
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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A Counterinsurgency Behind The Burka

(Los Angeles Times)...David Zucchino

After a U.S. special operations force secured a compound outside Kandahar recently, Army 1st Lt. Ashley White was sent in to search and interview Afghan women. Just after she arrived, a homemade bomb exploded, killing her and two Army Rangers. White, 24, was the first female soldier to die in combat while performing a unique new role for the Army. She was part of an elite cultural support team, first sent to Afghanistan in January in an attempt to overcome daunting cultural barriers in the deeply conservative Islamic country. Trained in Afghan culture and customs, they build relationships with women while also ferreting out information unavailable to male troops.

Airman makes career out of Turkish

(Af.mil)...Kathryn Gustafson

Lt. Col. Stephen W. Meginniss, a force support officer, has pursued language, region and culture opportunities throughout his career and even more so for the past nine years. This pursuit has led to assignments that Meginniss said he considers the "best thing that happened in my career." "You have to take care of yourself and take advantage of every opportunity out there," he said. "If you never apply or put your name in the hat, it won't happen. I am in a 38F position, but I found an opening in Turkey." In 2002, while working with the recruiting squadron in Montgomery, Ala., Meginniss was asked if he was interested in becoming an exchange officer in Turkey. After one year of foreign language training at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif., Meginniss deployed to Turkey, where he served as an exchange officer in the Turkish Air Force Training Command.

Everyone Speaks Text Message

(New York Times)...Tina Rosenberg

When Ibrahim Traore takes his sons to a park in Montclair, N.J., he often sits on a bench and reads. He reads English, French and Arabic, but most of the time he reads N'Ko, a language few speakers of those languages would recognize. N'Ko is the standardized writing system for Mande languages, a family of closely related tongues — among them Traore's language of Mandinka, but also Jula, Bamana, Koyaga, Marka — spoken, for the most part, in eight West African countries, by some 35 million people. N'Ko looks like a cross between Arabic and ancient Norse runes, written from right to left in a blocky script with the letters connected underneath.

The war culture won

(The Times of India)

It was Bengali language and culture - suppressed by rulers in [Islamabad](#) who saw it as a threat to the idea of Pakistan - that was at the root of the revolt, writes Mahfuz Anam. No wonder that Bangladeshis have tried to build their new identity through art, music, books and films I still remember the day. On December 16, 1971, I was in Murti, a training camp north of Siliguri in West Bengal. It was run by the Indian Army both for ordinary freedom fighters and officers of the regular army. We were just a couple of weeks short of being deployed to various sectors after passing out as commissioned officers when the Pakistani army surrendered.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Airman Helps Troops With Language Skills

(Military.com)...Master Sgt. Chance Babin

A deployed supply Airman here is not only ensuring Airmen at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing have the protective equipment they need; he is using his rich heritage to equip them with language skills as well. Airman 1st Class Miad Maleki, a native of Tehran, Iran, is a material management journeyman for the 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. He issues, stores and maintains individual protective equipment and is volunteering in his off time to teach a free Farsi class for the deployed troops here. "I'm teaching a class of 18 students here," he said. "My students are really interested and all have plans to test for the language and either cross train or bring their new skill to the plate."

Chinese state TV unveils global expansion plan

(The Guardian)...Tania Branigan

"Global competition nowadays is not just political and economic, but cultural ... Countries that take the dominant position in cultural development and own strong cultural soft power are the ones that gain the initiative in fierce international competition," argued an essay in Chinese journal [Leadership Decision-Making Information](#) last month. Beijing has created almost 300 Confucius institutes around the world, teaching Chinese language and culture, and spent a reported £4bn on expanding state media. It has created a new English language newspaper, Russian and Arabic TV channels and a 24-hour [English news station](#) run by the Xinhua state news agency.

Utah's Dual Immersion Program Builds Bilingual Utah Youth

(Utah Pulse)

Utah's Dual Immersion program offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language. Instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English and one in the Second Language (Chinese, German, French, Portuguese or Spanish). Proven benefits: second language skills, improved performance on standardized tests, enhanced cognitive skills, increased cultural sensitivity, and long term benefits.

