were speaking English very well, and I did not understand even a word of it. The day after he came to the ground, before we started to exercise and play, I asked where and how long he had studied English. He said that he had studied at Star Educational Society for two and half years, and he was a level six student. He encouraged me to start and he told me many good things about Star. That was when I seriously decided to start learning English. When I got admission in Preparatory One, I was not certain enough whether I would be able to understand or not and I was very impressed by those who were speaking English. The environment was one that I was totally unaccustomed to. But after a while everything became more normal to me and I got the second position in my class. That was my first step toward my achievements and accomplishments.

What do you do besides teaching at Star? I have been doing many things besides teaching at Star. In 2003, when I came from Pakistan, I started working in a logistic company as a finance manager. At the same time, I met Mr. Yasa. One day I was going somewhere, suddenly, someone tapped me on my shoulder. Turning my face, I found Mr. Yasa behind me whom I had not seen for a long time. Since then I taught English, was the manager at A Branch and the director of B Branch for two years till 2010. While I was the director of Star B Branch, I was working in the Afghan government. I was away from Star for nearly five years, and I rejoined Star in 2015. Now besides my involvement in teaching, I also work with an Australian guy who supports and works for the Afghan Cricket team. And I am the leader of Bihazari community council.

Have you seen any changes in yourself since the time you joined Star? Of course, I have seen huge changes both in myself and in my life. In 2003, when I started teaching, I did not have the knowledge, capacity and the experiences that I have now. Most of the success in my life comes directly from Star. Besides teaching, as I mentioned, I worked at Star as a manager and director which helped me to be improve my skills at management and dealing with different types of people. I was able to work with no problems wherever I worked. Furthermore, being at Star also helped me to be a very confident person in every aspect of my life.

What do you think about the future of Star? Star has not just been a language institute in the capital... so far Star has done very many things for the young generation in Kabul that are obvious to all. Apart from academic achievements, many other activities including sport tournaments, publishing an English monthly and Shahrazad monthly can be seen at Star. As a result of all these activities, Star will have a brighter future ahead and I am proud of being a member of it.

Tell us one of your good memories from Star? Well, I have a lot of good memories from Star. The best memories of mine from Star are my good colleagues and the mutual respect and the best relationships among us. Some of my colleagues are not at Star anymore, but we still have been in touch with each other. In such as possible, absence makes the heart grower fonder.

What is your message for the readers of Interstellar? My message for the readers of Interstellar is that this magazine and newspaper are a good source of vocabulary for all readers. It helps the students with their reading and writing too. Therefore, I highly encourage the students to use these resources and expand their knowledge in term of the English Language.

Our people are not accustomed to reading books, magazines, and newspapers. Star has a massive library as well as Star English weekly is a good source of vocabulary for all readers. It helps the students with their reading and writing too. Therefore, I highly encourage the students to use these resources and expand their knowledge in term of the English Language.

What do you like about teaching? What do you like about teaching? At first, I didn’t intend to be a teacher, but year-by-year, teaching really changed my mind. Now I love teaching, especially teaching at Star. And I enjoy instructing and helping my students, which is great. When I see some of my students not studying, I tell them my story of learning English and how I learnt English with challenges and difficulties. To illustrate, I was not able to go to class during the day; therefore, I joined the class very late in the evening and I used to study my lessons until midnight. I continued this way until I learnt English. Now I see students have much time, and many faculties are provided by their families. I want them to use these facilities, and I always encourage them by sharing my experience.

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