Colorado College wins \$509,000 grant for language projects

(Colorado Springs Gazette)...Kristina Iodice

Colorado College plans to build on success. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation recently awarded the college a two-year, \$509,000 grant to encourage the language faculty to create new approaches for teaching languages and to develop placement and proficiency tests. The grant also will support faculty members from across the disciplines who want to achieve greater proficiency and incorporate language study into their courses.

Students favor Japanese as second foreign language

(China Post)

The Japanese language emerged as the most popular choice of local high school students studying a second foreign language, according to enrollment data compiled by the Ministry of Education (MOE) yesterday. Out of all the languages offered, local high school students showed an overwhelming preference for Japanese, followed by French. Other options include German, Spanish, Korean, Latin, Italian, Russian, Vietnamese and Indonesian.

"Pleasure reading" key to second language learning

(Scoop)...Press Release

Victoria University of Wellington PhD graduate Gillian Claridge says the task of learning to read in another language could be made a lot easier. Dr Claridge's research investigated the perceptions of learners, teachers and publishers involved in second language learner reading, and found that learners often try to read at an inappropriately difficult level. "Learners, teachers and publishers tend to believe that the harder the text, the greater the learning benefits will be. However, the evidence from this study suggests that devoting time to reading easy texts for pleasure, alongside the traditional approach of examining difficult texts, would benefit learners in developing fluency."

Students armed with language skills speak out

(City Times)...Brennan Maclean

A classroom on the City College campus houses young, vibrant students striving to obtain a well rounded education. The City foreign languages department encompasses Arabic, Latin, Chinese, French, German, Vietnamese, Japanese, Russian, Tagalog, and Spanish. With many options to choose from, students take language courses for many different reasons. "I believe communication is the key to reducing tension among countries and cultures. I have taken Spanish and Arabic classes. When I meet people from countries that speak these languages, I feel the tension dissipate," said Laura Tate a Russian 101 student.

NSU offers Cherokee language program

(CherokeePhoenix.org)...Tesina Jackson

In a cooperative effort between Northeastern State University and the Cherokee Nation, the Cherokee Education Degree Program allows students to major in the Cherokee language and give them the capability to teach how to speak, read and write Cherokee. "This cultural understanding opens all sorts of doors to careers, not jobs," said Dr. Leslie Hannah, director of the Cherokee studies and language programs at NSU. "I make a distinct difference between jobs and careers. A job is something one does for a check. A career is something one does for life and these Cherokee language and culture courses change lives and create lifelong learners who in turn become life changers."

Japanese most popular optional foreign language in high schools: MOE

(Taiwan News)...Lin Szu-yu & Hanna Liu

Japanese is the most popular second foreign language among high school students in Taiwan, the Ministry of Education (MOE) said Wednesday. In Taiwan high schools, English is a required course, while Japanese is the most frequently chosen optional foreign language, followed by French, the MOE said. In this year's fall semester, nearly 38,000 high school students took Japanese from among 10 choices of second foreign languages, according to the ministry. It said Japan's close proximity to Taiwan and the easy accessibility of Japanese learning materials are two factors that have contributed to the growing popularity of the language.

MSU sees rise of less commonly taught languages

(The StateNews.com)...Stephen Brooks

Out of nearly 48,000 students at MSU, international relations senior Spencer Nordwick is the only one studying the Tajik language — a variation of Persian. "It's really rare to find Tajik speakers," Nordwick said. "Having such a rare language skill is attractive to both employers in the international development sector as well as with graduate schools." Tajik is one of about 20 [less commonly taught languages](#), or LCTLs, offered at MSU, and LCTL coordinator Danielle Steider said [many of these languages](#) are becoming more popular among students in an increasingly globalized world. "Overall, the trend is (there are) more students in the LCTLs, and more of the languages being taught," Steider said. Nordwick said his interest in the language was sparked by different cultural and political situations in Tajikistan throughout the past 20 years.